

# The Madawaska Highlander

Volume 7 Issue 1

Free

April 2010

## Dan's Mountain (Part 1)

By Lindsay MacPherson

**Editor's note:** *Dan's Mountain is a table top of about 200 acres in the immediate vicinity of the Village of Matawatchan. It is the highest elevation in the area and as such was once the site of a fire tower. Once MacPherson land, it once more returned to the MacPherson family when it was purchased by Paul MacPherson who lives in British Columbia. Paul's cousin Lindsay, who is now 94 years old, was born on Dan's Mountain and introduced Paul to the land in a very long letter that we will reproduce in the Highlander over a few issues.*

Hello Cousin Paul:

Well on May 18, 1915 I was born into this world with a healthy squawk so I have been told. Anyhow, I was born in a little log house on top of what is now known as Dan's Mountain up from Matawatchan, Ontario. Now this was rather an unusual log cabin or log house because it was one storey but also had a loft up in the top in which our bedrooms were and I well remember, well the first recollection that I have at all, was back when I was probably 2 1/2 years old when it seems like my father was dying at that time with that terrible flu that took so many lives throughout the world and they tell me later on that they use to ask me how old I was at that time and I would say "half paf po" which meant, in my way of putting it, that I was 2 1/2 years old.

Well it was quite awhile before I remember anything more but I know we had a very happy life in this log home where we lived with Grandma and Grandpa MacPherson and in his early days he was known as Black Dan. He was quite an unusual man. He was 6'3" tall and a very, very strong man. In fact he was the father of 11 children by his first wife and then he married Aunt Kate McNeeven and from that union was born 1 son and that was my dad, Colin John MacPherson. But anyhow we had a very happy life in this log home.

I know in the winter time it got rather cool in there because the fires were allowed to go out. We only had 1 stove in the whole place which was for cooking and heating and so on and many times in the early morning if someone had forgotten and

left the water in the wash basin it would be frozen solid but my dad would get up early, early in the mornings. Well we did sleep in throughout the winter time until about 5:00 a.m. but in the summertime we were always up at 4:00 a.m. and very, very early we were taught to work and it was just an ordinary thing for us to start milking cows, but we were very, very young and did other chores around the farm and I was really healthy and strong.

It seemed that I grew very fast because by the time that I was 16 I was 6' tall, although I only weighed 130 pounds at that time and then had a quick jump from there until 17 when I weighed 170 lbs. But I was fairly strong, as I started to say, because when I was 16 and only weighed 130 lbs. and was 6' tall I could press 190 lbs. overhead with one hand.

But anyway, I well remember that we had freedom to roam in the woods on our mountain up. Here and we certainly took advantage of that. I began trapping when I was very, very young, Probably 7 or 8 years of age and I use to catch muskrats and mink and weasels especially and made a little bit of money that way and then throughout the summertime I remember I loved to fish and I would go and catch huge quantities of fish. There was no limit to them at that day, no rules to go by, no laws I don't think at all. But anyway I would catch brook trout and sell them for 1 penny apiece if you could imagine that. But anyhow I had an older brother, Gordon, a year and a half older than I was and a younger brother Donald who was two and a half years younger than I was and of course we fought as brothers, as we were expected to do back in those times. We were sort of a fighting family because Black Dan was known for his powers as a boxer and wrestler and there wasn't many men that would dare stand up to him. And then of course Uncle Dan, his oldest son, he was quite a fighter too, he was 6'3" in height, and then there was Uncle Angus and Uncle Ronald and of course Uncle Ronald would be Paul's grandfather and all of these guys were tremendous fighters. They wouldn't take a bit of guff from anybody so I was raised to expect that's what we should do. But my father was different than all the others and of course he was their half brother but he was a man of peace and I never knew of him to get into a scrap in his lifetime. But I

*continued on page 3*



*Ken Birkett boiling the first sap of the 2010 season*

*Photo: Bill Graham*

## Dispatches from Afghanistan (2010-1)

By Major Ross Allan

**Editor's note:** *This is the first in a series of dispatches during the 2010 Highlander publishing year. It is also the beginning of the third year publishing these dispatches. All-in-all I was given 95 pages of Major Ross Allan's letters (in WORD format) from his wife. The events mentioned in these dispatches took place during 2008.*

Summer must be coming because, in one day, we had both dust haze and ground fog. At one point, it was actually raining within the dust cloud although the rain soon swept the dust out of the air. Although summer is coming, it is not here yet and there are occasional frosts. Canadians may be used to the cold but that does not mean we like it. As a result, we deployed with long underwear, fleece, and were issued tan gloves, tan tuque,

and a really spiffy tan Gore-Tex rain suit. Consequently, I have not heard many complaints about the KAF winter temperatures which are mild even by Vancouver standards. For instance, I have not seen snow let alone a hard frost and this week I wore shorts and T-shirt for my daily run. Surprisingly, the British soldiers seem least affected by the fall-like conditions and, while Canadians are firmly snuggled beneath layers of Gore-Tex, the Brits will be strolling about with their sleeves rolled up. I thought they must have some magic pill until I saw one Brit wearing a knee-length parka on a sunny day with temperatures above 10 C. He had just alighted from a plane so perhaps the Brits issue the pills after arrival.

This week included Valentine's Day. We have an acronym for everything and Valentine's Day is no exception. On the 14th, people were greeting one another with 'Happy VD'. Sometimes a little humour goes a long way to compensate for

*continued on page 2*

## Afghanistan (Cont)

the living conditions. My team and 60 or so others celebrated VD with a barbecue and our monthly ration of beer (no Guinness, no champagne). We had steak, chicken, sausage, pork steaks, lettuce salad, shrimp salad, pasta salad, baked potatoes, cheese & crackers, Tim Horton's doughnuts, chocolate cake, two kinds of pie, strawberries and chocolate sauce. It was almost like a Valentine's dinner at home...minus the spouses. One of my team members asked if we were allowed to fraternize on this one day. Fortunately, the unit padre came to the rescue by stating that, in the Roman Catholic calendar, today was not actually Valentine's Day and he then proceeded to name a pair of obscure saints who brought Christianity to what we today call the Baltic States. Before he could describe what

became of them (saints only have a 1 in 3 chance of dying comfortably of old age), the audience lost all interest in the original line of thought and we turned our attention to the strawberries and chocolate sauce.

Burger King is again out of Whopper patties, fries, and two of the four types of pop normally offered. There were problems with the deep fryer so production of the substitution items (chicken burgers, onion rings) was cut back. In a related move, the Pizza Hut no longer puts ground beef on its pizzas and instead offers sausage slices. Also during the week, our soldiers found a hydraulic press used to process narcotics. Allegedly, the press was destroyed in place but I find it unusual that, shortly after the press was found, that Pizza Hut ground beef disappeared and, the very next day, there were Whopper patties again. Cor-

porately, I believe that Pizza Hut and Burger King are linked and, within KAF, they are no more than 50 m apart; there is probably a conspiracy theory linking these facts. Fortunately, Tim's is doing a great business in coffee and doughnuts as their stocks are good. If you cannot give your loved one chocolate, nothing says 'I love myself' like a Tim's doughnut.

The Donkeys arrived at The Mews this week. They have been given names and we have a nominal roll so we can take attendance each day. The staff officers responsible for the donkey plan selected the names – the officers used their names, their nicknames, or names of some significance. For instance, one of the donkeys was named after the commander of the Canadian Task Force despite advice to the contrary. As per our stipulations, the herd is unisex and male. However, in the nearby hamlet there is a lone and appar-

ently lonely female donkey. One of our donkeys successfully circumvented the 'no fraternization' policy so there was no debate about which donkey got the name 'Lucky'. Another donkey is named Q. In French, the letter and the word for ass (touche, derriere, sit-upon...not the four-legged ass) are pronounced the same way and this donkey was so named because he is a pain in the proverbial touche, derriere, and sit-upon. We also have a politically-correct name for the unit, the Light Logistics Platoon, complete with a unit flag. I will have to content myself with knowing the contract documents refer to the All-terrain Support System and I have one of the limited edition ASS Master patches. Next, I have to see if I can get one of the exceedingly rare, military-issue, driver's license that have been annotated with the 'donkey' driving qualification.

End

## When planting fruit trees

By Kathryn Kasaboski

If you are someone with an interest in gardening, put Seedy Sunday (usually the first Sunday in March) on your calendar. The event has been held for the past two years at Fellowes High School in Pembroke, although Seedy Saturdays are held in many other cities including Ottawa. The event draws seed vendors, gardening gurus and gardening product distributors from all over the Valley. Admission is free and a 100 mile lunch is offered for a reasonable price

to 100 feet (15 to 30 meters) away from the tree.

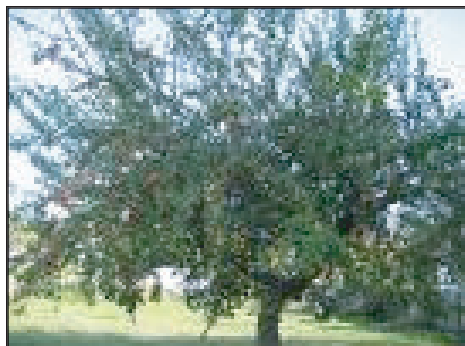
Trees are best planted while they are still dormant. Wrap the trunk with 1/4 inch (0.64cm) hardware cloth to protect the tree from animals. It doesn't hurt to bring the wrap quite a ways up the trunk as the accumulation of snow makes it possible for critters to munch higher than they normally would.

Apple trees have shallow root structures, about 6 inches (15 cm) under the soil. You need to encourage them to spread their roots. Robbie makes a circle about 5 feet (1.5 meters) around the base of the tree and puts compost covered with straw bales to entice the tree to do this. Never use fresh wood chips near the tree as it robs the soil of nitrogen and allows insects to infest the tree. It's also best to allow grass to grow right up to the trunk as beneficial insects can live there – and yes, there actually are more useful ones than just bees!

For long-term maintenance some people turn to spraying. If you decide you want to spray your tree to keep the insects from ruining the fruit, it's best done before the flowers open.

Now all we have to do is figure out the perfect place on the property to plant our apple tree- a spot where deer can't easily eat from the tree, but one that keeps the tree happy. I think that's going to be one of the hardest decisions in the whole process! We're novice gardeners, but having a few pointers on planting apple trees should give us a good start and mean delicious apples in our future.

End



I was interested in the free lectures given at the event. My husband and I are new landowners and are looking to grow some fruit trees on our property. Luckily, Robbie Anderman was giving a lecture on planting and maintaining fruit trees. Robbie lives just north of Killaloe and has 17 years of experience to draw on. He recommended when buying a tree to always make sure the variety of tree is suitable for your growing zone. This sounds like common sense, but looking over those seed catalogues and reading descriptions, you sometimes forget that crucial fact!

Once you've selected your tree (we're choosing either a Red Harelson apple or a Golden Russet apple) it's important to pick a location that allows the tree plenty of sun and wind. Robbie recommends keeping wind breaks at least 50

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# Mountain (Cont)



The fire tower on Dans Mountain looking west

Painting E. Jukes

followed the example of my uncles and thought that I should fight at every drop of the hat and I took advantage of that too.

But anyhow we had happy days in this log house up on the top of the mountain and in the history books was, I think I mentioned earlier, it is known as Dan's Mountain now and my cousin Paul has bought the whole place and he has got a lovely little cabin up there on the very peak of the mountain where you get a tremendous view of the entire country. But I remember some of the outstanding things that we did.

For instance my brother Gordon and myself use to pick on our little brother Donald, sad to say, and that little guy wasn't afraid of anything. It didn't matter what it was he wasn't afraid of anything and my dad had said a number of times, i don't think we will ever be able to raise that boy because he is going to kill himself long before he gets to any age at all. But that fearlessness that he had apparently it did him in good stand because he carted it right through life. When he was 18 years of age, and not his own fault at all, someone ran into him when he was going on his motorcycle and almost took his life at that time, threw him off his motorcycle and drove his foot through the side of the engine and he was rushed to Kingston Hospital, more dead than

alive, and almost bled to death. Back in those days, of course, there was no blood transfusions or anything such as that, but he did survive that and finally wore an artificial leg which the medical people said it would be impossible for him because he had to have his leg cut off up too close to his body because of gangrene, gas gangrene that had suddenly set in and I bet that was the only way they could save his life. But anyway he wore out a number of artificial legs in his lifetime, I never did hear him complain.

