

THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

Volume 1 – Issue 1

FREE

December 2003

Return of the *Highlander*

By Bill Graham, Editor

After an absence of six months, the *Highlander*, which was a community newsletter serving the residents of Griffith-Matawatchan, Vennachar and Denbigh, is returning as *The Madawaska Highlander*. Former readers will recall that in June 2003, after publishing 34 issues since 1996, the *Highlander* shut down operations because the photocopier used in its production gave up the ghost.

In that last issue, a number of the contributors vowed to bring back the *Highlander*. This first issue of *The Madawaska Highlander* is the fulfilment of that vow. It's a very different publication in some respects, but very much the same in others.

Like the *Highlander*, *The Madawaska Highlander* is a volunteer-based, 'not for profit' community newspaper. Operating expenses to publish and distribute the publication will be sourced solely from advertising revenues and donations. Our intention is that any funds remaining at the end of a calendar year, other than those for publishing or marked for contingency will be returned to the community.

Particularly in a widely-flung municipality such as Greater Madawaska, communication is essential if residents are to be actively involved in their community. There is no communication vehicle that currently informs and bonds residents. We see *The Madawaska Highlander* as filling this role.

THE NEW LOOK

The tabloid format, the selected use of colour and the greater use of photos will be the most apparent change to former readers. Rather than relying on a privately owned photocopier with which volunteers laboured for 12-hour stretches to print and collate 600 copies for each issue, we are having *The Madawaska Highlander* printed at Runge Publishing in Renfrew.

Part of the new look is also the front-page banner, which we have adapted from the photograph on this page of a cliff face on the Madawaska River between Griffith and Matawatchan. We wanted to illustrate the highland nature of our local topography in the banner and with the use of Madawaska mention *the river* from which this municipality gets its name.



Photo: Bill Graham

STILL A LOCAL NEWSPAPER

The new look does not mean that the old content will change. We will still be a local paper addressing local issues and announcing local events. Many of the writers, reporters and support staff who volunteered their words or their time to the *Highlander* are still on board. What may change is the definition of local. With a hoped for increase in circulation, the definition of local may be extended to Calabogie, Dacre, Springtown and Burnstown. However, any increase in

circulation will be dependent on contributions in content from volunteers in these communities and the support of local businesses through advertising.

With this issue circulation has already increased. The core 600 readers of the former *Highlander*, who received their copy via bulk mail or from a local store, will continue to do so. However, an additional 400 copies will be printed for distribution to stores in Calabogie, Dacre

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Power Outrage

By Richard Copeland

The Madawaska begins at Source Lake in Algonquin Park, flowing 159 miles, draining more than 4000 square miles of land, emptying its often white water volume into Lac des Chats at Arnprior. From the early 1800s onward, the river provided the transportation needs of a developing forest products industry encouraging families to settle along its banks and nearby lands, spawning, among others, the communities of Griffith and Matawatchan.



Photo: Richard Copeland

In 1964 man met nature head-on, by harnessing the power in the river waters through the creation of a 160,000 kilowatt (KW) generating station near the village of Black Donald Mines. Gaining 178 feet of head water the project flooded 8,500 acres of land, created Centennial Lake backing up water as far

up the river as Griffith by the time it was completed in 1967.

But like a man dying of thirst on the ocean, the residents of Griffith/Matawatchan communities watch the vast potential of electrical energy flow

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Paul Doyle elected Reeve

By Bill Graham

On a late November afternoon when we arrived to interview Reeve Elect Paul Doyle, we were not sure that he was the Reeve. The day before a recount was tallied at the request of incumbent Reeve John Frost and we were not yet aware of the results. As it turned out Paul Doyle was indeed Reeve and by a margin of five additional votes after the recount.

There was a real race in this year's municipal election in Greater Madawaska with four candidates vying for the top position. There were also tangible issues, but 'The Track' was certainly the issue that dominated the electorate of the largest population centre of the municipality, Calabogie. The race was also characterized by the mail-back ballot that allowed a greater participation by sea-

sonal residents. These taxpayers raised the voter turnout rate considerably.

Reeve Doyle thinks that his explicitly stated opposition to 'The Track', the increased participation of seasonal residents and his past record on Council contributed to his win.

YOUR NEW COUNCIL

Your new Council for Greater Madawaska is a mixture of old and new representation.



Paul Doyle

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Return of the Highlander

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and Burnstown. If more advertising results from this exposure we'll look at including these communities in the bulk mail distribution as much as revenues allow.

PUBLICATION FREQUENCY

The *Highlander* used to publish occasionally—usually five times a year. We feel that the core time for publication is the summer months, with its increased seasonal population in the form of tourists and cottagers. It is this group that local advertisers want to interest. We see a monthly frequency for the five months of June through October and every second month thereafter (December, February, April), for a total of eight issues annually. We aim to publish during the last week of those months in which we publish.

CONTENT

We believe that the local nature of the content of the former *Highlander* should be maintained, but that municipality-wide issues should be raised and discussed. As such, *The Madawaska Highlander* will have more political content than its predecessor. It's important that

communities within the municipality be represented. With this first issue, Griffith-Matawatchan and Denbigh will be represented with local news and events. In later issues it is hoped that Calabogie, Dacre, Black Donald and even Springtown and Burnstown might also be represented with local content.

An inventory of local services would be useful to everyone. We plan to publish such an index twice yearly. It would include the entire *Calabogie and Area Business Association* membership list plus all additional businesses and individuals who provide services within the municipalities. This twice-yearly index would be published without charge.

Public service announcements, for example churches and the hours of worship, or announcements of public meetings, such as council meetings, garbage disposal hours by municipality, etc. would be available in each issue.

Hopefully, regular columns commenting on a variety of topics will evolve. A community newspaper, if healthy, will evolve with the interests of its reader-

ship. We envision *The Madawaska Highlander* as an inclusive publication that needs the contributions of local communities to remain healthy and relevant.

GET INVOLVED

We currently have community news and events through the *Griffith Matawatchan News* by Garry Ferguson and *Denbigh Checking In* by Evelyn Inwood and we may have future representation from the Chimo Roads community located on Black Donald Lake, but we need volunteers to tell us what's happening in Calabogie, Dacre, Springtown, Mount Saint Patrick and Burnstown. This volunteering could take the form of a regular corner in the newspaper or just letting us know about news and events so that we can report on it.

Volunteers are also needed to solicit local advertising. We could also benefit from volunteers who have computer skills in the areas of print publishing using Adobe software or in website design. When the paper is running smoothly, we hope to create a Madawaska Highlander website that

would contain back issues of the paper, would include important announcements and news that broke between issues and would have local links and advertising. With an Internet version of the newspaper, seasonal residents could easily keep in touch with their summer community.

If you think you would like to become involved as a volunteer, contact co-publisher Richard Copeland at 613-333-1551 (racopeland@northcom.net) or myself (Bill Graham) at 613-333-1694 (grahwil@fcicanada.net).

