

The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

Volume 3 Issue 3

May 2006

SITTIN' UP

By Garry Ferguson

Editor's note: *This story by Garry Ferguson might seem to be another of his humorous stories about life in the Matawatchan area in time gone by, but it is in fact social history. The anecdotes told here are true and "sittin up" is something still remembered by our most aged residents.*

With the exception of finding ways to die, it seems that most things were difficult in the so-called "good old days," including courtship. Except for the odd social, house dance or Sunday school picnic, there wasn't a heck of a lot for young couples to do, so they took to sitting – hopefully up - in the parlour. Around our part of the Madawaska Valley, it was assumed that Cupid had been logging some target practice and that a relationship was downright serious if it had been raised to the "sittin' up" level.

I remember conversations among my mother and her sisters that would go something like this: "I heard that _____ walked _____ home a few weeks ago."

"Oh, good heavens! It's way past that now. They're sittin' up y' know."

"Well for any sakes! Ain't that something? There'll be talk of a weddin' any time soon now, I suppose."

Sitting around and staring at each other might seem like a pretty boring pastime to denizens of the twenty-first century, but there were hazards to be considered. Besides having to endure parents who often stayed close, wound the clock and launched into tag-team bouts of yawning well before dark, a love-stuck couple was at the mercy of siblings with a penchant for twisted humour and practical jokes. Well-worn tales of sabotaged "sittin' up" sessions still draw chuckles out here in the boonies.

Though most are handed down from a

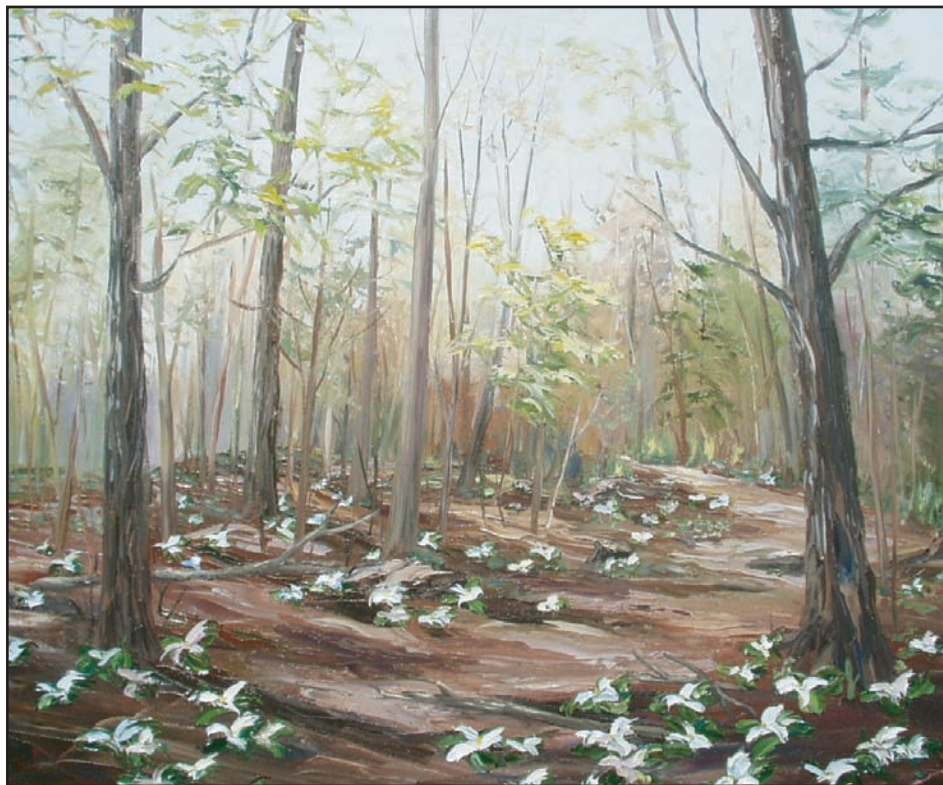
time before the calendar flipped over to the twentieth century, a few are of the pre-depression vintage. My mother and a couple of her sisters were fortunate to have boys visiting at the same time so the parlour became a virtual social center on Saturday evenings. In a room full of idle young folk with not even a gramophone for entertainment, the handcuffs my grandfather, a part-time county constable, kept were sure to be a curse. When some smart Aleck – probably my father – literally joined one of the couples, it fell to the free but apprehensive daughters to wake their dour, no-nonsense father to separate the fettered unfortunates. As you might guess, this didn't sit well with a weary farmer who had to be up at 4:30 a.m. to "do the milkin'." and who considered any activity, except prayer meetings and jack lighting, after dark to be frivolous if not out and out sinful.

Sitting up didn't always take place in the homes. It could even be conducted in buggies which, sometimes added a measure of danger to proceedings. There's still a story circulating about a Matawatchan boy of my parents' generation who got to drive an exceptionally friendly girl home one night. As the night grew darker and the two became friendlier and friendlier, the horse was forgotten and left to its own devices. Evidently, this horse was not what we term "self-motivated." Without direction, it became distracted by the sweet new grass along the edge of the road and, in turn, forgot about the buggy and its occupants. Unfortunately, the random grazing led it along an embankment where a creek flowed under the road. Though the hungry old beast managed to avoid the large culvert, a front buggy wheel dropped over the end heaving the couple around in a violent, ardour-suppressing manner. More than pride was bruised that night and a budding relationship came to a painful halt.

Young people of the generation previous to that fellow's probably suffered even more grief in the courting-

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Signs of Spring



Painting: Kim Carnegie

ATV Bylaw is now in effect

By Bill Graham, Editor

As of May 15, 2006, the operation of All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) is legally permitted on Township of Greater Madawaska roads subject to the regulations stated in Bylaw 17-2006 and the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. The bylaw was passed unanimously by Council at the April meeting. The bylaw was approved for one year when it will be reviewed. The onus is on ATV owners who chose to use township roads to know the regulations and to comply with them. In essence, if you chose to travel on-road, you must obey the rules of the road, just like a car, truck or motorcycle.

This article will provide some of the highlights of your responsibilities as ATV owners who use the roads, but it is up to you to be fully informed of the

regulations. The approved bylaw (17-2006) from the Great Madawaska website: (<http://www.townshipofgreater-madawaska.com>), states the following:

- 1) All Terrain Vehicle use will be permitted on all Municipal Roads.
- 2) That notwithstanding Clause 1 above, All Terrain Vehicles will not be permitted to use Municipal Roads between sunset and sunrise.
- 3) All road sections where ATV use is not authorized are to be appropriately signed so that all users may be fully aware of such use.
- 4) All of the provisions of Ontario Regulation 316 – 03, Operation of Off-Road Vehicles on Highways shall apply to this By-Law.

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ATV *continued*

5) No person shall operate an All Terrain Vehicle at a rate of speed greater than 30 Kilometers per hour on a gravel road and 50 Kilometers per hour on a surfaced road.

6) Notwithstanding Clause 5 above, No person shall operate any All Terrain Vehicle at a Rate of Speed greater than 20 Kilometers per hour on roads within the Hamlets of Calabogie, Griffith, Matawatchan or Barryvale.

7) Any person who contravenes any section of this By-Law is guilty on an offence and upon conviction is liable for a fine as provided for in the Provincial Offences Act. Ontario Regulation 316/03 is very specific about what ATVs and their drivers must be and do in order to use the permitted highways. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- "All-terrain vehicle" means an off-road vehicle that, has four wheels, the tires of all of which are in contact with the ground, has steering handlebars, has a seat that is designed to be straddled by the driver, and is designed to carry a driver only and no

passengers

- Drivers must be licensed, wear an approved helmet
- The ATV must weigh 450 kilograms or less, shall not be wider than 1.35 meters, must have low pressure bearing tires, meet Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations prescribed for restricted-use motorcycles, have approved braking systems and lamps and reflectors and stop lamps, be properly insured.
- Several Rules of the Road are defined that deal with road shoulder driving, passing, turning and highway crossing

The website http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Source/Regs/English/2003/R03316_e.htm will provide details of Ontario Regulation 316/03 (*Operation of Off-road Vehicles on Highways*) and by viewing http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90o04_e.htm you will find the details concerning the *Off-Road Vehicles Act*.

Make every day Earth Day!

By Mary-Joan Hale

A word of warning to all coffee and Pepsi drinkers and those who smoke: Someone is besmirching your reputation! They are littering the highways and bi-ways of our Township. Were I you, I would be upset. This is based on several trips picking up trash during spring clean up. I noticed that these three items outnumbered all other discards. When checking with fellow volunteers, we agreed. Either no one drinks other beverages or the above are the drinks of choice for litterbugs.

Many of us celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up the ditches in Calabogie. It was most disappointing to count the bags we filled as we climbed up and down the ditches on 508 and 511. Intact beer bottles were lined up along the road to be picked up for a school fund-raising project. We filled several garbage bags of them. There were also lots of broken beer bottles. I worried about the animals cutting their paws on the shards. From 508 to Grassy Bay Road on 511, alone, we filled 42 bags of garbage and recyclables.

Pitch-in is one program to help us clean up the area. The Adopt-A-Road Program of Renfrew County is



another. You can adopt a section of a County Road. A common question is "How much does it cost?" The look on the face of the questioner is usually "What's the catch?" There is no cost, just register with Renfrew County Public Works Department. They will give you safety training, and all you need to do is the deed. They provide 'Men-at-work' signs, florescent vests, gloves and bags. Service clubs, churches, businesses or private citizens can join the program. You will get your name on your section of the road. I was impressed that our Reeve and her husband adopted a section. My husband and I get very upset about the litter and now we have our own section to care for. All that is asked is that you do it twice a year, ideally spring and fall. I am sure that now we have cleaned up our area, we will

2006 CENSUS: MAY 16 IS CENSUS DAY!

Statistics Canada would like to thank the millions of Canadians who have already counted themselves in by completing and returning their questionnaires. But if you haven't returned your questionnaire, it's not too late.