But anyway we had some bad examples, I would say, because of grandfather. He smoked but my father never did and of

course we had to check out these things and the 3 of us use to steal tobacco from Grandpa Dan and steal his pipes as well. They were awful strong with nicotine so many times we would take some of them and boil them to try and get the nicotine out of them. But anyway we survived, did a lot of fighting, scrapping and so on.

But I remember too, that was a highlight of my young life, when a young free Methodist preacher by the name of Clarence Chatson came from Denbigh and he had a marvelous conversion in Detroit, Michigan where he was working for the Ford Motor Company. He was living with his aunt and uncle that were over there, and they led him to the Lord. This young man came back home to Denbigh and

told his parents of what God had done for him and led them both to the Lord. I remember that summer we had no pastor and we usually had just student pastors in our Presbyterian Church because they could not afford much more and my grandfather was in with the building of that church years before and with a lot of the other settlers that lived around there in that part of the country too. But anyhow seeing that we had no pastor for that summer he went to the elders of the Church and asked permission to come in and preach and they gave him permission to come and preach. I remember that it was radical preaching and something that we had never heard before because he preached the very words of Jesus, you must be born again and accept that a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven. I remember I was very young at the time and occasionally I would go with my mother and dad to those evening services and there was longing in my heart, even as young as I was at that time, to give my heart and life to the Lord but no one ever suggested that I should do something like that. So the years went by and I will tell you about that a bit later on.

But anyhow, in between times, I trapped and I fished and I speared suckers and fought with my 2 brothers and fought with the neighbours and 'all of that' but lived a very happy life.

End

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# Out on the First Concession

WE MOVED TO THE FIRST CONCESSION (Part 1)

By Wes Bomhower

**To the Editor:** A younger gentleman, who obviously reads this column, asked me one day if the stories about my childhood on the farm were true; did these things really happen? My answer was affirmative. Though occasionally a name is changed to protect the innocent, basically the stories are true and because these things took place seventy or more years ago, they may seem strange in today's world, but life, especially out in the country, was totally different then and we survived. My sister, Wilma, jogs my memory about certain events of that era and the following story is pretty much the way she remembers it.

Dad and Mom were getting fed up with the rent being raised every six months for the farm we rented, so in 1938, after much scouting with real estate people, they purchased a farm about twenty five miles to the west.

They sold all the livestock except for some chickens and the team of horses to meet the initial down payment. Many of our neighbours began helping Dad move farm equipment and household goods shortly after the New Year by team and sleighs, and by February 28, 1938, we were ready for the big final move. Joy and Winnie were enrolled in High School and were boarding at Grandma's for the time being and Everett, almost 16 years old, was going to stay a few more days at the rented farm to clean up any stray items.

Dad and two neighbours set out early that morning with sleigh loads of the remaining household furnishings and Mom, Wilma, little Peachy and I and the collie dog were picked up by car just after lunch by our good neighbour, Mr. MacDougall.

Some of the roads were passable for cars, there was not a lot of snow that winter and Mr. MacDougall put chains on the rear wheels of his car. (That was long before chains were outlawed, of course, and before roads were snow-ploughed on a regular basis. Our dog had never ridden in a car before and he couldn't seem to sit still, continually panting and whining and in a terrible nervous state. It was a traumatic day for all of us and the dog's behaviour certainly didn't help matters. Mr. MacDougall drove us as far as road conditions would allow, which was Simon Amell's farm and a mile distant from our new home. Mrs. Amell welcomed us with open arms and a plate of cookies beside a roaring wood fire until Dad arrived with his sleigh load of household goods and we climbed aboard in anticipation of seeing our home-to-be while the dog trotted along beside, glad to be free of the automobile.

My first impression of our new abode was somewhat disappointing, a laneway almost a quarter mile long, a small, two story frame house which had never seen paint on the outside and a big wooden hand pump over a wooden well platform beside the back door. The out-buildings were a lot more interesting, a new and nicely painted garage with sliding doors, a neat looking barn with good concrete floors in the stables and there were some other small buildings for chickens plus a woodshed. Dad got a fire going in the wood stove in the main part of the house and I decided that I liked this place after all.

End

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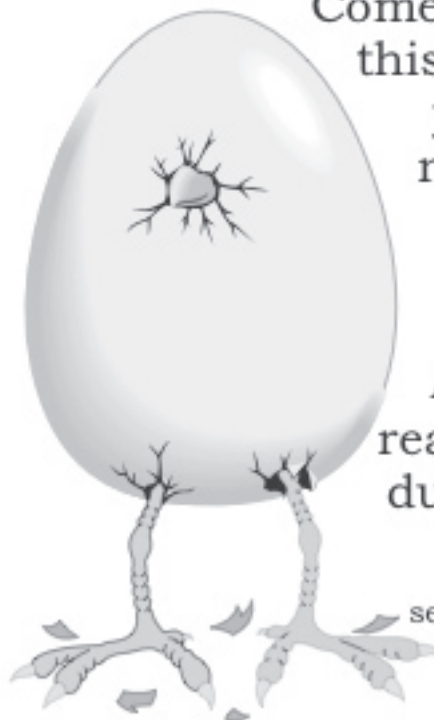
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# “Spring for Detox”



By Susan Veale

Throughout all ages and cultures, detoxification or cleansing of the body has long been a traditional ritual for health and well being. In ancient times, it was used as a way to reconnect with the divine and often carried out in the spring as a sign of revitalisation. Sadly, in today’s modern times, the necessity of detoxification the physical body is often ignored.

The body automatically cleans itself everyday through sweating, urinating, and bowel movements but our modern world has created an environment of pollutants that make it impossible for complete elimination of these residues. A recent US Environmental Protection Agency report confirmed by blood testing that the top two toxic substances measured in the body were mercury and plastic residues. These are just two of over 200 toxins that have been identified in the human bloodstream at a given time.

Environmental pollutants, drug residues and bodily wastes become trapped in the body. These substances are called “toxins” and they are stored in fatty deposits until they migrate into the bloodstream then into cell membranes of the body’s organs and glands. In many cases, people could be carrying up to ten or more pounds of unhealthy mucous-harboring waste and stored toxins in their cellular tissue.

Bowels, kidneys, skin and respiratory organs are responsible for elimination; however, they can become overwhelmed by congestion and as a result, are unable to expel the unwanted toxic waste. This congestion results in damage, eventually leading to such symptoms as allergies, digestive disorders, fatigue, headaches, joint pains, bad breath, insomnia, depression and excess weight.

The good news is that if we provide the body with a bit of help, it will expel toxins quite readily.

A gentle, easy, toxic elimination program can be done at home. The only tools needed are a juicer, blender, a skin brush, good breathing, daily exercise and plenty of water. Foods that help to detoxify are fruit and vegetable juices, raw foods, spouts, greens, whole fruits and vegetables, whole grains, legumes, seeds and water.

The most efficient way to allow the body to focus on detoxifying is to put less strain on the digestive system. To begin, start with a detox day; this is not a fasting day but rather a holiday for the body away from the harmful foods such

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as coffee, black tea, sugar, milk, seafood, carbonated drinks, cheese, fried foods, red meat, cooking oil, cigarettes, alcohol, bread, salt and pepper, pork and any medications that are not absolutely necessary.

Start your detox day with 1 oz. of a freshly squeezed lemon in an 8 oz cup of warm water.

For breakfast, choose room temperature fruits of apples, pears, papayas, berries, pineapples, peaches and plums. Avoid oranges and orange juice. Mid morning make a smoothie from 1/2 pint of mixed berries, 1 banana, 1 apple and 6 oz of pineapple juice. Lunch will satisfy the palate with raw salad of mixed veggies and greens including alfalfa sprouts and sunflower seeds and a bowl of carrot ginger soup.

Mid afternoon give yourself an energy boost with a glass of juice from 1 celery stalk, 1 garlic clove, 3 carrots, 2 oz of alfalfa sprouts and a small handful of parsley.

Dinner offers include 1 cup of minestrone or lentil soup with a 1/2 cup of steamed, cooled quinoa, millet or brown rice with 1 cup of mixed raw veggies, 4 oz of tofu and favourite herbs and spices drizzled with 2 tsp of organic sesame oil and a splash of wheat-free tamari.

Evening munchies can be satisfied with celery stalks and raw almonds. Finish the day with another cup of warm lemon water before bed.

**Quick Carrot ginger soup**  
 4 cups of organic vegetable broth  
 3 carrots peeled and chopped  
 1 leek chopped  
 1 small chilli pepper chopped  
 1 tsp fresh grated ginger  
 1 bay leaf

Add carrots, leek and chilli pepper to broth. Bring to a boil, then simmer on low for 45 minutes. Cool for 15 minutes, remove bay leaf. Blend until smooth. Return to pot and add ginger, stir and heat to serve. Enjoy!

Detoxifying with foods can be very satisfying for the body.

Herbal or homeopathic detox kits are also good for the body but they need to be used under the care of a health practitioner.

For more information on detoxifying or health related concerns, call Wellness Natural Health Centre.  
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# The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

*“Read cover to cover”*

## Revisiting the Matawatchan Road

By Bill Graham

The Highlander has visited the issue of the Matawatchan Road a number of times. It is a perennial issue; much like that of hydro outages, because they are issues that remain unresolved. Every spring as the frost leaves the ground the Matawatchan Road residents are reminded of just how deficient the road is and wonder if reconstruction of road will ever be completed.

In the June 2006 issue of the Highlander we announced a three-year program promised by the County to rebuild the Matawatchan Road (County Road 71). This was work that was decades overdue. In 2006 the planned section from the Griffith / Matawatchan geographic township line to the Wilderness Pines campsite was completed. In 2007 a short portion of the promised construction for that year was completed. It was good work and a much improved roadway, but since then, nothing!

Just after we published our last issue of the 2009 publishing year there was a public Open House in Griffith sponsored by

the County concerning the Matawatchan Road. The December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting’s stated objective was to present a study that documented existing conditions of the roadway, to propose improvement options and to gather opinions of local residents and users of the Matawatchan Road.

The display of maps, charts, photos and text was impressive and informative. While it was an information gathering and information giving session, essentially it was a whole new proposal for the Matawatchan Road. This proposal if fully implemented will run from 2010 to 2014 and will cost \$2,750,000.

The long and short of it is: if the work is not fully done during this period and residents insist on cosmetic improvement or just minor structural upgrading, then the Matawatchan Road issue will not be revisited by County for another twenty or thirty years.

However, as Matawatchan resident Gordie Kaufeldt opined: “If the work had been completed in 2008 as promised, it would have cost a hell of a lot less.”

*End*

## CABA AWARDS



Front (L to R): Jane Blinn, Calabogie Motorsport; Kim McKinty, Neat Coffee Shop; Valerie Popkie, The White Pines; Catherine Reynolds, The Fans of Calabogie  
Back (L to R): Peter Emon, Reeve, Shawn Popkie and daughter Madison

Calabogie Motorsports Park (CMP) received an award for Excellence in Customer Service.

The Fans of Calabogie, Bed & Breakfast will receive an award for Excellence in Ambiance – Home-based Business. Owner Catherine Reynolds accepted the award.

## Looking back...



*Orval Strong and his sister Linda boiling sap in 1952*

## SENIORS’ HOUSING IN THE TOWNSHIP OF GREATER MADAWASKA

### An Update

By Bill Beacham, Chair

The Seniors’ Housing Committee is still very much alive and active! In fact, the public consultations held in September and the questionnaire that many residents filled out confirmed the need for seniors’ housing in our township and provided the committee a list of other seniors’ needs.

A few important decisions have been made by the committee. A thorough discussion about the role of this committee determined that the committee’s main role is to build and maintain housing for seniors. Other needs for seniors are already addressed by other organizations in the Township or the County. The committee would also be a strong advocate for all senior’s needs in the Township and work in collaboration with other seniors organizations.