PUBLIC MEETING WITH HYDRO ONE

To discuss the local power outages.

December 15, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Denbigh Township Hall

The Madawaska Highlander

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Special thanks to Carol Anne Kelly for her help in getting out this first issue.

Contact us!
Your comments and story idea are welcome.

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Power Outrage

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through their homeland while denying them the energy it generates.

With an electrical system unique in Ontario, the Griffith/Matawatchan communities experience an unusually high number of blackouts and brownouts. In the period of time researching this article (Oct 15 – Nov 18) there were 14 blackout or brownout events. During this period power was out about 12% of the time, the longest for 46-hours. The situation has been one tolerated by residents for a long period of time, but recently it has become unbearable, with fear, frustration and anger building to the ignition point.

OUR F1 POWER LINE

Our power line (known as the F1 line) begins in Mazinaw where a 230-Kilovolt (KV) line supplies the Distribution Station (DS). Mazinaw provides a 7.2KV 3-phase line heading north, essentially along Highway 41. At Vennachar the line splits continuing north to Griffith and east to Vennachar and Matawatchan rejoining itself at Griffith. A leg continues North from Griffith to Khartum and another at around the Matawatchan Road and Centennial Lake Road reaches out toward Centennial Lake. The looped section is open at the switch, under the current configuration, to maximize availability. There are 50 to 60 switches and breakers on this line (mostly switches) and

approximately 1,000 customers.

TALKING TO HYDRO

The transformation from 230KV to 7.2KV on the F1 line is the defining unique quality of the system. This 7.2 KV is a common voltage throughout Ontario. Another feed is available at Northbrook, however our susceptibility to any system failures events along the line remain unchanged, and it is questionable at times whether the Northbrook Station can handle the additional load. Hydro One describes our line as follows:

“Our distribution system is ‘radial’ in design with one normal source of supply. Some locations, due to their geography, have an alternate source of supply available, but we do not have any customers who are automatically switched to an alternate supply on loss of the normal supply—manual switching is required. This is different from urban electricity distribution systems in much more densely populated areas where loop feeds allow power to be supplied through more than one route. If one route is blocked, the power is automatically re-routed. Geography and cost make provision of this level of service impossible in lightly populated, rugged, heavily treed areas.”

Hydro One has no specific records as to the age of our F1 line. This being the case, a good guess would be that life



Diesel generator

began on its 1954 birthday, making it 49 years old. They say it is not yet at capacity, having enough left to add substantial new loads, with a caveat perhaps on the location and size of those loads.

Many of us had noticed the temporary installation of a large trailer/diesel generator in Griffith. We enquired as to its purpose. According to Hydro One:

“Hydro One considered supplying Mazinaw DS customers (us) through a generator because we had to take the 230,000 volt circuit serving the DS out of service for maintenance. On an experimental basis we tried several times to supply some Mazinaw DS customers with a generator in an “island” configuration (not connected to the grid) but were unsuccessful. Supplying these customers from Northbrook DS was our primary option to minimize outages when Mazinaw DS would be taken out

Power Outrage

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of service, but it was felt that the generation (diesel generator) would make things better. We wanted a generator just to support the back feed from Northbrook..."

We questioned Hydro One on how power could be increased to our area and if the F1 line could be made into a true 'grid' configuration.

"Installing a new higher capacity line from Mazinaw DS would only help somewhat. Also, it would be very costly, likely millions of dollars. Most of the distribution line from Northbrook to Griffith would have to be restrung with larger conductors to improve back feed capacity. Likely many of the poles would have to be replaced to support the heavier wire. If there was a huge (economic) boom in the area, we could run lines in from the Bancroft and Renfrew end, but they would also be costly, long, and prone to reliability issues"

We also asked when we could expect higher service levels and what steps were being taken to prevent future problems. Hydro One said:

"The System Study that was recently implemented, with equipment balancing and protection improvements, is expected to provide the best possible reliability for residents in the area in the medium term, for normal supply from Mazinaw DS. We do re-examine this periodically. The real problems happen when we have to remove Mazinaw from service (e.g. for maintenance or to work on the 230,000 volt circuit) and back feed customers from Northbrook DS. We anticipate that the (Mazinaw) DS will be taken out of service some time next spring. We will be conducting a thorough assessment of the various options available to supply Mazinaw DS customers during a planned station outage to avoid the problems experienced recently."

THE CAUSES OF THE RECENT OUTAGES

Of the first 12 outages, 8 of the causes were explained. Three were due to trees on lines, two to equipment failures, one to switching, one to planned outages and one to an overload. The overload situation was corrected with fuse coordination. 'Trees-on-lines' is a dominant cause easily identified and unfortunately one to which we are resigned. The 46-hour outage on the weekend of November 15 was clearly caused by falling trees, a result of extremely high winds. Forestry work on hydro lines is done on a 7 year cycle, our F1 line having been maintained in 1998, we are due for maintenance again in 2005.

Additional time to restore power, after corrective measures have been com-

pleted, results from what Hydro terms as a "cold load pickup". This situation arises when power has been out for more than two hours, resulting in household equipment (refrigerators, freezers, furnaces, water pumps) demanding power and causing great surges of electrical current when a switch or breaker is closed on the line. Often this surge is of sufficient current to trip a breaker or open a fuse, requiring hydro to reset or re-fuse the device. The line is then powered on in the smallest possible sections to limit the surge. This process of adding power by increments will cause the customers at the end of line to be without power for longer periods than those at the beginning of the line.

There are many reasons, for an outage, and for the time it takes to bring power back. Customers who call into Hydro, if they are fortunate enough to get through at times of a blackout, are met with a 'Houston-we-have-a-problem' coolness but are given no reassurance. This increasing frequency of problems and their extended duration do not bode well with the approach of winter. Outage has led to outrage. Some have responded with gas generators at the ready in their garages. This generator backup strategy increases the cost of powering homes and the future rate increases in hydro are not sitting well with local residents as more cost will be demanded for inferior product delivery.

HARDSHIP FOR MANY

For Cliff and Pat Holleran, there is no heat with outages. They have no backup. It is for them a time of frustration, anger, bulky clothes and cold days and nights. Any loss of electricity in rural Ontario, results in the further complication of the loss of water supply—the pumps won't run. The farmers dealing with livestock have another level of complications to deal with. Our dependency on electricity has created a growing set of complexities that comes into play when we are without.

Businesses take a major hit during the blackouts. The ability to conduct business is restricted, reducing an operator's income and often resulting in lost product. Dennis Cale, the owner of Rapids End Country Store in Griffith, has experienced innumerable power losses. His operation requires electricity to operate a general store, gas station, pizzeria and fast food outlet. The business has seven freezers and nine refrigeration units, three gas pumps, central heating and needs electricity to keep on the lights and operate the till.

