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THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER NOV. 30 to MAY 10, 2017 EMBRACE THE PAST ~ ENCOURAGE THE FUTURE ~ ENJOY TODAY



The Madawaska Highlander

Winter 2016

FREE Vol.14 Issue 6
Next issue May 10, 2017

Celebrating Cottage and Country Life in Madawaska & Addington Highlands of Eastern Ontario

Winter has arrived at last. Some prognosticators are calling for a cold and snowy winter. We'll get a second opinion from groundhog prognosticators in February.

Welcome!



Fall becomes winter at a cottage on Centennial Lake. Water levels are still low, but a snowy winter and slow melt will help.

...To Winter in the Highlands and another great issue to close out a wonderful season. Our talented volunteer contributors have done it again!

We keep it light, have some fun, some deep thoughts, and we don't neglect important issues... Will Greater Madawaska Township find a temporary location for the Public Library or close it permanently?

We open our minds to new ideas for rural transportation in Lanark County that can be applied throughout the Highlands.

We take a bike ride on the K&P trail with Lesley Cassidy as she explores issues and experiences on public trails in her new regular column Happy Trails.

Ernie recalls a journey long ago and his mysterious findings in a deserted log cabin. Susan unlocks the mystery of how to keep our tummies happy on all our journeys and Survivor Guy gives us the basics of surviving right here at home and in the city. No matter what, we have you covered!

We have interesting and original stories of Christmases past by Antonia and Marcella and Howard relates experiences of Christmas presents of the past.

One hundred years ago we were in the midst of World War I, and have commemorated grim anniversaries of it here in the Highlander. Memories of Vennachar contributor, Bill McNaught goes one better with his book, Vimy: Letters from the Front" as we approach the anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, April 9, 1917 (Pg14)

And of course 2017 is the 150 anniversary of the beginning of the Canada we know and love today. It should be a great new year!

Enjoy...



No matter how you feel about winter, you have to admit it's pretty here in the Highlands. Have a great season wherever you are!

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The Madawaska Highlander

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CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

Thank you everyone!

We couldn't do this without our volunteer contributors and our advertisers. Thank you to the Denbigh-Griffith Lions Club for your support.

- | | | |
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**Next contribution deadline:
April 29 for May 10 publication
madawaskahighlander.ca**

Message from the editor:
Check the Events Calendar for events in your area. We print what you send in, so if your event is missing or incorrect, be sure to email updates.
Check advertiser messages right away for important information, hours of operation, specials and ideas about things to do in the area. Tell them you saw it in the Madawaska Highlander!
We also maintain the matawatchan.ca website, which has a handy community calendar that is updated whenever new information arrives. The Tri-County area around Matawatchan, Griffith, Denbigh and Vennachar is the primary focus of that website. Also check out www.greatermadawaska.com and other township websites for events and information around you in the Highlands. Our community paper depends on the community, so if you have something to offer that our readers would enjoy, please contact us to discuss. We keep our advertising rates low to keep it accessible for small businesses.

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The Walter cartoon series premieres in The Madawaska Highlander and is a collaboration between Jens Pindal and contributor John Roxon. Jens attended Sheraton College in Oakville and has been an animator working in the industry for 25 years.



Merry Christmas!

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By Garry Ferguson

A brilliant harvest moon rose over Lake Centennial on September 16 so I decided, armed with my little camera, to share the wonder of it all with those of our readers who stay in at night for fear of moon burn. Unfortunately, the little disc in the resulting photo didn't come close to doing justice to the spectacle so I sought to embellish my disappointing effort by coming up with a more impressive lunar depiction and then pasting it over the anemic little orb that I was ashamed to show. Didn't work: all the moon pictures that I came across bore smiling faces with big eyes, lips and a nose – one even had what looked like cheap false dentures - so I gave up on the sharing of any wonders for now. Anyway, I imagine that it would be difficult to fool most of our readers when it comes to mooning.

The last full moon before the beginning of fall (Autumnal Equinox for those who like fancy names) which this year fell on September 22 (think fleece-lined, combination Stanfields) is known as a harvest moon. That it is, this year, closest to the earth in its orbit, or a super moon, is an added bonus. The name, harvest moon, comes from an era when farmers – before tractors and combines with headlights – used the three nights of greater illumination to work longer hours and finish off the harvest. After seeing the results of my harvest-moon photography, I didn't even try to capture the brilliance of the multi-purpose hunter's moon that appeared on the evening of October 15/16. It was also a super moon and blood moon. I never could figure that hunters' thing out though. The name comes from the fact that hunters could track game in the full light of a hunter's moon. What kind of suicidal nimrod would be out rooting around in the dark – especially after firearms were invented and especially as a member of a few hunting gangs I've known? Besides, the lads from Matawatchan/Griffith never needed a moon for jack-lighting. Hopefully next year the photography will be better. Maybe I'll get a bigger camera or try to get closer to the moon.

Since 2016's Fire Prevention Week came along from October 9th to 15th, we thought that it would be an appropriate time – through the accompanying photo – to introduce readers to the dedicated members of our own Volunteer Fire Department out of Station Two in Griffith. We also want to urge folks to get on the Google horn and check out **Friend of Fire Prevention Canada, an organization that bills itself as "the voice of fire prevention education in Canada."** The theme this year is, "Don't wait: check the date! Replace smoke alarms every 10 years."

You'll find enough hard statistics and advice at the "Friend" site to jolt even the doziest out of complacency. One more "urge" to throw our readers' way: be aware of fire hazards over the time of Christmas decorations. Be safe! Make sure your Christmas is really a happy one.

On Monday September 19, an email message, from Victoria Thomas, went out from Township Headquarters announcing **strategic meetings in Griffith and Calabogie.** These meetings, to encourage the public's assistance in identifying priorities and setting goals for the future of a Greater Madawaska, took place on September 26; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Griffith, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Calabogie. Victoria has been asking for input for some time, so if you missed the meeting(s), I'm sure that she would appreciate your views via email (dial-ups, like smoke signals, are so passé) Victoria may be contacted at vthomas@greatermadawaska.com.

It's not surprising that the **Northern Lights Seniors Club** is even more active these days because we seniors, like old dogs,



Firefighters: Dave Vanlasterine – Lieutenant, Braedon Kauffeldt - Fire Fighter, Adam Copeland - Fire Fighter, Mitchell Bennett - Junior Fire fighter, Donny McAlear – Captain, Darryl Wagner - Fire Chief, Zach Hewitt – Lieutenant, Ben Copeland - Fire Fighter, Darrell Hewitt – Lieutenant, Sean Tohivsky – Captain, Margaret O'Hara - Fire Fighter, Chris Peters - Station 2 Chief



New board of directors to guide the Greater Madawaska Senior's Housing Corporation through the 2016/2017 year. From left: Juliette LeGal, secretary treasurer, Bill Beacham president, Bill Griffith, Vice President Jim Ferguson, director, and Nancy Reid, director



New Matawatchan Hall Board: Front from left: Kelli Sullivan, Alyson Copeland, Lois Thomson. Centre from left: Mitchell Bennett, Brian Desloges, Ben Copeland, Brad Holleran. Back row: Shari Holleran. Absent from Photo: Gitte Chess, Charlene Holleran and Robyn Fraser



Three members of the Matawatchan Walking Club on Dan's Mountain. From left: Joanne Murray, Gitte Chess and Jan Patenaude



Many of our readers will have admired this autumn display in front of the Pine Valley Restaurant in Griffith



This sunrise on Dunn's Lake in Matawatchan was breathtaking. Photo by Gitte Chess



Lest we Forget

shake our lethargy once the dog days of summer are in our rear-views. The one fly in the ointment is the sad leaving of Val and Denny Barnes. Yes, they are moving to be closer to family. God speed! Trips to St. Jacobs, Algonquin Park as well as a couple to Stone Fence Theatre offerings were a few highpoints in addition to the normal routine excitement. To lessen the burden on the "willing horses," an individual member will often organize an event. Kudos (I hope that's complimentary) to those that do. The Club's annual – December 12th - Feast of Happy Birthday Jesus,* to which four (they added an extra to make a quartet) wise-lads – not including any of the

original three as far as I know - from out of the east, will come by an internal combustion conveyance this time (camels don't start well in our winters) to present revelers with gifts of great musical talents. Anyway, it has been whispered – maybe just gossip - that none of the original wise, but tone-deaf trio could carry a tune in a frankincense box.

To our younger, beloved and treasured readers - pre-senior by seniority - who have not been riding this old rock around the sun long enough to qualify for all the fun: suck it up.

*Author's Note: No flippancy intended. Someone, somewhere, high in some gov-

ernment castle, has decreed that the word "Christmas" (oops) cannot be used to promote any Yuletide function where funds from any-level-of-government (read money from tax-payers of all religions) grants are used to help out. If the old Saint himself shows up, seniors may address him as St. Nicholas, (AKA Santa) Kris Kringle (Nicky or Kris to his close friends) but not Father C - - - - - s – unless you whisper.

Continued, next page...

GM NEWS Continued...

The Greater Madawaska Seniors Housing Corporation (MSHC) held its Annual General Meeting at the Lions Hall in Griffith in the afternoon of October 23, 2016. A good number of dedicated folks have been working hard in the shadows for seven years - including those at the NU 2 U Shop - and are still trying to get the project to build seniors housing in Griffith and Calabogie off the ground. Land has been donated in Griffith and there is a commitment for a site in Calabogie. If that certain good number of folk have their way, some eye-popping grant \$'s will come our way in the near future, but they need help. The Township and our Lions-Club buddies have come through in a big way. If you're hoping to become seniorized any time soon - within the next 50 years - then you may too want to keep an eye out for ways to support them; even if it's only as a member or by attending MSHC fund-raisers. Patricia Holleran, who toiled with the Corp. for all of those seven years has unfortunately been forced to bail out due to health problems. MSHC members and every Greater Madawaskaite who has ever had his/her name printed on a cash-for-life cheque is beholding to her. We at The Madawaska Highlander drink (we really do - often) to her health.



Could this be called a peeping Tom?



This is the shot of the awesome Super Moon over Matawatchan that I didn't get. Next time I'll ask our trusty editor if she managed to get one...



So much for the Fergusons' winter bird feeder. Those turkeys are gobblers!

Thirty-five+ good citizens gathered on the evening of September 20 to cheer on the Boards - outgoing and incoming - along with the volunteers of the Matawatchan Community Memorial Centre (the Hall) at its 2016 Annual General Meeting. Outgoing President Wendy McFarlane's farewell remarks were touching in that she, as a Matawatchanite, was able to recall a lifetime of good memories centered round the old hall. Outgoing VP, Mark Tomlin, left no doubt that he would continue to be an active off-board participant. Lois Thomson was elected President and Brad Holleran Vice President. The new Board appointed Alyson George as Treasurer and Kelli Sullivan as Secretary at its first meeting. The accompanying photo shows the hearty, incoming gang in all its glory. (The outgoing had its turn last year) The community is truly beholding to the stepping-down members who have enough combined board years to make up a fairly long lifetime. Wendy McFarlane, Ken Birkett and Mark Tomlin have certainly earned their stripes. Something tells me that their well-proven community spirit will force them to keep a finger in the pie.

Left over from the "old" board, which yours truly has described many times as "high-octane," is a great line-up of activities to bless us before we close for the winter. Notable among them were a Pub Night, Halloween Party, a Hunters' Ball (put on by the GM Fish & Game Club), as well as a Murder Mystery/Ham Supper Night, Christmas Mar-

ket, and a Tree Lighting/Santa Night. Check matawatchan.ca or the Community Events in this edition for particulars related to Hall happenings.

Lois Thomson brought the assembled up to date on a grant application to the Ontario Trillium Fund for a substantial sum of \$'s to winterize the hall so that it could be used year-round. If the grant is granted it is taken for granted that the province will cover 75% of costs. The hall set aside \$9,000 (almost all they have) and Greater Madawaska Township committed \$7,500. That left the community to come up with \$2200 of the total project cost. Brian Sutcliffe, representing the Griffith Matawatchan Fish & Game Club, (GMFGC) took the floor to announce that the Club had agreed to donate \$1100 toward the required \$2200 and to lend - interest free - the remaining \$1100 to the Hall Board as well. The loaned amount could be paid back in \$'s or repaid as rent since the GMFGC rents the premises on a yearly basis. Wow! That's community cooperation at its finest! All is now in order to, hopefully, have a fickle petal of the Trillium point at Matawatchan in on December 7. Though Brian repeatedly reminded all that the credit should go to ALL GMFGC members, he didn't shy away from the many, many bear hugs (didn't see any kissing) from the grateful. I must remember to pay my GMFGC dues so I can see if Brian shares those hugs with ALL members at the next GMFGC meeting.

PS. The Matawatchan Trailer Park Murder Mystery Night and Dinner on November 19 as expected, was a "Holey Moses!" success. Great grub! A cast of talented amateur thespians (that's unpaid actors to "we of the unwashed masses") staged an entertaining evening, though at these affairs I never can spot the mysterious murderous miscreant until the actors finally point him/her out. When they do, I never believe them anyway. Many wore what they considered trailer-park attire. I was an exception and went dressed in my Sunday best, so was deeply stung when several well-meaners congratulated me for being made up to look so shockingly like one of TV's real Trailer Park Boys. I never use makeup and Bubbles wears glasses.

P.S. Again: The Walkers' Club meets at the Hall at 09:00 on Wednesdays - and yes it is gender blind. That means you guys have no excuse for casually watching your carcasses drift into "atrophy" mode, but if it just happens that you get there late enough and see no one, go back to bed. There's always next week. For info, contact Gitte Chess at 613 318 8308.

The Denbigh Griffith Lions Club broke onto the Greater Madawaska Seniors Housing Corp. scene with a splash by pledging \$25,000 to it over the next five years. Let me repeat what I once read somewhere, "Wow! That's community cooperation at its finest." (just noticed, it was in my previous paragraph that I read it) So, those of us getting a bit long in the tooth are surely feathering our own nests (I promise: that was the last two homey clichés I'll use in this article) when we support our Big Kitties. Somewhere in their rest-of-the-year lineup of events you should get an opportunity to do just that, like hauling yourself out to the Griffith Hall for The Christmas Craft Sale, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 03, or the big, year-end Bingo at 7:30 p.m. on December 06. The Lions Christmas Parade will start at 6 p.m. - December 03 - somewhere in beautiful downtown Denbigh and the Children's Christmas Party, at the Lions Hall again, is on from 1 to 3 p.m. on December 18. There will be no New Year's Party this year, so if you've already bought your ticket for one, you've been scammed by some non-Lion. A warning for the faint-of-heart; if you hear angelic-like voices floating on the cold December-07, afternoon air, don't go bonkers and start offering up panic-inspired, last minute prayers: it's not your time - necessarily. Just hope it's the Lions out spreading joy with their annual offering of those beloved, old, traditional carols. If you do look out and you don't see Lions on your doorstep; go toward the Light.

Derek and Sue of Calvyns Food n Stuff in Griffith are planning a Christmas dinner for any person who might find themselves alone on Christmas Day - providing that there is sufficient interest. The price would be just enough to cover the cost. My out-loud musings that I could invite all my kids and show up didn't sit well with them so I decided to play it safe and lay in a few of my own Christmas vitals. Anyone interested may contact them at 613 333 9892 or calvyns@hotmail.com. Remember: don't try to bring the kids.

Here are a few facts to ponder, even though another Remembrance Day has passed. During this time of year, 77 years ago, there was great activity among the small Canadian Army, 4,169 officers and men, and the Reserve Military Units with 51,418 in uniform. Men who rode the rails suddenly saw an opportunity for a payday and a square meal while other young men saw an opportunity for adventure. There was great consternation among parents who lived in dread of con-

scription, which after years of wrangling, finally came in November 1944. Germany had invaded Poland on September 01, 1939 and everyone in the Commonwealth and Europe realized that the time for war had come. Canada declared war on Germany on September 10, 1939 - Italy on June 11, 1940 and Japan on December 07, 1941. The Canadian First Division arrived in England on January 01, 1940. Before it all ended in 1945, 45000 of the 1.1 million Canadians in uniform would be killed, 54000 wounded and the Merchant Navy would have made 25000 voyages across the Atlantic. When it did end, Canada, a country of only 11 million, had the fourth largest air force and the fifth largest navy in the world. It's difficult to believe but the \$ cost was under \$22 billion. The human cost, impossible to envision.