A second decision relates to suitable locations for seniors’ housing. Your input clearly demonstrated that there is enough interest in both Griffith/Matawatchan and Calabogie/Dacre for seniors’ housing. Consequently instead of planning a larger

facility in one community, the committee is looking at building two smaller facilities; one for each area. There is a property confirmed for the Calabogie area and a few potential locations are being considered in the Griffith/Matawatchan area.

The question remains who would manage the construction and maintenance of the seniors’ housing. The committee is in the process of creating a not for profit corporation for this purpose. It is hoped that this corporation will be up and running by April, 2010. In the next update we hope to have all the information needed to form a sound membership base for the corporation.

The committee was looking for seed funding for this project but was unfortunately unsuccessful because no funds were available for this fiscal year. It is hoped that funding will be available in the coming year.

The next steps for the committee are: complete the incorporation, obtain seed funding; confirm a property for Griffith/Matawatchan and start drafting plans. If you would like more information on the progress of the committee please call Angela Yolkowskie at the Township office.

*End*

Neat Coffee Shop received an award for Excellence in Ambiance – Commercial Property.

The White Pines Inc. received an award for Excellence in Store Front Presentation.

Peter Emon, who proudly promotes Greater Madawaska and works tirelessly to make the township a better place, will receive the CABA award for Excellence in Community Service.



# Pickerel

By Floris Wood

The Pike family of fish include the Grass Pickerel, Redfin Pickerel and Chain Pickerel. But the fish we call a "Pickerel" around the Madawaska Valley is in the Perch family. Our "Pickerel" has some notable Pike characteristics such as the slightly elongated body, and longer snout, full of some sharp canine teeth. But, DNA-wise our Pickerel has descended from the same genetic sources as the Perches, Saugers and Darters, which are in the Perch family.

In some parts of Canada and the U. S., they call our Pickerels "Walleyes". All fish that I know of have eyes on the side of their heads, making them walleyed, I suppose. It seems a bit unfair to point out by name that a fish has Marty Feldman eyes, when every other fish has the same. There is something different about the Pickerels' eyes. They appear milky or marbled. I'll explain why later but that appearance accounts for another name given to these fish, the Marble-eye. Other people know the Pickerel as the Pike Perch. French speakers refer to the Pickerel's golden markings when they call it the Doré. Scientifically it is the *Sander vitreum*, (formerly *Stizostedion vitreum*).

The Pickerel has a near twin in the Sauger. Pickerels can get much larger than Saugers, although they seldom do in well fished waters. Fish grow as long as they live so there is a direct correlation between their size and their age. In well fished waters Pickerels seldom survive past four of five years. Isolated from anglers Pickerels can live to be 25 years old and weigh 20 pounds. The oldest Pickerel known was 29 years old and the heaviest weighed 25 pounds. Saugers seldom exceed 5 pounds. Both the Sauger and the Pickerel have the two dorsal (back) fins, with the front dorsal fin having boney spines and the rear dorsal fin being soft. However the Sauger's front Dorsal fin has dusky black spots between the spines. The Sauger's anal fin will be totally white, while the Pickerel's has colour except for a white lower tip. The Pickerel's tail (caudal) fin also has this white tip on the lower part.

The colouration of the Pickerel varies according to the properties of the water in which they live. They may vary from an olive green and yellow mottling on a white background to a bluish gray mottling on white. The greener variety Pickerel will reside in clearer waters such as those in most parts of Canada, while the greyer varieties will more likely populate more turbid water such as parts of Lake Erie and the Mississippi River. Pickerels living in clear waters tend to feed at dawn and dusk the lower sun conditions make for low light density. They do feed at night if there is prey active. They will feed at all levels of the body of water but their preference for cooler temperatures

and low light conditions keeps them mostly in deeper water. They live mostly in larger (greater than 50 acres), deeper lakes and larger rivers. Their original range is thought to be all of Canada and most northern states in the U. S. In the Mississippi watershed they could be found naturally as far south as Arkansas. Today, due to natural expansion of their range and to intensive management they can be found in all U. S. States.

So what is with this peculiar eye of the Pickerel (and Sauger) that makes an angler think he caught a blind fish? The special adaptation of the eye is a membrane called a *tapetum lucidum*. It is the underwater version of the nocturnal land animals' eye. This membrane collects and reflects light and enables the Pickerel to see well in low light conditions such as at night and in turbid, rough or deep water. This ability affords the Pickerel a tremendous advantage, since its intended dinner cannot see the diner as well as the diner can see the dinner. The many Darters that are part of the Perch family serve as a favourite food source for Pickerels as well as almost any minnow sized fish, leeches, frogs and insects. He is not a picky eater. The ability to see where other fish cannot allows him to hunt in areas that competing predators deem too dark. The Pickerel's favourite feeding time is at dusk and dawn when the sun is low. He avoids the upper layer of water when the sun is high.

This one adaptation makes the Pickerel a real survivor. Their reputation as a sport fish has increased over the years as fish habitats have declined due to pollution. Populations of fish that crave clear water and low acidity are having

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more difficulty finding suitable habitats. the spring they collect at the mouths of rivers waiting for the temperature to reach 42 to 52 F (5.5 to 11.1 C). At this temperature Pickerel are decidedly more difficult to find during the summer when they are scattered throughout their range, but in

*continued on page 11*

# STAY CLEAR STAY SAFE

## Recreational activities near hydro stations and dams are dangerous

For your own safety obey all warnings at hydroelectric stations, dams and their surrounding shorelines and waterways. These facilities operate year-round, affecting water flows. Water that looks safe can become treacherous in minutes and ice forming near, or even several kilometres away, can become dangerous. Signs, fences, buoys and safety booms are there to warn you, but if you see water levels changing, move a safe distance away immediately.

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# Greater Madawaska Fire Department News

By Betsy Sayers, Fire Chief

Welcome to spring! The winter went by quickly, and with little snow and moisture in the ground it looks like spring run-off will be low this year. This combined with a long range forecast for a hot and dry summer means we need to be more careful about our fires than we have needed to be for the last few years – be careful please!

Thinking of spring instantly brings to mind thoughts of the Griffith Fire Department ATV rally. Yes we are doing it again this year - **mark your calendars now for Saturday May 8.** The entry fee is still a fabulous bargain at \$20. Last year we had over 200 ATVs and despite pouring rain, everyone had a wonderful day. This year we have already placed an order for much better weather. For more information, check out the posters we've plastered everywhere - See you there!

### *We need your help!*

Have you ever thought of joining the Greater Madawaska Fire Department (GMFD), but can't because the time commitment is too great; or perhaps you are a seasonal resident and thought you couldn't join because you don't live here fulltime; or you thought everyone had to fight fires and that thought is just not appealing to you?

There is no minimum time commitment required. Perhaps you'd like to help with updating signage, or story gathering for our Commemorative Book. Maybe doing fire prevention and public awareness activities is what you like to do - or how about helping us keep those darn 'fire risk signs' up-to-date? We can always use help with our public events like Canada Day and the ATV rally or maybe even administrative work using MS Office or doing internet research for us.

Whether you are a full-time or seasonal resident – no matter how much or how little time you have, we need your help and invite you to become part of this worthwhile team. Please give us the opportunity to match your available time and skills to our needs – our job jar is overflowing!

As part of this program, we are also launching the GMFD 'Junior Fire Fighters.' Do you have a son or daughter aged 16-18? If they are interested in joining the GMFD Junior Fire Fighters (there are no active fire duties involved) they can have fun, learn fire prevention life skills, help the Fire Department AND complete their 40 hour volunteer requirement for high school.


If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please give us a call at 613-333-9933 to find out more *End*

### *We have the answer – the newly created GMFD Auxiliary!*

We want very badly to do more than fight fires, and to provide better service while partnering more closely with our community, but without your help, we simply can't do it in addition to all the training and work our core fire service team already does. Please note that members of the GMFD Auxiliary do not perform any active fire fighting duties.

Our vision is of a dynamic team of men and women from all ages and walks of life that are rich in the talent and skills we need. Please give us the opportunity to match your available time and skills to the vast array of interesting opportunities available.

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# Community Calendar

## CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

### GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

**St. Andrew's United Church**  
Sunrise Easter Service 7 am followed by breakfast .  
Regular church service 9am  
Feb. to August Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.

**Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church**  
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**  
WMI meet first Monday of the month  
Sunday School 10am  
Sunday Worship 11am  
Weekly Bible study Tuesdays 7pm  
at Fellowship Hall and in Plevna  
Pioneer Club Thursdays 6pm at  
Clar-Mill Hall, Plevna

**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**

Annual hymn sing -Sunday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.  
Good Friday - Friday April 2nd at 10:30 AM  
Easter - Sunday April 4th at 10:30 AM

### CALABOGIE

**The Calabogie Bible Fellowship Congregational Church**  
The Mill Street Chapel at 538 Mill St.,  
Regular service – Sundays 10:30 a.m.  
Good Friday Service - April 2 – 10 a.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)  
Christmas Eve service 7 p.m.  
Church Services Sunday Mornings at  
8:45 a.m. Communion  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Calabogie

**Turkey & Ham Dinner & Silent Auction,**  
Sat. April 17- 4 to 7 pm ,  
St. Andrew's United Church,  
Madawaska St., Calabogie

**Seminar:** Day of Teaching with Amy Dempsey, Calabogie Bible Fellowship Congregational Church, May 29, 9 am to 3 pm; call 613-752-2201 for details

**Renfrew County Seniors' Games** in Petawawa, June 9-10;for information call Ronnie Brown at 613-753- 0247 or Greater Madawaska Township Office at 613- 752-2222; as long as you are 55 + a Renfrew County resident, you may participate

**Pre-school Program,** Tuesdays, 2-3 pm, year round, ages 0-5 at township library

**Calabogie Seniors' Dinner & Meeting,** last Thursday of each month, 5 pm at Community Hall.  
All seniors 55+ welcome. 752-2853

**Calabogie Women's Institute** meets usually second Thursday monthly, 7:30 pm. at Calabogie Home Support Office next to Pinky's Bar & Grill at 5056 Calabogie Rd.; April meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 6:30 pm including pizza dinner.  
New members welcome. 613-752-2598

**Calabogie Arts and Crafts Assoc.** Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday (if holiday, then 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday),  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm, Community Hall, prospective members most welcome (\$15 per year), 752-1324

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

#### The Calabogie and Area Ministerial Food Bank

538 Mill Street,  
2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month  
9:00 am to 11:00 a.m.  
For emergency situations, please call 752-2201

### Griffith & Matawatchan

**Pancake Brunch**  
April 11: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Matawatchan Hall (See ad pg. 16)

**Ham Supper in support of Millennium Garden**  
Saturday April 24: 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.  
St. Andrews United Church (Matawatchan)

**Afternoon Tea**  
(In honour of ladies / mothers of the Community – Past & Present)  
Tuesday May 4 2010 @ 2:30 p.m.  
St. Andrew's Church Matawatchan  
Everyone Welcome

#### Lion's Club Bingo April

3<sup>rd</sup> Children's Easter Party  
Free: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
13<sup>th</sup> Bingo 7.30 pm  
21<sup>st</sup> Fellowship Luncheon 11.30 pm  
27<sup>th</sup> Bingo

#### May

11<sup>th</sup> Bingo  
19th Fellowship Luncheon

#### Sylvia's Foot Care

Every six weeks  
St. Andrews Church (Matawatchan)  
Call Annabell Marshall 333-1752

#### "Northern Lights" Seniors

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

### Denbigh

**Pancake Breakfast & Easter Party**  
Saturday April 3: 10 a.m. till noon  
\$5 with children under 5 Free  
**Easter Party for children**  
Noon until 2:00 p.m. - FREE

#### Denbigh Playgroup for preschoolers

First Monday of every Month  
Denbigh Public Library  
From 10 am till 12 pm

#### Diners Club

Dinners are held the first Monday of the month at the Denbigh Community Hall at 12 noon. Full Course Meal \$6.00.  
Contact Faye Mieske at 333-2784 or Irene at 333-2202 for information.