Cale handles the problem by having to employ additional staff during the outage. He says: "In the past I have been fortunate enough to have people here to assist me in moving product around in order to keep everything frozen. Also, they have stayed with me overnight

keeping the generator running and moving electrical cords from one unit to another. Without this help, I would have lost a lot of product.

North of Rapids End on Highway 41 is the

Pine Valley Restaurant, owned and operated by Gary and Sandra Peters. Their establishment is also multifaceted with a licensed restaurant, coffee shop, gas pumps and general store. They have eight freezers, two refrigerators with freezers, five double door coolers and one triple door cooler. There is a lot of product at risk. They also have to hook up a generator and move extension cords around to maintain the cooling equip-



Photo: Richard Copeland

ment. She reports that the store has lost product from the freezers but can't afford to put it through their insurance company. It would be too costly for the premiums if they placed a claim. They must take the loss and move on.

Steve and Gayle Main recently moved into Matawatchan, purchasing the Eagle's Rest, a general store, gas station, marina, tackle shop and cabin rental operation on the Madawaska. Gayle said they were at Eagle's Rest for about one and half months when they decided they had to have a generator. Gayle says she cannot understand why the service has become so terrible. When they lived in Sault Ste. Marie they never had these problems with Great Lakes Power. Gayle says that tree trimming is no where near as extensive as what she has seen in the North. Fifty feet of clear cut from the lines is evident in the Sault. Their northern experience also includes several years living in Iqaluit. As Gayle

related to us "The power in Nunavut, in 140 km winds is more dependable there than it is here. In Iqaluit, power was off once in eight and a half years."

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

So, what goes around has come around. The pioneering spirit has returned and if you want electricity you have to make it—from the 'Delco' to the Honda. But where do we go from here?

Clearly, Hydro One doesn't have an immediate solution. Additional capacity from the Mazinaw DS is not a solution for a line that isn't yet overloading. The cost of a new line from Renfrew or Bancroft is prohibitive. Most outages are the result of fallen trees during bad weather, and as Gayle Main pointed out, the trees are very close to the lines; even after the forestry work done in 1998. On a foray into the bush for some action photos of Hydro workers, I saw for myself that the lines are close, very close, to the trees. Perhaps a strategy centred on the proximity of trees to lines is one way of decreasing the number of outages.

Planned outages required for the servicing of the 230KV station at Mazinaw will continue to be a problem for us. Many customers have requested that warnings be issued for planned shut downs and that they should not go any longer than four hours. Customers themselves could speed up reconnection time by disconnecting (breakers off) refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, pumps and furnaces to prevent cold load pickup problems experienced by hydro workers on reconnection.

Currently, there is no good news on this problem. Some local folks are considering a town hall meeting to bring more pressure to bear on Hydro One. Some are suggesting withholding bill payments until a guarantee of higher service is made.

The Madawaska Highlander will be providing a series of articles on this issue, and would like to hear from you. Please send any letters or comment to *The Madawaska Highlander* c/o 1837 Frontenac Road, RR#3 Griffith, Matawatchan, Ontario, K0J 2R0, by mail or email us at highlander@fcicanada.net.

In the next issue we will look at other possibilities for resolving the hydro problems or at least regain some control over the comfort in our lives.

GRIFFITH-MATAWATCHAN NEWS

By Garry Ferguson

MATAWATCHAN HALL

The first Annual General Meeting this year on September 11 was so poorly attended that the lonely, outgoing board wisely scheduled another for the September 19. The bulletin announcing this second meeting carried the message that the board would let its term expire, close the hall and turn out the lights for good if the community showed no further interest. It worked.

Thirty souls attended the second meeting to participate in wide ranging discussions, which included bitches, gripes, bouquets plus new and not-so-new ideas. Outgoing President, Al Pennock who chaired the meeting, voiced the Board's frustration over poor attendance by locals when he mentioned that one would be hard pressed to throw a house party in a camper with the number of locals at dances.

Smoking or non-smoking, depending on your point of view, at events and a new floor quickly became the hottest items. Though new covering will eventually replace the carpet covering two thirds of the floor space, the existing carpet was defended by one citizen who claimed that the drinkers found it much more comfortable than the hardwood floor. Al Pennock pointed out that only the Halloween and the Hunter's dances were smoking events: all others were smoke free.

I like the fact that the smoking, or non-smoking, again depending on your point of view, was restricted to certain events, though I wasn't convinced about the

drinkers-and-the-carpet thing. Sure, it may apply if the drinker is inclined to doze off, but I've noticed that they bounce much higher when they hit the hardwood, making it easier to get vertical again.

The shiny new (volunteer) board consists of the following people:

Doug Vasey	President
Shari Holleran	Vice president
Kay Kelly	Treasurer
Karen Gaulin	Secretary
Bill Graham	Board member
Gerry Adamson	Board member
Carol Ferguson	Board member
Garry Ferguson	Board member

In one of its first meetings, the board decided to host weekly dart nights, in the hall, for anyone in the Griffith and Matawatchan community. The first get-together is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 16, 2004. Bring your own darts. Armored vests, face shields and hard hats are optional.

I've been asked to remind our readers that the annual Christmas Tree Lighting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Dec. 12 across from the Matawatchan Country Store. After the lighting, some oohs and aahs, and a few carols, all hands will head on over to the hall for hot dogs, hot chocolate and a few more carols. Admittance will be a non-perishable food item for the Denbigh / Griffith Lions Club Christmas Basket Campaign.

The New Years Eve Party begins at 9:00 p.m. on - guess the date - and lasts until 2:00 a.m. Tickets are \$15.00 each or two for \$25.00.

HOCKEY

The Madawaska Mustangs hockey team needs bodies. Gender and your state of disrepair are unimportant as long as you've survived to 18 years or beyond. The first game in this no-name, non-contact, pickup league was scheduled for Sunday November 23, 2003 in Cobden - that's because all league games are played in Cobden. The cost is \$10.00 per game and sweaters are available. It's not necessary to wear a *team* sweater though playing bare-backed is *not* recommended. Skates and some sort of stick to hold you upright would be an asset. For times and other info, call Mark Peters at 333-5523 or 333-1496.

THE NORTHERN LIGHTS SENIORS

When the frost is on the "punkin," then you can be sure the "Lights" are, like the squirrels, scurrying around in preparation for a long season ahead. Over the winter, members will gather each month - alternately in the Matawatchan and Griffith halls - to participate in planned activities, swap a few lies and take on a few calories. Summer activities take them farther afield, but they still get to enjoy the same great company.

The resident press gang rounded up a *new* (pardon the expression since we're talking seniors here) executive, which is now in place for 2004. In the wheelchair for the coming year are:

Lois Robbins	President
Betty Bass	Vice President
Carol Ferguson	Secretary
Unita Ball	Treasurer

The club always welcomes new members and for 15 loonies anyone who has reached the half-century milestone can become the proud owner of a membership card. For information call Lois Robbins at 333-1082 or Carol Ferguson at 333-1107.