Since this is the final edition of TMH this year I would be remiss (I hear that a lot so I know it's not good) if I didn't thank you, our readers, for your supportive feedback on the "Highlander" and on my own scribbling. Without this there would be only one-way communications and we would never know how certain topics or editions were received out there in reader land; rather like a series of family's pet budgies that our toddler daughters released from their cages and into the wild blue, never to be heard or seen again - even after 50 years.

And finally, from the G/M News lad - wherever you are - a Joyful, Happy Christmas and a heart-felt wish for your health and happiness in 2017.



Garry Ferguson was born at Black Donald Mines. After graduating from the one-room Miller and Matawatchan schools and the two-room high school in Denbigh, he joined the RCAF and the world of electronics. After 8 years, he became a civilian and worked in Montreal for the Navy. During this time he joined the Reserve Navy and trained at Cornwallis NS. In 1970, Garry joined Air Canada where he eventually dealt with flight simulators until retirement. He was asked to join the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires and spent six years in security at Toronto's Pearson Airport and Nav Canada's Air Traffic Control facilities. In 1960 he married Carol Pearsall and they had four children - now middle-aged adults. Carol and Garry live along Lake Centennial and try to keep up with the hectic local social scene.



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Greater Madawaska Township council has asked staff to study and report options to move or close the public library at the Dec. 15 meeting. (Story Pgs 22 and 23)

Peter Emon, the Reeve of Renfrew will be stepping down as Renfrew County Warden in December after four consecutive terms. Arnprior Reeve Walter Stack stated he will not be running for Warden.

The Mayor of Stirling-Rawdon has been nominated to take over the Hastings County Warden's chair. Rodney Cooney will replace current Warden Rick Phillips.

Akwesasne creates first indigenous court in Canada for and by indigenous people. Justices and prosecutors must enforce 32 laws that cover civil matters including tobacco regulations, sanitation, elections, property, and wildlife conservation. Criminal matters are still settled outside the territory. There are no jail terms, with sanctions based on the concept of restorative justice and the objective of helping "restore relationships and harmony in the community."

Historic land deal with Algonquin peoples signed by federal, Ontario governments. Agreement in principle involves more than \$300M, roughly 36,000 square kilometres of land, mostly on Crown Land. Some tough issues remain to be sorted out.

Anyone cheated by a lawyer in Ontario will now be eligible for up to \$500,000 in compensation, more than triple the previous limit

An independent economic impact study reported that in 2015 ATVs and Side by Side Off-Road Vehicles pumped \$974M into Ontario Economy

Frontenac County to spend more than \$300,000 on K&P Trailhead lot

Mississippi Mills opens the only municipal geoheritage park in Canada. Some rocks on display include local sedimentary specimens about 500-450 million-years-old, and igneous and metamorphic rock 2.5 billion to one-billion-years-old

Lonely Planet names Canada top country, Bordeaux top city for travel in 2017 and mentions all National Park admissions will be free next year

Eastern Ontario School Board staff recommend that 16 schools — including two high schools — close at the end of the current school year in June 2017. They include facilities in Pakenham, Bathurst, Oxford-on-the-Rideau, and Plantagenet, Ont.

Ontario parents protest a slew of rural school closures throughout Ontario. Claim funding model is faulty and will leave kids on buses for up to 4 hours a day.

Worried about the impact of the loss of the only elementary school in Markdale, Chapman's Ice Cream will spend about \$1 million to buy the school building and lease it back to the local board.

Matawatchan parents gathered politicians and decision makers together to reduce school bus trips for their children considerably (Story Pg. 23)

Farm sales in southern Ontario are increasing due to urban sprawl and low borrowing rates. That in turn has farmers buying cheaper land in Eastern Ontario, driving up demand. Increased taxes on farmland will make farming here even less profitable.

Rural counties call on province over Ottawa ambulance 'shortfall' to ensure they get reimbursed. Rural ambulances are spending more time in Ottawa because of a provincial requirement that the closest ambulance must respond even if they are returning from a call in downtown Ottawa.

The rusty patched bumble bee, whose range includes Ontario, has seen a 91% decline since the late 1990s, would be the first in the continental US to receive protection under the Endangered Species Act.

A Rabbs' fringe-limbed tree frog — the last known living member of the species in captivity — has died at the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

Climate change has been recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the biggest health threat of the 21st century.

Scientists have worked out that for every metric ton of carbon dioxide released into the air, three square meters of Arctic sea ice disappear, so the average North American is melting roughly 50 square meters every year.

The amount of water on Earth is constant, and continually recycled over time: some of the water you drink will have passed through a dinosaur.

Ontario is proposing a two-year moratorium on new or expanded water takings from groundwater by bottling companies, and stricter rules for existing permit renewals. Unlike other industries, bottled water puts most of the groundwater they withdraw into their products — very little is returned within the local watershed of origin.

Lonely Planet: Almost 31% of fish stocks globally are harvested at unsustainable levels

Unusually warm Pacific Ocean temperatures helped cause a massive bloom of toxic algae last year that closed fisheries from California to BC and disrupted marine life

The largest marine reserve in the world has been created through an agreement sealed by 24 nations and the European Union (EU). The Ross Sea, a deep Antarctic Bay 3,500 kilometers south of New Zealand spanning 1.55 million square kilometers, has been designated as off-limits from commercial fishing and mineral exploitation.

More than 40 tonnes of debris arrived by barge in Vancouver recently, as the finale of a months-long excursion by groups cleaning up Vancouver Island's shorelines following the Japanese tsunami of 2013

27,000 trees are felled each day for toilet paper. Paper can be recycled only six times. After that, the fibers are too weak to hold together.

Rogers stops printing 4 magazines, cuts back others. Maclean's, Chatelaine and Today's Parent cut the number of print editions. Maclean's will go from weekly to monthly issues. Chatelaine and Today's Parent will be published six times a year.

EORN is seeking funding for a \$275 to \$325 million to address gaps in cellular service across the region and create a dedicated cell network for first responders. They want better federal policies and regulations to improve Internet service standards and create ways to continue funding rural broadband projects.

Google and Facebook team up to build 8,000-mile undersea cable from Los Angeles to Hong Kong. Earlier this year, Google and several Asian telecommunications companies put online a 5,600-mile fiber optic cable from Oregon to Japan. "PLCN will provide enough capacity for Hong Kong to have 80 million concurrent HD video conference calls with Los Angeles."

The Ontario Energy Board approved rate increases for natural gas customers in Ontario. Typical Enbridge Gas Distribution customers will see a \$25 per year increase. Bills are set to rise again next year, when the Liberal government's cap-and-trade plan begins and is expected to add \$5 a month to home heating bills.

Rural Ontarians say they're increasingly facing a stark choice between putting food on their tables or paying their hydro electric bills. At a protest rally in Bancroft, they called on Ontario's Liberal government to change that. "If hydro disconnects us, we can't have a drink of water — we can't have a shower"

Ontario helping homeowners cut energy bills with \$500 to \$2,000 toward the cost of energy audits and renovations such as new, energy-efficient furnaces, windows and insulation. Go to <https://ohecip.ca/> to find a certified energy auditor near you. Audits and renovation must be completed by Dec. 31, 2016

Minimum wage in Ontario rises to \$11.40. Alberta's minimum wage is increasing from \$11.20 to \$12.20, and the province plans to increase it to \$15 by 2018

Trailer Park Boys' Liquormen's Ol' Dirty Canadian Whisky now available at LCBO

Ontario drivers high on drugs to lose their licences temporarily as new rules take effect.

Halifax police collected over 150 guns through a bus tickets for firearms program

Japanese scientist Yoshinori Ohsumi awarded Nobel Prize in medicine for discoveries on how cells break down and recycle content, a garbage disposal system that scientists hope to harness in the fight against cancer, Alzheimer's and other diseases.

Canadian Blood Services announces stricter iron guidelines for donors. Higher iron requirements mean thousands of new donors are needed. Women must wait 12 weeks between donations instead of 8 weeks.

Health Canada to revamp food guide as part of healthy eating strategy

China's 'Heavenly Palace' Tiangong-1 Space Station expected fall to Earth in 2017

A new dwarf planet has recently been discovered in our Solar System using the Dark Energy Survey at a distance 90 times farther from the sun than Earth is.

Stephen Hawking warns that humanity should not respond to aliens in case they kill us all. Any civilization that could actually read a message we sent out would need to be billions of years ahead of us, he said. "If so they will be vastly more powerful and may not see us as any more valuable than we see bacteria."

The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education has released a PSA asking NASA to rocket some condoms to space, because access to contraceptives is closely linked to greater gender equality, educational attainment and even economic development. They say we need to be prepared in case aliens come here and find "hot earthlings."

Carolyn Swayze of the Arnprior Public Library named Children's or Youth Services Librarian of the Year by Ontario Library Association (OLA)

'Bogie is a Happenin' Place!

By Skippy Hale

"Money, money, money..." sang Joel McCrae in the musical movie, Cabaret. How often are we and groups constrained by the need for cash? For the most part, the following items have money, or rather the lack of it, as its theme. For those of us who are active in volunteer activities, the search for funds is a constant. Administrators of charitable and non-profits need to spend far more time finding funds than 'doing' the charity which attracted them in the first place.

For several years now, I have been involved with the 'preservation' of St. Gabriel's Church in Springtown and have tried to keep you posted. Often it was a case of 'hurry up and wait': wait for a report from the Architectural Conservancy; hurry up and close holes to stop birds, bats and weather from entering building; wait for more volunteers; wait for support from the Diocese; wait for insurance after the desecration of the interior by vandals which did not happen; wait, wait, hurry, hurry! Well, after the volunteer work and donations of time and effort, we are now in a very sad situation. The church is not safe to enter. Had we had the supportive concern when we first started our labour of love, the floor would now be repaired. We have the old-growth milled logs to do it but now it is not safe to go down to the basement and install them. Support was not forthcoming, so now we have a unique piece of pioneer workmanship which is falling into entropy. It has been a catch-22 from the beginning. Fix the floor and it will be safer, but we never received the go ahead. So we cannot go in and polish the pews, clean the altar, walls, wax the floors and remove the destructive graffiti. We sealed the openings and that caused an interior build-up of moisture which caused further rusting of the beautiful tin walls. We have had the locks changed and the Administrator of Most Precious Blood Church, Father Richard Stark holds the keys.

Some of us wished to tidy up the perimeter of the cemetery by trimming the bushes growing into graves by the fence on the East side, but have been told we are not to touch the cemetery. There are broken monuments and a couple piled in the bushes. If any family members are concerned about their family stones, missing or buried markers, contact the Cemetery Committee at Most



Calabogie: Young Carson Epp saluting the fallen after laying a wreath for the Charbonneau family.

Precious Blood Church in Calabogie. I sent an email to the Committee, but have not had a reply. I am not related to anyone there, so if you are, I leave it in your hands.

There has been an increase in usage of the Calabogie Food Bank. This organization is supported by all three village churches, the Library, Christmas Parade, French Club, Christmas Craft Show, and many other events. Pastor Bill and Diane Griffiths were the driving force years ago and the Food Bank is housed in Calabogie Fellowship Church on Mill Street. Several musicians and singers in the village wanted to have a focus for their jam sessions and performances. Peggy Williams is from Newfoundland and grew up with Kitchen Party entertainment during the long cold winters. Pierre Desmarais is a musician who travels to churches, healing services and other spiritual gatherings to share the healing music of the Gospel. The People Collective was formed when they got together to organise a group of like-minded musical folk

to sing in a relaxed fashion at the Valley Food and Drink Company.

Peggy Williams explained that "The People Collective, the brainchild of Pierre, is a movement to end hunger and poverty through music. I heard of Pierre's idea in December of 2015. I thought a good way to further this movement was to host a Newfoundland Kitchen Party, being Newfie born and raised, growing up with a love of music and sharing it with friends, and now living in the Ottawa Valley with so many talented people! I invited musician friends to come out, gather with friends, eat, laugh, and share their passion for music, while raising funds for the local Food Bank. The party was a great success, showcasing a variety of music styles, as well as some off the cuff humour from the performers." A hat is passed for the Food Bank and then the Lions' Club matches the funds. I had the pleasure of sharing one of these Kitchen Parties. The place was rocking and over \$700.00 landed in the hat. To add to the fun other visiting musicians joined in and played and sang. The regular crew includes Peggy, Pierre, Marie Buscomb, Allison Fay-Turner, Carey Gaul, Lane Williams, Bill Maxwell, Ed Tink, as well as sound engineer Steve Turner. Peggy and Pierre welcome any musicians who would like to have fun for the Food Bank. Send an email to pwmusic@me.com. The next party is January 20, 2017.

November 6, 2016 was a beautiful, sunny, Autumn Day on Madawaska Street by Calabogie Lake. Pastor Bill Griffiths presented a heartwarming, thought-provoking homily to the folks assembled there to honour the fallen, the veterans and the women and men still serving for Canada at home and abroad.

Reverend Kim offered the prayer. We were touched by the stirring sounds of the bugle, the echoing of the gun blasts across the lake and the words of The Ode



Calabogie: Helen Charbonneau lays a wreath representing Silver Cross mothers as soldiers from Petawawa, on guard for the fallen, bow their heads.



Algonquins of Pikwakanagan: An Afghanistan veteran lays a wreath while a young Algonquin man smudges the new monument to honour their veterans at the Remembrance Day ceremony.

of Remembrance. Members of Garrison Petawawa escorted the presenters of wreaths led first by Helen Charbonneau representing the Silver Cross mothers. When young Carson Epp laid down the wreath for the Charbonneau family, the soldier taught him to salute which he did. Singing was led by a small choir from churches and a solo by Marie Buscomb. Before the salute was taken during the march past, we sang God save the Queen.

Fellowship was shared at the Community Centre where soldiers were treated to sandwiches and sweets. We had the opportunity to thank them for their service to keep Canada free and the best country in the world.

This is your newspaper. If you have a story, event, birth or any other news to share, send me an email (bogiebeat@gmail.com) or call me (613-433-1131) and I will fit you in. The deadline will be at the front of this edition of the Highlander.

Editor's note: Please see the article "Greater Madawaska Public Library Could Close - HOW WE GOT HERE" that was written for Bogie Beat, but moved to Library Matters, Pgs. 22 & 23



Skippy Hale is a Retired Nurse and Librarian. She and her husband settled here in December 1999. After her husband's death in 2014, she decided to stay in Calabogie where she enjoys many friendships and is engaged in several volunteer projects.

The loves of her life are her 3 children, their spouses, her three granddaughters and one grandson. She keeps busy with arts, crafts and getting stories for the Highlander.

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Denbigh, Vennachar, Griffith & Matawatchan updates
www.matawatchan.ca/Events

Greater Madawaska updates
www.greatermadawaska.com

Addington Highlands updates
www.addingtonhighlands.ca

CHURCH SERVICES:

Matawatchan St. Andrew's United Church Sunday Worship 11:30 a.m.
 For updates, call Joanne Murray 613-333-5534

Hilltop Tabernacle
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
 Office 613.762.7130
hilltop.pastor@gmail.com
www.hilltopchurch.ca
 Facebook Hilltop Church in Griffith

Vennachar Free Methodist Church
 424 Matawatchan Rd.
 613-333-2318
 Services June to August 10 am
 Sunday service time returns to 11am the weekend after Labour Day

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

Emmanuel United, Schutt 8:30 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.

Burnstown
 St. Andrew's United Church
 Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Calabogie
 The Calabogie Bible Fellowship
 Congregational Church
 The Mill Street Chapel 538 Mill St.
 Regular service - Sundays 10:30 a.m.
 Information: 613-752-2201

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church
 504 Mill St., Rev. Ric Starks
 Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

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

Calabogie St. Andrews United Church
 1044 Madawaska Dr. (on the waterfront) Sunday Worship 8:30am
 Communion 1st Sun. of the month

CELEBRATIONS and WORDS OF THANKS:

Frank and Ellanora Meeks of Cloyne
 60th Wedding Anniversary on
 October 20, 2016

A huge thank you to everyone who donated and helped clean up damage after break ins at the Matawatchan Hall and area cottages.