The information you provide is crucial for both the country and individual communities. The responses on your household's questionnaire are grouped with responses from other households to provide statistical information about the economic, social and demographic conditions and trends in Canada. This information is used to plan important public services.

This year, for the first time, Canadians have had the option to fill in their questionnaires online, using the secure and confidential method provided, and thus use an environmentally-friendly method with fewer resources for delivery.

Statistics Canada reminds Canadians that by law, personal information provided on the census questionnaires is kept strictly confidential. All Statistics Canada employees are sworn to secrecy, and no one outside the Agency can have access to personal in-

formation provided by respondents.

If you haven't received your questionnaire or you need help filling it in, please call the Census Help Line, toll-free, at 1-877-594-2006.

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Contact us!

Your comments and story ideas are welcome

focus our walks to keep it clean. We can only hope that folks will get the hint and the job will be much easier.

We are all stewards of our Earth.

Make every day Earth Day!

EULOGY TO BOB DINAN

By Wes Bomhower

Editor's note: *This poem was written for Maura Dinan on the occasion of her husband's death in February of this year.*

A big brick house just up the way
Was purchased by this man one day.
He'd renovate in every way
And landscape; that was Bob.

He'd make some syrup in the spring,
Oft'times you'd hear his hammer ring.
The man was always fixing things.
Kept busy, that was Bob.

The sickness surely ravaged him,
'Twas sad to see him be so thin.
The past few weeks were truly grim.
We'll miss our neighbour, Bob.

Sittin up *continued*

in-a-buggy department because the horse and buggy was the only genteel mode of transportation available at the time. One member of that generation, a local lad named Eddy Johnston, arrived one day at the old Strong homestead in Matawatchan to escort one of the daughters to a social in Vennachar 11 kilometers away. After Eddy had tied up and gone inside, the girl's brothers reset the heel chains so short that the horse could barely tiptoe in the buggy shafts. Busy gabbing, the couple failed to notice the leisurely pace. In modern-vehicle terms it would be like having three out of six cylinders misfiring. Needless to say, the festivities were almost over by the time they arrived.

Eddy must have "got around" because folks still tell of the time he went to the home of another lass for supper and to sit up for awhile. Some time after the old folks had retired, the mother called down to ask if Eddy had left. The girl, not wanting her parents to know that her suitor had stayed later than deemed proper answered, "Yes, Mother."

"Ain't he a bugger on the butter?" yelled the mother.

Eddy slipped out without a sound.

Perhaps it was poetic justice that one of those prank-prone Strong brothers was force-fed a shovel full of his own medicine. In this case, he brought a young lady from a neighbouring farm to join his family in an evening of song around the pump organ. After the group-sing had ended, the old folk toddled off to bed and the rest of the family cleared out of the parlour to allow the couple to make some music of their own. Unfortunately, his brothers couldn't let such an opportunity slip, so they locked and tied the door then nailed the window from the outside before hitting the hay. It can be assumed that they feigned deafness or that the locked-ins had weak voices because the bonger on the old seven-day clock was indicating the wee-small hours when they busted out. Dropping a girl off at her door under the glow of the morning star was cause enough to have any maiden's mother terminate a courtship. They never sat up again.

Courting is so much different today. It begins as hanging out then progresses to going out and if that goes well, then it becomes going together – the equivalent of sitting up. With paved highways, fast cars and so much

The Barnet Cottage

Part 3

By Wes Bomhower

Foreword:

This being the final instalment of the Barnet Cottage history, I wish to thank all contributors and apologize for any I failed to mention. Many more have come forward recently, including Barry Moran, former Reeve of the township and former Warden of Renfrew County, Rosie Elliott, 94 years of age and in hospital, Orval Smith, who has an exceptional memory, "Bernie" Murphy, a good source of info on any subject, Sister Maria, retired at Stillpoint House of Prayer and originally of Calabogie, (Mousseau,) and last but not least, Gareth Brash and Jim Linton who both can tell a good bit of history when in the right mood. Thanks also to John Baird, C.A.O. of Greater Madawaska for setting the author straight on some facts.

Dan Moran, Barry Moran's father, was cook at one of the Barnet properties near Ashdad for a time, and Dan would watch for the school children who took a short cut through the forest returning from school and past the farmhouse. The Murphy's, who were then children and others, remember the good pies Dan made and handed out piece by piece freely with the Barnet's blessing. This farm was managed by the Windle family for the Barnets, the same Windle family where Bishop Windle originated.

The Barnets were always known for their generosity and compassion as witnessed by Orval Smith's grandparents, Walter and Abbie Smith in the year 1916 when their log home burned to the ground. Mrs. Barnet, Tom Barnet's mother, hearing about the fire, arrived next day with a wagon load of bedding, sheets, blankets, pillows, etc. for the burned out family. Walter and

Sittin up

entertainment in theatres and on TV ... On second thought, things may not be that different. Now that I get to thinking about it, a huge amount of present-day courting is done in front of a TV. Sitting up - hopefully.

Author's note: *Thanks to country cousins like Lynn McLaren and Gail (Snider) Holtzhauer whose input is always appreciated.*

Abbie rebuilt and the house still stands in behind where Johny Cameron lives off County Road 511.

As mentioned before, Tom Barnet Jr. suffered from emphysema in his later years and carried a mask in the car at all times. When he was coming to stay at the Cottage for a few days, Isobel Rillakm Fillator, Bern's mother, and Betty (Wright) Bowes had to vacuum and clean everything extremely well. There were huge bearskin rugs on the floors in those days and beaver, mink, fisher and fox hides adorned the walls.

These were all great dust catchers and a lot of work was involved before Tom could sleep there. This was mostly in the late 'sixties when Tom was spending a great deal of time on Canada's west coast where his breathing problem seemed to ease somewhat. Charlie Murphy, Leo's father, also worked many years at the Barnet Cottage attending the grounds and general maintenance. When Tom Barnet passed away, the Cottage was left to the Township, and after some deliberation, Council decided to sell the part of the property that extended on the north side of County Road 508 and it was sold to Bill Jamieson in the late 'seven-

ties'. Merrill Church continued on as caretaker for some years after Tom's death and lived in the little building next to the entranceway at the road. In the early 'nineties' Merrill moved into the village and shortly thereafter this small building was demolished.

Just previous to this, in 1989, the Barnet Cottage which was rented out periodically for different functions, was closed temporarily because of some issues and a survey was taken concerning its fate. A hue and cry went up, especially from the Calabogie Seniors as they feared this wonderful heritage building would be no more, although there were some who thought it should be removed and a new complex built in its place.

It was decided to maintain the building as it was and hours of work were donated by seniors and others plus the Township which was gradually becoming 'Greater Madawaska'. What had once been bedrooms, became part of the huge living room-dining room area and other structural repairs were done. The old boathouse was removed, some ancient trees were taken down and the boat ramp brought up to scratch. Flower beds were replanted by the Senior's Club and other landscaping was completed by the Township. The latest addition is a volleyball court on the

continued on page 18



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The Turtle Awakens

By Ole Hendrickson

One Saturday last spring my partner and I were sitting under the cedars at the cottage, looking out over the Ottawa River. She spotted an odd-looking head protruding from the water, moving steadily past our rocky beach. "I think it's a turtle," she said.

At the start of a trip into town the next day we saw a female snapping turtle laying eggs in a sandy area alongside the cottage road, maybe 50 meters from the water. On Monday I was working alone at the cottage and I saw her again. She was stuck on our deck at the top of the steps leading down to the beach, unable to move forward or retreat.

Messing around with snapping turtles is generally not recommended. According to the web site of the Kawartha Lakes Turtle Watch, they can rise up on their legs, rock back and forth, hiss with their mouths wide open, and lunge forward and snap with their powerful jaws.

However, this particular female seemed pretty harmless after her egg-laying expedition. I picked her up, carried her to the base of the steps, and watched her slow progress back to the river. Later that year I found a young turtle following in its mother's footsteps.

Winter survival is even more remarkable than turtle reproduction. Imagine spending months submerged in a frozen lake, half buried in the mud. Like frogs, turtles can get oxygen directly from the water. Unlike frogs, most of the turtle's body is covered by its hard, impermeable shell. Turtles breathe underwater through special patches, with lots of blood vessels, on their throats and near the base of their tails. They also slow their heart rate down to around one beat every ten minutes. A turtle's sleep is far deeper than any mammal's.

On rare occasions turtles wake up and swim under the ice in winter. Painted turtles sometimes emerge from hibernation before all the ice is gone in spring.

For a male turtle, hibernation isn't just about coping with long, cold winters. If it is prevented from hibernating – for example, kept indoors as a pet – it loses its ability to father offspring. Removing a turtle from the wild is a cruel act.

Although snapping and painted turtles are common here, the Ottawa River watershed is noteworthy for its large number of nationally-listed turtle species at risk. The spotted turtle is nationally endangered. Blanding's, spiny softshell, stinkpot, northern map, and wood turtles are also all at risk of extinction and have significant populations in the watershed.

The main threat to turtles is habitat loss. If you have waterfront property, maintaining or restoring natural shoreline vegetation is an excellent way to provide habitat for feeding and basking, and access to egg-laying areas. Other harmful habitat changes include development of upland nesting sites (sandy areas near water), use of herbicides, wetland drainage, river channelization, and water impoundment.

All turtles lay eggs on the land, and some species (e.g., wood turtles and spotted turtles) spend considerable amounts of time in moist forests. This, unfortunately, makes them vulnerable to illegal collecting for the pet trade, contributing to their decline.