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

#### HEALTH CARE FOOTCARE CLINICS

Sylvia's Foot Care  
Every 6 weeks in Denbigh and Matawatchan  
Next clinics are August 11 & 12, 2009  
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OR --Annabelle Marshall 613-333-1752  
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# Cottage Corner

## Tips and tricks to cottage ownership (Part 1)

By John Roxon

April is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cottage ownership for us. In those 10 years we have been at the cottage during every season, in every type of weather condition and temperatures ranging from minus 38 to plus 38 Celsius. And in those ten years we've probably made about every mistake possible to make when owning a cottage. We've had burst pipes (of course) and we've been overrun with mice. We've had a one foot hole in the roof and we've had frozen food that should have been thawed and thawed food that should have been frozen.

The good thing is after you make the same mistake three times, you eventually learn from it. It's from this 10 year masters program in cottage ownership that I bring you the following tips and tricks so you don't make the same mistakes that I did. By no means exhaustive, it's a good start nonetheless. I'm sure that another list will beckon with the mistakes that will no doubt be made over the next 10 years.

These tips aren't in any particular order and what may be relevant for one person may not be an issue for another.

The first tip deals with water, the cottager's best friend and, at times, worst enemy. Since we go up in the winter when we have to hike a good kilometre, we leave ample bottled water at the cottage so we don't have to carry it in. Even on the coldest winter day, we have water that isn't frozen. This is done by buying a good cooler or two – those Coleman Extreme work well – and packing it with water. Pack the water in standing up and squeeze as many bottles as you can in the cooler. Sure, a few near the top may be partially frozen, but you'll have a good 20 or so bottles that aren't.

### Now here are a few more tips;

Solar panels are good if you spend a third of a year or less up there. A fairly inexpensive system costing a few thousand will provide more than enough power for a few lights, a radio and a small TV. Amortize this cost over 15 years or so and the annual cost is much less than what hydro would charge.

If there is a spring anywhere near your property, try to harness it. From this you could easily set up a gravity-feed system that will provide a dependable water source.

Have lots of flashlights. Put a flashlight in every room.

Buy batteries at Costco and leave them at the cottage. All sizes. Batteries store well over the winter.

In the fall, leave 5+ cases of water in the cottage – follow cooler trick outlined above to ensure that at least some are thawed. Rotate as you consume.

Pay a few bucks for an extra propane tank. This way you can stock up in the fall and still be cooking in February. It's miserable to look forward to a good steak only to find that your propane tank is empty and it's a one kilometre walk through two feet of snow just to get to the car.

If building your own cottage, always opt for the steel roof, twenty years later you'll still appreciate it.

If you go up three or more times in the winter (Nov-April) leave mouse traps set. You'll clear the mice quickly and the cold will retard the rot. Once you get rid of the mice that have settled in for the winter, no more will set up house until spring. Not recommended for warmer months.

On the subject of mice, a good trap line is the only effective method for keeping them under control. And I don't mean one or two traps. Set 12 or more while you're at the cottage and you'll soon find that you're clearing mice faster than they can settle.

Don't forget that many foods can be left over the winter – take advantage of that to make your visit easier.

Hard liquor doesn't freeze. Keep a bottle or two handy for winter visits.

Mouthwash, vinegar and olive oil are just three things that can be successfully left over the winter. Spices, bbq sauce, dry goods like Kraft Dinner hold up well. Other things like sauerkraut and pickles hold up if protected. You could pack some of these goods in another cooler surrounded by water bottles as insulation.

For any small engines left behind – drain oil and fuel if possible. After draining as much fuel as you can, run until dry and add generous amounts of gas stabilizer – at least 2-3x what is called for. Add fresh oil and gas in the spring and you won't have a problem with those engines for years.

End

## Children's Easter Party

*Denbigh Griffith Lion's  
Club*

*Griffith Lion's Hall*

*April 6, 2010*

*2pm - 4pm*

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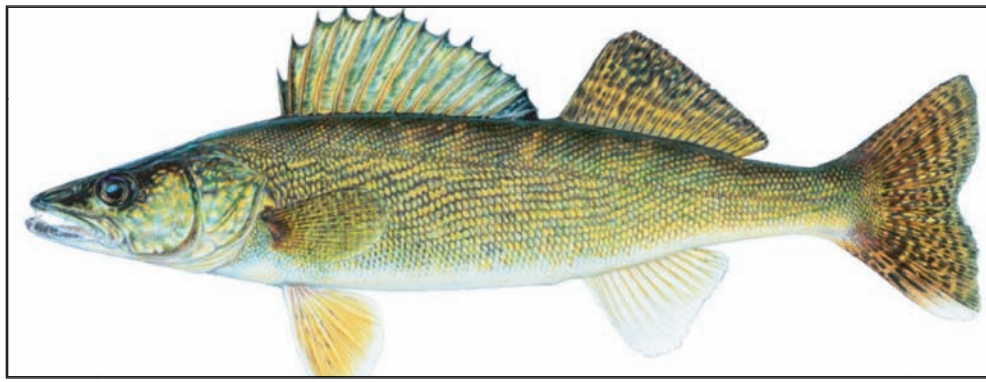
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## Pickerel (Cont)

perature the Pickerel start up the river en mass. Waiting for them at wide, shallow parts of the river is an army of human legs clad in waders. Those that survive the gauntlet of anglers reach their spawning grounds to lay eggs and begin a new generation of Pickerel. In northern climates Pickerel tend to form genetic groups that interbreed for lengthy periods of time. Hence, we find pockets of Pickerel in certain rivers or lakes that resemble each other more than they resemble another pocket of Pickerel in a body of water not far away. While within each pocket the fish may look very much alike and share behaviours, the group in the next body of water may look and behave quite differently. So within the whole worldwide population of Pickerel there is a lot of variation in appearances and behaviour. Among the characters that are genetically linked, thus variable, are spawning habits. Some populations prefer rocky or sandy



bottom locations and some will use vegetation. The males are the first to arrive on spawning scene. Pickerel males are not territorial and the mating ritual may take place between a pair up to a group two females and several males. A little ways off shore on the night of spawning there is a great deal of energetic preparatory activity in the form of nudging, circling, erect fin displaying, chasing and what may appear to be general horseplay among the participants. At some point there will be a rush toward shore into shallow water

where the females will roll over onto their sides and release their eggs. The number of eggs released usually depends upon the size of the female with young, small females laying as few as 15,000 eggs and a very large, older female laying as many as 450,000 eggs. At the same time the males will release milt into the water. The heavy fertilized eggs sink and, thanks to an adhesive goo on the eggs, stick to whatever object, vegetable or mineral, they run into first. Their survivability depends upon the luck of the fall. Well

hidden eggs will survive long enough to provide time, about 12 to 18 days (sometimes longer if water does not warm up), for the embryo to form and hatch. For around 10 to 15 days after hatching, the hatchlings live off the remaining yolk until it is gone. Their diet then switches to fly larvae and zooplankton for 40 to 60 days, after which the tiny fish becomes piscivorous (fish eating) and live on minnows, darters, crayfish, leeches and earthworms. Females tend to grow faster than males and Pickerel in southern latitudes grow faster and larger than in the north.

As a kid growing up in central Michigan I had not heard of Walleyes, but I had heard of Pickerels. I am not sure if the Michigan Pickerels were the same Pickerels as here in the Madawaska Valley or if we were referring to some kind of Pike. We were not close to any large lakes or rivers so I doubt there were Pickerel close by. It was not until I moved to To-

*continued on page 21*

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# Solar Power in Matawatchan (Part 1)

By Bill Graham, Editor

**Editor's note:** *This is the first of a few articles on opportunities that are especially available to rural property owners to produce and sell electricity to Hydro One Networks. The new MicroFit program introduced by the Government of Ontario is an ethical investment opportunity. Your editor and three of my neighbours have invested in the program. This article will first describe the program and in subsequent articles will convey our personal experience with our project.*

Solar power is coming to Matawatchan as it has never been before. For some years a few households have been off-grid and powering their homes with wind, solar panels or both. Among these homes is that of Highlander co-publisher Richard Copeland. A number of seasonal dwellings (cottages) too far from Hydro One power lines have also used mainly solar panels, to provide enough electricity for lights or entertainment. Among these cottagers is John Roxon, your Cottage Corner columnist. But a new breed of 'green power' producer is now on the scene.

By mid-April huge pods, which hold twelve solar panels, will be in evidence as you drive through Matawatchan. They will be close to the road where the Hydro One power lines run because they will be feeding those lines with electricity and by doing so owners will be paid handsomely by Hydro One.

Rather than being off-grid and using the electricity produced, these new installations will be grid-tied and will be electricity producers. All of this is because Ontario government policies that encourage the generation of green energy (Not coal / Not nuclear) have evolved to the point where individual citizens can now participate profitably. It is no longer big business entirely—the little guy can also play and profit.

### A little background

This government wants to create a green economy and green energy will be a major component. By encouraging the creation of energy from solar, wind and biomass sources, the government hopes to also encourage the development of Ontario-based manufacturers of the hardware used in green energy production and to create subsequent green jobs.

To do this the government must prime the pump if the change is to take place

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<http://www.power1solar.com>

any time soon. In this case the prime is money in the form of incentives. Incentive formulas began in 2006 with the Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program (RESOP), which was the initial payment strategy created for renewable energy suppliers, and all renewable energy projects approved before October 1, 2009. The price schedule stipulated the "standard offer" rate at 42 cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity generation. This program did create green energy but did not create the momentum that the government had hoped for.

The province has since replaced RESOP with the Feed-In Tariff (FIT) and Micro Feed-In Tariff (microFIT) programs, which pay varying amounts to suppliers depending on the source of the renewable energy as well as the size of the project. Under the Green Energy Act, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) agrees to pay a heavily subsidized price to the renewable energy developer (or provider, in the case of a small-scale homeowner operation) for its electricity generation.

As an example, the smaller, normally individual-owned solar projects that generate a total of 10 kilowatts or less, will receive the best tariffs: 80.2 cents per kilowatt-hour. 'Mid-size' rooftop projects - designed for schools, big-box stores, and commercial offices - would earn between 71.3 and 53.9 cents, depending on size.

These high prices and a long-term contract backed by the Ontario Government

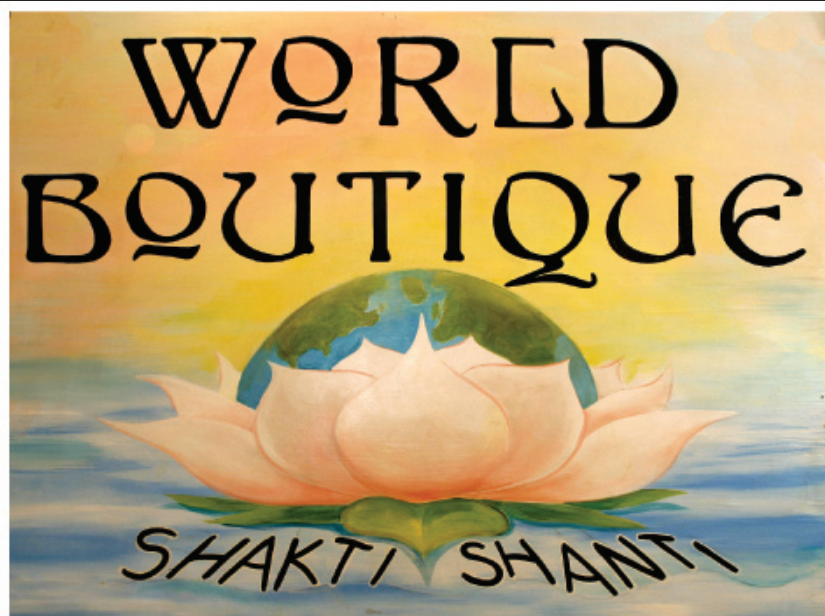
seem to have kick-started new businesses providing consultation, solar panel purchasing and installation. They have also encouraged many new small electricity producers, like the four households in Matawatchan, to make the substantial investment to become an electricity producer.

### MicroFit Solar

MicroFit describes renewable energy systems that are less than 10 kilowatts in capacity. Renewable energy can include: landfill gas; biogas; waterpower, biomass, wind power and solar PV. Of these solar photovoltaic (PV) is the best paying at 80.2 cents per kilowatt hour. That is the path most residential power producers likely will take. To take advantage of the program you need to be a Hydro One customer, so that you can feed into the grid. For the first two years of the program, which began in November 2009, at least 40% of the domestic content (equipment and labour) must be manufactured or produced in Ontario. After December 2011 the Ontario content will rise to 60%.