EVENTS:

CALABOGIE:

GM Library Pre-school Storytime
 Thursdays 10:30 am to 11:30 am
 at the Greater Madawaska Library.
 It is aimed at children from 0 - 6.

LIONS CLUB BINGO
 Calabogie Community Centre
 Wednesdays 7:15 p.m.

FALLS PREVENTION PROGRAM
 Tuesdays 8:30 a.m. Barnett Cottage
 Contact Susan 613-752-1540
 PILATES IN THE PARK
 Mondays 9:30 am Barnett Park
 Contact Susan 613-752-1540

Calabogie Seniors Dinner & Meeting
 Last Thursday of the month - 5 pm
 Oct. to April at the Community Hall
 May to Sept. Barnet Park
 All seniors 55+ welcome. 752-2853

Renfrew South Women's Institute
www.rsdwi.ca CalabogieWI@gmail.com
 Branch meetings held at Calabogie Community Hall
 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30
 Contact: Marg MacKenzie, Pres.
 613-432-3105 or Hennie Schaly
 Sec. 613-752-0180
 Guests and new members welcome!

Calabogie Arts and Crafts
 Every 2nd Monday (If holiday, then 3rd Monday), 10:00 am - 1:00 pm,
 Community Hall, (\$15 per year),
 752-1324

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

The Calabogie and Area Ministerial
 Food Bank 538 Mill Street, Calabogie
 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month
 9:00 am to 10:00 a.m. For
 emergency situations, please call
 752-2201

Youth Sports Night
 Tuesdays 6:00 pm 8:00 until March
 28th, Excluding December 27,
 January 3 and 31, and March 14
 pm at St. Joseph's Catholic School,
 Calabogie

Bake Sale, December 4
 Pies, cookies, cakes and other baked
 goods for sale. Complimentary tea,
 coffee, and hot chocolate
 Most Precious Blood Catholic Church
 613-752-2224

GRIFFITH & MATAWATCHAN:

Denbigh Griffith Lions Club
 Fellowship Lunch at Lions Hall,
 Griffith at Noon-Third Wednesday
 of the month. Everyone is welcome.
 Contact Mary McKinnon 613-333-
 2791

Northern Lights Seniors at the Lion's
 Hall after Fellowship Lunch
 General Wellness Assessment by
 local Paramedics available from
 11:00am until after lunch

Diabetes Outreach Program
 every 3 months

Euchre First and Third Friday of
 each month, 7:00pm - 9pm Contact
 Dennis Barnes 613-333-1488
 Harvest Supper at St. Andrew's
 Church in Matawatchan on Saturday,
 October 1, 2016 from 5:00 - 7:00
 Adults ~ \$12.00 Children 6 to 12
 \$6.00 Children 5 and under Free
 Turkey with all the fixings plus PIE!

The Pickled Chicken String Band
 Mondays from 5 pm to 7 pm
 At the Pine Valley Hwy 41, Griffith
 Bert's Music Jam Every Thursday
 5 to 7:30 p.m.

AA Meetings (Alcoholics Anonymous)
 Weekly meetings Every Monday, 7pm
 Griffith Lions Hall HWY 41
 One hour meeting open to Men and
 Women Coffee and Refreshments

MATAWATCHAN HALL EVENTS:
 Matawatchan Walking Club
 Thursdays 9:00 a.m
 Start at Matawatchan Hall

Griffith & Matawatchan
 CHRISTMAS PARTY
 In partnership with and sponsored
 by The Griffith & Matawatchan
 Recreation Committee
 5:30 Potluck Dinner
 7:00 Tree Lighting
 8:00 (approx.) Santa Arrives with
 gifts for children 13 and under.
 Contact Kelli at 613-333-9800 early
 so Santa knows your child will be
 attending and wear your best ugly
 Christmas sweater.

DENBIGH & VENNACHAR:
 Denbigh-Griffith Lion's Club Hall
 25991 Hwy 41 Regular Events:
 LIONS CLUB BINGO
 Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Denbigh Music in the Park/Hall
 Every second Sunday from 1 to 3 pm

Denbigh Diners:
 Full Course Meal \$7.00
 Nancy Dafoe 613-333-5164

Denbigh Hall Exercise Group:
 Monday classes at 10:00 am.
 Thursday classes at 1:00 pm.
 TOPS Tuesday at the Denbigh Hall
 Basement @8:30am Contact Mary
 McKinnon 613-333-2791

Denbigh New Apostolic Church:
 December 11th Annual Sunday
 School Program at 3pm.
 December 18th is the Community
 Sing A Long with Highway 41 at
 4pm.
 The Christmas Day service 10:30am
 New Years Eve Social 7-9 pm
 New Years Day Service.
 For info : Rev. Robert Sprague at
robertjsprague@gmail.com or
 613-333-9777.

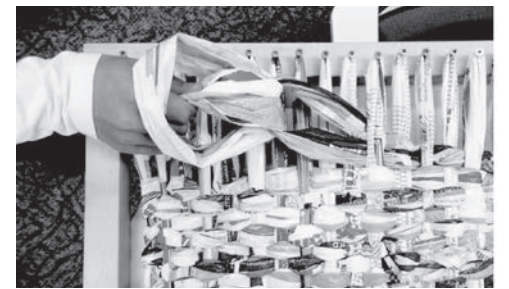
Santa Claus Parade, Bridge St.
 Denbigh starting at Hwy 41 at 6 pm

Denbigh-Griffith Lions Club Fund
 Raiser Christmas Craft Fair
 Saturday, Dec. 3rd 10 am to 2
 pm at the Lion's Hall 25991 Hwy
 41, Griffith. .Baked goods - Door
 Prizes- Raffle Draws- Crafts -
 Canteen - Snacks - Home Cooked
 Lunches. Come and support your
 local Crafters.

Denbigh Library - Storytime, Crafts
 and Snack
 Wed. Dec. 14, 6pm, 31 Central St.
 in the Addington Highlands
 Community Centre.
 Winter hours: Mon. 4pm-6pm,
 Tues. 10am-2pm, Wed. 4pm-7pm,
 Thurs. noon-3pm, Sat. 9am-noon.

NORTH FRONTENAC, CLOYNE
 Paint Night Event, Dec. 3, 7:00 pm to
 9:30 pm, Lions Hall Northbrook
 613 336-8502

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 The Madawaska
 Highlander
 3784 Matawatchan Rd.
 Griffith, ON, K0J 2R0
info@reelimpact.tv
 613-333-9399**

Making it Green and Accessible

By Theresa Peluso

Editor's note: This article originally appeared on millstonenews.com and is printed here with permission of the author. Although written about transportation in Lanark County, it applies to all rural areas and we are pleased to bring it to our readers.

Change is coming. The first sign of real change in how we deal with climate change was a landmark agreement last December in Paris, when 195 countries committed to lowering planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Every single one of those countries, whether rich or poor, now has to take concrete action to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. In the words of the United Nations secretary general, Ban Ki-moon: "This is truly a historic moment. For the first time, we have a truly universal agreement on climate change, one of the most crucial problems on earth."

Canada has followed up on its commitment by making climate change the focus in the first ministers' summit in March of this year. At this summit, the Prime Minister and provincial premiers agreed that additional action has to be taken to at least meet Canada's international commitment to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. As a result of this summit, Ontario has now implemented a new Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) (see this link: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/climate-change-action-plan>). The plan covers many different areas, but, in the interest of time and word limits, this column will focus on the area of transportation, and in particular, the types of transportation that could really make a difference in our community.

As pointed out in Ontario's CCAP, more than one-third of Ontario's greenhouse gas pollution is caused by the transportation sector, and car and truck emissions add up to more than 70 percent of the total. The de-

crease in emissions since 1990 that resulted from more fuel-efficient vehicles has only slightly offset the rise in emissions as a consequence of the increase in vehicle ownership, commuting distance and population growth. Subsidies to buy or lease electric vehicles are one option, as is making it easier and safer for people to walk and bike as an alternative to driving, where feasible. Increasing the availability and use of lower-carbon fuel is another. The province is also planning to improve the competitiveness of short-line railways, which can be three to four times more energy efficient than trucks for transporting a given mass of freight. Finally, the province is also supporting the accelerated construction of the Regional Express Rail (RER) system in the densely populated Golden Horseshoe region in Ontario. Although this particular project will not benefit us directly, it stands to make the greatest impact dollar for dollar in our province.

In the case of Lanark County, approximately 3,000 km² in area with a network of approximately 2,500 km of roads and a population of about 60,000, an RER, or even a county-wide bus system, is clearly not a viable option. The fact remains that we need to reduce carbon emissions by providing alternatives to single-occupant vehicles. This has the additional benefit of reducing the pressure to build more roads and supporting infrastructure for cars. And of course, there are other, non-environment-related reasons for enabling residents in this county to be able to get around, for which we need to find efficient, affordable solutions.



A pilot program in Muskoka District is turning to school buses to help its citizens get around.

What exactly are the county's needs? Lanark County's elected officials and staff, having determined that there was decidedly a need for public transportation, but realizing that they needed a thorough analysis of the problem before taking action, hired two consultants to take this on. The result was, at the end of June of this year, an extremely informative presentation by Messrs. Nelson Rogers and Robert Leitch (with Kurt Greaves, Lanark County CAO, acting as host) on a wide variety of options, from low-cost (including ride-sharing) to more expensive (such as municipal buses). Messrs. Rogers and Leitch combed through provincial and national research on rural transportation, case study reviews of best practices and innovative approaches, and local data on transportation needs and current services. All the options they described in their presentation are already being used in various jurisdictions in North America.

The lack of transportation is seen as a big factor in youth leaving their rural homes; it's also a barrier to employment; to education opportunities (possibly a contributing factor to the lower percentage of rural people with post-secondary education); to health, social and recreational programs; and to access to shopping, personal care and legal services. In addition, it's a contributing cause

to feeling isolated.

Furthermore, the lack of alternatives to driving a car may result in people with vision and/or cognitive difficulties or who are substance impaired, continuing to drive because they have no other way of getting around. People with a low income, unable to afford a car, continue to be trapped because they can't find better jobs, get more training, or apply for jobs or shifts with non-standard schedules. Tourists, visitors and seasonal residents are not easily able to access the many festivals, events and conventions in the county unless they can drive. Commuters have no alternative to long commutes in their cars. A decline in the county's rural population as people move to places with access to transportation could further impede the abilities of rural communities to support businesses, schools, health care, recreation and other benefits for residents.

In other words, it's a vicious circle. By promoting other options to cars, the county can become more attractive to both residents and visitors, and prevent population declines.

At present, there are some commercial services available in Lanark County, although, in the case of Mississippi Mills, Thom Transport is ceasing its once-a-day return trip to Ottawa this month (August). A



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number of people have informal transportation arrangements, such as carpooling (aka ride-sharing). There are also transportation services available through social service organizations and volunteer groups. The Lanark Transportation Association (LTA) is a not-for-profit transportation service; funded by both the county and the province (this is where the gas tax helps out!). The LTA provides transportation to and from medical and other specialized services for people unable to drive because of a disability or financial limitations and/or for people referred by an agency, such as Ontario Works Program or Ontario Disability Support Program. Generally, people need to book their ride one to two weeks ahead. Fees may vary based on the client's destination, and qualifying clients can have their fees subsidized. LTA serves a base of over 5,000 riders.

Lanark County, in conjunction with Mississippi Mills, and now Carleton Place (with, it is hoped, more member municipalities joining in), is promoting active transportation. Mississippi Mills now has an Active Transportation Advisory Committee to look at ways to make our community more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly. In many cases it involves very little spending to tweak our current system to make it easier and safer for people to get around on foot or by bike; for example, painting white lines to designate bicycle lanes or implementing supportive policies and programs. (People with mobility problems, who use a mobility-scooter, can also take advantage of the bicycle infrastructure). The fact that our municipality has, thanks to the efforts of people like Jeff Mills, earned bronze level status in the Bike-Friendly Community program, is definitely recognition of what we've accomplished so far, and an incentive to better our standing.

There are many approaches to reducing the need for single-occupant cars. One is to reduce the demand for transportation. Instead of having many people find their way to the medical clinic, library, hair stylist or pharmacy, these people could book a visit by various service entities to their neighbourhood on a weekly or monthly basis. Pop-up stores have become popular in towns and cities – why not have them in smaller communities? This approach may require funding from the province or municipality, but would be more cost-effective than a full-out public transportation system.

Advances in technology such as web-based information, scheduling software, and flexible routing (a program which identifies alternative paths that a vehicle can follow to get from Point A to Point B) open up real opportunities for getting around by coordinating transportation information, whether for commercial purposes, government and non-profit agency services, or personal activities. Ride-sharing is one example, where

the old-fashioned bulletin board at work or school becomes a computer-based centre where people can offer or request rides. In some communities, the 2-1-1 telephone service is used. (This is a special telephone number reserved in Canada and the United States as a quick and easy way to request information and referrals to health, human and social service organizations. It is now available in 26 municipalities in Ontario, including Renfrew and Lennox and Addington, but not (yet) in Lanark County.) The advantage with 2-1-1 is that people who don't have a computer can still have access to transportation information. Somewhat similar to a ride-share program is a central transportation booking service, which is a single point of contact for multiple agencies and services (much like a taxi dispatcher). It would be important to disallow use of this service to transportation service providers, to avoid allegations of a conflict of interest.

Another, similar, way to coordinate demand for transportation with available drivers is a central transportation referral service. This service focuses solely on transportation, unlike 2-1-1, and links not just individuals and social agencies, but other entities as well. It can take many forms. It usually consists of a centralized booking and dispatch service for both individuals and organizations. For example, the service can arrange for off-duty school bus or commercial van drivers to take individuals or groups to a particular activity. It's somewhat like a ride-share program on steroids. To function effectively, it would be necessary for our municipality or county to assess the transportation needs of its residents, to take an inventory of local transportation services and resources, and to establish a central coordination system with suitable software, technology and trained staff.

Yet another system is transportation service collaboration, modelled on a method used in industry to reduce the need to purchase additional vehicles, and to increase flexibility in getting goods from Point A to Point B. Let's imagine a scenario where Company X, in the business of shipping furniture, has no delivery trucks of its own. Instead, using a sophisticated software program which identifies delivery trucks belonging to other companies that are suitable for delivering furniture, Company X determines that one of the trucks owned by Company Y has space for Company X's merchandise, and is also travelling between the initial location of the furniture and its final destination. Company X then contacts the truck driver and pays the necessary fee for making the delivery. Company X benefits by not having to invest in delivery trucks, and Company Y maximizes use and revenue from its trucks. The same could theoretically be done with people. It sounds a little like centrally managed hitch-

hiking, and might not be to everyone's taste, but certainly offers an inexpensive mode of transportation that might not otherwise be available.

Last year the Ontario Ministry of Transportation provided funding, averaging about \$90,000, to 11 municipalities as part of the Community Transportation Pilot Grant Program, in which the municipalities defined their own projects for addressing local transportation needs, including ways to improve use of existing transportation resources by coordinating services and sharing vehicles, staff and drivers. Lennox & Addington was included, but Lanark County was not – perhaps there will be another opportunity, and this time we need to be ready to take advantage of it.

Last, and most expensive in the list of transportation options, is a public transit system. Here again, there are several options, ranging from less to more expensive. One public transit system option is to operate a shuttle bus to ferry people to and from bigger centres. These shuttle buses could be set up as rural/town loops, or hub and spoke, or a combination of the two. With the right scheduling software, routes could vary with demand. Because Mississippi Mills is situated fairly near a major urban centre, Ottawa, which results in many people commuting there and back, our municipality would be a great candidate for a shuttle bus to link Almonte and Pakenham to the nearest OC Transpo bus stop. Links could also be provided with VIA Rail, Greyhound, and other major transportation systems. Of course, this

would require a substantial financial outlay (i.e., a significant subsidy, or tax increase), and because three to five years are required to build a regular ridership, the viability of this system would be difficult to assess until it was well established.