Road kill is a significant cause of death for many turtle species. Adult females, which are particularly important for turtle survival, often choose roadsides for nesting. Here they can fall victim to vehicle traffic. Canada's leading turtle expert, Dr. Ron Brooks of the University of Guelph, warns that even 1-2% additional adult mortality from road kill can hasten extinction. Where local naturalists' clubs have put up turtle crossing signs, please drive with caution, especially in spring.

Aboriginal peoples recognize turtles as one of our most remarkable cousins. For many, turtles symbolize the world itself and are worthy of great respect and care.

End



END

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

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

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

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The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

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Shame on you

During the winter, Matawatchan had once again become a quiet sleepy place after an autumn characterized by break-ins and thefts. All that ended in early May by a vicious criminal act that has outraged local residents. The event was simple vandalism, but when the victim is a 92 year old man of modest means who was in hospital at the time of the event, it becomes vicious.

Clifford Ferguson, who had just celebrated his 92 birthday on May 2, is a life-long resident of Matawatchan and lives by himself in a mobile home on the Matawatchan Road. Matawatchan residents see Clifford every day driving his small red car on local roads.

It has been a difficult time for Clifford lately. His brother Carl, who was also a Matawatchan resident, died suddenly in late April plus Clifford has had a few small heart attacks and some

physical problems lately. He had been hospitalized at the Renfrew Victoria Hospital and was grieving his brother Carl, who was buried on Wednesday May 3, when person(s) unknown broke into his home and trashed it.

When Al Pennock brought Clifford home from hospital on the Thursday, they were greeted by damage so extensive that the place was unlivable until repairs could be made. The Griffith and Matawatchan News on page 15 provides a few details about the damage. What is particularly disturbing about this crime is that there doesn't seem to be any theft involved. In fact there was a small amount of money found by the perpetrators that was left on the floor. So, what could be the motivation for this malicious act?

To whoever is responsible we say "shame on you".

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

On May 1, I sent the following letter to Reeve Kristijan, expressing some concerns I had. I'd like to share these concerns with your readers.

Over the past year, I have become increasingly concerned at the management practices at the Matawatchan Dump Site.

We now have more gravel delivered, stored and spread on this site than the refuse brought there by area users. The observable result is a mountain of gravel, which dwarfs the dump site and creates the impression that the site is overflowing. Indeed if this practice continues the dump will soon be overflowing, but with gravel, not refuse.

An additional area of concern regards what has been considered, a sensitive and environmentally friendly initia-

tive undertaken by the site manager "Garry".

This young man has been encouraging the recycling of items he sets aside to be picked through and re-used by interested parties. Apparently, there have been objections to this practice by Garry's supervisor(s) and he has been told to stop this practice much to the disappointment of tax-paying users.

Because these dump issues are of grave concern to numerous users, myself included, we would like to know if our elected representatives are aware of these issues and what corrective actions, if any, they intend to apply.

Sincerely,

J.P. De Grandmont,
Matawatchan

Looking back...



Women's rights in Matawatchan during the early 1900s

Is the cause of cancer close to home?

By Bill Graham

The publication *Cancer Statistics 2004* by Health Canada and Canadian cancer agencies contains a few startling facts. In the 1930s, 1 in 10 Canadians could expect to develop cancer over their lifetime but by the 1970s, the number had risen to 1 in 5 and by 2004, one in 2.4 Canadian men and 1 in 2.7 Canadian women could expect to develop cancer over their lifetime. Some explain these statistics by saying that there is more accurate reporting today of cancer incidents or that the population is aging and that there is a higher incidence with age. While these are certainly factors in the increased cancer rate in our population, the many chemicals in everything from cosmetics to cleaning solutions are just as likely a cause.

Since the 1950s, "better living through chemistry", has been the watchword. Tens of thousands of chemicals have come into use over the last two generations. Many of these chemicals have come into our homes through the food we eat, pesticides, cleaning solvents and cosmetics to name a few. They have also brought their toxic effects. To quote the Cancer Smart Consumer Guide: "Some have been shown to be carcinogenic, a substance that can cause cancer. Some have been shown to have toxic effects on reproduction, in human and animals. Others may be endocrine disrupters, chemicals that affect the hormone producing organs of the body."

The case for tobacco smoking being a cause for cancer is well established. Nobody disputes that the 50 known carcinogens present in tobacco smoke when inhaled into the lungs heightens the chance for developing cancer. Many of these chemicals are not a natural part of tobacco smoke but have been added in the manufacturing process. Tobacco is not alone in having chemicals added to enhance products. The truth is that we have no idea what chemicals are added to the consumer goods we use every day. By Canadian law the ingredients making up our food must be labelled, but not much else is. Despite this consumers still don't know if their food derives from genetically modified agricultural products.

In Europe it is the law, but Europe is far in advance of North America in providing consumers with informed choices. For example, the European Union is putting into effect a policy called REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals). Under the policy, expected to be fully in place by 2006, the onus is on manufacturers to show that new chemicals will not cause harm before they can be authorized for use. Existing chemicals will undergo a rigorous process of registration that will include health and environmental testing. The policy will apply to imported chemicals in addition to those produced in Europe. In Europe, regulators have told the cosmetic industry it can't use some 400 chemicals - including suspected

continued on next page

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Cancer *continued*

carcinogens. And they're about to ban more. The U.S. and Canada ban only a handful. According to Dr. Sam Epstein, a cancer scientist at the University of Illinois in Chicago, "mainstream cosmetics produced by mainstream industries are literally a witch's brew of carcinogenic ingredients." Epstein's research found a common skin cream contains at least two ingredients linked to cancer, mascara: three, a blush: four, and a lipstick: five. That's just the cosmetic industry—what about the many other products that are in our consumer world?

A personal care product use survey of more than 2,300 people, conducted by EWG and a coalition of public interest and environmental health organizations, shows that the average adult uses 9 personal care products each day, with 126 unique chemical ingredients. More than a quarter of all women and one of every 100 men use at least 15 products daily.

According to the study, women use more products than men, and are exposed to more unique ingredients daily, but men use a surprisingly high number of products as well. The average woman uses 12 products con-

taining 168 unique ingredients every day. Men, on the other hand, use 6 products daily with 85 unique ingredients, on average. The main message is that exposure adds up.

I was shocked to learn about the number in ingredients used to create products as common as tooth paste. For example, Crest tooth paste contains 54 ingredients, while my own brand, Sensodyne contains 29. Both are considered of only moderate concern for use, but it gives you some perspective. Have a look at the Skin Deep website of the 'Environment Working Group' (EWG) at: <http://www.ewg.org/reports/skindeep2/> and check out the products that you use.

Exposure to chemicals is not limited to the cosmetic industry. Many industries targeting retail consumers enhance their products with chemicals. They do it because it makes a more effective product. In a very competitive marketplace, a more effective product and equally effective advertising to promote it creates profits for the producing corporation. It's all about money, not about human health.

In North America, unfortunately, informed choices must be made by consumers. For whatever reasons the government is not being proactive, as it is in Europe. You have a

right to know. To again quote the Cancer Smart Consumer Guide:

"We realize that more is involved than just making (product) choices. You need to know what's in the products you use. If you're working with industrial cleaning or other products in the workplace, health and safety regulations require that the potentially hazardous contents of those products be disclosed in a safety data sheet. Of course, workers have to assert their right to know, but they do have a legal right to know what they're being exposed to. There are no such labelling requirements for most household consumer products. Shouldn't people have the right to know what they're being exposed to in the products they buy? Again, we believe they should.

You can make a difference by avoiding products containing toxic ingredients. You can also multiply that effect many times over when you work with others in your community to press for better consumer product regulations that protect you and the environment."

This article introduces a series over the next few months that will examine specific product groups, like cosmetics, cleaning solvents and pesticides that are present in our everyday use.

A refreshing vision for Ontario's electricity future

By Lynn Jones

Citizens have been asked for input on the future of electricity generation in Ontario. A booklet called "Our Energy Our Future" was delivered recently to most households in Ontario. It explains that we face a major supply crisis in coming years if demand for electricity continues to increase as forecast and coal-fired generating plants are shut down, as promised to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Large centralized generating stations costing billions of dollars figure prominently in the government's vision of the future. But do we really need them?

Large centralized power stations are inefficient: up to two-thirds of the energy in the source fuel is wasted in the conversion to electricity and its transportation over long distances to end users. Large centralized plants are also expensive, slow to come on line, and vulnerable to system disruptions.

Happily there is an appealing alternative – "decentralized energy" (DE) which is energy generated at or near the point of use. Here's a vision of what it could look like in Ontario:

Existing large power plants are supplemented each year by a rapidly-increasing number of small and medium-sized producers who feed electricity into the grid. These producers generate electricity from a wide variety of renewable sources of energy and some non-renewable ones like natural gas.

Some examples of the renewables are small hydro, household wind turbines and wind farms, solar panels, solar roof shingles, biomass such as wood and biogas from landfills and manure.

Electricity generation takes place close to where it is used, therefore any excess heat produced in the process is captured and distributed to nearby buildings, a technology called "cogeneration".

Rather than being passive users of energy, many buildings are mini power stations! They have solar panels, solar water heaters, micro wind turbines and heat pumps for extracting energy from the earth. Solar water heaters, heat pumps and cogeneration help to greatly reduce the demand for electricity for space and water heating. Wider use of biomass heating fuels such as pelletized wood waste and switch grass also reduces demand for electricity.

Different energy sources predominate at different times. For example, during heat waves when the wind turbines stop generating, solar panels really kick in, so much so that at times, there is power to spare which is stored in reservoirs for later use.

Because electricity generation is a local affair, people are much more "tuned in" to using energy wisely and voluntarily reduce their electricity use.

Decentralized electricity generation is quite popular in Europe. Thanks to supportive government policies, countries such as Finland, Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark are already meeting a significant portion of their national electricity demand from DE. Many other European countries are following suit. Japan and California are making great strides in decentralized solar electricity generation.