STATION TWO

If any among our readers ever dreamed of riding on a fire truck or of carrying their own beeper, then dream no more. Our fire-fighting brigade needs recruits. There are no age or gender barriers, but unlike our Mustangs, your state of repair, or disrepair, is important. You'd have to be in good shape just to walk around in all that gear. You may gladden the heart of Station Chief Gary Peters by leaving a message at the fire hall at 333-1529 or by contacting him at 333-5523. Greater Madawaska Fire Chief Chris Naismith may be contacted, in beautiful downtown Calabogie, at 752-0331.

Station Chief Gary wants to send two messages out to the folks of the area. The first is that **everyone must call 911 in any emergency and give the correct civic number.** The second is a warning about chimneys. Flues should be inspected once a week and cleaned when necessary. A chimney that has suffered a fire may be unsafe and should be

DID YOU KNOW...

That a sweater is a garment worn by a child when a mother feels chilly?

Denbigh Checking In !!!

By Evelyn Inwood

Hunting Season is in full swing as I write this. The coolness of the fall season is here and trees have lost most of their leaves. There is usually some frost in sight in the morning so the warmth given off by our wood stove is very comforting.

The fields are brown and the November sky is often grey. In the stillness of the morning I hear an airplane humming its way to some far-off place.

Christmas is just around the corner with all its hustle and bustle. The holiday season with all its wonderful activities will soon be here for everyone to enjoy, whether it is in your own community or in more distant places.

NEWS FROM DENBIGH PUBLIC SCHOOL

Since the beginning of the school year in September there have been many activities for students. Here are some of them:

- Fire Prevention Week (Have you checked your Fire Alarm?)
- Photos taken of each student
- Hot Dog Day
- Spirit Day:
 - September - 'Crazy Hair Day'
 - October - 'Make Believe Day' and 'Citizenship Day'
- School Open House
- Book In The Bag Home / School Reading Program
- 'Operation Christmas Child' Shoe Boxes
- November 11- Remembrance Day participation at Cenotaph.
- Visit to Lang Pioneer Village (Novem-

ber 18 - a wonderful trip)

- Two special programs are offered:
 - 'A Heritage Christmas'
 - Sunday December 7 (noon to 5:00 p.m.)
 - 'Blast from the Past'
 - March 15 to 21, 2004 - (noon to 4:00 p.m. - daily)
- North Addington Education Centre (NAEC) Christmas Craft Sale
- Santa's Workshop
- Christmas Concert - Denbigh Public School - December 16, 2003 6:30 p.m. (Students arrive) / 7:00 p.m. (Concert starts)

Note: Volunteers are always welcome - contact Mrs. Fuller at 613-333-5545

NEWS FROM THE 'THE ADDINGTON HIGHLANDS PUBLIC LIBRARY'

Telephone: 613-333-1426

Denbigh Library Hours:

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

Denbigh Library will be closed December 24 to 29 and January 1, 2004, but open December 30.

BOOKS AVAILABLE:

New Craft Books:

- Creative Country Crafts
- Complete Book of Garlands
- Quick and Easy Crafts
- Heaven Scent Gifts
- Deck the halls
- Mail boxes

Coming in December:

- American Diabetes Association Complete Guide

GRIFFITH-MATAWATCHAN NEWS

checked for damage by a licensed inspector.

THE DENBIGH/GRIFFITH LIONS CLUB

It's roundup time again for the Lions. They're rounding up non-perishable food items to include in the Christmas baskets. Though the club funds higher-cost items, such as turkeys, they still need your help so look for the food donation boxes at local establishments. Help "the club that helps" in its effort to maintain the Christmas spirit in the community.

Caroling is on for Wednesday, December 17. Anyone interested in getting in on this annual outing should meet the other carolers at 5:30 p.m. in the Griffith/Lions Hall parking lot. The ability to carry a tune is not a prerequisite. As long as you can grin and move your lips, your presence will be appreciated.

Elaine Varrin and Gertie McMahon (they're sisters you know) gave the grateful club a real boost when they donated a hand-sewn quilt for raffle. This work of art will not only keep the lucky winner snug this winter, it also brought in over \$1000.00 to be used as part of this year's \$5000.00 donation to the Renfrew Victoria Hospital. Readers of the old *Highlander* will remember that "The Club" pledged \$25000.00 to be paid over five years.

A substantial amount was donated to purchase a vital piece of medical equipment for Brittany Warren of Denbigh. She now has her insulin pump. Good luck, Brittany.

Anyone looking for a place to celebrate the approach of the New Year, in good company, should think about the Lions Club New Years party at the Griffith Hall. There will be dining – a hot buffet – dancing and a bar to keep revelers active from 9:00 p.m. until 02:00 a.m. The last 2003, 50/50 draw will certainly brighten up some lucky person's New Years Day. To avoid the scalpers, contact any member and he or she will get you a pass for \$12.50 per person.

THE FISH AND GAME CLUB

The Fish and Game Club is still in overdrive, carrying out good deeds and worthwhile projects, which range from cleaning up boat landings and beaches, through fishing derbies to feeding bambis in winter. Membership is expanding faster than my waistline in Primetime and presently stands at 240 souls.

Hunting season is in the past a sufficient length of time to let heartbeats slow to normal and buck fever sufferers to stop shaking. According to the theory of a few locals, many of the deer may have scheduled their vacations, out of the country, during the fall shoot. Still, others seemed to have done reasonably well since there was no shortage of entries in the buck and doe contest. Winners in that annual rivalry were as follows: Karen Wagstaff, of Griffith, won for the largest buck at 246 pounds and Edmond Kauffeldt, of Griffith, for the largest doe at 138 pounds. The prize for the mystery weight of 110 pounds was divided between two entrants and Doug Thompson, of Deseronto, took home the crossbow when his contest ticket was drawn from the barrel.

The Fish and Game Club's annual banquet, which has become one of the social highlights of the area, is on for January 24, 2004. Those Christmas induced calories should have melted away by that time, but if they haven't, grab a ticket anyway. Due in large part to the Pennock-prepared prime, this event has established itself as, what is locally termed, a first-rate feed. One hundred



Largest buck

tickets will be sold for the mere pittance of \$15.00 per adult - \$7.50 for the 15-years-and-under set. A bar will open at 5:00 p.m. and supper will begin at 6:00 p.m.

During the month of February, the club will offer a safe boating course for young'ns from eight to 16 years of age. There will be no charge for this course. According to my calculations, the annual club (frostbite open) ice-fishing

derby should also come to pass around that time. My greatest disappointment pertaining to this event, last winter, had nothing to do with the fact that I didn't get a nibble. It was the thoughtlessness of those conservation officers who passed within an arm length of me and didn't even ask to see my shiny, new, blue seniors' card. I had to console myself with the fact that they didn't question Cliff Holleran's age either.

Watch for the Fish and Game Club newsletter to obtain details of upcoming events or, if you tend to be impatient, contact Karen Gaulin at 333-1206.