A second public transit system option is to have standard buses with regular routes (for example, between Ottawa and Almonte), but this option is quite expensive, and lacks the flexibility and accessibility of the other approaches mentioned in the presentation by Messrs. Rogers and Leitch.

Transportation links could also be provided for visitors to Mississippi Mills, especially to enable them to participate in the many festivals for which we are famous. Advertising buses and vans to these visitors would make it possible for everyone, not just car drivers and their families, to come here, and it would also alleviate traffic tie-ups and the need for extra parking in the towns and villages.

Lanark County can and should do its part to reduce carbon emissions and make transportation more accessible to all its residents. We lack the infrastructure and tax base of larger municipalities and counties, but we have a proven tradition of community involvement and ingenuity, and, if we have the will, we will find the way! It depends on you to advocate for change in the way we do transportation by contacting your elected representatives, and to propose feasible ways to make the above strategies – or other, new ones – work for us!

RURAL SENIORS TRANSPORTATION

Renfrew and Area Seniors' Home Support has been supporting seniors in the Griffith/Matawatchan area for many years through their transportation service. *We are looking for more clients to take part and keep the program affordable*, but having said that, we are always open to new volunteer drivers. Our program started many years ago supporting the shopping bus that came up Highways 41 and 132 into Renfrew. Renfrew Home Support volunteers would drive around the countryside picking up individuals who wanted to travel on the bus and then would meet them when the bus returned to take them home. When the bus service was cancelled, Carol Anne Kelly, a volunteer in the area, came forward to see if Renfrew Home Support would support her in continuing this program on a smaller scale and we were more than happy to do so. This program has been running for a number of years, and once a month to every six weeks, Carol Anne picks up her group of ladies and they travel up the highway to Renfrew for shopping and a lunch out. If you are interested in this program and live in the Griffith/Matawatchan area or along the Highway 41/132 route to Renfrew, please call our office to see about taking part in this program.

Cost is \$15/person – a deal which gets you a great driver and wonderful conversation.

Other transportation programs in the area include Calabogie Home Support (613-752-2828), Carefor (613-732-9993) and Land O'Lakes Community Services (1-877-679-6636).



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Cycling the K&P Trail and Updates on the new CP Corridor

By Lesley Cassidy



Log tourist information office in Calabogie. The old K&P railway line ran at the back end of this park. Photo by Steven Manders

With the pesky deerflies finally gone, riding my bicycle along the old K&P rail bed on an October fall day is about as close to paradise as you can get. September and October is truly a magical time to get outside and enjoy the Ottawa Valley. The red maples and birch trees with their bright yellow leaves against a clear blue sky make it a perfect day to explore. I think the three ATVs that smiled and waved at us travelling in the opposite direction must have been thinking the exact same thing.

Starting in Calabogie mid-morning, we decided today's adventure would be to ride our bikes to the town of Renfrew, have a snack in town and pedal back to Calabogie. My husband and I are both avid cyclists, preferring to ride on gravel or back scenic roads than on the

busy paved highways. There has always been something more appealing to ride a less travelled road where you can really get a sense of the people and beauty of the Ottawa Valley. Seeing old gray wooden farmhouses and barns, thick bushland in full fall colours and lakes that surely must have lots of pickerel or bass in them, is the best way to travel. Some of our favorite roads to cycle in and around the Ottawa Valley include Sammon Road, Grant Road, Matawatchan Road, and Lavant Mills Road.

Starting in the town of Calabogie near the tourist information centre, we ride past the new Brewery and the Redneck Bistro, both of which were quiet at this hour. We join the rail trail just before Munford's gas station which has recently been sold. Turning left onto



There's something special about cycling along the K & P Trail in early October with the fall colours, cool fresh air, and peace and quiet. Photo by Steven Manders

the rail trail pointed us north towards the town of Renfrew and we were off riding. The first section of the rail trail has us riding past wide open fields of tall grass and hay, cattle and a few old barns. Some of it is forested, but there are quite a few fields. As we head north, we cross Ashdad Road. Riding through this area brought back many memories. As a child, I spent a significant amount of time in Ashdad with my great aunts who had been local school teachers. We loved to roam the fields behind their houses and pick raspberries out of an overgrown and scratchy patch. One of my great aunt's used to run the general store in Ashdad and was the school teacher for the area. The old school house is still there and is now a private residence.

Riding past the junction of the rail trail and Ashdad Road, the old rail line crosses through some thick bush and several lakes and marshy areas. There is an old rail bridge just past Ashdad where we fished as kids with my cousins. I don't recall catching any fish, but we spent many afternoons trying. This whole area along the rail trail is populated with very few houses or cottages, it is mainly lakes, wetlands and thick bush. As we pedal along, the colours of the trees stand out against the blue sky and the water looks cold and gray.

Railway track covered 180km including spurs to mines at the time. The K&P railway has an interesting history and is a testament to the hard work of many local people between Kingston and Renfrew to bring trade, mail, passenger travel and a better life to their communities. Mills, mines, and logging produced goods that needed to get to areas more south of the isolated Ottawa Valley. With the first shovel in the ground in spring of 1872, it all started and by 1884 it was completed to the town of Renfrew. It was never actually built to Pembroke. A slow train, it took over 6 hours to travel as a passenger from Kingston to Renfrew, earning the railway the nickname, the "Kick and Push". Due to the invention of the car, building of other railways and financial problems, the rail line was slowly abandoned and ceased operations by 1986.

Pedaling our bicycles along the rail trail towards the town of Renfrew

makes me think of all the communities that relied on this train to transport cattle, receive and send mail, send maple syrup and connect with the bigger towns and cities. There must be many stories about daring train engineers, wild weather, marriage proposals, and pioneers and characters who built the railway.

The County of Renfrew is currently involved in the purchase of another discontinued rail line, this one is from Canadian Pacific (CP). The rail corridor starts in Smith Falls and ends near Matawata for over 296km with 218km that is part of Renfrew County. Over the next few years, this trail will become a recreational pathway. The County's vision for this trail is to become a four season multi-purpose trail. Information sessions are being held across the Ottawa Valley so that potential users, landowners and communities can provide input and identify issues and opportunities. Some of the issues people have raised include: different uses of the trail including walking, hiking, cycling, ATV and winter snowmobiling; cost; landowner concerns about noise and privacy, and others. Consultation with communities and landowners will be ongoing over the next while.

Today, it is a beautiful day to be out for a ride on the K&P. As we pedal towards the town of Renfrew, more houses start to appear near the old rail bed. Feeling hungry, Renfrew has many choices for a rest stop and snack. We can stop at the Bonnechere Bakery, the Vintage Kettle Coffee House or the Renfrew Tea Room and those are just three of several options. We decide on the Bonnechere Bakery. Relaxing and eating we spend almost an hour before thinking about our bicycles and the ride back.

After filling up on warm delicious soup and brownies, we slowly get on our bikes to pedal back to Calabogie. The sugary brownies were appreciated as they fueled our legs to keep pedaling forward when we were starting to feel tired. It had been a spectacular day on the old K&P. As we pedalled our bikes back to Calabogie, I could almost hear the sounds of the old train chugging along slowly as it made its way towards Kingston passing through towns, fields and the countryside.



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www.thevalleyfoodanddrinkco.ca Tickets: Eventbrite.ca

By Angela Bright

*The 10th Anniversary Countryfest was lots of fun! A decent sized group of both competitors and onlookers showed up on Friday, September 16th for the Air Rifle Target Shoot Competition at Heritage Park. At the same time, the Cafe and Music at the Hall was happening, and also well attended. The real treat came under the Harvest Moon with an amazing fireworks display. Saturday turned out to be a little soggy, but the rain did not ruin the day. Cowboys and cowgirls made stick horses, had a goat milking contest, and designed and raced cub cars. There was even a visit by Chase and Skye of Paw Patrol fame. The ever popular Logging Games showcased the skills of local and visiting lads and ladies in the chainsaw toss, axe throwing, and chair carving events, just to name a few. Fair goers also got a chance to see a firewood processor in action, making the sawing and splitting of logs a one person operation. Some lovely displays by local artisans and crafters were set up at the AHCC, as well as the exhibits. To top off the day, a delicious BBQ beef dinner was served, followed by the sweet vocals of Canadian country music artist Diane Chase in concert. Sunday afternoon, under sunny skies, the crowd showed up to cheer on the teams in the only event of the day, the Horse Pull. Cowboy hats off to you, Denbigh Recreation Committee, for the work put into making Countryfest such an excellent event right here in our hamlet. Go to the Denbigh Countryfest facebook page to enjoy more photos!

*The New Apostolic Church is pleased to announce the commission of Rev Robert J Sprague as Rector for the Denbigh congregation. Rev Sprague has served in Denbigh for the last two years as Priest and now replaces Rev Danny Kuechler who retires next year. Robert has been in ministry for more than forty years serving in Ottawa, Kingston and Denbigh Ontario. He has also worked as a missionary in the Middle East to help establish the work in Israel. Music is a big part of Robert's outreach ministry and he continues to perform with his wife Eunice throughout eastern Canada in local churches, senior's homes and community venues.

*When the final service in the 120 plus year old sanctuary at Vennachar Free Methodist Church was held back in April, the Governance Board removed the cross from the front of the church and moved it to the parsonage; the temporary home while renovations would take place at the church. It was realized soon after that God had a different direction for the project. Due to structural issues, the entire building would need to be brought down, and rebuilt. This past Sunday, the official opening celebration was held for the new building, so fitting that the Governance Board would begin the service by bringing the cross back into the church. VFMC Pastor Laurie Lemke then welcomed the congregation and guests, followed by Rev. Kim Henderson, Director of Personnel with The Free Methodist Church in Canada, leading in the dedication of the building and the ribbon cutting ceremony. Renowned gospel group The Proverbs came for the occasion and thoroughly blessed everyone with their music. VFMC is located



The 10th Annual Countryfest in Denbigh was a lot of fun for everyone. Go to the Denbigh Countryfest facebook page to enjoy more photos.



Vennachar Free Methodist Church dedication ceremony began by bringing the cross back to the church to songs by The Proverbs.



Pastor Laurie Lemke addresses builder Scottie MacDonald at the dedication on October 9, 2016

at 424 Matawatchan Road, with Sunday morning service time at 11am. Coming up in December, you are also invited to the Christmas cantata "Celebrate The Wonder" on December 11th at 11am, the Family Program on December 18th at 11am, and the annual Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve at 7pm.

*Ready for Santa's arrival? Saturday, December 3rd is the Denbigh Christmas Parade. Start time is 6pm from Berndt's Garage, traveling down Bridge Street, and HWY 28, to the Denbigh Hall. Santa will stay for a visit and there will be refreshments and a sing-a-long! Hosted by the Denbigh Recreation Committee. If you wish to enter at float call 613-333-2224.

*The Denbigh Griffith Lions Club is having its annual Christmas Hamper program, to serve individuals and families in the Denbigh, Griffith, Matawatchan and Vennachar area. If you feel you need a Christmas Hamper or know of someone or family in need, please call 613-333-2224. The deadline to apply is December 5, 2016. Delivered on Wednesday, December 21, 2016. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Christmas Hampers please call 613-333-1932.

*Would you like to buy fresh fruit and veggies for less than in the grocery store? Pay \$6, \$11 or \$17 for a Good Food Box at the "beginning" of the month, and pick up your box on the 3rd Thursday of the month; Large Fruit & Veggie Basket(12 to 15 items) \$17, Small Fruit & Veggie Basket(7 to 10 items) \$11, Fruit Basket(3 to 5 items) \$6, Veggie Basket(3 to 5 items) \$6. Order days are the first Wednesday of the month, from 10am to 4pm at Vennachar Free Methodist Church, 424 Matawatchan Road. Cash only payments are due on the day of order. Basket pick-up date is the third

Thursday of the month, 2-5pm at VFMC. Good Food Box Kingston- Vennachar Free Methodist Church Host site is a community initiative supported by Napanee Salvation Army. For more information contact Angela 613 333 1901.

*Have you heard about the Meals on Wheels program that is being run by Volunteers in the Denbigh area? They produce a weekly delicious hot meal brought directly to your door. You can have this service every week or as a special treat whenever you'd like. Cost for soup or salad, main course and dessert (including delivery) is only \$6.00!!! If you are interested, or know someone who could use this service, call Lori Cuddy @ Land O'Lakes Community Services 1-877-679-6636 or 613-336-8934 for more information.

*Wishing Ruth Anne Green a happy retirement, as she has newly left her post as the Denbigh Postmaster. Ruth Anne has been with Canada Post for 35

years, the latter half here in the hamlet processing letter mail and parcels, selling stamps and money orders, and so much more as per the duties of a Postmaster. An Open House was held on November 25th at the Post Office for folks to drop by with their well wishes and to celebrate with Ruth Anne over a cup of coffee and baked goodies. As I read somewhere online: Goodbye tension, hello pension! All the very best to you, Ruth Anne!

Be sure to check the calendar on page 7 for special events and church services in and around Denbigh and the Addington Highlands Community Calendar at addingtonhighlands.ca for event information township-wide. If your organization or group would like to have your event posted, call or send me an email.

*Merry Christmas everyone! May God's blessings float down like soft snowflakes.

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Winter - Surviving Disaster at Home

By David Arama



Winter storms that cause extended power outages are the most likely every winter, so start by planning for them and work your way to less likely events after that.

The approach of winter usually triggers the idea of preparedness... get out the winter clothing and footwear, get the snow tires on, make sure that the snow blower is tuned up, however, how many of us are prepared for natural disasters, ice storms, and prolonged power outages?

Recent ice storm and polar vortex events have taught me the importance of backup and/or portable generators, extra wool blankets and sub zero sleeping bags, and other emergency gear and supplies, without which I would have endured much more than small inconvenience. Be proactive, be prepared!

Most people feel safe at home, and rarely bother being prepared for anything worse than running out of coffee—but accidents frequently happen in and around the home, and disasters can force you out of your home or strand you inside it.

Ask yourself, “What could happen in our home and neighborhood?” You need to take personal responsibility for your own survival (and that of your loved ones.) In North America, during recent floods, fires and hurricanes, many local organizations fell apart, and indeed, in some places, civilization as we know it came to a complete stop. Many folks, even those used to having plenty of resources at their disposal, couldn't take care of themselves or their families. Don't be one of those people who is uselessly trying to call out on a cell phone that isn't working to get help; instead, be ready to help yourself and your family. Your survival may depend upon it. As you make your plans, prepare specifically for the most likely types of disasters and do not waste time on the least likely. If you live downtown in a big city, for example, a wildfire is not likely a concern but a major power outage could be disastrous.



Pick up an old second hand phone. They work without electricity and look good too!

COMMIT TO A SAFE HOME:

Every home needs: Battery powered carbon monoxide detector, smoke alarm, fire extinguisher, well-stocked first aid kit, emergency lighting. Make easy-to-see signs for electrical panel and water and gas shut-offs. Keep fuel in your car.

LOCAL EMERGENCY RESOURCES:

- Know How to Call 911. Briefly describe the situation. Give your location; if you do not know it, ask, look for cues around you, and be as specific as possible
- If you are calling from a cell phone, the dispatcher may be able to track your location using GPS, so do not hang up
- If you cannot speak, call anyhow and leave the line open, so the dispatcher can try to establish a location and send responders
- Know the locations of nearest hospitals and designated emergency shelters
- Select a Safe Nearby Meeting Place and
- Safe Meeting Place, away from the Region

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Keep Your Cell Phone Charged.
- Boost Your Signal.
- Keep a Landline Telephone. If it has to be plugged in it won't work in an outage.