According to the International Energy Agency, the decentralized approach to energy, if applied around the world could save three trillion dollars, in the next 25 years over the approach of large, central

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Pine Valley

continued on page 15

Griffith / Matawatchan News

By Garry Ferguson

Denbigh/Griffith Lions Club

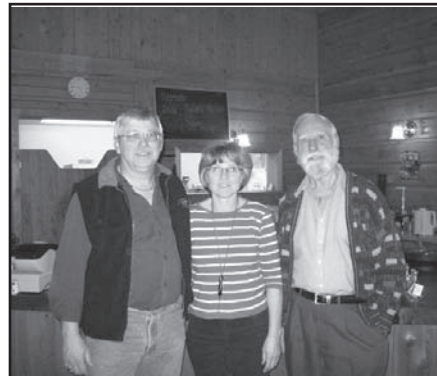
The \$25,000.00, five-year pledge that the Denbigh/Griffith Lions made to the Renfrew Victoria Hospital (RVH) five years ago was given coverage in the original Highlander several times over the years. Well, the last \$5000 installment of that pledge was donated to the RVH on February 08, 2006. It took a lot of fifty-fifty ticket and bingo card sales along with the loonies from toll road stations to make up that sum. The effort required of those who worked to make it happen was not only outstanding but sustained over half a decade.

The Daffodil Tea held on April Fools Day drew a record crowd and has been declared "The best ever." Local musicians provided entertainment as lunches were served throughout the afternoon. It was fitting that the Tea Pourers were all cancer survivors. Profits from the event were sent to the Cancer Society.

Approximately 30 children as well as parents attended the Children's Easter Party on April 15, 2006. The good people of Griffith must have tied up their dogs because, it's reported, an Easter Bunny hopped in from somewhere to join in the festivities.

Local merchants can soon expect a rush on the demand for black fly repellent since the next Lions Toll Road is scheduled for May 19, 2006. We encourage folks to set aside their loonies and twonies for the occasion and to visit the well-

bitten folks manning (or womaning) the stations in Denbigh – on Highway 28 in front of the fire hall – and in Griffith on Matawatchan Road near the Rapids End Store.



From left, Bevan and Linda McGarry with Bevan's father Don

Under New Management

On April 01, 2006, a jam session, in which a number of local musicians participated, took place at The Pancake House on Highway 28 in Hardwood Lake. This event served as the official opening to many of us who did not know that Linda and Bevan McGarry had become the new owners. Natives of the Ottawa area, the McGarrys returned, in December of 2005, from a two-year stay in Halifax to purchase the restaurant and maple syrup operation.

They will continue to produce syrup and to serve it up with their famous pancakes. There is, however, a full menu covering every meal of the day. The restaurant will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays until June 24, after that it will be opened for business – 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. - seven days a week. The McGarrys may be contacted at 613 758 2182.

Denbigh Checking In

By Melody Jones

Finally, warm weather, blue skies, yellow daffodils and black flies!

The students at Denbigh Public School have been busy for the last few months and it looks like the last two months of school will be just as busy.

Students and their families turned off their TV's, computer and video games during the week of April 3rd to 7th, 2006. Walking, building a fort and cleaning the yard were some of the activities that students and their families took part in. A celebration lasagne lunch, complete with butterscotch ice cream cups for dessert, was enjoyed by all the students on April 13th.

April 17 - 22 was National Earth Week. The students participated in a number of activities to support, and be made aware, of the importance of keeping our planet healthy. Students

also participated in a school yard garbage clean up and community street clean up. Students were able to find items to recycle and reuse. Badges to honour Earth Day on Saturday April 22, were worn by students.

On April 27th, eleven students were Vision-screened by Lions from the Denbigh Griffith Lions Club. Students in Senior Kindergarten and Grade 1 are provided with this free service. Vision screening is designed to screen if the student can see well with each eye, and if they can see well with both eyes together (with good depth perception). All children are still strongly recommended to have a comprehensive eye examination (covered by OHIP) annually, even if they pass the screening. A special thank you to the following Denbigh/Griffith Lions: Lions Gary and Ruby Malcolm, Betty Bass, Mary McKinnon and Jan Roche.

Station Two

From March 01 until November 30, 2006, fire permits are required for outside burning. The cost of a two-day burn permit is \$5.00 and the cost of an approved outside incinerator (burn barrel) permit is \$20.00 for the season. Instructions on the burn permit will direct individuals to call dispatch at 1 800 267 5887 or 613 432 6838 with the permit number, location and contact phone number before a burn. Licensees must be familiar with the Greater Madawaska bylaws governing all outside burning. Copies may be obtained at the fire hall or from the township office.

The Quad Rally on Saturday May 06, 2006 had 240 four wheelers entered and was an overwhelming success in all respects. One dollar for each customer partaking of an excellent buffet breakfast served up at the Pine Valley Restaurant was donated to the over-all event that raised \$3700 to be used for new equipment.

Three stations responded to a 4 p.m. alarm on May 03, 2006 to fight a blaze that destroyed as much as 30,000 board feet of lumber at Earl Thomson's sawmill operation. Station Two trucks and Station One's tanker were joined by Denbigh's tanker and crew, a welcomed and appreciated hand-out according to Station Two Chief Gary Peters. An ambulance arrived to standby and the O.P.P. attended.

From 4 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, more than 45000 gallons of water was used to contain the intense blaze that sent up a plume of smoke seen in Quadville. Fortunately, the nearby sawmill was saved. On Sunday May 07, fire fighters again pumped water on suspected hot spots from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Station Chief Peters reports that he is extremely happy with the performance of all personnel and equipment.

The cause of the fire is unknown.

Don Adams Retires

On April 08, 2006, Township of Greater Madawaska Reeve Isobel Kristijan and Councilors hosted an afternoon party in the Griffith/Lions Hall to mark the retirement of Don Adams. Don served the Townships of Griffith Matawatchan and Greater Madawaska as Road Superintendent and Foreman respectively for 31 years.

Over all those winters, Don would plough snow for whatever time it took, night or day, to make sure that everyone in the area could get to work during the week and to the churches on Sunday morning. The 401 and 41 Highways might have been treacherous but winter-time weekenders always knew that there would be easy driving when they reached the Matawatchan Road. Don and wife Marie, who live in Griffith, are already enjoying the free time to do as they wish.



Retired at last

continued on page 15

April 28th was an especially sweet day! Students and staff enjoyed a demonstration on "chocolate" given by the Chocolate Man! Many thanks to Greg and Jan Roche for their informative demonstration. Many more thanks from the students and staff, to Greg and Jan, for leaving us with a divine "chocolate bark" that was enjoyed by all!

On Thursday April 27th, in the afternoon, students were actively involved in supporting the Heart and Stroke Foundation by participating in a variety of fun games and skipping stations. Over \$700 in pledges was collected by the students.

The annual 'Grandparents and Special Friends Tea' takes place on May 12. Students are eager to have their invited guests visit them at school. Students look forward to this opportunity to show their school work to their family and friends.

On May 16, 2006, students will visit Cosmic Adventures in Ottawa for a fun-filled day of exploring, bouncing and sliding! Cosmic Adventures claims to be Ottawa's largest and safest indoor playground. Cosmic provides the ideal location for endless play in a multi-level soft structure which features ball pits, slides, tunnels, mazes, obstacle courses and more. An on-site restaurant called Sputniks offers a full menu of kid's favourites and tasty treats.

In June, students will enjoy a morning of drama. Drama students from Queen's University, The Barefoot Players, will be visiting. Not only will the students enjoy a live production, but after, those attending will be given a chance to dress-up and perform.

More activities are in the planning stages for the month of June. Maybe, by then, those pesky black flies will all be just a distant memory! We can always hope!

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Fishing with Jim



By Jim Weatherall

Hello to all you avid trout fishermen. Your season has just gone on and on eh? I've already told some "stories" about some of you but I'm sure there are more out there that I haven't heard.

Spring is progressing well as a lots of you are getting your gear cleaned and checked for the next Pickerel and Pike season which for our Zone 15 happens on May 20th this year. This is a good time to go over your fishing equipment and have it in good shape for the opening. You should make sure your reels are greased and clean.... If you are unable to do this yourself, by all means take it to a professional. Be sure to make sure your line is in good shape. You can change the whole spool or if there is just weak line at the beginning of your spool, cut off the damaged part. Your bait is important to check also.

Crank bait hooks should be sharpened or replaced if not in good shape.

If you are like me, you will be using jig heads and minnows for the Pickerel on opening day. I always make sure the hooks are sharp and if I use a twister tail as well, I will use a crayfish or garlic scent on the tail. These are available at your local bait suppliers. Remember that when the season opens, the Pickerel will still be near their spawning areas and should be fished near bottom. If using a jig head, make sure you hit bottom, and if you are trolling, run a deep bait and use a good weight such as a bottom bouncer.

Be sure to let me hear about your lunkers, funny stories about your best fishing buddies and of course the one that got away. Good fishing, better luck, and have a good summer on and around the water. Double check your boat for all the required safety equipment and be sure that you have the required number of life jackets for each passenger. Stay safe. Jim

Did you know

There are about 175 species of fish in Ontario. Native fish range from tiny minnows, to massive lake sturgeon, which have been recorded at 140kg!

STORMS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

By Rick and Jane Baxter

Although we have had numerous cyclone warnings since we have been in New Caledonia, they haven't amounted to much. In mid-April though, we had an unexpected tropical storm pass through Noumea one evening. This storm couldn't have even been close to cyclone proportions but it was awesome to behold. The thunder roared and the lightning over the ocean was incredible and then came the wind and rain. The rain was actually falling almost parallel to the ground due to the wind and at one point we couldn't see beyond our terrace – not unlike some of the snow storms back home. It gave us an idea of how powerful a cyclone must be. One can only imagine how Captain James Cook and his crew of the Endeavour coped when they roamed these South Seas so many years ago.