COUNCIL NOTES

The municipal election forced one of the neighbors in Matawatchan to undergo a name change. When the ballots were counted, Mr. Paul Doyle became Mr. Reeve Paul Doyle. Karin Lehnhardt, the incumbent councilor for Ward Three, retained her "Councilor Karen" title.

The new council seems to be easing into the harness and has not yet committed to any big expenditure. It did however; approve a recount of the ballots cast for Paul Doyle and John Frost, the two top contenders for the title of "Reeve." See the article on Paul Doyle in this issue for the results.

DID YOU KNOW...

That the other side of 'freedom of speech' is knowing when to keep your mouth shut.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL: WINTER HOURS

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

Norway Lake Transfer Station

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

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

Black Donald

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

Mount St. Patrick

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

Griffith

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

Matawatchan

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

- Death by Chocolate
- Death by Riley
- Blue Skies
- Deep fire Rising
- Don't go Home
- Finding Happiness

There are many more titles. Please come to check them out.

Children's book:

- I knew Two who said Moo
- Stranger Next Door
- Where have the unicorns gone?

Remembering

On a morning mixed with rain and snow, a group of men, women and children gathered at the Cenotaph in the village of Denbigh. We gathered to "remember" by placing wreaths, saying prayers and singing our praises for a country where we are free to meet and in memory of

those who gave their lives for our continuing freedom. We give them our thanks every day by trying to be the best citizens we can, as we serve our community in our varied ways. **We will remember them!**

A SPECIAL POEM SAYS IT ALL:

"They shall not grow old,
as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning."

As the Christmas Season approaches and is celebrated by all, I wish you peace and happiness for the holiday and the coming year.



Try the Snow Moose Trail

By Ernie Jukes - The Roving Reporter

The large feather-like snowflakes floated softly down covering the tracks from the previous day. We whisked the white fluff off our seats, tossed on our saddle bags and cranked the snow machines into action. The purring engines of the snowmobiles soon turned into a whine as we speedily left Camp "J" on a straight away of Sno 8, zipping south along Frontenac Road. It was early on another bright, crisp and cold winter's day at little Matawatchan in the Madawaska Highlands. For those who don't know, this is a wonderful part of Ontario that offers tremendous scenery, wooded mountains, old and new logging roads and groomed trails—a skier's or snowmobiler's delight.

As the snow piles up over the winter and then softens when it gets closer to springtime, snowshoes are still used for checking traplines and general hiking. There are deserted log barns and cabins; many remnants of pioneer days when hardy Scots ran their logs down the Madawaska to the Ottawa River. Those cross country skiers who enjoy the woods and clearings close by Camp "J", usually avoid the steep mountain trails more suited to snowmobiles. While their range is naturally shorter there are plenty of opportunities for both to pause, to sketch or photograph the water of an open brook, partridge in a cedar swamp, noisy jays in the pinery or a snowshoe hare sitting so still, believing his white winter coat will hide him from view.

IT ISN'T ALL FUMES AND GO, GO, SPEED, RIGHT?

These short stops are good for the machines and good for the senses. They give us an opportunity to check our maps, look at landmarks and to generally learn more about the country. It may be that we may want to come back this way again during another season. Perhaps next time on an ATV to fish a lake or stream or to hike, ski or canoe through a suitable waterway you have discovered. Many hunters will find new ground to consider for later hunts, and naturalists will see unspoiled areas off snowmobile trails that penetrate vast beautiful backcountry. The hard work of local clubs across all provinces has developed networks of trails that can benefit everyone who enjoys the outdoors.

After doing a little ice fishing at Quackenbush Lake we again set out in convoy, our five machines all running

perfectly. Travelling on both roads and at times on groomed trails we cut cross-country. In about an hour we broke out of the hills and woods onto Lake Mazinaw. You needed sunglasses or tinted visors for the sun since the reflection from the snow was eye shattering. During the 35-miles of trail, pausing often, we had not seen or heard another snowmobile. On our return we decided to swing east and take Sno 6 to Calabogie.

SNO 6 TO CALABOGIE

We followed the reasonably straight hydro-line trail, which led us up and down hills and past quiet frozen lakes that I know held some beauties for the fishermen. We came upon smooth groomed trails as we got into the heavily forested areas about halfway to our target. It seemed in no time at all that we came out along the Madawaska River and followed the route right into Calabogie. After topping up the machines and fortifying ourselves with some hot coffee we were ready to back-track through this pretty country of pine, birch, and hardwoods all laden in snow and looking like a Christmas card.



The temperature was gradually warming now as we slipped around the end of Norcan Lake and other than a few laughable dumps into snow banks on some sharp turns it was smooth cruising. Later in the afternoon as we were cooking a late lunch on a frozen lake, a number of machines went by, the riders waving cheerfully—the first we had seen all day. Hot dogs and soup are surprisingly extra tasty when you're out in the cold, fresh air. The sun felt good too as we laid back on our seats, feet up, our thoughts briefly reflecting on those poor souls fighting the carbon monoxide on the drive home on some Parkway in some silly city. It was almost impossible to believe that we were only 4-hours drive away from that concrete metropo-



Camp 'J' in Matawatchan

lis of Toronto to the south west and only a few hours from Ottawa to the east.

While we were observing some otter tracks and slides along the shore, four deer came upon us, but quickly turned and bounded back into the woods. We had seen a dozen whitetails all told as we toured the valley. But it was now time to start our return trip to Matawatchan. We extinguished our fire, which would completely disappear when the ice melted in the spring and we put any garbage, which had not been burnt, into our packs. We travel equipped. In our saddle bags we carried a full survival kit, compass and map, waterproof matches, lipsal, sun cream, camera, sunglasses, space blanket, knife, hand warmers, flashlight, extra clothes and extra food. Within the snowmobile itself were spare spark plugs, bulbs, fuses, a pull cord, tow rope, hatchet, and a small fold-up stove with sterno fuel.


MEETING THE MOOSE OF SNOW MOOSE TRAIL

After tracking above the Schooner Lakes we swung north off the hydro line onto a shortcut trail to Sno 8 and on to Matawatchan. This local trail passes through the usual wooded hills and valleys, with the exception that it had been reforested in a mix of thick Red and White Pine. Another enjoyment of this rolling country is the wonderment of what is over the next ridge.

Our hearts suddenly accelerated as we came up over the crest of a hill... there smack in the middle of the trail were three huge moose. The steam from their nostrils revealed their excitement too. They appeared to be a cow, a bull without antlers and a calf. The bull casts his adornment each December and goes without his masculine rack during the winter. In the spring they start growing again. It is almost inconceivable that such an abundance of calcium can grow from the monarch's skull in only 4 months... April to August, and drop off each year of its life.

Their big black bodies were pushing and bumping each other on the narrow bush trail before they got together and decided to quickly stride off the path directly into a cedar swamp, where they immediately and almost silently disappeared. It all happened so quickly we didn't have a chance to get out our cameras. However it was a thrill that we recorded in our mind's eye to pull out of our pleasant memory file from time to time.