It will cost you for the hardware and labour for installation. For a 10 kilowatt system this could be anywhere between \$70,000 and \$100,000. The cost will be dependent on whether you want sun tracking hardware; whether you can organize a group price; whether you hire a consultant or do your own research; the cost of your panels and inverters, etc. If

*continued next page*



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you install a roof-mounted system instead of a ground-mount you will need a building permit and maybe an engineer's report. Then there is the cost of insurance. I will have answers on that one in the next instalment of this article.

On the plus side, the solar panel system will raise the value of your property but it will not raise your MPAC assessment. You will earn 80.2 cents a kilowatt hour guaranteed for twenty years. Eastern Ontario is a sunny spot with an average of up to 1400 hours of sunlight hours a year. This is considerably more than most of the province. With a ten kilowatt system one could be expected to generate 14,000 kilowatt hours in a year and be paid just over \$11,000 per year. It all depends on the amount of sunlight. That is the only variable component. Depending on the cost of what you purchase, you can pay off your investment within six to eight years. The remaining fourteen to twelve years would be pure profit. When the system is paid for, it belongs to you. After December 2011 the offer from the province will be reviewed and the terms will likely change.

Right now, it is a sweet deal!

**The Matawatchan Experience**

The Matawatchan experience started on December 3, 2009 in Renfrew at a one-day workshop called 'Renewable Energy Opportunities in Renfrew County' that was co-sponsored by The County of Renfrew and The Ottawa River Institute (ORI). At this point the MicroFit program was only a month old. Several Matawatchan residents attended and brought their enthusiasm back to the village. After a period of musing and research a meeting of interested individuals was convened where information was exchanged. From this point the number of interested parties distilled down from around eight or nine to five. What followed was a period of meetings with businesses selling system packages. Already the Matawatchan group had decided to work together to get a system that they all liked and that was the lowest price possible for a group purchase.

By mid-February the number of serious participants was down to four. All four had registered with the Ontario Power Authority, all were talking to their financial institutions for the best rates for lines of credit and all had pretty much decided on the type of system that was wanted and the dealer and installer that was most favoured. By late February negotiations had begun.

By March 10 the four investors were committed and met with our provider. Before contracts were signed and money handed over, contract clauses were amended and assurances were cemented. Personally I passed over \$23,000 plus in the form of a bank draft for my 5.25 kilowatt system, while my neighbours who were installing 10 kilowatt systems, passed over considerable more. This represented 60% of the cost of system up front. Since then we

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have had the installer's electrician visit, have been in communication with Hydro One Networks and have just learned that the installer will be bringing the galvanized Ground Mount System hardware to Matawatchan by March 26 looking for instalment starting at the first site by April 5.

In the next issue of the Highlander in May our personal decisions and experiences will be related. The process for dealing with the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), Hydro One Networks and system providers will be detailed. Also, the installation of our systems and the output we are producing will be highlighted. Stay tuned!

End

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- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- 2 cups maple syrup
- Sufficient fresh or canned pears

### Method

With an electric mixer beat the egg and flour til smooth and light  
Add the cream and maple syrup

You may dry the pears on paper towel to absorb excess liquid  
Slice the pears and arrange evenly on the pie crust

Pears can be dried on paper towel to absorb excess liquid  
Slice and arrange the pears evenly on the pie crust  
Pour the maple syrup and cream mixture on top  
Bake at 375 degrees F. for 30 minutes or until a knife comes out clean when inserted.

Joanne Murray

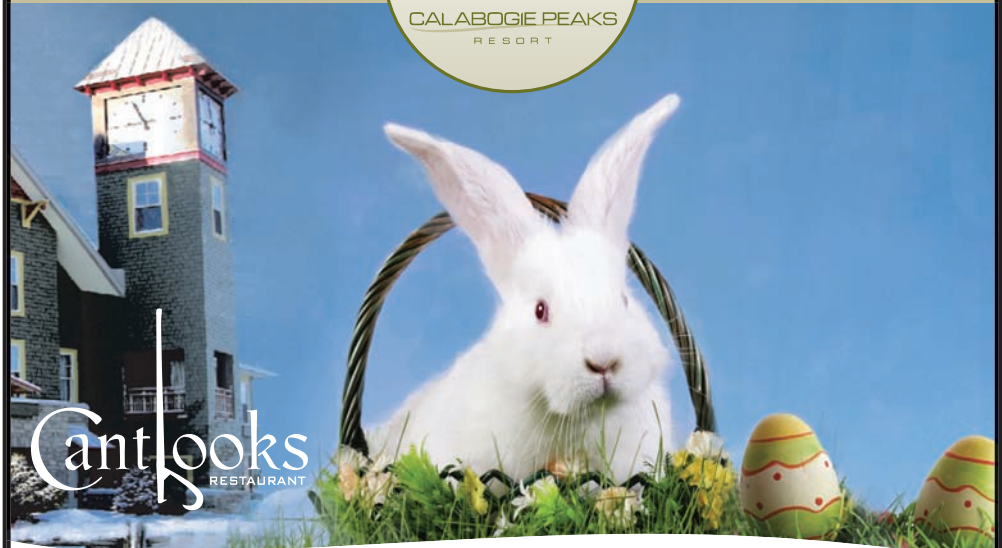
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# Denbigh News

By Christi Schroeder-Laundrie

So much has happened in 2010 already, and the year is still young. Spring has arrived early and we sure hope it plans on staying. I do love winter, and enjoy playing in the snow, but this past one we had blessed little of the white stuff, and when we did get it, it came all at once. There was far too much freezing rain, and the constant freezing and thawing made walking, or even driving anywhere, icy and treacherous.

We would like to extend a formal welcome Bev Leblanc and Dave Davidson to our little town. Bev and Dave, as most of you already know, have taken over the management of 41 Stop on, you guessed it, highway 41. Barry and Suzanne passed the reigns over on the end of February, and from what I can see, the new owners are just as friendly as the former ones. We will certainly miss Barry and Suzanne. Welcome to Denbigh, Bev and Dave. We hope you will enjoy our area as much as we do.

And there's another new face in town, folks. Sheri Warlich and Joey Thibodeau wish to announce the arrival of baby Abbie Lynn to their family. Abbie was born on February 24, 2010, and I hear her big sister, 6 yr old Sasha is just tickled pink, and can't wait to be a help to mommy. Welcome to Denbigh, Abbie Lynn!!

We've had our share of power failures over the winter, which left many of us frustrated—aiming that anger at hydro workers is unfair. We talked to several workers the week long hydro failure during Christmas holidays, and let me assure you, they were tired, hungry, fed up, and frustrated. One looked so bedraggled, I asked him if he had slept in his truck and he nodded a tired yes. Sure, they get extra when they work overtime, but no amount of money is worth being away from family at Christmas trekking through the bush hunting for downed lines. Don't forget, when your hydro is out, their houses don't have power either. Next time you see a hydro worker, give him a smile. He is doing the best he can.

I would also like to offer a thank you and some well deserved kudos to the crews that maintain our highway and roads. No matter what the weather, they have come out, plough snow, spread sand so we were able to travel in relative safety. And they have to get up a lot earlier and work a lot longer than the rest of us. I feel none of us say thank you often enough to those men and women who work to provide us with the amenities we have become so accustomed to.

Angela Bright is helping University of Ottawa geographer Robert McLeman search for information kept by residents of Denbigh and area about environmental events and changes that have happened in our region over the years. The types of

information she is interested in includes such things as accounts of past storms, fires, droughts, floods and so forth. She's also interested in home-kept records of such things as records of when lakes freeze and thaw, production of maple syrup, farm production, hunting and trapping diaries, and anything else that might offer insights into what our environment was like in days past. Anyone who has any suggestions should please contact Angela at 333-1901 or [bright.a@gmail.com](mailto:bright.a@gmail.com).

So, come on, people, get off the couch, and call Angela with some good stuff about our history.

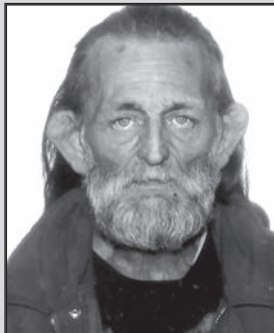
Finally, I would like to add a note about our forestry industry. Don and I took a four wheeler drive down the Slate Falls where the logging had been in full swing most of the winter, with loaded trucks driving by our door steadily. Whoever marked the land for cutting should be applauded, as not only the young trees remain, but also several old, dead trees that provide a home for many small mammals. With the big trees gone, the large overhead canopy has been lifted. Too large a canopy will result in not enough sun reaching the forest floor, and while that makes for a pretty forest to wander in, it prohibits new growth, and eliminates available food. The sun can now coax new growth to proliferate. Only necessary roads have been cut, and the rest of the forest remains as it was. New growth means a renewal of the forest, and within only a short few years the flora and fauna population will flourish in that part of the country.

If any of you have anything you wish printed, or something newsworthy, by all means contact me, (613-333-2376 or [denbighnews@hotmail.com](mailto:denbighnews@hotmail.com)) I would be happy to oblige.

..... cheers, Christi Schroeder-Laundrie

*"...it is better to keep your mouth shut and appear stupid than to open it and remove all doubt..." (MarkTwain)*

End



## Joe Lance

In memory of a dear friend and brother who passed away peacefully on Thursday March 25, 2010 at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Renfrew.

He will be sadly missed by all.

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## The Wall in the Hall Museum is Born

By Ernie Jukes of Camp J

**Editor's note:** Ernie is expanding on my editorial in the Christmas issue of the Highlander (Drawer 12: Archiving our past) which spent more time on the importance of preserving the past than to the actual contents of drawer 12.

Since collecting various items to do with the Matawatchan Fire Tower over the many years we owned Dan's Mountain it seemed important as time went by to put them in a place of safety. But more importantly to place them where anyone interested could leisurely peruse and enjoy them. Therefore the Hall Board has graciously accepted my idea and concept to have our own local museum. Simply stated **-on a wall in the hall!!**

To start it all off, as well as some interesting records, I have donated 2 of my paintings and a framed poem that brings us all together as Canadians entitled "**Maple Leaves**" It has been published in a national anthology. Enjoy.

The caption on the watercolour painting showing the early wooden tower and down below the rock lookout, the Lakes Angus and Bellevue (now Hutson Lakes) says "**See who climbed the Tower Yesterday**" 1922-1962. **Look in Drawer 12.** There to the side, in a drawer you will find signed and dated records of those that actually climbed the tower many years ago. You may even find your Grandfather amongst the many visitors that signed the guestbook in the Ranger's cabin at the bottom of the Fire tower. These I collected from Harvey

Malcolm, a former tower man, and from Lillian MacPherson whose Father in law, Roy MacPherson, was also a tower man. There are others around the area that may also want to donate them.

Over the years I have written a few Tower articles which will be added to the file. Other items to do with the mountain will also be in Drawer 12, coming from Paul and Lindsay MacPherson representing those early Scots who pioneered this mountain. There will be various other items of local interest as time goes on which someone could organize better. Certainly anyone with photos, or more records, or newspaper clippings are welcome to pass them on to Al Pennock until someone else volunteers to be a curator.

My other large painting shows one of many **Sawmills** on our famous Madawaska River...and the caption expresses our local heritage evolving from loggers and the river men who worked it. Many lost their lives in doing so while running the rough, tough, horrendous rapids that existed before hydro generating facilities tamed it. Fortunately a few sawmills remain.