The past few weeks have brought much nicer weather to Noumea. The humidity has dropped and the temperature has stayed around 27 degrees during the day and down to 24 at night – it is still pretty warm but nothing like what we encountered the first three months we were here. Our barometer is how many showers we take a day – we are down to one a day usually but we have been up to three a day during the really hot weather.

SETTLING IN

It has taken us awhile to settle down but we are now seeing things in New Caledonia with different eyes, maybe seeing them as they really are. The beaches are lovely, there's no doubt about that, but when I take my swim first thing in the morning you do see a lot of lost souls who have spent the night on the beach for whatever reason. There have been demonstrations because of the high cost of living here. Last week there was a day of protest in Noumea protesting the high cost of living. The goods and services tax has just been increased by 2%. We need Stephen Harper here! Goro Nickel (owned by Inco) has a nickel mine near Yate in the southern part of the main island and not far from Noumea. Over the past few weeks millions of dollars worth of damage has been done by an aboriginal group protesting the damage they perceive being done to the environment by Goro. If you are interested in reading about this, a web site to go to is http://www.mineweb.net/sections/base_metals/167104.htm. It will give you one perspective of the issues. Two very high end hotels in Noumea, Novotel and a Club Med, are empty and derelict due to strikes. I'm painting a very grim picture but this is the reality of New Caledonia and it is hard to know how it will all end. With


all the natural beauty around it, we hope it gets its house in order soon.

VACATIONS

For Easter, Rick had Good Friday and Easter Monday off so we took advantage of this and had a little holiday at Ile des Pins (Pine Island). This is a tiny island south of the main island (Grande Terre) and about a 25 minute flight from Noumea. The island was named by James Cook due to the large number of tall pine trees on the island. Even the flight there was lovely as you could see the white waves breaking against the many coral reefs that encompass and shield the lagoons and the incredible different colours of blue and aqua of the ocean below. We rented a small bungalow at Oure Lodge on the Ile des Pins, which was right on the beach – it was the next best thing to our cottage at Black Donald Lake. The first day we were there we just got our bearings, swam and hiked around. The next day we sailed along Upi Bay in an outrigger boat (pirogue) up the east coast of the island. We had no idea what a pirogue was and when we saw it we were dubious, especially when we saw the rope holding cross beams together – rustic to say the least and not a life jacket in sight. However, it was a great experience when the sails were unfurled and we were clipping along at a high speed and observing the shore line, rock islands and the bottom of the bay below the boat. The pirogue is a small boat (about 5 meters long) with just Rick and me, the owner of the boat and another couple and their young daughter along for the ride. We travelled up the coast for about two hours and then we were put ashore and instructed to follow a narrow path through the forest to reach our destination. I carried a stick at all times to break up the webs made by giant spiders that blocked the path. After a 45 minute hike through the woods we came upon a small restaurant where we would have our lunch but first, we had to find the piscine naturelle (natural pool).

A ten minute walk through an ankle deep river and along another path was next. At the end of the trail was the natural pool where the swimming and snorkelling was fantastic – the mix of colours of the water was truly incredible. We snorkelled and swam the rest of the morning, meeting lots of people doing the same thing as we were doing – exploring the island. The natural pool is situated just inside the shore line and as the waves crash against the rocks on the shore the pool is fed by a narrow channel that fills the pool at high tide and drains it at low tide. The pool is a haven


continued on page 18




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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

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

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

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

DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

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

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

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

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

CALABOGIE

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

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

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

Calabogie St. Andrews United Church
1044 Madawaska Dr.
(on the waterfront)
Church Services Sunday Mornings at
8:45 a.m. Communion
1st Sunday of every month.

Bible study every Wednesday evening
7:15 – 9:00

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Calabogie

Roast Beef Dinner, May 19, 2006,
St. Andrew's United Church,
Calabogie, 613- 752-2598

Yoga May 9, 2, and 30
at the Community Centre
7:30-9:00 pm
Instructor Lou Bennett.

Art by the Garden
May 20 10-4 pm at the
Knock on wood Gallery
10-4pm

Yoga June 13, 20, 27
at the Community Centre
7:30 -9:00 pm
Instructor Lou Bennett

End of School Dance
June 16/2006
6:30 -8:30 pm - 4 years to 12
9:00 to 11:00 pm
\$3.00 admission Fee.

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

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

The Calabogie and Area Ministerial Food Bank
538 Mill Street, Calabogie
2 days per month [2nd and 4th
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For emergency situations, please call
752-2201

Burnstown

Burnstown Affair of the Arts
May 27-28
613-752-5254 (Cheryl)

Griffith & Matawatchan

Lion's Club Bingo
Every second Tuesday,
Community Centre, Griffith, 613- 333-
5523

Busy Bees Craft Club
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month at the Matawatchan Hall.
(Contact Jackie Jenks at 333-5542)

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Dragonflies

By Floris Wood

Generally speaking, one does not associate bugs with beauty, and I, for one, must admit that I have not given much more thought to dragonflies than to wonder if they could not find a better place for their love making than the end of my fishing pole. But a recent visit to this website (<http://www.dragonflies.org/>) convinced me that, as bugs go, dragonflies are beautiful.

The naked eye does not do justice to the beauty of dragonflies. It takes a good camera to see the minute detail of membranous wings with their microscopic veins, the shimmering abdominal colors and the magnificent structure of legs, thorax and eyes, as well as the chewing and reproductive parts of the dragonfly.

Rocks have been on earth longer than dragonflies but dragonflies have been around for over 200 million years in much the same anatomy and physiology as today; that is longer than flowering plants. We Homo sapiens, who have been here in our present form a mere 130,000 years, are newborns by comparison.

Dragonflies, along with damselflies, belong to the order called Odonata. They are true insects with the required four wings and

six legs. Ancient dragonflies were huge. Fossils of their forbearers have been uncovered with wingspans of three-quarters of a metre.

What are the differences between dragonflies and damselflies? The easiest way to tell them apart is to look at the wings. Each has two sets of wings, one in front of the other. The dragonfly's forward swept front



wings are a slightly smaller and differently shaped than the hind wings. The damselfly's front wings are always slightly larger than the hind wings. Mayflies, though they are not Odonata, look somewhat like dragonflies and damselflies, are much smaller and have wings of equal size.

The dragonfly is generally larger than a damsel fly and while not flying the damsel fly folds its wings parallel

and against its abdomen while the dragonfly keeps its wings spread. The dragonfly's eyes are closer together, actually touching at the top, while the damsel fly's eyes are wide apart. The damsel fly is a much weaker, fluttery flyer than the lightning fast dragonfly. Dragonflies, with wing beats of 50 per second, have almost unsurpassed flying abilities, including hovering, flying backwards and

upside down, and at speeds reaching 98 mph, giving the impression that they simply appear and disappear. By comparison the average hummingbird wing beat frequency is 30-70 while very small hummingbirds have been clocked at 200 beats per second. Catching one alive and uninjured is a special challenge given their speed and delicate structure. About the only advantage a human has

is that dragonflies cannot see directly behind them and they are not shy. They will land on your fishing line and rod, hat bill, shoe, etc. But leave catching them to the experts.

A wonderful Ottawa area dragonfly web site from which I have shamelessly borrowed much information, is at (<http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~bf250/odonata.html>),

Dragonflies love larger bodies of either still or easily flowing water. So the Madawaska Valley has no shortage of them. In fact the journals of those who hike the banks or canoe the surface of the Madawaska make much of the plenitude of dragonflies that seem to accompany humans on their voyages. People who study dragonflies often head for the headwaters of the Madawaska, which is well known as the home of a great number of different subspecies of dragonflies. And, even though they have been around for millennia, new subspecies are still being discovered and described. Over 5,000 species of dragonflies inhabit earth and the number keeps growing in some places and declining in others.

A common rural legend is that the Ministry of Natural Resources drops dragonflies from helicopters in order to help control the black fly population. My research shows this to be untrue here in Ontario or any other part of Canada or the United States, where the legend also prevails. However, I

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TRIPPING OUR RIVER

By Ernie Jukes

Over the years we have paddled a lot of our magnificent province. Ontario, with 96,000 km. of canoe routes is heaven to paddlers from around the world. Our river, "The Mighty Madawaska" allows us to journey through pristine waterways while stepping back into a past of wonderful history and adventure. Natives, explorers, settlers, and loggers have followed its almost 200 km. course for centuries. We have paddled its length (over three trips), fished it, painted it, hunted on it, photographed it and written about it but it still never fails to capture our imagination.

Rivermen, raftsmen, rough riders—are all names dedicated to those brave, rough and tough men of yesterday who drove the logs down the rivers of Ontario. I say drove, because without their ability the massive quantity of timber would not have reached the mills. Their dangerous job was to work these huge clusters of pine around rocks and islands, down through rapids and over waterfalls. Some trees were roughly hewn on the spot by pioneers settling Renfrew County.



Painting: Ernie Jukes

During the early 1800s many small lumber and grist mills needing waterpower were developed along the Madawaska, Bonnechere and other fast moving waterways to serve our immigrant homesteaders. Woodsmen and large mills on the mighty Ottawa River converted these giant pines to "sticks" of square timbers destined for British ships and supplying the building trades in Europe.

For many years log drives on our Madawaska River offered a natural water highway to process the harvest of our forests. In those days around here there were few roads other than settlement routes like the Opeongo Line and Frontenac Road, and other muddy trails. To move logs to market with horse and wagon or horse drawn sleighs was simply too slow. During the spring, runoff, snowmelts and spring rains joined forces to raise water levels and increase the velocity of the rivers. This opened the waterways of ice to allow logs to rush down our river, dumping into the Ottawa to join onto larger rafts of logs.