- Post a home emergency information form in a prominent place
- Create a disaster plan for family and pets and practice it twice a year
- Go to getprepared.gc.ca in Canada for an example emergency plan
- Plan exit routes from the house and the neighbourhood
- Check on your neighbours
- Have at least two emergency contacts, preferably in different regions

MONEY AND VITAL DOCUMENTS:

- Keep emergency cash on hand. Bank machines run out of cash or don't work without power.
- Take the time now to organize important documents and put them in a safe place. For extra security, make copies and keep the copies off-site. Make a laminated emergency card for every member of your family to keep with them
- Get the right homeowners or renters insurance that covers emergencies

My book, “501 Survival Tips that Could Save your Life”, is available at major bookstores and Amazon.com. (\$21.95)



David is the owner of Marble Lake Lodge, and WSC Survival School Inc. David has appeared on numerous outdoor survival reality shows eg. Survive

This YTV, Bad Trips Abroad T + E, and offers a variety of training courses and camps. www.marblelodelodge.com www.wscsurvivalschool.com

 <p>Century21 Eady Realty Inc. Brokerage 29 Raglan St. Renfrew 613-433-2254 www.vincentjohnston.com</p>	 <p><i>My heart is in the Highlands. It's where my family comes from and where I like to be. I promise to do my best to ensure details are looked after and everyone is satisfied with the sale. You can trust me to list your home and help you find your dream property. New listings welcome!</i> - Vincent Johnston, Sales Representative</p>	<p>PRICE REDUCED, BLUFF POINT!</p>  <p>210 Bluff Point Calabogie Lake. Stunning sunsets. All day sunshine! 1.73 acre lot. Custom built, fully finished home. Perfect for B&B MLS 952436 \$900k</p>	<p>HWY COMMERCIAL!</p>  <p>5118 Calabogie Rd. Great for your business idea. 1.9 acres, High traffic area. Calabogie Peaks in view. More Commercial Land available MLS1023615 \$93,100</p>
<p>40 ft HURDS LK FRONTAGE!</p>  <p>25 Lakeside Way, Hurds Lake. Freshly renovated. Finished basement. 40ft of frontage on Hurds Lake MLS 970989 \$234,900</p>	<p>HOME PLUS 3 COTTAGES PRICE REDUCED!</p>  <p>5691 Matawatchesan Rd. 4 buildings on large lot. Hydro lease in place for Madawaska River use. Perfect for family or project. MLS 961408 \$149,900</p>	<p>COUNTRY WEEKEND GETAWAY!</p>  <p>3199 Matawatchesan Rd. Affordable private getaway. Creek running behind. Needs some finishing MLS 963220 \$79,900</p>	<p>PEAKS VILLAGE CHALET!</p>  <p>46 Viewmount, Ski Chalet in Peaks Village. Deeded Access to Calabogie Lake. Open concept main floor. Main fl. bed and bath MLS 983492 \$294,900</p>
<p>WATERFRONT BUILDING LOTS!</p> <p>00 Centennial Lake, Centennial Lake Waterfront MLS 957962 \$59,900</p> <p>00 Jim Wallace, Calabogie Lake Deeded access to shared waterfront lot MLS 957962 \$59,900</p> <p>00 Black Mountain. Centennial Lake Waterfront 1.7 acre Lot in its natural state. Hydro and Bell in place. Gentle slope MLS 980197 \$129,900</p>	<p>MADAWASKA RIVERFRONT!</p>  <p>5707 Matawatchesan Rd. Newer 3 Bedroom close to Griffith. Insulated foundation. Finished Basement. Hydro Lease for waterfront MLS 961414 \$239,900</p>	<p>BLACK DONALD WATERFRONT!</p>  <p>2713 Centennial Lake Rd. 3 Bedroom Cottage with second cottage on property. Hwy access. Gentle slope to the water MLS1032921 \$369,900</p>	<p>580ft ON CALABOGIE LAKE!</p>  <p>Private 3 bed cottage over 4 acres. Bonus living space w/separate entrance. Large rms, large deck, gorgeous views MLS 1003812 \$599,900</p>
<p>CALABOGIE VILLAGE LIVING!</p>  <p>594 Mills St. Calabogie. 3 bed, detached garage on large lot in the center of the village, just a short walk to the water. MLS1020360 \$159,900</p>	<p>TURN KEY B&B WITH A VIEW!</p>  <p>5174 Calabogie Rd. B&B Calabogie. Turn key complete with web sites etc. Lovely Landscaping and awesome view MLS 1027870</p>	<p>NEW IN WHITE LAKE VILLAGE!</p>  <p>10 Alston Rd. New Horizon Home. Full Tarion New Home Warranty. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom. Large deep lot in the Village MLS1035872 \$299,900</p>	<p>CENTENNIAL LAKE WATERFRONT!</p>  <p>41 Cooper Hill Rd. with paved road to driveway and close to Centennial Lake Road, Det. garage and lots of outbuildings. MLS 1022806 \$394,900</p>

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Caleb with another load of bottles.



Caleb's interview for CHEO on CTV.



Addison makes her own donation



A proud moment for Jenelle, Caleb, Joey and Addison, with cheque.

By Jenelle Rosenblath

In April 2015, Caleb Rosenblath decided to make a difference and started a bottle drive for CHEO (Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario). Caleb is your typical 12 year old boy who enjoys sports, snowmobiling, fishing and riding his ATV, but he knew if he could try to give back to our community he might inspire others. He set a high goal of \$1500 – \$2000, and never doubted for a minute that he would reach it.

During the bottle drive, he heard many stories from various people about their personal experiences with CHEO and it was comforting to know he was supporting a valuable cause. Caleb put up posters throughout the local area in stores, restaurants, community buildings and in the Madawaska Highlander to advertise his fundraiser. He made many public appearances including at the Lion's Club Show & Shine, Greater Madawaska Area Showcase, Pancake Breakfasts, and

more! Aside from that, there have been many trips made to stores to return empties that were donated. The outpour of monetary donations on top of liquor and beer bottles has been outstanding. This area has shown an amazing amount of support.

Caleb initially sparked an interest with CHEO when his sister Addison was diagnosed with plagiocephaly & torticollis. This is better known as flattening of the head from poorly developed neck muscles. After many trips to CHEO for physiotherapy, and the help of a prosthetic helmet she has full extension of her neck muscles and her skull was reshaped back to normal.

Addison is just one of many children that have been affected by CHEO's professional help and support that this area relies on. With donations, they can improve medical services and allow access to necessary equipment needed.

CHEO has a state of the art heart catheterization lab, research institute and MRI facility. Each year funds are dispersed into different areas that require funding. They are research, equipment, training, family emergency needs and enhancements to the pediatric nature of the hospital.

Although our family's experience was not a life-threatening matter, the staff focused on each child individually and helped parents understand the proper treatment in a supportive manner.

On October 4, 2016 Caleb ended his fundraiser and presented \$4000 to the CHEO Foundation. Although I was skeptical of his original goal, I couldn't believe his achievement. This was a "Proud-Mom Moment" that I will never forget. Caleb was a star for a day! He was interviewed by CTV news and was televised later that evening during their

broadcast.

Our main goal for this project was to inspire other children to play a role within our community and advocate for local charities. It was surprising, when our daughter Addison who is now 3 years of age, decided to donate her birthday money. (Another "Proud-Mom Moment") This was one of our greatest family achievements, which all started with a good idea from my son.

So, I hope that Caleb can be an example and may encourage others to get involved with our community or offer a helping hand when there is someone in need. Whether it's weeding your neighbour's garden or picking up a bag of milk in town. We all benefit from kind gestures and consideration.

Caleb would like to thank everyone that has helped or offered support over the past year and a half. We couldn't have done this without you!

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MLS#982346 \$234,900

New Art Studio Opens in Meyers Cave

There is something alluring about the natural beauty of the rocky Canadian Shield with its dense forests of great white pines, and silver birches surrounding the many lakes that draw city folk to the area. Such was the case 13 years ago when Debbie Reeve, along with her husband and three children bought their little cottage at Myers Cave, sight unseen over the internet, while residing in Indonesia. The cottage situated on the plot of land between Georgia and Marble Lake has been their Canadian home retreat while they were living in Indonesia and Kuwait serving the International Church. The last 6 years Debbie was working in Kuwait teaching and exhibiting art while dreaming of her little piece of 'heaven on earth' back in Canada.

A transitioning job, and family needs found the Reeves returning to Land O' Lakes in January of this year to reside full-time. The renovation of a garage into a working art studio now allows Debbie to offer workshops and classes to the local community. Regarding the discovery of her love of teaching Debbie says "Most of my adult students have had little to no experience painting with watercolour or acrylic. I take great delight in teaching the secrets and techniques of painting and drawing while watching



Debbie Reeve beside one of her birch tree paintings, holding a painted paddle.

my students surprise themselves with what they create."

Over the years Reeve's painting style has developed from realistic watercolours to non-object and abstract mixed-media. "It is actually more difficult to create a unique, non-object painting using just colour, texture, line and shape then it is to paint an object in a realistic style" Debbie explains. Her paintings are varied as each new travelling experience had to be captured on the canvas. "I have exhibited in numerous galleries in different countries and have found that every person has their own distinct preference for art work that they relate to, and their own unique connection with an art piece. Paintings of camels were a big hit in Kuwait but I'm not

so sure Canadians would connect to that!! " Ever adaptable, Reeve started offering PAINT YOUR PADDLE and watercolour workshops which generated a lot of enthusiasm among the cottagers.

Making that connection between the viewer and her art work is what Debbie hopes to achieve through galleries and art shows in the region. She plans to continue through the winter months offering PAINT NIGHTS, weekly painting classes and weekend workshops. A special PAINT NIGHT with the Land O'Lakes Lions Club will be held on Friday, December 2. Debbie, a recorded and accomplished singer will be offering piano and vocal lessons from the studio as well. For more information see www.debbiereeve.com.

Debbie chuckles as she exclaims; "I pinch myself every day, so happy that I get to wake up to this beautiful setting every morning. What an awesome place to live. Now, to paint more birch trees!"

Don't miss a fun
PAINT NIGHT
LION'S CLUB NORTHBROOK
Dec. 3, 7pm - 9:30pm
613 336-8502



**Vimy:
Letters
from the
Front
A new
book
by William
McNaught**

William McNaught, the author and grandnephew, tells the story of Private John L. Ball, #835576 in his new book, *Vimy: Letters from the Front*. John Leslie Ball, son, brother, uncle, boyfriend, left his farm in Vennachar, Ontario, in the Fall of 1915, expecting to return in time for spring plowing. Instead, he signed Attestation Papers and died in France on April 12, 1917 during the Battle of Vimy Ridge. His family resisted efforts by the Canadian Government to transform his death into a heroic act. Ninety years after his loss, John's descendants gathered to celebrate his life.

William (Bill) McNaught is a Madawaska Highlander contributor for "Memories of Vennachar" and is looking for charities and non-profits in the Highlands who would be interested in selling his book as a fundraiser, with all profits going to the seller. If you are interested in selling or buying the book, please contact Sandra Lloyd at matawatchcentre@gmail.com

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Where Silence Speaks

By Ernie Jukes of Camp J

Perhaps man is most alive when he is in question, without his known comforts and security, and competing against nature's elements. Like running a slash of white water in an open canoe, back-packing through secluded, unexplored mountains, or camping in remote wilderness... all present an exceptional challenge to the inner being of an individual. Mother nature still provides the supreme tests of one's character.

It is thought a person from the backcountry can become street wise very quickly in the city, but the transplanted urbanite will still be learning after many years in the bush. Among the many attractions to the great outdoors are the adventurous episodes that occur during the learning period. Like the time Hal got turned around when he left his hunting position on a northern moose pond, and we found him three miles away on another lake. Or the time Bill had his finger torn off in the twisted ropes as we tracked our canoes down that canyon. Like when the wind suddenly blew the bow of the canoe up onto the beaver dam, while Ern was walking amidships, and flipped him upside down into 35-degree water. Or the time we tore the bottom out of our canoe, rescuing another with the supplies, just before it went over the waterfall. And the time Jack almost had a heart attack when the wolves surrounded him and all howled at once. We howled too!

They go on and on, and your own group, or someone you know could also tell a passel of stories over a few cool ones or a scotch by the fire as well. Many are exciting, some quite humorous and most are usually a learning experience. But perhaps occasionally a few are simply peculiar happenings, like the time Maurice Moon and I got caught in some bad weather on a Northern waterway system and were storm-stayed overnight.



Far off the beaten path in the high country of Algoma, practically obscured by a blanket of moss, we discovered the form of a tiny log cabin and mysterious clues about its former occupant.

It all started with ominous black clouds hastily streaking down the sky as we paddled our way into prime moose country. The wind was soon howling through the spruce, bending the poplars on shore as it pushed the thick wet mist and rain down the lake. White caps crested the rolling waves and cold water was crashing over the bow of our 16-foot fiberglass canoe. Stoically my bowman just shook it off and kept on paddling forward.

We had donned our slickers earlier and our gear was carefully packed to be waterproof, as well as resting on top of poles, which we had cut and laid, on the bottom of the canoe before loading. However we couldn't take on much more water and navigate safely and besides our lower legs and feet were soaked and beginning to numb from the cold. Maurice pointed his paddle at a point about a half-mile ahead through the mist. I nodded in agreement as it appeared to be a likely prospect for a spot to pull in and dry out. We had been paddling for over two hours since our last stop, so we were more than ready for a rest and a needed stretch. The temperature was dropping rapidly; we could see our breath as we pushed the canoe forward with our strong maple paddles and weary shoulders.

This high country of Algoma, overlooking the north shore of Lake Superior is a rugged network of waterways, ideal for the canoeing outdoorsman. It is folly however, to go into it without experience, sound planning and a lot of respect for this type of wilderness. Moe and I had camped and canoed on many southern waterways such as the Crowe, Otanabee, Indian, and the Madawaska which is noted for its white water. This was only the second time we had penetrated this big and beautiful, but unforgiving, region of Northern Ontario.

With the cold rain turning to sleet it would be getting dark early. We still had a few hours paddle to our hunting destination and our proposed campsite on a higher waterway in the mountains. Yes, we agreed, it made good sense to camp right here over night. We were both chilled clear through to the marrow of our bones, but it's not so unbearable as long as you keep moving. The wool we were wearing maintained our body warmth even when wet, and it certainly was that today. Optimistically, we knew there were better days ahead on our ten day October hunt.

The water seemed thicker or heavier somehow, as the cold was forming ice crystals along the shore.

We knew we were tiring in this wet but just a few more strokes through the fog and we would be there.

The bow of our canoe halted against a cedar root as we edged our craft along slippery lichen covered rocks. Bracing the canoe with my paddle, Maurice stepped dripping from the bow onto the wet grassy bank and instantly held the canoe steady with both legs for my exit.

Ah, it was so good to stand erect again and this picturesque point had a definite appeal for many reasons. Here was a good safe spot to land with a thick cedar windbreak in front of large pines, to shield us from the unrelenting autumn storm.

I noticed there were moose tracks leading into the forest; they had been crossing here from the other point. A few more steps and we were onto an overgrown trail, which quickly told us we weren't the first to be attracted to this wilderness point. Suddenly at our feet lay bleached ribs, no not of the human kind, but the skeleton of a cedar-strip canoe. We pushed along another twenty paces or so, climbing over logs, and came out into a small forest glade. Here we discovered, although practically obscured by a blanket of moss, the form of a tiny log cabin with split cedar shingles. There seemed to be a temperature change here in this sheltered area, as mist was rising all around.

As we looked closer amongst the rusty items on the forest floor, both inside and out, we spotted a pot here and a pan there, remnants of tin cans and decaying wooden boards. The stovepipes and pieces of a cast iron stove strewn about was proof of bear visits over the years. The roof on one side had fallen onto the crumbling bunk and table. A few shelves still offered rusty nails and snare wire. Bits of rotting leather suggested mitts, or a hat, or maybe a deerskin bag. There was a cover of a small green book, its pages mostly eaten away by tiny critters and time, wouldn't ever allow again the reading of someone's collected verse. Continued next pg...

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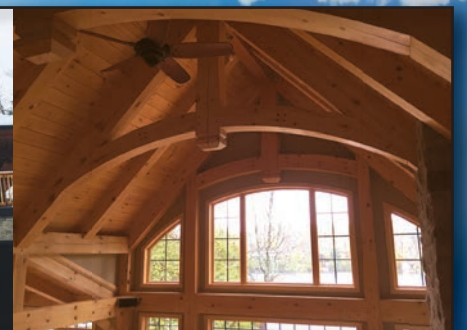
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Continued from previous page



What a strange thing to find in a place like this! A coin with the inscription "J.H. Tookes Esq. 1794, TRIED FOR HIGH TREASON and, "Acquitted by his jury counsel Hon. T. Erskine V. Gibbs Esq."