It is possible "**The Wall in the Hall Museum**" may be one of my better creations and will prove itself in time. We are interested in your contributions to help make it grow and evolve. Visit our hall and see the wall. Review the special ingredients of **Drawer 12.**

End

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## JUKES, William Arnold "Bill"

*(Tony). Proud grandfather of 22 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.*

*Passed away peacefully with his family by his side at Renfrew Victoria Hospital, on Sunday, December 20, 2009, at the age of 86. Bill Jukes of Matawatchan, beloved husband of Vera for 39 years. Loving father of Judy Warner (Ken), Bill (Maggie), Rob (Diane), Ernie (Anna), Cathy Halliday (Mark), Sherry Matheson (Del-mar), Tracey Crago (Paul) and Lee-Ann Alcock*

*Dear brother of Ernie Jukes (Audrey) and Duke Redbird (Elite). Predeceased by his daughter Ellie Siemens (Bob) and his daughter-in-law Sheila.*

*Bill will be missed by many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.*

## Fishing with Jim

By Jim Weatherall,

"Well, it's good to be talking to you again. This means Winter is over and Spring is here.

Again, the Jamie Wright Memorial Fishing Derby was a success. There were 279 adults and 98 juniors in attendance this year, with first prize going to Johnathan Wright with a Pike weighing 1.72 lbs. Second place went to Campbell Bowes and third to Alexie Woito.

The most fish caught by a junior went to Riley Frisk and second to Adam Wright.

In the adult category, first place by a draw was won by Troy Leclaire, paying out \$600.00. Troy didn't have a current club membership and lost out on the extra \$100.00. "He has one now!" Troy entered 2 fish - 1 pickerel at 4.4 lbs. and a pike at 3.39 lbs. The largest fish which took second place was caught by Dan Quast...a pike weighing 5.63 lbs. Dan also entered a pike at 2.83 lbs. Third place went to Jelaina Riopelle with a pike of 4.47 lbs.

All in all it was a good day. There were 30 pike and 2 pickerel entered by adults. Thanks to the Calabogie Fish & Game for a good day and an excellent derby.

On March 5, 2010 at about 10 in the morning, Kyle Sackman came into the bait shop with a pickerel which was caught in 12 to 15 feet of water and weighed in at 6.67 lbs. Nice fish Kyle.

Pickerel and Pike open in Division 15 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May which is the 15<sup>th</sup> this year. If you fish White Lake, which is in Division 18, it opens the week before, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, which is May the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Muskies open on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in June, which is the 5<sup>th</sup> in both divisions 15 and 18. Large and Small Mouth Bass open on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in June in Division 15 & 18. Pick up your 2010 fishing regulations at the shop or wherever you purchase your fishing licence.

Make sure you service your boat and motor before using it. Check the lower end for grease and check spark plugs, battery acid and charge battery up. If the acid is down, top up with distilled water and then charge it. Be sure the tires on your trailer have enough air and wheel bearings are greased. These few checks will make your fishing trip go much better.

Hope to see you out on the lake. Be safe and catch the "big" one.

Jim

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## In a hurry

By Garry Ferguson

"Hey *voila!* Up ahead der," *Grandmere*, who perched on the edge of the rear seat like a wizened old crow on a rail fence, yelled. I flinched at the unexpected outburst so close to the back of my head and wrenched the Model T into a mud-filled rut I'd been trying to avoid.

"Hoofin' 'er t' beat 'ell in a hurry fur mass," *Grandmere* continued to shout. "Dat's ole Miz O'Tool."

I sighed and kicked down on the pedal that shifted the car into low gear. Though *Grandmere* considered it a sin to swear in French, her aggressive use of profanity in English came easily to her and usually ensured that she got her own way. Like most, I was intimidated by it, but I appreciated the fact that she was using her rugged version of the language for my benefit.

"Yaah," *Grandpere*, who was seated in the front beside me said without enthusiasm, "Mus' be." He yawned and rubbed his cheek wearily with a calloused hand. "Ony woman I know what look like a medda hen in a black dress. She sure hate to be late fur mass, eh." He yawned again.

"Stop up 'longside her *Thomas*," *Grandmere* ordered as she skittered over to sit behind *Grandpere*. "We'll give her a lif'. Let her drive up to da church, eh. Dat should give da pore ole soul somet'ing to talk about fur a munt or so. She walk ev-ery Sunday to mass. Never miss, eh. Not since she have to go back home when she hatch her Mike on da road fifty year ago. Good ting her pore husban' was still alive to help her. She's sich a good Cat-o-lique, y' know. God love her!"

"Yaah," *Grandpere* still managed to sound disinterested. "All her life she bin helpin' everbudy else to have da kid; you'd tink she'd know to stay home when she's gonna calf herself, by cripe.

"She help me when I git your mudder," *Grandmere* said as she slapped me on the back of the head. "Dat woman's, for sure, a goddam saint."

"An' still da bes' dam' cook what ever baked da bean," *Grandpere* interjected, finally showing some interest in the conversation. He must have interpreted the silence from the rear as a warning because he glanced sideways at me and added, "Udder'n your *grandmere* here. Eh, Tommy?"

"Curful now, *Thomas*," *Grandmere* pushed on *Grandpere's* broad back as though she believed that *he* was the one doing the driving. "Watch you don' bump her bony ole arse. She can't hear too

*continued on page 21*

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## Literary Matters from the GMPL

By Mary-Joan Hale

Happy spring!!! Oh, the birdies are singing and the water is racing down behind my house with assorted flotsam and jetsam knocking into the rocks. Shortly, Hydro will raise the water level so the pickerel can snuggle into their little love pools and spawn to their hearts' content. Awww, spring love! March came in like a lamb this year, but I fear the lion is in hiding and waiting for a final roar. Hopefully I'm wrong.

Much has happened since I last put fingers to keyboard. Since I hired an extra summer student last year, we were able to increase the books added to the shelves. Most of these were gathering dust since time and personnel are below requirements for our population. The students did an excellent job with the children's programs and as well, I was able to take holidays for a change.

Sadly, I went over budget because of that as well as making a few needed purchases such as a good laminator to protect display items and add revenue to the library. Councils do not like that since they hold the public purses and need to spread it around to all departments. When this group took office, our budget was lowered to \$40,000 for four years with COLA added every year. Some of these funds come from the provincial government. It was an impossible task to begin with since most of the expenses are discretionary and are assigned to the library: heat, electricity, telephone, insurance, cleaning, etc. which increase annually. In order to meet the requirements, the library has consistently decreased the Book Budget. "Something's wrong with this picture", you say. Yes, our book budget has steadily dropped while the price of books has risen. In 2000, our book budget was **\$4,000** and now is less than **\$1,700**. We rely on donations of new best sellers, but the room is so small, we cannot accept your basement or attic's accumulation of goodies. The flood of 2008 and various grants allowed us to update the collection. Some jobbers provide cataloguing for a small sum, and that cuts some labour hours required to make books shelf-ready.

Over the years, we've acquired special grants (Trillium, CAP, Hi-speed, etc.), to add services for you, our patrons. They are **not** from municipal coffers. Additionally, the library has been well served by wonderful volunteers. However, I remind them, 'volunteers have a life and it comes first'. 31 years ago, the library had one employee. I am the sole librarian as was Teri and Lois before me. Since then, services have increased dramatically. Libraries have become the cultural hubs of the communities providing not only books, but computers (for those without) to check email, book tickets and hotels, do job searches, write and send résumés,

etc. We provide programs for all ages. We try to meet these demands outside the budget. Our fundraising account looks after 'extras'. Grants are specific and not for operations. Capital items, such as shelves, computers and children's furniture have not come from budget, but from fundraising and grants. It took a flood to upgrade the library. A recent report by the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries to the Ministry of Culture, noted that municipalities contribute 85% of public library budgets in Ontario. In my years here, the average is 40-50% at most. One trustee joked that I even count paper clips. Until last year, I only hired one student. In the summer, the volunteers take time off (life comes first).

Since logging and mining are no longer primary industries here, and the township contains much Crown Land, we do not have a large tax base. I understand that. We quietly go about our business doing the best with what we have. This year, despite last year's overage, we asked for an increase in staff to do the job as it should be done. For our population size, we should have 2.184 staff for 25 hours a week. This would allow us to reduce the back log of books, provide more programs and be open more in the evenings for day workers and students who go to school in Renfrew and elsewhere. Presently, I work 25 hours and the library is open 20 hours as required by the CAP grant for public computers. Needless-to-say, no more staff can be hired, and we need to find money from this year's budget to cover half of our overage.

Enough of the sob story: I have some great news! We are adding many new websites which you can access at the library and at home, such as Ancestry.ca, many newspapers and publications, and much more. Allow time to get the URLs up. I have acquired a new Language course which is web-based. We have access to 35 languages, both basic and advanced. Before your next holiday, brush up on Spanish, French, Italian and even Irish! You may register at the library to access it at home via our website. The township has switched website-providers, so it is not available there yet.

We have an 'Early Learning Station' for the wee ones. It is self-contained, safe and not web-based. Kids love it. At the Ontario Library Conference, I made many contacts and got more ideas. These new acquisitions are **not** from budget but from Ontario government grants. Incidentally, when I say 'we', I am not using it as the pro athletes do. I refer to the Board and me.

Happy Easter!

End

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# The Handford Studio Collection

By Irene Robillard

Have you heard about the latest excitement at the Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives? The Handford Studio Collection is now available for your viewing pleasure, having been unveiled to the public in early March. This collection of images is of historical importance to the Ottawa Valley. It contains more than 20,000 negatives, with more than half being glass plate negatives. The collection starts just prior to 1900 and continues for the greater portion of the past century. Most images are of people in and around the village of Renfrew but there are also some from Arnprior, Pembroke, Shawville, and beyond.

Samuel Augustus Lewis Handford was born in Exeter, Ontario in 1872. "Gus" or "A. L." started his career as an apprentice photographer in Exeter and London. He then moved to Ottawa, where he met Grace E. Young, daughter of James A. Young of Sand Point, who was attending the Conservatory of Music. When Grace graduated and returned to Sand Point in 1894, Gus followed her, set up his own photographic business and married Grace on August 17, 1896. They had two sons, Edward and Herbert, who both became doctors in Renfrew, and one daughter Lillian, who taught physical education in Renfrew.

A. L. Handford started operating his portrait studio in the McAndrew building in downtown Renfrew. By 1903, construction of a substantial brick building at the corner of Raglan and Plaunt Streets commenced. Known as the Handford block, it contained large show rooms with 12-foot ceilings and a studio on one side of the ground floor. Handford sold frames, records, paintings and some appliances in the early years. It was told he even sold Grey Dort automobiles at one time. An Arnprior branch also operated for a short time between 1920 and 1923 with his brother, Wilber Wilton Handford (1880 - 1942).

A.L. Handford was well known for his abilities as a portrait photographer, especially of young children. Besides typical portraits, there are images of soldiers heading to war, nurses graduating from Renfrew Victoria Hospital, various sport teams, and high school highlights. Mr. Handford also captured many weddings and multi-generational images. While out and about in Renfrew and area, Gus documented many of the scenic places in town and sold post cards that were popular with townspeople and visitors alike.

Various employees worked for Handford throughout the years. Miss Thursa Stringer, the longest serving employee, worked from the 1930s to 1973. Mrs. Handford took over the business when Gus went hunting each fall. Their daughter Lillian

also helped out in the studio after her father died in 1949.

Edward Handford Jr. (grandson of A. L. Handford) operated the business in Renfrew from 1955 to 1975. Ed was a Kodak dealer, continuing the tradition that his grandfather started 50 years before him. He was very busy photographing and processing weddings and insurance claims. At times, he was booked for six weddings on the same day! The business was closed in the mid 1970s when Ed moved to Ottawa.

The collection was donated to the Arnprior & McNab/Braeside Archives in May 2008. At that time, two half-ton trucks made the trip from the home of Ed Handford in Griffith, fully loaded under the weight of over 10,000 glass plate negatives, plus boxes and boxes of the other negatives. For nearly two years, up to 20 volunteers have been preparing the collection for public access. All the negatives have been cleaned and re-housed. The nitrate negatives, being very volatile, have been scanned and are available for viewing on the database. There are over 1,000 and range from about 1928 to 1940.

What makes the collection so valuable is that the Handfords wrote the name on every negative and kept indexes. The names on the negatives have been entered in the Archives' database so that researchers can search for their ancestor or a place. Images are available for purchase. If interested, you can visit the Archives on the lower level of the Arnprior Public Library. It is open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment on Saturdays. You can also phone the Archives (613-623-0001) or e-mail to ADArchives@hotmail.com.