Today, with some canoeing or kayaking skill, we can comfortably travel

continued on page 21

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Invasion of Matawatchan

Photo: Bill Graham

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Cottage corner

By John Roxon

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the 19th century US poet and essayist said that, "Friendship should be surrounded with ceremonies and respect and not crushed into corners". I would agree, except when it comes to cottages.

The Victoria Day weekend represents the start of the Canadian love affair with the great outdoors. While Easter weekend is the time many people first venture to their cottages to see what new damage was done over the winter, Victoria Day is when most of us have the first chance to start the clean-up and repairs under the guise of the beginning of a convivial summer.

It is also the time that friends, neighbours and family members begin to hint not too subtly about visiting the cottage sometime over the next 100 or so days. Some of us lend our small slice of heaven; some rent it, but most of us invite these friends, neighbours and colleagues just to spend time with us at the cottage. They are indeed the lucky ones.

While the host does the semi-annual vacuuming, prepares meals, clears branches, or de-winterizes engines, guests are truly enjoying

what paradise can offer – what we had envisioned when venturing into cottage life. Unfettered, they enjoy the walks in the woods, the solitary canoe rides in the early morning amongst the loons and the opportunity to finally read that dust-covered book while sipping on a gin and tonic in a comfortable Muskoka chair.

In the meantime the perspiring, dirty finger nailed, suffering hosts look on with more than a little disdain vowing that it's the last time so and so will be invited up. The guests mistake the disdain for congeniality, promptly order another cocktail and enquire about the availability of snacks.

Most of us were brought up with a very Emily Postian view of etiquette. Yes, we were taught that if we invite people to our home (and everything from a simple plot of land to the most palatial of summer cottages is an extension of our homes) we must be proper hosts and ensure the comfort of our guests without fail.

It doesn't have to be this way. It shouldn't have to be this way. Emily Post herself said of summer camps in 1922, "The etiquette of this sort of a party is so apparently lacking that its inclusion perhaps seems out of place...", and this is where the camp or cottage owner can take respite.

To regain control of your small piece of paradise, I have some suggestions. Forget about parlour games, turn the rodent disposal ritual into a game. Offer a small prize to whoever finds the most rodents and offer another prize to whoever can throw them farthest into the woods. A similar contest can be staged for any guests that like to fish. Whoever catches and cleans the most fish for dinner will get a complimentary vegetable to go with his delicacy. Another tip that seems to work well, especially with those who have septic systems is to grab a shovel and announce that you have to dig around the septic to clear a backlog. When trundling to the septic lot, be sure to bring a good book and a thermos of your favourite beverage. Don't worry - no guest will venture forth for fear of being included in the excavation. Thus you will have time to relax and perhaps even catch a few winks in the waning afternoon sun. Don't forget to scoop up some dirt before heading back so your hands and fingernails have telltale signs of a good septic dig. This will provide the added bonus of having your guests offer to cook dinner – especially if they notice that you're not too quick heading for the nearest sink and bar of soap.

Another tactic worth employing after dinner is to say that it's a bigger job that you anticipated and head out

again. Your guests will do any number of things to avoid you touching anything with your stained hands. If the guests offer any resistance, ask them politely if they would mind finishing the septic dig while you do the dishes. The added bonus, of course, is the implied fear that if you don't successfully clear "the backlog", guests may have to enjoy their private moments outside, against a tree, at 5:30 a.m. when peculiar sounds surround them in the early morning woods. There are a number of imaginative methods to get guests truly involved in the cottage experience. I will admit that what I described above should be reserved for only the worst case offenders.

To paraphrase Emily Post: When a cottage owner has headed off for August leisure it is indeed a Grade A faux pas to beseech him with questions regarding the death of a loved one, the Middle East, mealtime, entertainment or anything else not related to relaxing at the lake and Vodka Martinis.

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G/M news *continued*

Fish and Game Club

This very active club – with 184 members to its credit – has a full schedule for 2006. Members of the executive have been involved in the Wild Turkey Program from the beginning and now are witnessing the results. It is estimated that there are now three to five thousand wild turkeys in Renfrew County. That's counting the feathered variety only.

It looks like the free lunches for deer that like to drop around for the 24-hour-a-day, corn-and-hay buffets are over as far as the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is concerned. According to the Fish and Game President's Newsletter, the MNR has no plans to continue the feeding program. The funds normally used for this project will be diverted to the provision of forage food.

Anyone interested in a boating course this summer should call Al Pennock at 333 2390. If there's enough interest, a session will be scheduled. The club will pay the course fee for those under 16 years of age.

The children's bird-house-building day at the Hollerans was a success even though the turnout was small. Our feathered friends will enjoy a good number of new ac-

commodations this nesting season thanks to Cliff Holleran's prefab kits. A tip of the Madawaska Highlander straw hat to all the patient folks who donated or gathered material and worked to provide this day-long outing for the young'ns.

Those interested in upcoming activities, like the Kids' Fishing Derby, may contact President Karen Gaulin at 333 1206 or karen.paul@northcom.net for more information and a copy of the latest newsletter.

Benefit for Area Youths

The Jubilation Singers, along with local guests, staged a concert in the Denbigh Hall on Saturday April 22, 2006. Suzanne Lee – of Stop 41 fame – a member of this Greenbank United Church-based choral group, was the driving force behind the evening program. The dozen female singers kept a full hall spellbound with a repertoire consisting of popular and gospel music performed in three and four-part harmony. CD's of their music may be obtained at Stop 41 in Denbigh.

Guest performers included the Chatson Family, Leanne and Paige MacPherson as well as Paul Isaacs, Ron Whitteker, Greg Roche and Garry Ferguson. The event raised over \$600.00 to be used by youth groups in our area.

Benefit at Matawatchan Hall

A benefit night to help pay for the retrieval of Mike OBrien's pickup from Lake Centennial was held on Saturday May 06, 2006 in the Matawatchan Hall. About 80 people attended and a good time was had by all.

Another B and E

Thandals (that's a cross between a thief and a vandal) broke into Clifford Ferguson's mobile home along the Matawatchan Road on Wednesday May 26, 2006 or Thursday May 27 and ransacked it. The 92 year-old man who was grieving the death of his brother, Carl had been hospitalized for a heart attack and was absent at the time. Glass and pictures frames were broken, the phone ripped from the wall, the fridge door torn from its hinges and the freezer unplugged causing the loss of all contents. Other items too numerous to list here were broken in the destructive search and left scattered about. A tally of missing items has not yet been completed.

At about the same time, two other places along the road to Vennachar were broken into. Lafleur's cottage and Mike Fischer's summer home

were the targets for thieves that carried off small items. In one case they even closed the door but must have forgotten their manners by the second.

The recent rash of break-ins in the area has triggered a groundswell of interest in raising a significant amount of money to sweeten a Crime Stoppers reward. A thousand or so loonies might loosen a few lips. The pay-off would go to anyone (anonymously) providing information that would lead to the arrest of an individual involved in any of these crimes. The Crime Stoppers number for this area is 613 432 8665.

Friendly Invasion

Petawawa-based troops from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, (RCD's) one of the Canadian Army's armoured regiments, rolled through Matawatchan on a routine convoy-exercise on Monday May 01, 2006. Consisting mainly of Coyotes, a light armoured vehicle and support trucks, the convoy was routed over the Settlement Road (Matawatchan Road) to Denbigh on the return leg of the trip. See a photo of the invasion of Matawatchan on page 13.



Ontario electricity *continued*

power plants remote from users.

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The recent announcement by the Ontario government that small producers will be invited to sell electricity to the grid for a premium price is a great first step to making this vision a

reality. Kudos to the government for this decision, and too many tireless and visionary folks in the sustainable energy sector who have helped move us toward a better vision for electricity generation in Ontario!

If you like the DE vision, please share it with your family, friends and the Our Energy Our Future folks. Write to them at 900 Bay Street Hearst Block 4th Floor, Toronto, or submit your views through the Ministry of Energy website. If you want to know more about DE check out the World Alliance for Decentralized Energy at www.localpower.org

Editor's note: Lynn Jones is a member of the Ottawa River Institute (www.ottawariverinstitute.ca), a non-profit, charitable organization based in the Ottawa Valley supported by volunteers, local donors and a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Look who's reading the Highlander



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Sudoku

Level of difficulty:
Medium

By Doug Bell
answers on page 20

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

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GREATER MADAWASKA LITERARY MATTERS

By Mary-Joan Hale

Happy spring everyone! Just as the trees are bursting with frothy green newness, so too, the library is branching out into Wards 2 and 3. Service to the entire Township is becoming much easier for all rate-payers. Chairperson Sally Schmidt, Board member Don Strachan and I visited the three satellite venues to deliver the cabinets and manuals. We enjoyed meeting the Limlows, Lacourses and Mains. Their enthusiasm as volunteers for this valuable project is most encouraging.

The next step to make this work, is for you to head on over to Mill Valley General Store in Dacre, Lacourse General Store in Griffith or Eagle's Rest Country Store in Matawatchan to register. Application forms are there for you. Simply fill it out; sign a card for each family member; place them in the library self-addressed envelope; seal it and the storeowner will send it by Township truck to the library. I will laminate the card and return it by the same method. There is no charge for membership if you live in Greater Madawaska. It is already covered in your municipal taxes. The charge for non-residents is \$15.00 a year for the whole family.

You may also peruse the Collection Manual and order books or other materials. Request forms have also been sent to the venues. You may just wish to fill out a form and send it along rather than searching the manual. If we have the books in our collection, they will be sent if and when available to the store. If not, I will make an Inter-library Loan request on your behalf. This will go out to all other libraries and be sent to us through the Southern Ontario Library Services' courier. Deliveries will be made to the venues on Mondays. You will be notified when your books are being sent. Since trucks will be making the stops as part of their routine tour, I cannot say what time they will arrive on the Monday. I would suggest you make your pick up from Tuesday on. Materials are available for 3 weeks. They may be renewed by phone or email. Materials may be returned to any of the depots.