On our way again, with the sun setting, we could see the microwave tower blinking at Vennachar, a good landmark. On moonlit nights local 'trail-riders' head up the many ridges from which they can see these lights as well as the lights of Denbigh or even Foymount and Quadville, forty miles away. The Madawaska Valley Mushheads had travelled an enjoyable and interesting 150 Km. and we were now ready for a hot supper and a hot toddy at 'ol Camp "J".




Barry J. Mundell

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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.
 Rev. Angela Cory 333-2381

Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church

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

Esmond

Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.

Hilltop Tabernacle

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
 Christmas Service
 December 21 11:00 a.m.
 Followed by a Family Lunch
 No evening service Dec. 21

DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

Vennachar Free Methodist Church

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Luke's United Church

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:00 p.m.

Drop In

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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

The New Apostolic Church

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

CHURCH EVENTS

Vennachar Free Methodist Church

- Annual Sunday school Concert Sunday, Dec. 7, 7:00 p.m.
- Annual Christmas Eve Candle Light Service Wednesday, Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.

The New Apostolic Church

- Christmas Program (supper following) Sunday, Dec. 7, 4:00 p.m.
- Carol Sing (lunch following) Friday, Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day Service Thursday, Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.
- New Year's Eve Service Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7:00 p.m.
- New Year's Day Service Thursday, Jan. 1, 2004, 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

- Children Christmas Program with Sunday school and Women's Group Saturday, Dec. 20, 7:00 p.m.

United Churches -

(Denbigh, Matawatchan, Schutt)

- Schutt - Emmanuel - (Joint Service) - Covenant Players Sunday, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.
- St. Luke's - Potluck and Games Sunday, Dec. 14, 5:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Services Wednesday, Dec. 24, 4:00 p.m. - St. Luke's - Denbigh 7:00 p.m. - Emmanuel - Schutt 9:00 p.m. - St Andrews - Matawatchan

Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Christmas Eve
 Griffith - 9:30 p.m.
 Esmond - 7:00 p.m.
 Christmas Day
 Griffith - 11:00 a.m.
 *Get well wishes to Father Legree

DID YOU KNOW...

That no matter how many times you call someone stupid. You will not get one tiny bit smarter?

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MATAWATCHAN HALL

New years Eve Dance

December 31
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 See the ad on back page.

DENBIGH/GRIFFITH LIONS

Children's Christmas Party
 Bingo Dates

Busy Bees Craft Club

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

"Northern Lights" Seniors

Meet the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. alternating between Griffith and Matawatchan. For information contact Lois Robbins at 333-1082. All Seniors Welcome

Community Bus Service

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

Fellowship Luncheon

These meals are held the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Please contact Carol Anne Kelly at 333-5570 or Lois Robbins at 333-1082 if you wish to attend and be added to our mailing

list. These meals are held in our community for those who live alone, seniors and retired people who enjoy a meal together. The location alternates between the Griffith Lions Hall and St. Andrew's United Church, Matawatchan. Cost \$5.00.

Diners Club

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

MARKET PLACE

To place items for sale in The Madawaska Highlander contact Bill Graham 333-1694 or Richard Copeland 333-1551.

HEALTH CARE

Renfrew Senior's Home support Care Clinic

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

Paramed Health Care Services Foot Care Clinic/Denbigh

Call 333-2308 for an appointment.

COMMUNITY JOYS AND CONCERNS

Get Well Wishes/Thinking of you



-Marion Rahm

-Corrine Parks

Sympathy

-to the family of the late Melina MacPherson.

Congratulations

-to Philip and Gladys Platz on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

Congratulations

- to Reeve Paul Doyle
 - to Councillor Karin Leinhardt

Contact Bill Graham 333-1694 or Richard Copeland 333-1551 to have these items placed in future issues of this paper.

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Paul Doyle elected Reeve

Continued from page 1

- Reeve: Paul Doyle
- Councillor Ward 1:
Peter Enom, Don Mercer
- Councillor Ward 2:
Isabelle Kristijan
- Councillor Ward 3:
Karin Lehnhardt

The dynamics of any Council is determined by the mix of people representing us. There are local ward issues, the force of individual personalities, the ability to compromise and so on that will determine what this Council can accomplish. However, it is often the Reeve that sets the tone for this group dynamic. For this reason we met with our new Reeve.

PAUL DOYLE

Paul Doyle has had many years of experience in International Business. He has lived and worked throughout Canada and as far afield as Australia and Japan. During these years he was involved in international finance—mergers and acquisitions. He arrived in the Madawatchan area 20-years ago and has been living here full-time since 1989. He has had nine years experience in municipal politics as Reeve of the then Township of Griffith and Matawatchan. During those years he also served as a member of County Council. His wife Barbara is the former Editor of *The Highlander*; the community newspaper that preceded this one.

A LONG LIST OF OBJECTIVES

When we met with him, his list of objectives was up to number 87—we're not sure if he was kidding. One of the first things he wants to do is improve communications with municipal residents. He remarked that most communication in the municipality happens by 'moccasin telegraph', which is our version of the 'jungle telegraph'—word of mouth. While this is surprisingly effective, the messages can become distorted.

To remedy this he plans to find ways of making information on Council activities accessible. He will encourage public participation in all Council meetings and will eliminate 'closed meetings' of Council, except where the meeting concerns personnel or legal issues. When we asked if that openness extended to reports prepared for Council, for example, the 'noise report' prepared for Council by Calabogie Motor Sports as part of their application for a zoning change, he said yes the report can be made available for public scrutiny at the Municipal Office.

On the December 12 council meeting when the newly elected council is installed, Paul Doyle plans to invite more public participation in the work of governing the municipality. He believes that municipal government works best when the community is involved. He wants to revisit the idea of Citizen Committees to examine the major spending items of Greater Madawaska such as roads, policing, waste management and the fire department. By being included, community members would ensure open and responsible decision making. However, to be successful the public must participate.

One of Paul Doyle's reasons for running for Reeve was to give the community of Griffith-Matawatchan (Ward 3) more representation on Council. The residents of Ward 3 now have two of the five places on Council. In such a far flung municipality like Greater Madawaska with its very large geographic coverage he questions whether the smaller communities are getting a good deal financially and an equitable delivery of services. For example, the taxes from the residents of Griffith-Matawatchan are supporting recreational facilities in Calabogie but these residents can not benefit from them because the facilities are a 45-minutes drive away from where they live.

DISCIPLINED BUDGETARY PROCESS

Reeve Elect Doyle will be suggesting the development of an area zone tax rate to fix this inequity. The mill rate would be adjusted so that tax payers are only paying for services that they have access to. More generally, he is aiming for a disciplined budgetary process—zero balanced budgeting. What this means is that the mill rate would increase or decrease according to the financial needs of the municipality for any given financial year. Extra money would not be squirreled away for future contingencies but would be returned to taxpayers through the lowering of the mill rate for the next year. Of course it works both ways and the mill rate could rise if extra money is needed for municipal operations.

IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE TACKLED

On the matter of 'The Track', he has been quite explicit in his opposition. He does not think that it is a good fit for this area and its local culture and traditions. Do we really want to become an over commercialized district like Muskoka? While he is only one vote in five, he will vote against it. However, the process will be observed together with all the consulting reports and legislation, fairly and objectively, and the public kept informed of the proceedings.

Comprehensive zoning is another issue that he wants to tackle. He doesn't think that the County of Renfrew has the authority to impose a comprehensive Zoning Agreement on Greater Madawaska and thinks that a detailed amendment of our new zoning by-laws would be in the best interests of the municipality. It was the last act of the outgoing Council to pass the comprehensive zoning by-law for the entire municipality. This was done over the objections of the majority of the public attending the meeting.

Two major principles guiding Reeve Elect Doyle's approach to his responsibilities became clear during the interview. One is "what's right for the community is primary" and not just rules and regulations. He also said that he was willing to take the resultant flack. The second is "we are dealing with other people's money, so make sure that you deal with it right."

It looks like this will be an interesting three-year term in local politics and the *Madawaska Highlander* will be there to report on how Council deals with these sometimes contentious issues.

DID YOU KNOW...

That counting time is not nearly as important as making time count?

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Happy Holidays

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Also, try our new home baked real fruit pies made with Northern Spy (1 lb 10 oz.) only
 \$5.50 or buy frozen for only \$3.50. And, those ever-popular light & dark fruitcakes
 from Sweets 'n' Things are back.



Milano Pizza Specials for December

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OUTHOUSES

By Garry Ferguson

There aren't many of us, around the township, on the sunset side of thirty-something who can't come up with a few horror stories about the old outhouse, backhouse, biffy, ca-ca castle or whatever name used for the outdoor toilet. Tales of the outhouse in winter seem to be the ones most likely to bring tears of sympathy to a listener's eye because "frosted" didn't quite mean "ticked off" when we were tadpoles.

I believe that my brain, at some point, went into "protect mode" and erased most memories of the heat stroke and frostbite resulting from my trips down the narrow path to the "reading room." Still tucked away in the old gray matter, however, are memories of a few childish, outhouse pranks. Considering the woes that landed on my little round head over most of them, I now wonder why I ever considered them amusing.

OUTHOUSE PRANKS

One of my grandmothers, who had her old bachelor brother boarding with her, had the outhouse close to the main road. The fact that this great uncle could be goaded into roaring, bellowing fits made *me* suspicious that he might be a couple rocks short of a respectable stone pile and made *him* fair game for my twisted, four-year-old sense of humor. He should have had sense enough to set the inside latch on the toilet, but he didn't.

When I threw the door open to expose him to the noonday sun – and road traffic, he almost blew the back out of the backhouse with his roars; meanwhile he hobbled out, pants around his knees, to close the door and lock it from the inside. I don't think he realized that I'd been born with a mean streak as wide as my little back – until I turned the heavy outside lock and stood well back. The ruckus he created, as he tried to escape, was futile since my grandmother was deaf. Fortunately, this handicap served to protect her sensitivities from the list of new names he bestowed on me. I took off for home about that time but I know he broke out before he starved because he looked healthy enough when next I saw him.

It's difficult to imagine anyone alive who would look back on that era with even a smudge of nostalgia, but in case there are a few you walking around out there who might be carrying a tinge of masochism, take heart! The public and private privy is not ex-stinked. It still thrives in certain areas. I'm not talking about those sissy "alternative toilets" such as composting, incinerating and chemical johns (a future topic for our readers who are of the crap in-the-house persuasion) but the real "old north-wind-up-your-Standfields" style. Out of necessity, outdoor toilets are often used in

*Oh, that little Whitewashed building by the barn,
It's the most important building on the farm.*

*That's where I used to read the mail and tear up Simpson's Sale
In that little whitewashed building by the barn.*



Photo: Bill Graham

rural areas, including cottage country, where the low population density permits it.

THE VIRTUES OF A PRIVY

Don't let my negativity give you the wrong impression: beyond that accepted character-building thing, there are many positive aspects to this wee establishment. The (insert your own term here) _____ is inexpensive to build and operate, open for business all year round and environment-friendly to boot. Contrary to popular perception, backhouse waste is environmentally safer than that from septic tanks because the sewage is not nearly as fluid; therefore the leaching of nutrients into surrounding soils and into our waterways is greatly reduced. An added benefit is the view, provided you're brave enough to leave the door open or industrious enough to install a Dutch door - where the top half swings independently of the lower half.

The US Department of Agriculture, in 1928, claimed that on average, each American – probably landed immigrants, illegal aliens and terrorists as well – was responsible for expelling just under half a ton (remember, they're still on the old British system) of personal body sewage per year. Today in the spirit of cross-border cooperation, it seems reasonable to assume that Canadians would match this – minus a percentage

for the exchange rate. This estimate might seem high at first glance, but when you consider that their politicians were included it becomes more reasonable.

You'd think that any device that allows you to spend more time at the cottage while reducing the environmental impact of your stay would be greeted with enthusiasm by those government agencies in charge of *public* (not to be confused with the usual type emanating from most governments) dung. Regrettably, this is not generally the case. Many jurisdictions have an outright ban on outhouses, while others place restrictions on use. So, check for all bylaws pertaining to your locale before building. Minimum distances from shorelines, property lines, wells – both dug and drilled – and pit-bottom heights above ground water levels are usually controlled by these codes. For the Township of Greater Madawaska the number is 1-800-347-7224.

Governmental concerns are not all hot air. Health problems have been associated with outhouses located too close to drinking water supplies or built so as to allow rodents and insects into the works to pick up pathogens and thereby spread disease. The key to minimizing impact is siting - not to be confused with sitting.

A VARIETY OF CHOICES

There are three types of outhouses - the pit privy, the vault privy, and the pail privy – all looking essentially the same from the floor up. The pit privy is the original enclosed frontier john of our childhood memories, a structure built over a hole in the ground. Although this allows some sewage to leach out into the surrounding soil, most of it remains to compost in the pit. The pit should be surrounded by 60 cm (2ft.) of earth and the bottom at least 1.2 m (4 ft.) above high ground water. The sides of the hole should be reinforced. Recycled concrete blocks, laid in place dry with no mortar between the joints, 4 X 4 in. good old cedar logs work well. The building should be higher, by 15 cm (6 in.), above ground level and graded away to prevent rain and melting snow from draining into the *dungeon*.

The vault privy is like a pit privy except that all the sewage is held in a vault below the outhouse to be pumped out when necessary. The vault is usually built of concrete, or other watertight material, and protrudes far enough at the back to permit installation of an external cleanout hatch. It should be kept in mind that an empty vault may float during spring thaws or rainy seasons.