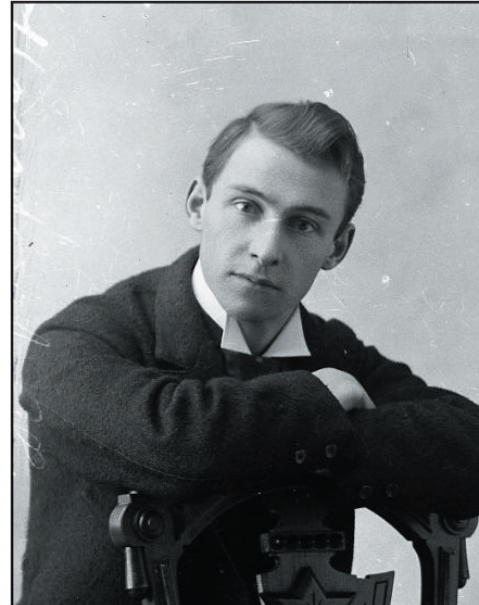
End



Copy made for Father Jones of Calabogie. Does anyone recognize the children or the location?



Beulah Strong of Matawatchan, c.1934



A.L. Handford, as a young man

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# Black Donald Historical Plaque

By Howard Popkie,

In 1984 I wrote to the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture in Toronto to ask them to put up a plaque commemorating the town of Black Donald.

Consultant Elizabeth Price wrote to me and said that the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture would erect a provincial historical plaque but I would have to supply them with all the information on Black Donald.

I wrote to the Department of Mines because Black Donald was so closely associated with its graphite mine and told them about my project. They sent me a lot of photocopies of information on Black Donald and much of this information now appears on the plaque.

The scheduled the erection of the plaque for 1986, so on August third 1986 the un-

veiling took place at the home and farm of my Uncle Frank and Aunt Jessie. A reunion of 450 people was in attendance including six of Black Donald's former teachers. One of these teachers was my mother's teacher at Black Donald.

We had a site set up for the plaque in advance at the town site. So when all was over at the unveiling my nephew John Wayne Popkie, my brother-in-law Steven Collier and I loaded up the plaque in my bother Rueben's truck and I stood in the back of the truck holding the plaque for its final trip to the post that it is on today. I stood on the road to make sure that it was straight while Steve and John lifted it in place and Steven tightened the nuts to secure it.

We were all so proud of it; especially me because I initiated the project.

End



Left, Dean Sydney Wise of Carleton University and Director of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Former residents Rita Quilty and Howard Popkie did the unveiling.

## True stories

By Howard Popkie

### The Haunted House on the Mount St. Patrick Road

My grandfather had a small farm at Black Donald and he couldn't grow enough hay to keep his animals fed all winter in the 1930s.

After Christmas he would buy a sleigh-load of hay from Dan Scully who lived in Mount St. Patrick.

On his way back home it was late and very dark as he passed an old log house along the road and he could see that it was all lit up and he could see through the window that there was a square dance going on and all of the fiddles, banjos and guitars were playing loud music.

So he stopped the team of horses with his load of hay and thought he would go to the house and join the party, but he said when he opened the door the house was packed full of hay right from the floor to the ceiling and all of the lights and music and people were all gone.

End

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# Denbigh-Griffith Lions support Haiti relief

The Denbigh-Griffith Lions Club has pledged \$1000.00 to help support the relief efforts of Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) in response to the 7.0 earthquake that struck the impoverished Caribbean nation of Haiti, on Tuesday, January 12.

Lions in communities around the world are supporting LCIF, which is in contact with Lions in the immediate area, neighbouring Latin American countries and area Lions leadership, to assess the situation and determine immediate needs.

"Lions are committed to bringing aid to those impacted by the earthquake in Haiti. Through support from people in our community, our Club and LCIF will be able to help many more," said Lion President Gail Holtzhauer of Denbigh Griffith Lions Club.

Within 24 hours, Lions worldwide have pledged nearly US\$250,000 to the foundation to help support relief efforts. In addition to Lions donations, LCIF has awarded a US\$50,000 Major Catastrophe Grant to help provide for immediate needs for victims of the earthquake. Immediate relief efforts will center on providing water, food, medicine, tents and other essential needs.

The foundation has experience in disaster relief, providing more than US\$25 million for South East Asia Tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and China Earthquake combined.

Donors can assist Lions on the ground and Lions Clubs International Foundation in responding to this disaster with a designated donation to the "LCIF Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund."

For donating online please visit, [www.lcif.org/donate](http://www.lcif.org/donate) and select Disaster. Please include "LCIF Haiti Earthquake Relief" in the comments section. You may also mail a cheque payable to "Lions Club International Foundation (noting LCIF Haiti earthquake Relief, in the memo field) to: LCIF, 300 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> St., Oak Brook IL., 60523, USA, Attn.: Donor Services.

For more information about local Lions relief efforts in Denbigh-Griffith, please contact: Gail Holtzhauer, at 613-555-5551, [snidertt@hotmail.com](mailto:snidertt@hotmail.com) *End*

## Pickereel (Cont)

ledo, Ohio that I heard of Walleyes. The Walleye is the most popular fish in that part of Ohio, so popular the local ECHL hockey team is the Toledo Walleyes (the fourth ECHL team with a fishy mascot). These days everyone in my former Michigan hometown knows what a Walleye is,

## In a hurry (Cont)

good, eh. Okay, *Arret la*. Make dat goddam noise ting go."

I glanced back and nodded. She pushed on *Grandpere's* head and compressed her lips until her mouth was lost among the many lines on her sharp face.

*Grandpere* retrieved his felt hat from the floor, I sounded the horn and Mrs. O'Toole leaped for the ditch.

"Giddyay, Miz O'Toole," *Grandpere* intoned as I managed to bring the car to a stop. "Purty nice mornin', eh."

"Allo, *Madame* O'Toole," *Grandmere*

but the fishermen there travel to Toledo or Port Clinton, Ohio (where Wally the Walleye drops from a high pole to count off the seconds of every old year, like the lighted ball in Times square) to do their Walleye fishing. I don't know if Walleye fishing has grown that much in popularity since I was a kid or if I was just not paying attention.

Just fishing from the shore near our cottage on the Madawaska River, I have caught the odd Pickerel while fishing for Bass. I have not eaten any of them but I have eaten Pickerel from other places and they are a tasty treat. It is no wonder that the Pickerel is one of the most managed fish in the world, having been introduced seemingly to any waters that will sustain them. *End*

bellowed, leaning out the window to look over her glasses at the old woman who stood ankles deep in frog spawn and stagnant run-off from recent May rains.

"Jesus Joseph and Mary!" Mrs. O'Toole shrieked as she tilted her gaunt face to peak from under the brim of a hat that had slid over her eyes. "Sneakin' up in that contraption and makin' them infernal noises is enough t' put a body in an early grave, it is."

"Pretty nice, eh?" *Grandmere* patted the side of the car and continued in a voice loud enough to ensure that Mrs. O'Toole would hear. "My grandson Tommee here, he buy dis sonavabeech wit da money he make at da lumber camp."

"Well!" Mrs. O'Toole, who's initial panic seemed to have partially dissipated, hollered as though she believed that it was *Grandmere's* ears that needed help. "You're certainly movin' up in the world - drivin' in that thing. I'm surprised you'd even stop to talk to the likes o' me."

"Ridin' in dis ting, ya don' get to church smellin' like horseshit and lookin' like someting da cat drag in, eh," *Grandmere* rasped, apparently unwilling to ignore the sarcasm.

"If you kin put up with that devil of a noise," Mrs. O'Toole said. "I've ony seen pitchers of these frightful things b'fore now."

*continued on page 22*

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# Griffith / Matawatchan News

By Garry Ferguson

The chill of an overcast morning didn't deter 30 locals from turning out on March 11 to participate in The Township of Greater Madawaska's Grand Opening of the Matawatchan-Road salt shed. Teri McDonald's coffee and a good supply of TIMBITS no doubt helped to keep them there to socialize long after Reeve Peter Emon and Ward Three Councilor Karin Lehnhardt had completed the ribbon-cutting (Peter did the talking, Karin wielded the scissors) duties. *The Madawaska Highlander* covered the moving and reconstruction of the shed in one of its final issues of 2009.



Jamie Doering, Harold Vernick & Steven Inwood with the new Township truck  
Photo: Garry Ferguson

Public Works Superintendent Jamie Doering along with operators Harold Vernick and Steve Inwood came to proudly show off the shiny, new (\$181,000.00 plus tax) 2010 International Tandem Plow Truck. Though a considerable investment for a township of the size of ours, this beauty is planned to have a life span of eight to twelve - hopefully, up to 20 years. Perhaps bets should have been taken as to who first gets it dirty.

The 2009 Yuletide blackout, in the Matawatchan, Griffith, Denbigh area was the gift that shouldn't keep on giving as far as Steve Morrison was concerned, so he gathered 260 names on a petition. This was a remarkable number since cottagers and snowbirds were not here to sign. The petition preamble was directed at those in the Centennial Lake-Griffith area con-

## In a hurry (Cont)

"Well, by da 'ell!" *Grandmere* chuckled as she pushed her hat pin more firmly into the gray bun on the back of her head. "Git yore pore ole self in here wit me." She pushed *Grandpere* again and he stepped out to hold the door open. "We'll give you a lif'."

"Maybe when there's two moons in the sky and the devil's an altar boy," Mrs. O'Toole hissed as she slogged out of the ditch and examined the fresh mud on her long dress. "I got started late this mornin' so I'm in a turble, awful hurry. I don't want to be late for mass. So - I'll be takin' the sure way - on m' own God-given feet."

"Ta hell wit her," *Grandmere* said as I eased the car forward. "She kin git her skinny car-case ta church da bes' dam way she know how. I never like dat ole fool much anyway, me. I tink her pore husban' died to git away from her."

I looked straight ahead so she wouldn't see my grin. Modern inventions might be beyond Mrs. O'Toole's comprehension but unlike many of the neighbours she certainly knew how to stand up to *Grandmere*.

Around the next bend I eased the car into

cerned over Hydro One's outages and carried a promise to forward the final list with a covering letter.

John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke who received a copy of the covering letter, is to arrange a meeting with senior Hydro One management employees in early April. Included will be reps from Denbigh, Griffith and Matawatchan as well cottagers. This will not be a public meeting but will hopefully result in one at a later date.

In the words of Barry Dicks, who used up a lot of shoe leather promoting the petition, "It's not just about this failure, but for all those in the past. Since a cricket's

a washout from which it couldn't haul itself. When Mrs. O'Toole didn't catch up to us in the fifteen minutes it took *Grandpere* and me to get us on our way by putting rocks under the wheels, I knew that she had taken a shortcut across Granger's pasture.

If Mrs. O'Toole had been a woman who demonstrated any emotion other than irritation, I imagine she'd have danced a jig while she lingered on the church steps to watch *Grandmere* trample *Grandpere* during her scramble out of the back seat. When we shuffled past her on our way inside, Mrs. O'Toole raised an eyebrow at *Grandmere*, nodded when *Grandpere* touched his hat and - I'd swear - winked in response to my sheepish grin. *End*

**Pancake Brunch**  
**Matawatchan Style**  
**Fresh Maple Syrup,**  
**Pancakes, Sausage,**  
**Eggs**  
**Coffee and Tea**  
April 11: 9:30 a.m. to 1  
p.m.  
Matawatchan Hall

fart can cause an outage, it's also about future inconvenience." Barry submitted, to Hydro One, a bill for \$117.00 to cover the cost of generator fuel used over the Holidays. Hope he's not waiting by the mailbox for a response.

Those who have been absent from "God's Country" for the last while may not be aware that the 139-year-old *Mercury* has merged with the *Weekender* to become the new-and-improved *Renfrew Mercury*. This compact offspring of the original two editions will be delivered each Thursday - as was the *Weekender* - free of charge to the traditional readership. Perhaps some of the old hard-boiled *Mercury* readers may not agree, but yours truly likes the results. I can imagine the sighs of relief from reporters who now must meet only one weekly deadline rather than two.