Since this is a new venture to make service available to all, we expect that there may be a few hiccups at first, so bear with us and let us know if you have a problem. Please notify us through email, phone or fax. We do not wish the businesses to have to deal with any difficulties.

The drive through the Township was an enjoyable one but it brought home

to Sally, Don and I the difficulty of going to Calabogie for library services. For that reason, we are very pleased to provide this program for you.

Starting in May will have a limited number of DVDs available for loan. We are obtaining them through a rotating pool provided by the Southern Ontario Library Services. Loan time will be shorter than books. They will include a mixture of classics, children's, educational and general interest topics. It is not meant to compete with local businesses. This is a standard service offered by public libraries. If budget allows, we will begin to create our own collection.

The TD Summer program will again be offered this year. The theme is the "Quest for Heroes". All manners of heroes will be explored from Gandhi and Terry Fox to artists, volunteers and many more. Call to register your children. There is no cost, just a desire to have fun with books and crafts. Suggested age group is 5 to 12 years. The Pre-school Storytime will continue all summer on Tuesdays from 2:00 to 2:45 p.m.

John Allerton's Computer Course has started. The next one will be offered in the fall. It is never too early to get on the waiting list. John is an excellent instructor and gives his time freely. We appreciate his efforts.

NEW TITLES: Tony Hillerman: Dance Hall of the dead; Finding moon; Iain Banks: Dead air; Joan Barfoot: Critical injuries; LaVrie Spencer: The endearment; Ian Rankin: The falls; Stephen Clarkson: Trudeau and our times; Andrew Greeley: The bishop and the three kings; Andrew Cohen: While Canada slept: how we lost our place in the world; Francine Rivers: The scarlet thread; Tess Gerritsen: The surgeon; Peter Hessel: Fathering, mothering and kidding; Immaculee Ilabegiza: Left to tell: discovering God amongst the Rwandan holocaust. This is just a small sample of what's new. Titles are being added daily. If we do not have what you want, ask and we'll check out other libraries for you.

FOOD BANK DROP: Bring your non-perishable foods and they will be given to the Churches who administer the Food Bank in the village.

HOURS: All year round: Closed Sunday and Monday; Tuesday 1:00-7:00 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9:00a.m-12:30 p.m.

CONTACT US!

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**Township of Greater Madawaska
PUBLIC NOTICES**

Please be advised that By-Law 17-2006 with respect to All Terrain Vehicles in the Township will become effective on Monday May 15th, 2006. Copies of the By-Law are available at the Municipal Office or may be downloaded from the Municipal Website at: www.townshipofgreatermadawaska.com

In accordance with By-Law 13-2005, ratepayers are reminded that if you are planning to burn within the Township of Greater Madawaska between March 1st and November 30th you are required to obtain a Fire Permit from the Municipal Office. The fee is \$5.00 and the permit is valid for two days from the date of issue.

Municipal Elections will be held in November.
Council nomination forms are available at the Municipal Office.

Council Meeting Dates

Committee of the Whole - May 25th, 2006 @ 5:00 p.m. - DACA Community Centre

Council Meeting - May 30th, 2006 @ 7:00 p.m. - Council Chambers, Calabogie



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Community continued

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Community Bus Service

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

Fellowship Luncheon

These meals are held the first Wednesday of each month at noon.

Barnet continued

beach at the west side of the property.

The Barnet Cottage has come a long way from what it once was, but again there are some issues and the last word we have is that once more it has been closed for the summer months due to safety aspects. The committee in charge is applying for a Trillium Grant and hopefully it will be resolved soon, because as of this writing, the Park may be used but not the building itself.

Please contact Carol Anne Kelly at 333-5570 or Lois Robbins at 333-1082 if you wish to attend and be added to our mailing list.

Denbigh

Diners Club

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

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

HEALTH CARE

Paramed Health Care Services Foot Care Clinic/Denbigh

Call 333-5559, Muriel Burgess, for an appointment

Tom Barnet and his two brothers, Aleck and Gussie, left no heirs that we are aware of and it would seem the Barnet name has all but died out in this area except for parks, streets, roads and many memories.

As was shown in the first instalment of the history, a photograph of the last addition to this wonderful lakefront property completed by the Calabogie and Area Senior’s Club, two concrete pillars and wrought iron grilling at the entrance to “Barnet Park”



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Dragon Flies

continued

have found mention of stocking lakes with Rainbow trout using helicopters.

So far you have read some pretty nice things about dragonflies. Well, it gets even better. Dragonflies don't bite people. What's more, they eat mosquitoes, flies, gnats and small bees. Generally, they hatch a little late in the season to help us out much with the black flies. Along with superior flying ability dragonflies have terrific eyes that can see in all direction except behind it. The eyes are large and curved with over 25,000 facets in them. Each facet is itself a lens. All these lenses together form a seamless mosaic view of the world around the dragonfly.

In spite of their beauty, benign behaviour toward humans and beneficial characteristics, humans, in the not too distant past used to fear dragonflies. They gave them such names as the Devil's Darning Needle, Horse Stingers, Snake Feeders, etc. But they are far less dangerous to us than we are to them. Humans and dragonflies love either still or easily flowing sparkling clear water. When the sparkling water is gone so are the dragonflies.

Typical of insects, dragonflies re-

produce using the metamorphosis method. The first stage of this method involves the implantation of the male sperm into to female, which is



not a simple task in dragonflies. The second abdominal segment of the male contains a pocket into which he deposits packets of his own sperm from the tip of his abdomen, where it is originally produced. The shape of a male sperm pocket is uniquely designed for each species making it impossible to breed across species.

Upon meeting an eligible female and going through the preliminaries, the male grasps the female behind the head with two pincher-like structures

at the extreme end of his abdomen. She aligns herself with him, engaging her egg bearing abdominal part with his Sperm bearing pocket. He even

Photo: George White
tually releases his sperm to her but first he may use a specially designed scoop structure to remove from her any sperm from previous suitors. This whole process of mating may take from a few seconds to an hour, depending on the species. During the mating the bodies of the couple form a wheel shape and they may be in flight during much of the time during which the female actually flies upside down. This process usually takes place over water and is danger-

ous since it exposes them to the primary predators, fish and amphibians. Shortly after the uncoupling the female deposits her fertilized eggs into the water. She then removes herself from the water area to prepare another batch of eggs. Thus ends the social part of dragonfly reproduction.

The eggs will either drop to the bottom of the body of water or float on the surface until they encounter vegetation to which they will attach themselves. In either case, what develops from the eggs is very unlike a dragonfly. This begins the larval stage of reproduction.

Bottom dwelling larvae have the same bullet shape as the weed dwelling variety, but they are flatter. Both types have mouth parts and live on small aquatic animals such as tadpoles, other larva, and fish eggs. In seasonal lands such as the Madawaska highlands, the larvae overwinter in the larval state. The transformation from larva to dragonfly is a slow process. The larva hardens and sheds its shell from five to thirteen times before a dragonfly emerges. The periods between these molts are called "instars". Most insects

continued on page 20

Storms *continued*

The pool is a haven for thousands of fish that live around the coral reef. We had pre-arranged to have a lobster lunch cooked in the traditional way – we had no idea what to expect. We made our way back to the restaurant and found out how they were preparing lunch. The lobster, along with vegetables like carrots, potatoes and yams, is wrapped in banana leaves and put in a hole in the ground. Rocks which had been heated over a fire were placed in the hole with the lobster and it was all covered with earth and left to cook for several hours. When ready, the earth and hot rocks are removed and the lobster/banana leaf package retrieved and served. It was a very interesting process, resulting in a fine meal.

THE FRENCH RAT

Rick was scheduled to leave for Tonga on Sunday, April 23rd. On the Wednesday prior, I called him at work to tell him that I thought something, perhaps a rat, had gotten into the apartment. He spoke with the accommodations staff at SPC and they said it was probably gecko droppings that I saw – I wasn't convinced. On Thursday night, I saw the critter, a rat, run from under the fridge to under the sink. Friday we put out poison, convinced that by the time we got home from going out for dinner we would find a dead rat. The poison had been disturbed but no dead rat. Saturday we bought a huge rat trap (it could have taken down a moose!) and used cheddar cheese as bait. In hind sight, brie may have been more attractive to a French rat because when Rick left at 6:00am on Sunday morning, malheurment, there

was still no dead rat. I just knew the rat and I were not going to get along living under the same roof.

Monday, because the rat had decided to explore the apartment, I called in the services of my neighbour who had seen lots of rats when he lived in the Solomon Islands. We re-baited the trap with Canadian peanut butter. Tuesday - still no dead rat. With the help of the neighbour and his 15 year old daughter (she thought the rat was cute!) we managed to chase the rat from under the fridge to under the sink, i.e. closer to the outside door. As I come from a long line of cowards, I then shut all the doors and lived in the bedroom/computer room.

Wednesday morning I noticed a tail sticking out from under the sink. Finally – a dead rat! The corpse was on to my dust bin and over the balcony into the bushes in an instant. Yes, it's a glamorous life here in the South Pacific!

CANADIAN NEWS

Each evening at 6, we are able to watch Celine Galipeau from Radio Canada give the news in French from Canada with a distinctively Quebec focus on the TV satellite channel from France. She's a poor substitute for Peter Mansbridge but it does make us feel a little closer to home. Now that the Leafs are out of the playoffs (wait until next year), we are cheering for the Senators. We wrote her an email to suggest that the Senators, as well as les Canadiens, were in the play-offs and a little coverage of their trials, tribulations and triumphs would be welcome. Let's see if there is any response.

Dragonflies

continued

have four stages of metamorphosis, egg, larva, pupa and Imago, the imago being the end product, in our case, the dragonfly. Dragonflies skip the pupa stage, or, one might say, combine the larva and pupa stages.