The third type is the pail privy or some variation. When the pail is full it is emptied, but if you have an approved site for dumping on your property, it makes sense that you'd do the job there in the first place. All the schools in this area had a long wooden box installed instead of a pail. Once in a while, a local would be paid to empty the boxes – somewhere. The trap door at the rear, which allowed this box to be removed, was the major drawback to this setup. It could be opened at some very indelicate times.

EVERYONE HAS AN OUTHOUSE STORY

There's a local story of a teacher who became a victim to this architectural feature. It seems that two of the senior lads waited until she was well seated, opened this trap door and lashed her across the posterior with a very large and very prickly bull thistle. I'm told that this indiscretion abruptly ended any hopes for a higher education as far as either boy was concerned. Since all involved have long gone to their rewards, any comments about the long-term effects on the good lady would be pure speculation.

Since aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, as well as evaporation, are always at work to aid the reduction of waste, owners have to deal with odors. A four inch PVC pipe, installed on the inside or outside, running from under the bench to about 0.6m (2 ft.) above the roof will

Viewpoint: The Last Enclave

By Richard Copeland

I am new around here. If my descendants can match local traditions and stay in the area for generations, my great grand child will still be new around here. And that's not to say that I feel unwelcome, quite the contrary actually. It's just that one cannot help but notice that many people who live here are descended from people who first cleared the land or worked in the bush in the infancy of the forest industry. The residents of this immediate area have either lived here all their lives, or have gratefully returned, perhaps in retirement, after experiencing the world outside the highlands. It's simply the call of this area. The total package is one of calmness, clarity, nature and humanity. I have explored much of the land in this fine country of ours, as well as parts of the rest of the world, and it was here that I chose to live.

For territories this far south in Ontario, this area is unique. Far enough from Toronto or even Ottawa it is too long a journey for most weekend adventurers. Muskoka to Bancroft or Perth to Sharbot Lake is in easier reach for the big city vacationers. Sure, we get the holiday groups for more extended stays and they experience the usually rewarding activities of hunting or fishing, but for the most part the population of this area remains thin. There were more people here in 1881 than today.

Back then the Madawaska River provided transportation, at least for logs, and that spawned a vigorous forest products industry. A potash industry grew to four factories by 1871 and a couple of cheese factories appeared in the early 1900s. Agriculture evolved on a small

scale, primarily producing grains and potatoes and sizeable herds of cattle, sheep and some swine were put to pasture. Families grew on their land, and children who wished to continue with the family undertakings, simply built a new home near the original farm house. Families worked together and were close. It was a classic settlement scenario of the times.

Technology changed this landscape very quickly. The internal combustion engine provided mechanized farm equipment and cars and trucks led to road development. Soon the local farming business yielded to the larger tracts of more arable land in other jurisdictions and progress in transportation altered how products got to market. Consequently, many farms were abandoned and allowed to go to ruin, but a core of local people, I suppose partly attached to what they knew with the enjoyment of family close by, and partly attached to the beauty around them, remained in the area.

Today, the local voters list (Griffith-Matawatchan) indicates a resident population of 396 people. Population is currently growing, but with an influx of people who are looking for a soul-soothing environment and lifestyle not possible in the city. Not far enough from the cities to deny an occasional, sometimes insane, day trip, one can live here and confirm from time to time that they have made a good choice. Here dense motor vehicle traffic does not exist, but deer, partridge, beaver and bears do. Evening silence is a pleasant shock for the uninitiated. One can gaze at the night sky and see it illuminated by the Milky Way, an experience now denied to four out of five

of Canada's population. One can canoe on the flat or white water of the Madawaska River, fish or hunt, garden with vigour—farm if you like. Surround yourself with your family. Do these things, just like the in the days of old. This is a unique area.

Not everything is rosy of course. Some nights the communication tower in Vennachar can drive you nuts with its strobe light. After the logging trucks run in the spring one could get lost in the potholes on sections of Matawatchan Road. But then our local roads people are generally on top of this one. And we have a unique electrical feed that won't win any awards for on-time service, and if you use the Internet, half your connected time is consumed with problems. Phone service exists for some and not for others and just about any telephone call is long distance. The promise of cell phones has never materialized, but then neither has the intrusive noise of their ringing fouled an otherwise peaceful outing. Technology has

made its presence felt, and where we chose to adopt it, it has not always realized its potential. What is important is that we retain our rights of choice.

Progress is always before us. In most cases we can chose to adopt, but sometimes we are forced to adapt. We are heading for change at an unprecedented pace in this area and we must not be caught off guard. That which is unique to us is a long-standing foundation of tradition and simplicity previously unaffected by governing and institutional organizations. As we grow in population, and as governance begins to extend its control over larger boundaries, we are at risk to the dictates of the common denominator. We need to be vigilant in protecting that which we value or want.

DID YOU KNOW...

That never, under no circumstances, should you take a sleeping pill and a laxative together?

DID YOU KNOW...

That life is what happens while you are making other plans?
John Lennon

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Poem to a thief

The following poem was written by Kit Cashman of Oshawa. She along with her husband Bill and family have camped at Snider's Tent & Trailer Camp for 35 years. She wrote this and placed it in the windows of her trailer as her message to would be thieves, after a number of thefts occurred last year.

We have closed our camp and left nothing behind
For those who break in..... there's nothing to find.
There's no food booze or power tools here
Not even a fishing rod....nor fishing gear
Just the basic dishes pots and pans
Have been left in this camper at this seasons end

In the last few years thieves taught us something new
To take our stuff home before they do
In the spring it's not pleasant to arrive and then find
Items missing when you walk inside

We hope to arrive in two thousand and four
And find that no one has smashed our door
No mud on the floor and the windows intact
Sure makes it pleasant when we come back

So... if it's shelter you seek—Please be our guest
There's not much comfort, but you can rest

OUTHOUSES

Continued from page 10

alleviate this problem by allowing fumes to bypass the building interior on their way to the atmosphere. A cap and screen on the upper end will keep out rain, snow, bugs and birds.

If you'd like to take a break, from the Ex-Lax pace of life and the flush toilet – I kid you not; an Englishman by the

name of John Crapper invented it – and are planning an outdoor loo, you might find this article useful. If you're already the proud owner of one, then perhaps you'll select this paper as your reading material when next you answer the call. We won't hold it against you if you use it for whatever comes to mind when you're finished.

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Avery, Judy, John, Jennifer, Nicky, Pam, Jackie, Karen and Tammy*

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1 Ingredient	\$ 6.95	\$9.95	\$12.95
2 Ingredients	\$ 7.95	\$10.95	\$13.95
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The Madawaska Highlander takes its name from the Madawaska Highlands. The south-eastern portion of the Highlands incorporates the municipality of Greater Madawaska (Renfrew County), which this publication serves. The towns and villages included in our circulation are: Griffith, Matawatchan, Dacre, Mount St. Patrick, Calabogie and Springtown, plus Denbigh and Burnstown, which are outside the municipality.