The Matawatchan Hall will be back in business for the annual Pancake Brunch beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday April 1, 2010. The folks will be serving until 1 p.m. in order to catch the early risers, (looking sleepy) the late risers (looking grumpy) and the after church crowd - identified by the soft glow around their heads.

The hall will again be the site of the Matawatchan Market that in other years kicked off the season with a twenty-fourth-of-May plant sale. No dates however, have been finalized for the upcoming summer, so for those already planning to avoid the weekend job list by lollygagging around "the market" on Saturday mornings, watch for posters - even better, read *The Madawaska Highlander*.

Greater Madawaska pays \$1,812.18 per season to allow its residents access to the Renfrew hazardous waste program. The service operates from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays from May 18 through August 21. The Town of Renfrew Waste Site is located at 376 Bruce Street. Jeff Cluke, (613 432 0731) the site atten-

dant will answer any questions pertaining to disposable items or materials.

I suspect that the Fish and Game Club might have an *in* with someone up there who pushes the weather buttons, because Saturday March 06, 2010 was an ideal day (maybe the best ever) for the annual Fishing Derby on Centennial Lake. Eighty-two tickets were sold so that number of fishermen(women) plus all the socializing associates on the ice at one time may have made it one of the biggest.

The day's catch would have left a lot of people in the throes of starvation so the Hall Board folk came to the sustenance rescue with the famous culinary delight known as Guest's chili - to be tackled only after checking the location of the closest fire extinguisher. I'm told that it was a hit and no fires were reported.

Charley Villneff won the Otter Sled, Al Pennock, the trolling motor and Rodger Johnson of Trenton, both the chainsaw and ice auger. I wonder how many rabbit feet Rodger owns. I'm sure our editor, who's still holding his one ticket and muttering "nothing," would like to get his hands on one.

It looks like the Denbigh Griffith Lions (DLG) Club finished off 2009 with a flurry of activity. A Community Appreciation Concert, featuring well-known harpist Eduard Klassen attracted forty souls who traveled from as far away as Bryson, PQ and Palmer Rapids to hear Eduard's second Griffith concert of the day. The Craft Fair, Children's Christmas Party and New Years Bust-out made for a hearty Holiday Season. This year's annual Daffodil Tea, to raise funds to fight cancer, also took place on March 28, 2010 in the Griffith Hall. It's interesting to note that all lunch servers are survivors of breast cancer.

Upcoming events - to be marked on your calendars - are the free Children's Easter Party from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on April 3, the Toll Road (better known as The Great Black Fly Feed) on May 21 and the Show and Shine on August 28. Over the next while, a couple DG Lions may come up your laneway selling chocolate bunnies so, for God's sake, don't sick the dog on them. Lions are usually harmless and funds from the sale of the bunnies are for a good cause. The DGLs are still collecting prescription glasses, toner cartridges and books, so remember to put these aside if you happen to launch into one of those ruthless, springtime, house-clearing campaigns that we *always* threaten to and even sometimes *do*.

*End*

## Famous quotes

**"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.."** - Oscar Wilde

# City Girl

By Filipa Martins

This year's spring equinox was just about as full of new life and hope as my tiny farm can ask for. Just before frost last fall, my daughter dug up and potted some herbs since she couldn't bear the thought of what the cold would do to them. The sage, oregano and parsley have been living happily by a sunny window all winter in the same place. But something happened just before the equinox. The soil around the transplanted herbs had cilantro seeds, from the herb garden. These seeds had been warm and watered for months in the house, but only upon the arrival of spring did they emerge from the soil by the dozens.

Of course, there is also my starling couple who have returned to nest somewhere by the chimney so that they sound as if they live inside the children's closet. The top spring treat was the arrival of eight adorable piggies. All black with floppy ears, scrunched noses and shiny alert eyes.

Maple syrup is another great indicator that we are in for more daylight, lots of pancakes, warm sun on our faces, bird songs and a return to the outdoors. (Sure this article is getting as sweet and gooey as maple taffy, remember, it's a city girl story, something is about to go wrong any minute).

So I decide to try my hand at making syrup (again). I built a quick outdoor evaporator, borrowed just about the largest pan I could find and got to work. The set up was working great, I was evaporating sap faster than ever before. After the first batch was bottled, we celebrated with a big pancake breakfast. I thought there was a funny taste to the syrup. I couldn't quite figure out what it was, a metallic aftertaste or something of the sort. Everyone seemed to enjoy the syrup but me. The flavour, which at first seemed a bit off, became completely unbearable.

I got up from the table to brush my teeth. I stand, toothbrush in hand and bare my pearly whites to the mirror. They were not white, but gray. Gray? I look back at the table, the kids have just told a knock-knock joke and they are all laughing,

teeth as gray as mine. Time begins to slow down. Their voices seem to fade as I begin to brush my teeth and look in the mirror. I brush and look again. The gray is not coming off. The laughing voices are but a murmur to me now—all I hear is my heart thumping loudly. What if the gray NEVER comes off, what about the kid's teeth? I yell, with my mouth full of toothpaste and my tooth brush still frantically scrubbing away: "Shtaawp eaing uh shyup, ish naat coimg awffffff!!!!" Everyone stops to look at me. I stand before them, yelling absolute gibberish and

apparently foaming at the mouth waving my arms with a look of panic of my face. I take a deep breath, choke on some toothpaste, finally I explain what has happened, we all scrub our teeth and at last the gray is gone. And so is all the syrup I made.

I now stick to buying syrup from my Matawatchan neighbours, who by the way produce amazing syrup. Happy spring!

End



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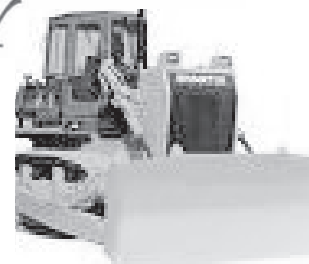
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**RE/MAX TOWN CENTRE REALTY LTD, BROKERAGE**

<p>Centennial Lake Dr \$100,000</p>  <p><b>Waterfront</b></p> <p>Waterfront lot with 210 feet of shoreline on Centennial Lake Lot is in natural state. Come and build your dream getaway.</p>	<p>5513A Centennial Lake Rd \$120,000</p>  <p><b>Summer Cottage</b></p> <p>Affordable summer cottage overlooking Centennial Lake with access to the lake over road. 1+ acres private lot with outbuildings, screened porch and furnishings.</p>	<p>618 Mill St. \$159,000</p>  <p><b>Commercial Acreage</b></p> <p>Zoned commercial corner lot fronting on Calabogie Rd (Cty 508) and Mill St. in Village of Calabogie.</p>	<p>25 Veivmount Dr \$245,000</p>  <p><b>Deeded Water Access</b></p> <p>Enjoy country serenity with this immaculately maintained 3 bdrm chalet on half acre lot overlooking Calabogie Peaks. Gleaming hardwood flrs, screened porch, oak kitchen cabinets, front deck / 'sunken hot tub-Deeded water access to Calabogie Lake</p>	<p>624 Mill St \$249,900</p>  <p><b>Old world charm!</b> A beautifully refurbished century old house on 4.4 acres, w/original hardwood flrs, three levels, master bedrm has glorious views of Calabogie Lake. Relax on the inviting wrap-around porch. House in the heart of Village just mins to golf/skiing.</p> <p><b>Calabogie Village</b></p>	
<p>82 Sentence \$299,000</p>  <p><b>New Waterfront Listing</b></p> <p>Extraordinary opportunity to own a pine log post &amp; beam waterfront home located on a pristine lake. Furnishings, kayak, appliances, tools - the potential for enjoyment is unlimited.</p>	<p>0 Calabogie Rd \$299,000</p>  <p><b>Tourist Commercial</b></p> <p>5 Acre commercial property with frontage on Calabogie Rd. Prime development site in this four season resort with large pond on property.</p>	<p><b>Mike Labelle</b>                  RE/MAX Above Crowell                  1-888-623-3665</p>		<p>1086 Victory Lane \$329,000</p>  <p><b>"The Studio"</b> Beautiful cottage offering all the comforts of home on 2+ acre lot w/ deeded water access to Norcan Lake. Master Bedrm on main level, loft bedroom overlooks main floor, screened sun porch, all appliances included. Invest in your family vacation home today.</p>	<p>68 Calabogie Rd \$349,000</p> <p><b>Retail / Residential</b></p>  <p>Well established business with Country Style Donut franchise, gas pumps, chip wagon and four bedrm apartment w/separate entrance-incl. Located off Highway 17 large lot, new roof new oversize septic &amp; furnace. Turnkey operation - call Listing Agent for more details.</p>
<p>6031 Centennial Lake Rd \$355,000</p>  <p><b>Waterfront</b></p> <p>115 feet of waterfront on Centennial Lake - This 4 season home has an oversized separate garage complete with alarm system, storage shed, docks are incl. Enjoy yourselves on the deck overlooking a private back yard setting accessing the lakefront</p>	<p>330 Harolds \$380,000</p> <p><b>New Waterfront Listing</b></p>  <p>Wow! 239 feet waterfront on Centennial Lake. Fully furnished 3 bedroom house on private gated drive, bunk house, wood shed, 400 sq ft steel frame dock, cathedral ceilings in living area w/wall to ceiling windows overlooking the water.</p>	<p>5056 Calabogie Rd \$449,000</p>  <p><b>Commercial Plaza</b></p> <p>7000 sq ft commercial plaza presently occupied by a restaurant, retail store and office fronting on Calabogie Rd (Cty Rd 508), paved parking. Call Listing Agent for more details</p>	<p>1086 Victory Lane lot 12 \$549,900</p>  <p><b>"The Lodge"</b> Restored log lodge with 7 bedrooms, floor to ceiling fireplace- wrap around porch, fully furnished on the shores of beautiful Norcan Lake with sand beach and boat dock. More info at www.canontolodge.com</p>	<p>569 KENNEDY RD \$35,000</p>  <p>NICELY TREED CORNER LOT AT THE ENTRANCE TO KENNEDY WOODS (CALABOGIE RD (508) AND KENNEDY RD).</p>	
<p>173 VIEWMOUNT Dr \$262,500</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>Tranquility away from the urban crush! Together with deeded water access on Calabogie lake this 3 bedroom home has a stunning view of the ski hill. Large wrap-around deck, cozy wood burning fireplace, hot tub room, garage &amp; partially furnished. Walk to the ski hill and beach. Be ready to enjoy winter on the ski hills or snowmobiling and summers at the beach, fish, boat or golf. Just an hour to Ottawa, two hours to Kingston.</p>	<p>17 PHEASANT RU \$45,000</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>DEEDED WATER ACCESS TO CALABOGIE LAKE WITH THIS NICELY TREEDED LEVEL LOT ON THE HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME HERE.</p>	<p>177 PHEASANT RU \$399,900</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>Harmony with Nature! Exceptional one-of-a-kind home. Cedar walls, ceilings, railings throughout. Lvrvm features 12 ft window complimented by stained glass inserts overlooking gorgeous enial gardens &amp; screened gazebo. Open concept kitchen/eating area/dining room just perfect for family gatherings. Lower level has 3 bdrms, full bath, 1/2, kitchen, separate access to gardens.</p>	<p>1086 VICTORY LA LOT 10 \$349,900</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>"The Store" Waterfront living at its best, ideal view of Norcan Lake, wow. Its all here, including the boat dock. Spacious open concept, 2 bathrooms with an extra large family room and bunk beds for fun vacations or full time residence. 1 hour and 10 minutes from downtown Ottawa. Just minutes from downhill skiing, golf, snowmobiling, nature trails and all the fishing and boating you want. Check it out www.hilltopvacationproperties.com</p>	<p>40 NORTON RD \$189,900</p>  <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p>5 BEDROOM BUNGALOW WITH A VIEW OF CALABOGIE LAKE. MANY UPGRADES TO THE HOME. JUST MINUTES TO THE SKI HILL, CALABOGIE LAKE, GOLF COURSE AND AT V TRAILS. NY UPGRADES TO THE HOME. JUST MINUTES TO THE SKI HILL, CALABOGIE LAKE, GOLF COURSE AND AT V TRAILS. WONDERFUL FAMILY HOME.</p>	