What tales this once cosy abode could tell. How often had the owner used it's warm interior to survive the same north wind and its shivering chill? Bright green moss was still chinked between the black, wet logs giving life to this decrepit derelict.

Speaking of chill, we quickly set about working on our temporary trail camp as the temperature continued to nosedive. By the time I had constructed a bivouac, Maurice had enough firewood gathered to get us well through the night. I had over turned the canoe and tied it so it would be safe high up on shore. We faced the lean-to opening toward a large flat wall of a rock outcropping, a short distance from the tumbled down shanty. The rock provided us a natural reflector increasing the warmth from the fire blazing in front of it. My god but it felt so good!

We changed and hung our wet clothes up to dry. Our sleeping area was warming nicely as was our supper of Irish stew, thick with potatoes and carrots. Topped off with a few glasses of Sherry it would soon warm our innards, and get us back into a respectable mood.

The wind was gradually dying down and the rain had stopped so we started poking around while daylight still permitted. We wondered what had brought the trapper deep into this neck o' the woods. Was it the abundance of beaver, still evident today? Where did he come from? We

knew later as we travelled and hunted the area and found rusted traps and chain, that his trap line territory had been fairly large indeed.

My partner dug out of the mossy floor a blue enameled coffee pot, the kind with blue and white specks, and an old brown earthenware rum or molasses jug. Unexpectedly a loud whump - whump - whump, broke the ghostly silence and we both stopped in our tracks and listened. All you could hear was the drip, drip of rain dropping from the leaves deep within the forest. The pungent aroma of cedar and leaf mould was much stronger now. Our heads slowly turned as we both spotted it at the same time. There above us on the craggy spire of a dead spruce, suddenly landed a magnificent Peregrine Falcon. We had heard it's wings pushing it, before gliding to its resting perch, just clearing the top of a giant paper-birch tree.

Not moving a feather, I wondered as he peered down upon us with such a piercing look, what had we done so wrong? I'm not sure why, but I also wondered if he could be the departed soul of the trapper? The legends of the Ojibwas in the area traditionally tell of both red and white men being reincarnated as creatures of the forest. Sounds peculiar I realize, but the atmosphere of the surroundings seemed to dictate that line of reasoning.

We stood motionless, looking at and feeling the presence of

this rare bird. We were intruders of his secluded domain. Had we been the only humans to find this trapper's shanty? Had he been native or white or possibly metis? Had he died of old age, sickness or accident? Or perhaps he just gave up this harsh life and walked away, but it would be one mean country to try to hike through with the endless water to go round before reaching civilization. The nearest town was at least a hundred miles away, as the crow flies.

An intense stillness now hung over the area. We realized we had stumbled on his quiet place and disturbed it's serenity. Without saying a word to each other we retraced our steps to our bivouac and soaked up the warmth of the fire before crawling into our down filled bags. Rising with the dawn we threw a few logs on the fire to see and dress by and immediately discovered that it had snowed during the night. Maurice's long johns had frozen stiff and took on the quick look of a headless white scarecrow. This struck an additional note of eeriness on one hand, while it touched the funnybone as well, with it's man-like shape standing like a silly sentinel by the edge of our little camp.

Light soon streaked between the trees, enough to see a whiskey jack jay sitting on the axe handle and it's mate chirping bubbles, it had obviously been eating our soap. After breakfast we moved back into the glade to have one more look at this priestly place. It was so quiet we could hear our own breathing. A protected corner of the shanty offered a large patch of rust, which caught my eye through the lichen undergrowth that had reclaimed the floor. Bending the grass and ferns away I slowly pulled on a rusted handle to discover an old metal chest about 20" long and 9" deep with handles on each end. It appeared to be handmade as I scraped off moss and earth. I opened the angular-shaped hinged lid very carefully as the tin had so disintegrated.

Inside was a small clutch of interesting articles; what was left of a rotting photo, a copper coin, about the size of a quarter, a number of brass screws, and some rusted lead wire twisted around thin copper wire. A wee note pad held a dried leather bookmark. Moving into a shaft of sunlight I turned to the marked page to read the barely decipherable message scribed in pencil many years before. "Range 23, ACR, Rock 30' north of plot..., not all the description was there to ever relocate this reference. We certainly wondered if a buried cache was the purpose for the writer to record it as was often the case with trappers and geologists.

Then I had a better look at the coin. It was really a medal, possibly cast in England with a person's head in profile on one side and the words

"Tried for High Treason J. H. Tooke Esq. 1794". The reverse had "Acquitted By His Jury Counsel Hon. T. Erskine V. Gibbs Esq. R." I handed it to Moe for his brief scrutiny. While slipping it into my breast pocket I noticed the strange mist still inundated the locality, like a veil of mystery. There was a deathly quiet all around us and a feeling like something was still left undone.

Again without talking we carried our packs over the trail and loaded the canoe. We took our time in leaving as if we were held there to digest the place a bit longer. A poet might say, "it was as if leaving a place of pilgrimage in a sacred land, having felt the very pulse of nature's soul." The sun was shining brightly now and the melting snow had almost disappeared. We quietly picked up our paddles and stroked away from shore. Overhead the geese were honking, headed south and an otter scurried along the bank. The day seemed richer and full of life as we proceeded on our way. We both had a feeling of contentment in finding and sharing this special place, still far away and secure from people, places, and so called progress.

Over the years we have had a number of splendid canoe-camps in those hills and waterways and I still have the strange medal in my belongings. Everything else we had put back and left as we found it. We don't have any answers as to who he was or where he went. In this big backcountry of rambling waters, too remote for today's run of the mill voyageurs, we doubted we would find all the explanations we desired.

For whatever the reasons we have not stopped at that misty point since. We have not wanted to intrude on its peace, perhaps next time it would be different, perhaps less reverend. When we return to the ruggedly handsome region we both smile - for we know certainly what had attracted and kept him in the territory. And that should satisfy our questions and outdoor yearnings. But we also know that we still must visit that extraordinary place of calm just one more time.

We must all respect our private places.

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a rucksack of tales and preserving stories of people and happenings in the Highlands through many publications including his books and for The Highlander since its inception. His donated paintings of our valley and records of our fire tower may be seen in "The Wall in the Hall Museum" in the Matawathan Hall.

Historical Christmas Traditions

By Marcella Neely

The earliest known celebration of anything similar to Christmas was the pagan Midwinter Festival in England. The finest of food was cooked and colourful garlands were draped everywhere. Boxing Day came from the leftovers from the feast being boxed up the next day and given to the servants. In 1610 tinsel was invented in Estonia. Martin Luther used the thin strips of swirled metal to decorate his tree.

As early as 1660, in Germany, candles were used to dress the Christmas tree. A 6-foot tree required 400 candles. Alternate branches were cut off to allow space between candles. They were only lit once, on Christmas Eve, then extinguished before bedtime. Later Germany manufactured glass ornaments but in Canada they were too expensive for most people. 1500 years ago Father Christmas first came to be. A generous Bishop wanted to help poor sisters he knew of in his village but they were too proud to accept food or clothing. After a lot of thought he gathered up some gold coins, climbed on their roof and threw the coins down their chimney. They had washed stockings and hung them on the fireplace to dry. The coins fell right into the stockings.

Eventually St. Nicholas evolved. Over the years he wore suits of various colours and styles and enjoyed assorted modes of travel. He was portrayed as riding on a turkey at one time, on a burrow at another. It was in the 1900's that the bright red suit was introduced by a



Coca-Cola advertisement. A baker by the name of Tom Smith first introduced Christmas crackers around 1845 to 1850. He cut up cards and wrapped bonbons to boost sales. They were a hit for a while then sales dropped off. He tried adding things like almonds, paper hats, toys, and sayings as prizes. Each time sales slowed he would add another item. One evening while sitting in front of his fireplace, the crackling of the fire gave him the idea to add a snap. Eventually a company began making crackers commercially so that people could order contents of their own choice. The British Royal Family still have their crackers custom made.

Traditionally a cracker should contain something to eat, something to read, something to wear and something to play with. In 1914 a man wanted to propose and ordered a cracker with a diamond ring inside. He deposited the ring with the maker but when the cracker was ready he was nowhere to be found. It is



said that the ring is still in safe keeping with the company.

In England roast beef and Yorkshire pudding with plum pudding for dessert was traditional holiday fare. No one is quite sure when turkeys took over but they are a Canadian influence. There was a time when a Toronto area turkey farmer crated 50 live turkeys every year and took them to England for anywhere from eight to thirteen cents per pound. He earned enough money in this way to sustain his family until the next year. He went by train from Toronto to Halifax then by ship From Halifax to England. He sold all 50 in 15 minutes upon arrival, turned around and came right back. The return trip cost him \$29.

In 1832 Princess Victoria had the first Christmas tree in England. It was decorated with sugar ornaments. As more people adopted the tree tradition, photos showed up with a Union Jack on top. An American artist changed

the photo. In place of the Union Jack he painted an angel on top of the tree. In 1843 Victoria wanted a Christmas card to send to friends and family. The first Christmas card was a lithographed hand coloured post card style. She had 1000 printed. Postage was a half penny to send these. In 1850 Windsor Castle sported a Christmas tree. In 1872 there were Christmas trees at Rideau Hall. English trees were typically 4 to 5 ft. high. In Canada they were larger. Artificial trees also go back centuries. Small trees were made of dyed goose feathers. The quill would be cut down the center and twirled around a wooden center dowel. Early decorations were nuts, apple clusters, cookies, candies, sugarplums, popcorn, cranberries and paper. Christmas crafts also go back longer than we may have believed. A magazine from 1867 shows a Santa made from pinecones. In 1900 in Canada a string of electric lights cost \$12.



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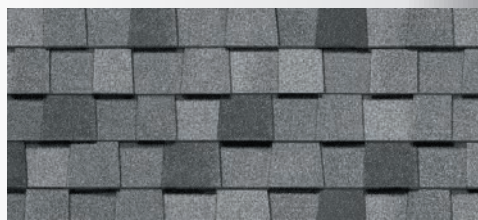
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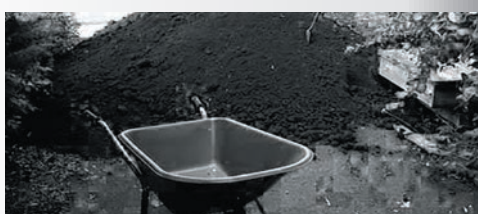
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Bon Voyage - Travel with a Happy Tummy

By Susan Veale

Our cold Canadian winter climate enjoys sending people south to warmer temperatures. One drawback of travel is the change in diet and routine. When travelling, the body needs to adjust and short holidays are not long enough for that adjustment to take place. Consequently, changes in digestion may influence bowel habits resulting in inflammation, irritation and annoying pain which interferes and detracts from the enjoyment of a holiday.

Travel-related factors including unfamiliar food or water, stress and jet-lag can all affect the normal composition of gut bacteria. When the balance of the flora becomes disrupted, disorders take place.

Fatigue, lack of energy and bowel problems are often the result of congestion due to insufficient good bacteria in the digestive tract. Correcting this problem may be as easy as introducing more good bacteria or "flora" into the body through a capsule or powdered probiotic; however, before purchasing "off the shelf" products, it is important to know what to look for.

Flora in microbiology is associated with bacteria found in the digestive or Gastrointestinal (GI) tract. Two such cultivated or friendly species of flora are Lactobacillus Acidophilus and Bifidobacteria. Flora is also found within the mucosal surfaces of the body such as the respiratory tract, the genitourinary tract and the skin.

As the GI tract is the largest immune organ, it contains the largest population of flora with varying amounts and various kinds of bacteria traveling from the stomach to the large intestine. The stomach which is the most sterile organ of this tract, has very little Lactobacillus bacteria whereas the duodenum has the most. The small and large intestine both contain Bifidobacteria with the colon containing a higher population.

Flora functions vary. In one



Before leaving on holidays this winter, consider taking a potency-guaranteed probiotic to keep your gut healthy and regulated.

Probiotics fight hard to help the good guys and keep your gut on an even keel.

example, flora is essential for normal cell development in the intestines and for improving secretion, absorption and motility. Another function is turning soluble fiber into essential fatty acids. How well this is accomplished is demonstrated by bowel health.

Flora also takes a non-immunological role against infection. In other words, flora helps fight infection by adhering to mucous walls as a protective layer so that unfriendly bacteria and pathogens cannot attach themselves to the wall lining. This is particularly demonstrated with urinary tract infections.

Unborn babies in the womb do not manufacture flora. The baby's first contact with flora happens during the journey down the birth canal. In the third trimester of pregnancy, the mother's flora in the birth canal significantly increases to be transferred to the baby. This healthy transference is very important as it greatly increases the baby's resistance to unfriendly bacteria thus helping to

reduce the risk of allergies. If a baby does not receive a high-quality dose of normal flora through the skin and breast milk, the baby's immune system becomes compromised.

When the population ratio of "friendly to unfriendly bacteria" is out of proportion, inflammatory conditions such as candida, bowel diseases, skin conditions and allergies become more prevalent. Refined foods, small quantities of vegetables, antibiotics and birth control pills are items that over time have shown to affect the colonization and stability of healthy flora.

Probiotics, which are components of normal flora, are helpful in restoring healthy bacteria populations, immune stimulation and the colonization of healthy flora; however, probiotics need to be nonpathogenic. Research has shown that Lactobacillus Acidophilus and Bifidus bacteria are humanly safe and do not produce pathogenic reactions.

Independent scientific research shows that human cultured

bacteria is the best choice compared to bovine, plant, pig and other cultures as the flora must be capable of colonizing in the digestive tract and resistant to stomach and bile salts. It must also be able to attach itself to epithelial surfaces rather than be flushed away before doing its job; bacteria populations need be indigenous to the host.

Before using flora therapeutically, it is important to know the type and numbers of bacteria populations necessary for a specific health condition. It is also important to know the difference in bacteria reporting as optimum laboratory condition numbers and "off the shelf" active bacteria survival numbers differ. Since probiotics are live bacteria, it is important that these bacteria are stable in different environments, such as travelling.

Before leaving on holidays this winter, consider taking a potency-guaranteed probiotic to keep your gut healthy and regulated. In my clinic, I offer a shelf-stable formula that is easy to take on your travels.

You may purchase this Travel Probiotic by contacting Susan Veale at Wellness Natural Health Centre, Calabogie ON. 613-752-1540 info@wellnesnaturalhealthcentre.com

**Susan Veale, BSc. KIN
Natural Health Practitioner**

Susan Veale, BSc. Kin., is a trained Mindfulness Meditation teacher, Kinesiologist, Pilates Instructor, Author and Natural Health Practitioner at Wellness Natural Health Centre in Calabogie ON. Her "by appointment" private clinic offers services of nutrition, soft tissue massage, energy medicines, homeopathic drainage, natural health products and mindfulness healing therapy for individuals and groups. Learn more: www.calabogiemindfulnessmeditation.com www.wellnessnaturalhealthcentre.com



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The Stable Hand's Eventuality

By Antonia Chatson



What a day it has been! One of many I guess! Once every four years the Roman guvs get everyone to go to the towns where they were born and register themselves. Wily old Romans! They just want to take a head count so as too know who to tax - what and how much. Mind you, me and my boss aren't complaining for it's good business for over a week, best ever till the next time. The towns are overrun with travelers and we make just about as much then as we do during the intervening time. Well, might be a slight exaggeration.

We always plan ahead, me and my boss for this big boom. We get extra fowls in from the countryside as well as slaughtering our own. We always slaughter a few sheep as well. That job Philemon does for I have no stomach for it. And we always have several milk cows to provide us with enough milk and curds for the week. I thought as how we had everything under control.

I got up early in the morning and cleaned out the stables so everything would be as fresh as a daisy. I had even swept down the cobwebs the night before as a special treat for the animals and had scrubbed down the mangers. Never know who might take a peek in during this busy time. Jude had brought in an extra load of hay from the countryside just to be at the safe side. Grazing was not the best at this time of year - too hot, too dry. I had milked Sweetheart and Buttercup and checked Primrose one more time before going to the inn for breakfast. Primrose looked good. She was due to calve any time now, but I was hoping that since she had not had her calf before all of this fuss and commotion, that she would have the decency to leave all that sort of stuff till the week was over.