Emergence takes place after the larva has climbed a piece of aquatic plant and attaches itself securely high above the water. After a brief rest a crack appears behind the head and the dragonfly struggles its way out.

When it does emerge from the last iteration of instars it still is not quite finished. It looks a little like someone took a dragonfly in their hand and rolled it up into a ball. All the organs are there, they just need a day or so to dry out and finish developing. The freshly emerged dragonfly will begin to pump blood furiously. The blood feeds the various parts of the body and it begins to take the characteristic

shape of the dragonfly. When it is able to fly it immediately flies away from the water where fish and amphibians cannot eat it. Perched on plant life it develops further, attaining its magnificent coloration and its complicated reproductive parts. It returns to water only when it is ready to reproduce.

The continued existence of these and many aquatic species depends very much on the continued existence of suitable wet lands. Back yard ponds, of all sizes, support an abundance of wildlife, including dragonflies. Ponds also are a source of great pleasure for their human owners. Here are some of the colorful common names of dragonflies you might be able to attract with a pond: Emperor, Keeled Skimmer, Black-tailed Skimmer, Common Whitetail, Migrant Hawker, Azure Hawker, Common Darter and Green Darner. Thousands of people spend many rewarding hours creating catalogs of dragonfly species they have never found before and the really lucky ones find one that nobody else has ever cataloged.

Sudoku answers

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

Thank you

I would like to say a sincere "Thank You" to everyone that helped to make the concert at the Denbigh Hall on April 22, 2006 such a success. It's wonderful to see such community and spirit working for the youth in our area.

From printing the tickets, to sales of them, donations, local talents sharing their gifts, those behind the scenes and everyone who came out to enjoy an evening of music.

Suzanne Lee



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Tripping our river continued

this historic river safely. You can start at 'Lake of Two Rivers' in Algonquin Park and proceed south to Whitney and the village of Madawaska. Canoeists will continue down, crossing Bark Lake and Kaminiskeg Lake and slipping on past the old Hudson House come to the town of Combermere. Along the way you will find marked campsites for overnight stops. Many also launch at Palmer Rapids and Latchford Bridge to hit the rough Snake Rapids. Just past 'Rifle Chute', on one of the islands in this section, you can still see half of an aluminum canoe, the rest is somewhere in the rocks under the white foaming water. If you travel island to island you can safely navigate that portion of river. And then you will come to the saucy Slate Falls, also a series of rough rapids. Here on the portage along the south side you will come upon a large rock in the bush. Inscribed on it are names of a few of those brave river men drowned along the route in yesteryear. A few more miles and you will cross under highway 41. Some pull out at Griffith above the bridge, others continue south over the now passive and hidden underwater of Wolfe Rapids.

The river widens soon and is called

Centennial Lake, which proceeds south to make a right angle turn and flow east. At one time, situated near this turn, in front of Big Island was the mighty Coltons. These were once considered the most wicked of waterfalls, but they have also disappeared. The reason so many rapids are now gone is due to the back up of tons of water from Black Donald Lake and its submerged Village of Black Donald, caused by the large Mountain Chute hydro generating station dam. Now passing through Norcan Lake our modern voyageurs may, with a bit of portaging, continue to pleasantly paddle past the towns of Calabogie, Springtown and Burnstown. Eventually we pass on downstream, around the Stewartville dam to Arn-

prior, where our grand waterway finally empties into the giant Ottawa.

Gradually the mighty pine began to run out and so did the small isolated logging camps and communities that served the lumber barons of the time. There is not a lot left today but some decaying mills, abandoned villages, overgrown tote trails and graveyards showing yet the names of some of these young iron men—the river men. Fortunes were made from the giant pines of our highlands. Some mills became the world's largest and wealthiest.

Of course a few places in our neck of the woods have survived the glory days, such as Barry's Bay and Quad-

ville, including Camel Chute and small villages off to the side like Matawatchan or Slate Falls. Our river flows past many communities that invite you to pause and explore, you may be surprised at what you will find. Yes, logging today, while much more modest, remains a backbone of many of our backcountry communities. Granted the Madawaska River has also lost some of its magnificence to become a major provider of hydro-electricity but it still holds its wealth of history and is still one of Ontario's finest and enjoyable recreational waterways; and it's ours.

While the romance of the canoe and the use of this fine craft by outdoorsmen and our river's past are uppermost in our minds when we plan a trip, it is the magic of nature that makes it even more stimulating when we stroke our way along the route. Keep an eye on the shorelines, if you are quiet and paddle softly, you may see beavers, otters, muskrats, deer and wolves --- or possibly even a bear. In weedy bays you may encounter geese, ducks, loons, herons and kingfishers and feeding moose. But here is a reminder, as you travel -- take time to stop and discover, and smell and listen to the sounds of the wild. You may never get any closer than by tripping the Madawaska. Give it a paddle.



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Out on the First Concession

MY FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

By Wes Bomhower

I started to school in the spring of 1935 and more or less got a jump start on the children attending their first classes in September. The following is what I recall of that eventful morning.

I was a feisty little booger and that first morning got into a fist fight with Joe Major in which I gave a pretty good account of myself, then big Mac Warden who was my age but thirty pounds heavier, gave me a push and we were into it. If he ever fell on me, I knew it would be game over so I flailed mightily until my oldest sister came running to separate us just as our teacher came out to ring the bell to begin classes.

Our teacher's name was Jenny MacDonald but everyone referred to her as Jenny 'Joe' because that was her father's given name and because there were so many other MacDonalds in the area. She was probably thirty five years old and could be really sweet, but most times she was extremely cross and one look from her could make our knees start knocking.

She paused now with the bell in her hand and turned that steely glare on Mac Warden and I, and because I had never experienced such a terrifying countenance before, I began to cry, which was probably the right thing to do because poor Mac received a severe tongue lashing for picking on me and I was taken into teacher's little alcove and given a nice ripe pear, the first I had ever tasted. Naturally my tears dried up immediately, and to this day when eating a pear, I'm reminded of my first day at school.

Except for the teacher's alcove and the two cloak rooms, (there were two outside toilets around back,) the school consisted of one huge room in which Jenny Joe taught eight grades plus primer class, and there were forty two of us pupils all told. No wonder she was cross sometimes. There was a slightly raised section of flooring, like a stage at the front where teacher's desk was located and two huge blackboards dominated the front wall for teacher's use. There were two smaller blackboards along the west wall where I was seated and these were sometimes used by the older boys and girls to work out arithmetic problems.

We all stood at attention now beside our desks and recited the Lord's Prayer in unison to start the day, then sang one verse of God Save the King before starting classes. Jenny began giving each grade some work out of their text books and she wrote something occasionally on her big blackboards.

Billy Crawford, a gangly, slow talking boy in grade one sat at the desk in front of me and apparently he hadn't slept well the previous night because he continually dozed off for the first half hour, waking with a start each time the teacher raised her voice, which was often. About 9:30, my older brother and Clifford Warden who were in grade seven, (or junior fourth class as they referred to it then,) were detailed to the blackboard on the wall next to where Billy and I sat to work out some mathematics. Each was given a brand new piece of chalk five inches long. They'd just begun their work on the blackboard when Billy dozed off again, snoring softly, his head on the desk and his mouth wide open.

That big slack, open mouth was too great a temptation for Clifford Warden, and after nudging my brother in the ribs to draw his attention and making sure teacher's back was turned, Cliff poked his long piece of chalk into Billy's mouth right to his palate. "Baauuugh"! Billy exploded and came awake gagging and spitting, and of course Cliff was doing mathematics furiously on the blackboard when the teacher's head snapped around at the racket. That steely glare was turned on Billy and

she demanded in her shrill voice, "What's wrong with you Billy, why are you ~ choking"? "Ah don' know teacher", Billy drawled. "Ah fell asleep ah guess an' somthin' went down ma' froat". "Well, if you're that sleepy, you'd better go home until this afternoon", was her curt answer, and Billy left, his cousin Vernon Mackenzie escorting him home.

We just nicely returned to our work and Jenny screamed, "Eddie, come up here" and some of us began to tremble as she reached into the top drawer of her desk. We all knew what was in there. Billy's older brother, Eddie, was the culprit and he sauntered up to the teacher's platform as though he didn't care. A sharp command, "Hold out both hands" and soon he was writhing in pain as the long leather strap from the top drawer came slashing down across his hands and arms. Eddie did a little dance that somehow made it more horrible to watch and the spectacle seemed to go on forever, but finally she let up and poor Eddie was sent blubbering into the boy's cloakroom. His misdemeanour? It was the second time that morning that the teacher caught him whispering to the boy at the next desk.

Though some may find it hard to believe, this is a true account of my first morning in school 71 years ago. The remainder of that day was not quite as exciting, but interesting nevertheless, and perhaps I'll tell it to you at a later date.

Times indeed have changed.

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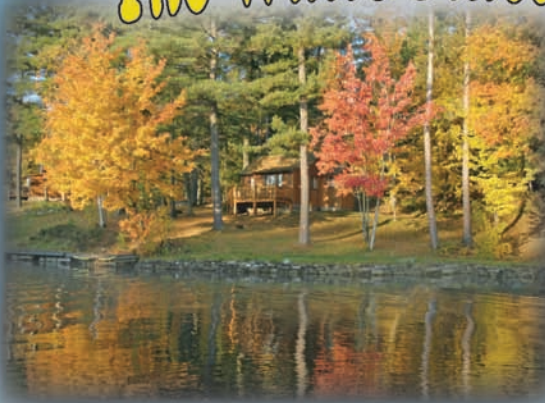
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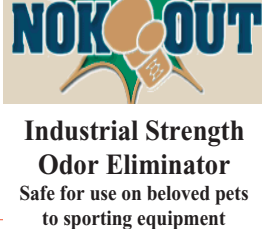
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