I had a leisurely breakfast with Silas, my boss, of dates, raisins and the usual flatbread. Why should I hurry just yet? The

barn was immaculate and the first rush of visitors was not due till early afternoon. Silas is a good boss most of the time, although he can get rather ratty when under pressure. That's when I call him Silo Hilo for it rather matches his mood. But this morning he was in good spirits and we planned our strategy for the day together. Then I ambled back to the stable to check things over once more.

Oh, oh, water everywhere. That meant only one thing. Primrose had inconsiderately decided to have her calf just when we would be snowed under with work. I made myself comfortable, sitting on the boards in front of the manger in front of her stall to watch for developments. Three hours later one hoof appeared. That could be bad news. Checked for another and there weren't none. Oh, oh. Stuck my arm in further only to discover that of the four hooves she could have chosen to present first, Miss Calfie had decided that this was to be a back one. Several buckets of soapy water later, the two of us finally delivered a beautiful little heifer. Philemon and I then worked for an hour cleaning up after the commotion - and that after having the place so spotless this morning. So it was shortly before the evening meal that I presented myself for service at the inn - and boy was I needed. The inn was already full. Silas said that every available space in the town of Bethlehem was already booked. Well, as I said, good for business all round. I helped with supper, then hiked out to check on Little Missie. Just lying down. Hadn't sucked yet. Better get her up and started. More easily said than done. She do have a stubborn streak in her.

It was really getting late when Silas appeared at the barn with a lantern in his hand. In the glow of the lantern, I could see a man behind him in his mid-twenties with his wife standing beside him. When they moved forward behind Si-

las, I could see that the lady was very big with child. "What are they doing here?" I thought? The mystery was soon solved as Silas informed me that they would be spending the night in the stable, as there was no other room anywhere in town. Silas sort of winked at me funny-like, and I knew that he was trying to tell me that he was doing this for the sake of the lady. I hustled about and piled up a heap of hay in one of the vacant stalls, so glad that I had asked Jude for an extra load. And I was glad that the stable was so spotlessly clean. I didn't know these people, but I had just said to myself that morning, "Got to be prepared for every eventuality". And here the eventuality was! Got 'em all nicely settled, then went up to my little room above the stable. Thought sorta crossed my mind, seeing as the lady was so large, wonder if she'll be coming in tonight? Would she be all right? Sure hope so - one problem birth that day was enough for me.

Dozed off for a bit after I went up to bed, then was awakened by a little cry, then another louder one. Oh, oh, she must have had it. Better go down and check, so down the ladder I pattered. What a sight met my eyes! There standing, their faces radiant in the light of the lantern, was the mother and father bent over the donkey's manger, and in the manger, lying on the father's outer robe, was the most beautiful baby I had ever seen. It seemed as if he were looking up at his parents and smiling, - but that couldn't be possible. And apart from the folds of his father's robe that were folded around him, he was stark naked. Guess they hadn't thought to bring anything - just incase. I hastily rushed back to the loft and rummaged through my trunk and got an extra robe of mine and brought it down for them to wrap the baby with. They were most grateful and they bundled up the little one in it.

Just as they had finished, five men with staffs, obviously shepherds from the surrounding hills, entered the stable and came over to look at the baby. A glow seemed to emanate from the face of the baby. It filled the stable with light. Funny, I thought, it must be coming from the baby as it was not a full moon. When I went to look outside to see if I was mistaken, I saw this enormous star right over the stable and very low to the earth. That must have been what was providing even more light. As I was out there gazing at that magnificent star, I noticed three camels coming down the road. Most unusual - travelers usually left their camels at the caravansary on the outskirts of town. But it was not the camels that were so extraordinary, not just their presence and their equipage, it was their riders. Each one of them was wearing the most magnificent, richly coloured and jeweled robes and on each of their heads was a crown. Here's another eventuality, I thought to myself. They stopped outside the stable and asked me to mind their camels. The camels then crouched down and their riders got off and proceeded into the stable as if it were King Solomon's palace. I couldn't help but peek in at the window. The light in the stable was brighter yet. The shepherds who had been kneeling in front of the baby arose and moved to one side to make room for the kings, who then bowed down before the baby and presented Him with gifts.

"What is all this that is going on?" I asked myself. "Sure looks as if something important is going on in my little old stable." "Well, whatever it is," I told myself, "I am just so glad of all the cleaning I did that morning." But I somehow thought that nothing like that really mattered to the participants in this drama, as the focus of everyone's attention was all on the baby. All of this surely was some eventuality!

But something else happened to me as I saw the shepherds and kings worshipping this little baby. I too, fell on my knees and buried my head in the back of one of the camels. Seemed to be the thing to do - this kneeling thing! I prayed to Yahweh that this little baby would bring as much wonder, joy and peace to all the world as he had brought to my little old stable that night.



Antonia studied at The Royal Conservatory of Music and at York University. She taught in all levels in the public school system as well as giving private lessons in music. Her passion is the land. She loved her experiences growing up on the farm in Shelburne and twenty-two years of farming in Denbigh with her husband, Francis. She plays the piano at the services at the Vennachar Free Methodist Church, and lives on the homestead with her daughter Irene.

Pete Seeger and the Power of Song - Part 8, Contempt

By Peter Chess

We are all aware of the power of a song to move us in an emotional way, be it the music or the lyrics and the message they convey. But it is incomprehensible to consider that a democratic government whose constitution gives its citizens the power of free speech would for over three decades and at a cost of millions of dollars investigate one of its citizens with the intent to prove he was a threat in some way to the national security over the contents of a few words in a letter that contains an objection, on moral grounds, to an immoral act. From the 1940's through the early 1970's, the United States government spied on Pete Seeger because of his political views and associations. According to documents in Seeger's extensive FBI file, which runs to nearly 3000 pages, obtained by various organizations through the Freedom of Information Act, with 90 pages still withheld, the Bureau's initial interest was triggered in 1942, after Seeger, as a private in the army wrote a letter protesting a proposal by the California branch of the American Legion to deport all Japanese American citizens and residents at the end of WW2. The files show that for decades the FBI hounded him, trying to tie him to the Communist Party, and the first few files from the initial investigation illustrate the absurd excesses of the paranoid security establishment of the era.

In July 1942, Seeger was drafted into the army. "I was almost glad when I heard from my draft board" he later wrote in a diary. He was assigned to training as an aviation mechanic at Keesler Field in Mississippi. While in the army, he kept up with the news and in the fall of '42, he wrote a letter of protest to the California chapter of the American Legion. It was to the point, as follows. "Dear Sirs: I felt shocked, outraged and disgusted to read that the California American Legion voted to (1) deport all Japanese after the war, citizens or not and (2) Bar all Japanese from citizenship!! We who may have to give our lives in this great struggle... we're fighting precisely to be free from such Hitlerism, such narrow jingoism. If you deport Japanese, why not Germans, Italians, Rumanians, Hungarians and Bulgarians? If you bar from citizenship descendants of Japanese, why not descendants of the English? After all, we once fought with them too. America is great and strong because we have so far been a haven for all oppressed. I felt sick at heart to read of this matter. Yours truly, Pete Seeger ...I am also writing to the Los Angeles Times."

How did the American Legion respond? It forwarded Seeger's letter to the FBI in San Francisco, who brought it to the attention of the Military Intelligence Service of the War Department. Within weeks they began investigating Seeger and updating the FBI on its efforts. The "official reason" for the investigation was noted as "Subject wrote a letter criticizing and protesting the American Legion's resolution to deport Japanese after the war." So Seeger had been targeted merely because he objected to mass deportation, which was well within his rights as a U.S.



Pete Seeger and his wife, Toshi-aine Ohta



Pete Seeger in 1941 surrounded by people and singing at Keesler Air Base, Biloxi Mississippi, waiting a long time for his chance to go overseas.

citizen. The secret investigation happened to coincide with the completion of his training as an aviation mechanic. He expected to be deployed to active duty, but in his own words, "I first wanted to be a mechanic in the Air Force. I thought that would be an interesting thing. But then military intelligence got interested in my politics. My outfit went on to glory and death. I stayed there at Keesler Field, picking up cigarette butts for six months. Finally, they let me know they had been investigating me, opening my mail.

Military Intelligence offices across the country began probing Seeger's background. Police records were of no help, as they contained nothing. What they did discover was that a House Committee, presumably on un-American activities, had come across his name twice while investigating the pre war peace movement. They secretly read his mail, including letters from his then fiancée, a Japanese/American girl from New York City, Toshi Ohta. The gumshoes were concerned that she was working for the Japanese American Committee for Democracy, which promoted the American war effort but was considered by the military to be a communist influenced group. In one letter to Seeger, she says she suspected that his work with the Almanac Singers and his relationship with her would prevent him from being deployed overseas. She wrote, "Not that I mind, from the danger point of view... but what good is your going through all this training and having the government spend so much money on you, if they don't allow you to use it?" Several days later, Seeger wrote to his grandmother, "It is possible that I am being held here because of my former connection to the Almanac Singers and because of my engagement to a Japanese/American, but I doubt it. I have never tried to hide either fact".



Pete Seeger was one of many celebrities who were under FBI surveillance, suspected of having Communist affiliation. Among them were Helen Keller, Leonard Bernstein, Burl Ives, Artie Shaw, Zero Mostel, Charlie Chaplin, Langston Hughes, Orson Welles, Danny Kaye, Dorothy Parker, Lena Horne, Gypsy Rose Lee, Burgess Meredith, Ruth Gordon, Eddie Albert, Richard Attenborough, Barbara Bel Geddes, and many more.

Early in the investigation, an officer interviewed Seeger at Keesler Field. Seeger noted to him that he was puzzled that he had not been deployed as a mechanic since he had completed his training. He also pointed out to the officer that he played the 5-string banjo well, and suggested he might be transferred to the Special services Dep't, which provided entertainment for the troops. When asked about Toshi, he told the officer that her father was a Japanese refugee who had come to America because he disagreed with the militarists in his home country. His objections led to his arrest and eventually to make the choice of either being executed, having his head chopped off, or leaving Japan. Not much of a choice really. He also told the officer that the Japanese American Committee was made up of loyal citizens and that their sponsors included Albert Einstein and the popular author, Pearl S. Buck. Seeger was not informed at that time that he was under official investigation. Over the course of a year, the FBI contacted and interviewed anyone and everyone who Seeger was acquainted with that they could locate - His public school teachers, his high school classmates and teachers, his university profs, his dance club fellow members, his parents and anyone else in the family they could find. They tracked down organizers of the rallies he had played at, attendees at meetings of union concerts and all the musicians they could find who he had ever played with, including Woody Guthrie and Leadbelly. When the interviewer who spoke to Woody Guthrie saw his guitar on the wall with the slogan "This machine kills Fascists" hand painted around the sound hole, he concluded that Seeger's enemy was Fascism in general, but not necessarily any enemy of the United States. Seriously??

Excerpt from *The Grapes of Wrath*, by John Steinbeck

"And perhaps a man brought out his guitar to the front of his tent. And he sat on a box to play, and everyone in the camp moved slowly in toward him, drawn in toward him. Many men can chord a guitar, but perhaps this man was a picker. There you have something — the deep chords beating, beating, while the melody runs on the strings like little footsteps. Heavy hard fingers marching on the frets. The man played and the people moved slowly in on him until the circle was closed and tight, and then he sang "Ten-Cent Cotton and Forty-Cent Meat." And the circle sang softly with him. And he sang "Why Do You Cut Your Hair, Girls?" And the circle sang. He wailed the song, "I'm Leaving Old Texas," that eerie song that was sung before the Spaniards came, only the words were Indian then.

And now the group was welded to one thing, one unit, so that in the dark the eyes of the people were inward, and their minds played in other times, and their sadness was like rest, like sleep. He sang the "McAlester Blues" and then, to make up for it to the older people, he sang "Jesus Calls Me to His Side." The children drowsed with the music and went into the tents to sleep, and the singing came into their dreams.

And after a while the man with the guitar stood up and yawned. Good night, folks, he said. And they murmured, Good night to you. And each wished he could pick a guitar, because it is a gracious thing"

A typical report such as this one was vague to say the least. The report reads "One of Seeger's acquaintances, 'a self confessed ardent communist' claimed Seeger was 'sympathetic to the communist cause'". The reporter concluded after talking to several unnamed sources, that Seeger "will be further influenced along questionable lines by his new wife (they were married at this point), the former Toshi Ohta, who is half Japanese. Correspondence between the two indicated that they were both deeply interested in political trends, particularly anti Fascism, and that she was a member of several communist infiltrated organizations. "Their marriage will quite possibly fuse and strengthen their individual radical tendencies". The report also concluded that Seeger was "an idealist whose devotion to radical ideologies is such to make his loyalty to the United States, under all circumstances, questionable." The document was sent to J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the FBI.

To be continued

Stay tuned...



Peter Chess immigrated to Canada from Leeds, England at the age of 9 weeks. The family settled into a converted barracks at the local airport near St. Catharines for a couple of years before moving into a wartime house. After serving in the Canadian Army Signal Corps, Peter restored antique furniture in St. Catharines, which is where he met his wife Gitte, her daughters Sheri and Belinda. They now live in Matawatchan and have two granddaughters, Emma and Natalie. Peter is a member of The Pickled Chickens String Band.

Christmas in the 40s

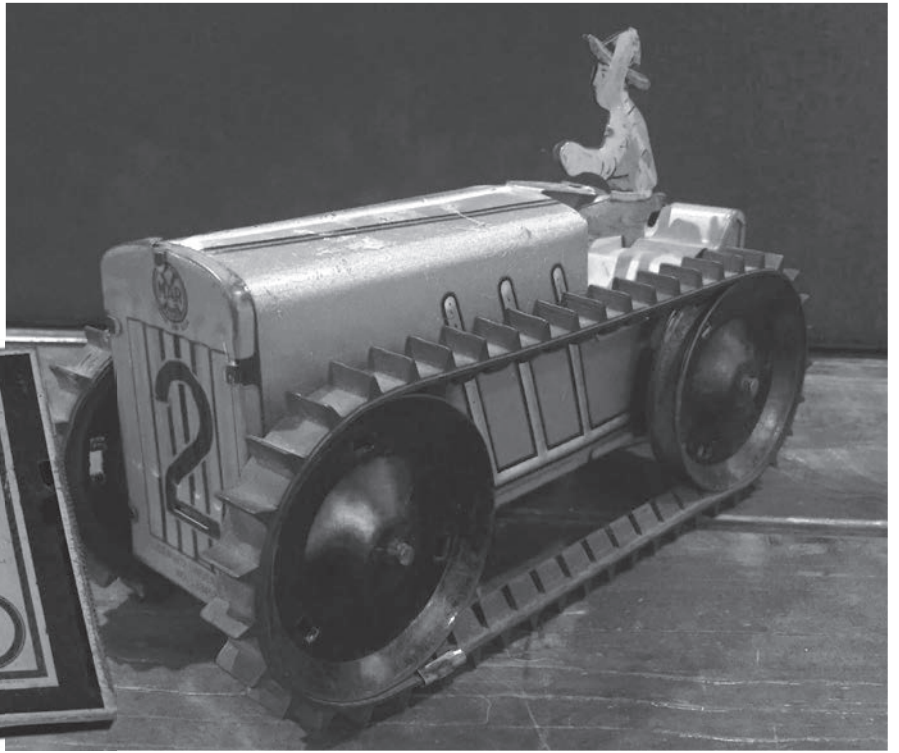
By Howard Popkie

In the 1940s a rich man came to my log home in Black Donald in the winter time. He had the biggest car I ever saw and lots of groceries from the A&P Store in Renfrew. There was a roast of beef that Mom roasted in the oven with gravy and so much good food.

He had two bottles of whiskey in his suitcase that Dad and him were drinking and he said he had a hundred thousand dollars in the bank. That's a lot of money in the 1940s. We were used to eating baked beans and homemade bread and sometimes bologna from Jack Wilson's Store.

This man had a factory where he made pig feed and chicken feed. When we sat down to eat that day we had a meal fit for a king. Imagine little green onions in February!

When I was about ten years old, we had our Christmas concert at school and we drew names to buy each other a gift. When the presents were given out I didn't get one. Two weeks after Christmas we heard a team of horses outside. It was the ten year old girl who pulled my name but didn't have a toy for me. Her mother and father were with her. She had lots of red freckles all over her face. I was very shy of girls. She handed me my gift. When I shook it, it rattled. When they were gone I opened it up and it was called a Meccano set to build cars with lots of



Toys were a luxury when I was growing up in the 1930s and 40s, so were meat and vegetables. Imagine eating little green onions in February!

nuts and bolts, car wheels and axels, too. I had never seen anything like it. They must have gone all the way to Renfrew to get a thing like that.

Japan sold a lot of windup toys to North America. My sister Betty got a nurse set and when I tore it apart I saw the case was made of macaroni and when you look inside a tin toy, they were made out of tin cans. Depression was on in the 1930s, so the toys in North America were still in the stock room in the big stores like Eaton's in Toronto.

In 1940 when I was six years old, men had work again and my brother Donald got a big wind up tractor that ran on a rubber track, with a farmer made of tin driving it. The Christmas catalogue came with all the toys and the Family Herald issue always had Santa in colour on the cover. A big box from Eaton's was always in the clothes closet and we were told to stay out of there for some reason. We cut a Christmas tree in the bush, not like today when you have to buy them in Ontario all the way from New Brunswick. Wreaths were on the window and

there was something for everyone on Christmas day.

We had an old tom cat that was getting up in years who slept all day under the box stove. My brother Donald wound up the engine in his tractor too much and broke the engine. It took its last race across the floor at thirty miles an hour straight under the box stove where the cat was sleeping. The cat came out, hitting his head on the iron box stove as if a dog was chasing him.

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Greater Madawaska Public Library Could Close

THE WORTH OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY TO THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES

By Sharon Shalla

As some of you are aware, there are options being considered by Council in regards to the future and location of Greater Madawaska Public Library. Libraries are many things to many people, but above all, the library is a place for all people. We are not just a holding place for books - we are much more than that. I firmly believe that our library contributes to the local economy and provides support to tourism. We also enrich the lives of those living in the Municipality, and provide a service to tourists and visitors who spend money here and return year after year.

A service that is picking up in popularity at our library is proctoring. With more students learning online we've seen an increase in proctoring. Public Libraries have been approved as a location where students can write exams for colleges, universities, trade schools, and certification institutes. I've proctored exams for students of Nipissing, Queens, Canador, Algonquin, and those seeking Millwright and Canadian Fire Alarms certification. This means the students don't have to drive to North Bay, Kingston, Toronto, etc. to the educational facility to write their exam. The students that I proctor are very thankful for this service and make that known to me. In the words of the most recent student "This sure beats driving to Toronto to write."

There are those that feel electronic books will eventually replace printed books. I have no crystal ball, but I highly doubt that will ever happen. Statistics show that approximately 17% of die-hard electronic book users are returning to print books. They may not entirely give up their electronic book but they miss actually holding a book in their hand, flipping through the pages, marking their last read page with their favourite bookmark, and sharing that book with others. Our Collection Development plan ensures a good variety of relevant and current material in the library.

We also contribute to tourism. It is very common in the busier times (spring, summer, and fall) for visitors and tourists to drop into the library to ask about various services and places in the municipality, use our washrooms, get local maps, look at local history books and search our Ancestry database, scan or print something, or relax in our program room in a comfy chair while they access the WiFi. We provide a comfortable, climate-controlled facility for people to work on their laptops and mobile devices. Although the WiFi can be accessed from outside the library, people enjoy coming into the library where it's cool in the summer and warm in the winter as opposed to sitting in their vehicle outside if they are going to be staying for any length of time. Sometimes before they leave they'll ask for a recommendation of where to go to eat or what else there is to see/do in the community. We have families that stay at area lodgings that come back an-

Here are some of the services and resources we offer:

1. CNIB books and magazines on disc for those that are challenged by print, or have difficulty holding a book, such as arthritis patients
2. Angela Kuehl, Early Literacy Specialist for Renfrew County, visits the library occasionally to conduct Early Literacy programs and activities. Early or emergent literacy refers to the set of skills that children will use to learn to read, write and communicate. Your child is growing and developing in many ways, physically, mentally and socially. Our storytimes include Early Literacy activities.
3. Renfrew County Public Health Nurse, Jennifer McCuaig, visits the library the first Thursday of each month to conduct the Well Baby Drop-In. Jennifer sets up an area to weigh and measures babies, and discusses in private with parents any concerns they may have regarding their babies and toddlers development, nutritional needs and general well being. The program is for infants and children up to age 6. It has become so popular that Jennifer is going to come twice per month beginning in January 2017.
4. Large Print books for those challenged by regular size print
5. Weekly Storytime for infants to preschool age children. This provides pre-school socialization where children learn the values of sharing, and developing relationships.
6. The weekly Storytime also provides parents and caregivers with an opportunity to network
7. Free pickup and delivery of library materials in Wards 2 & 3 weekly - just call or email the library to have the items of your choice sent for you.
8. Children's Summer Program which is open to all permanent and seasonal residents and visitors
9. Free WiFi 24/7 from the library parking lot and from inside the library during open hours
10. Five public access computers for people to use during open hours. People use our computers to access email, prepare resumes, write and print off letters and documents and forms, etc.
11. Faxing, Photocopying, Scanning and Printing services
12. A Local History section
13. Public washrooms
14. A children's program room that is available during open hours for parents and caregivers to drop in
15. Monthly Book Club meetings where patrons gather to discuss a particular book and also share in a light lunch at the library.
16. Interlibrary loan service where items can be borrowed from other libraries for you if we don't have it. This includes educational institutions.



Everyone joined in the spirit of Halloween at the Storytime Party we had in October, even our three new little babies: Austin Reddy, Thomas Briscoe, and Wolfe Eisenschmid.

nally and bring their children to our Children's Summer program and use our services. These people spend money in this community. We get lots of compliments from visitors and vacationers on our library and services. A woman who vacationed here this summer and fall told me that our library is a wonderful facility and she was so thankful to be able to still carry on her business using our

computers, printing off documents, and scanning. She spent money vacationing here and said she decided to stay longer as she was able to carry on her business tasks using our public computers and WiFi.

I've had families and individuals come in and look around who say they are thinking of moving to the community and want to see what the library is

like and they are quite surprised and impressed by what we have to offer.

And last but not least, I want to share some pictures in this article of our Halloween Storytime Party we had in October. Everyone joined in the spirit of Halloween - even our three new little babies: Austin Reddy, Thomas Briscoe, and Wolfe Eisenschmid.

Greater Madawaska Public Library Could Close

HOW IT CAME TO BE

By Skippy Hale

GMPL began its life in 1978 in a tiny room in the Old Town Hall. When the Hall became an open field, it was moved to the former St. Joseph Sisters' Convent purchased by the Township of Bagot, Blythfield and Brougham. The sisters had built the Separate School and taught there for many years. In 1999, the former convent was sold and the Library was moved to a small room (former Chambers and offices of B, B and B) at 4984 Calabogie Road beneath the

Calabogie Medical Centre when an addition to 1101 Francis St. was built for a new Council Chambers and Staff offices. The footprint was smaller than the area available at the convent which had been operated for many years (22, I think) by Lois Mulvihill. When she retired, Terry (Gorra) McDonald replaced her and then she was moved to Calabogie Road. I replaced her in 2000. It was a struggle to keep an updated collection in the small room and try to run a children's

'Storytime' and occasionally other programs. When not in use, we were fortunate to use the Chambers. This required moving easels, paints, children's furniture, etc. down and then back to the furnace room every week. 2001 brought a further amalgamation with a new name: Greater Madawaska.

We struggled with slow Dial-up and one old computer from Brougham and one from the Renfrew Computer Club. If a patron was on the computer,

then I could not use the one at the desk or the telephone so I convinced the Board to install a second line. There was no Hi-speed in Calabogie, but thanks to the Southern Ontario Library Services, we acquired the first Hi-speed Internet! Over time, with the Federal CAP grant we were able to increase the number of patron computers, automate the Library and were the first Wi-Fi hotspot in the village.

Continued next page

Little by little, the collection grew, new shelving and furniture was acquired by penny-pinching and the odd Garage Sale. We were bulging at the seams, fighting the mice in the back room, eating the children's crayons among other things and trying to increase the services, such as photocopying, faxing, document coiling, lamination and the odd presentation or book signing. Because the Board and I were concerned over Wards 2 and 3 not having library service, we were proud to receive a Trillium Grant to upgrade our Computer cataloguing and circulation service. All patrons could tap into their library file from home, search and order books. Gary Guilmette is our wonderful deliveryman who brings books to Wards 2 and 3. Things were going smoothly until we had the flood and had to move into a Construction trailer, but that's a story for another day!

This brings us to the present. Our CEO/Librarian Sharon Shalla and her Assistant now have the entire bottom floor with an Admin office for her, a processing room, storage space and stacks for overflow. There is a lovely program room for the children and Book Club in the former chambers. Yay!!! If it seems too good to be true, it is too good to be true! Sharon has introduced many new ideas and opened up the library, since the children's furniture and Early Literacy manipulatives, etc. do not need to be crowded into one room with all the shelves, circulation desk, computers, etc. Unfortunately, upgrading of certain codes is necessary if the Library is to re-

main there. That costs money. Initially, it was thought that the collection, and furniture could be moved temporarily somewhere during the construction. Meanwhile, the Council and Board have changed and so have the plans! Actually, as with all human endeavours, studies are being done to decide what to do with the Library and the Calabogie telegraphy is buzzing with all manner of rumours.

Three options are being studied at present by the CAO of the Township, Allison Verhoeven on behalf of the Council. The first is to close down the Library and contract us out to Renfrew Public Library. This will take us back about 40 years. Patrons would be reimbursed by the Township for the \$45 non-resident fee and Renfrew would get our Ontario per/household grant and perhaps more money from the Township now or in the future. Instead of the library which has been here in Calabogie since 1978, we would need to go to Renfrew. It would be a retrograde step. Since the Township is trying to encourage Economic Development, one selling feature to new businesses and families is the presence of a Library and a School. One would consider Greater Madawaska a forward-thinking community. I am sure prospective home buyers would think twice about settling in a place that closed their Library. What Council would like to have as their legacy a 'the Council that closed the Library'? All of those young families who arrive on Thursday mornings with toddlers, pre-schoolers and infants in tow, will not have a gathering

place for Early Literacy and Fellowship.

The second option is to remain in the present location after the upgrading is done to bring it up to the required code for a building which is used as a 'gathering place'. In spite of the fact that the Library has some reserves, lot-development fees and savings for such an event, the Township would have to put in some of the funds. Mind you, the Library is not the only tenant in the building. As I said above, 'If it looks to be good to be true....'

The third option is to move over to the Catholic School and use one or two classrooms in the basement of the older part of the building. The footprint would be smaller even with two rooms; accommodation for office and processing space would need to be arranged. At present, there is no ramp down so one would need to be constructed for wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. I am sure that changes could be made to suit both parties. It would be great for the children to have the Public Library on site for research and teachable moments when a topic arises in class and a child is sent to find out some information. Class visits could be arranged and this would enhance the library statistics

However, Council must decide once and for all, that the Library is not a pawn to be moved around to suit a whim or a one-time infusion of money. In all my years working in libraries here and for school boards, the library was always the target when money needed to be saved and yet the budget is usually such

a small part of the whole. It is not meant to be a revenue-generator, but it serves as a value-added provider to the community.

Another option, which was considered somewhat seriously in the past, was an addition to the Community Centre. With a granddaughter in hockey, I had the chance to visit a library in Brampton in a complex containing several rink pads. Petawawa has their library in an area with sports facilities as well. I did suggest this, but it was discarded as an option. I would like to see a more in-depth study of all options and perhaps, thinking out of the box, there may be other creative plans which could be considered. Council wants their staff to file a report by the last meeting in December. I would also like to see the CEO/Librarian, the Board Chairman and at least one other Trustee included in a committee to study the options. As a taxpayer I would hate to see a decision made by anyone who does not understand the complexities of a library.

If you, the voters, care about this service which has been here longer than all of the Staff and all of Council, you must let them know. Write letters! Send emails! Phone the Mayor and Council members! This is participatory democracy! But you must do it in a positive manner and let them know how much you appreciate that they can be a positive influence on our lovely Community.

EDITORIAL

The Spirit of Community at Christmas Time - and Always

This issue of the Highlander is full of "Christmas Spirit", which you can also think of as "Community Spirit at Christmas Time", because in small communities where everyone knows practically everyone, this spirit prevails year-round. We share in each other's joys and help soothe each other's pain. It really is remarkable.

That's why when someone broke into the Matawatchan Hall just before the Fish & Game Club's Hunter's Ball and

someone vandalized cabins, the community came together in outrage, shock, and support. Within 24 hours of the discoveries, neighbours and friends collected funds and cleaned up the messes.

But why would anyone do it? The vandals seemed to know when it was likely when the Hall would have stuff worth taking and of cabins far off the road that were closed for the season. What they didn't know is that hurting your own community only hurts you.

If they did it because were bored, they should contact our Recreation Committee and work together on programs of interest or join the Fish & Game Club. If they are poor and needed the hams they took, we have food banks in Calabogie and Denbigh, and a Christmas Basket program through the Lions Clubs. If they did it because they have no place to gather in the evening, they should talk to the Hall Board and develop drop in days.

If caught for these petty crimes,

the vandals would likely be sentenced to "community service". Here's an idea. Why not skip the whole court scene and go straight to community service? I guarantee you will never be bored, you will gain friends, experience, and a sense of belonging.

Below is an example of what we can achieve when we all pull together.

Enjoy the Spirit of Community this Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Together we Cut School Bus Times By Melissa Inwood

Living in rural Renfrew County we expect long drive times, no matter where you need to go. We make the choice to have the life style we have, knowing that this is one of the side effects of living where the air is clean and the wildlife outnumber the residents.

My children are the first kids on the bus in the morning and the last off at night. The week before school started in September I received a letter from RCJTC (Renfrew County Joint Transportation Consortium) stating that my children, ages 7 and 12, would be on the bus from 7:39am until 9:20am and from 3:50pm to as late as 5:45pm. This is a 20 minute increase each way for the children on our route from previous years. My children were getting kept in from recess at school due to incomplete homework and were exhausted from their long day. When I voiced my concerns to RCJTC I felt as if I was getting no where due to their protocols and procedures.

What do you do when you feel like your fighting a battle by yourself?

When you know that you are right but you feel that nobody is listening. What do you do when you feel like you have done everything you can do but it is just not enough?

My family has lived in a few different communities over the past 16 years. We have lived in Griffith, Denbigh, Griffith again, and now Matawatchan. If there is one thing I have learned from living in these small towns, it is that the people genuinely care about, and for their neighbours.

So to answer my own question, what do you do when you feel there are no solutions, no hope, no answers, nobody listening? You turn to your friends, neighbours, find people with the same problems and concerns, turn to your community, find people to help you fight whatever you are battling.

When we banded together we got things done. We were right, we just weren't loud enough on our own. The old saying of "it takes a village" is very true.

With the help of the parents of the Griffith and Matawatchan children that attend EDPS, especially Jenelle Rosenblath, Mayor Glenda MacKay, Ward three counselor Glen MacPherson, Township CAO Allison Holtzauer, Renfrew County Warden Peter Emon, Superintendent Brent McIntyre, school board trustees, the Ontario Ombudsman, staff at RCJTC, and members of our community, together we reduced the children's bus ride considerably. Together we supported each other, together we showed our children what it means to be a part of a community, together we showed our

children that they are important.

The Renfrew County District School Board has been fantastic when helping with any school or bussing issues I have had. We have some wonderful people working there that genuinely have our children's best interest and education as their number one priority.

My family is so happy to call this home, proud to live in the The Township of Greater Madawaska with a council and staff that truly care about their residents, honored to call you all our neighbours, and lucky to have such wonderful friends.



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