

# The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

Volume 5 Issue 3

Free

June 2008

## Anton in Buchenwald (Part One)

By Anton Minton

During a recent tour of European battle sites, we spent a week in the Netherlands, or as we know it, Holland, (East and West Holland are only two states of the country) Any tour, such as ours, that focused on Canadian participation in WWII will bring travellers into close personal touch with the grateful Dutch people and raise again memories of their terrible suffering during those years of German occupation.

During Operation Market Garden, a failed attempt by the Allies to punch a corridor through the retreating German Armies and go for the German Homeland as portrayed in the movie "A Bridge Too Far," the citizens of Arnhem believed that the British Airborne were there to stay and lined the streets to welcome them. When the British withdrew, the German occupiers drove the entire population (60,000) from the city and then robbed all the houses of furniture and anything else that was of any value. These people were homeless until the Liberation.

The country's large Jewish population was annihilated and tens of thousands of others were rounded up as needed for slave labour each time the word went out. These workers were treated much like all occupants of the concentration camps - worked and starved to death. The day-to-day abuse of the general population, especially by the SS, was a heavy yoke to bear but the worst of all was the

withdrawal of food from the entire country for a good part of a year. The winter of 1944-45, when tens of thousands starved to death and hunger drove relatives and friends to turn on each other, is still known as "The Winter of Hunger."

Coincidentally, within a few days of our return to Matawatchan, I found that Anton (Tony) Minten of Griffith, who served time as a Dutch slave-labourer in the Buchenwald concentration camp, had collaborated with Ian Coulthart in recording the story of his ordeal. When I dropped around to the Mintens one day, they presented me with a copy of this book. Needless to say, it was so interesting that I thought it should be shared with our readers. With Tony's permission, I decided to do just that. Since print-space (and a sharp-eyed editor) would not permit use of the complete text, I used excerpts to create a two-part abbreviated version of the book entitled "Anton, Holland-World War II-Canada." The following is part one.

Garry Feguson

"I began life in a small village named Cuik located in the western part of Holland. Cuik is just a few kilometres south of the city of Nijmegen and a few minutes walk to the Maas River. I was born July 31, 1924, six years after the end of the First World War. This community in the heart of Holland was where I would grow up.

We always had work to do as children. After school and on weekends we would have chores around the farm. When I attended school, I wasn't at the top nor was I at the bottom in my class but I think I was average. My father, Martinas, was a good-natured man who loved to tell jokes. Besides working at home on our farm, he also worked in a cigar factory. My mother's name was Hendrika. She stayed at home, helping run the farm, doing chores in the home, raising the family and working in our store. The language we spoke was referred to as "Fat Dutch".

*Continued on page 3*



## Internet across the Township

By Bill Graham, Editor

There is a lot of news to report on recent developments concerning the Internet and especially high-speed access. The news is very different depending on where you live in the township.

On May 13 the Economic Development Committee (EDC) held a special meeting, which included two representatives of Bell Aliant, to discuss the extension of high-speed Sympatico Internet Service within Greater Madawaska Township. The meeting was organized by Bruce Parker, who is EDC Chair and the Broadband project leader for the township.

Jason St. Pierre who is Regional Manager for Bell Aliant described the current situation in Greater Madawaska by saying that there are currently 2 high-speed Internet "nodes" in Greater Madawaska; the original is on the North side of County Road 508, across from "Munford's" restaurant and gas bar. The newest is just north of the Centennial Lake Road, at the Western access road to Green Lake in the former Brougham Twp. Each of these nodes is capable of providing service to

Bell customers residing within 5 to 6 km. of the respective node (distance measured along Bell lines, not as the crow flies).

The following description of Bell Aliant plans is taken from the minutes of the meeting:

1. Calabogie Area: Jason indicated that there may be some new technology available at Bell that would allow an extension of service from the current Calabogie node (near Munford's) to a greater number of Calabogie residents. The newer technology hardware would replace technology currently in Bell's Calabogie system and allow the existing high-speed node to reach its full potential (i.e. a reach of 6 km of high-speed service... something it is not currently achieving on all lines). This would allow the current node to provide high-speed Internet service to those areas North and East of Calabogie Lake.

2. A second node is being planned for the vicinity of Calabogie Peaks. Bell estimates that this would cost approx. \$235,000 and would offer high-speed Internet service to about 270 dwellings. Its "footprint" would effectively cover the

*Continued on page 8*

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## Private Ball's medals come home

By Angela Bright

As of June 14th, the Denbigh Library proudly houses the medals and military belongings of Private John Leslie Ball #835576 (July 15th 1891 – April 12th 1917) who served with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles, and was lost in the battle of Vimy Ridge). Programs for the ceremony included four pictures, one being the grave of Pte. Ball at 'Quatre Vents' Cemetery in Estree-Cauchie, France, with the inscription, "In Memory of my Dear Brave Son". Many family members, friends and neighbours were in attendance from the area and some travelled a great distance for the occasion. James McNaught, a great grand nephew, came in all the way from Kelowna, British Columbia. Niece Alice Chatson and nephew John Ball with wife Anne attended, as did grand nephew George Kennedy and great, great grand niece, Hannah McNaught.

ited the Hall. As pictures were taken and refreshments enjoyed, Legion members handed out a special maple leaf and double poppy pin to each one, symbolizing Canada and recognizing Canadians who served in times of war, military conflict, peace, and all those who served at home in essential support roles. Thank you to the family of Pte. Ball for sharing the day and events of this young man's life. This history is of great importance not only to those in the family tree, but for this community and area and for the whole of Canada, now and for generations to come. You are welcome to stop by the library to view the Memorial Frame and recognize the contribution of Private John Leslie Ball #835576.

End

see medals on page 14



Unfortunately, due to illness, Herbert McNaught, a nephew involved in organizing the material and the memorial, was in hospital and intends to visit the site at a later date. The procession into the hall was led by piper Jim Austin, followed by the Royal Canadian Legion #137 Veterans from Napanee, the Royal Canadian Legion Northbrook Branch 328, family members, the Addington Highlands Library board and dignitaries. MC Bill McNaught welcomed the crowd and the singing of "O Canada" opened the ceremony. A moment of remembrance and prayer was led by Reverend R.J. McNaught, to observe the lives of Pte. John Leslie Ball, Pte. Charles Adam Gregg and Pte. George Draper Quackenbush, the three young men from Vennachar, and for all veterans who have served Canada. Thomas McNaught, a grand nephew, read the biography of Pte. Ball. The Memorial Frame was unveiled, and the Union Jack flag that had concealed it was presented to Reeve Henry Hogg.

The memorabilia was respectfully and gratefully accepted by the Library Board chair Carole Lessard, who also came on behalf of the Cloyne Historical Society. Representing MP Scott Reid and MPP Randy Hillier, David Harcourt gave remarks from each member and presented two plaques to the Library Board, one to Carol Lessard and the other to CEO June Phillips. Philip Smart, past President and Board Member of the Historical Board of Lennox and Addington County presented a plaque to Sandra Lloyd, Denbigh Branch Librarian and grand niece to Pte. Ball, declaring the historical significance of the site. "In Flanders Fields" was recited by grand niece A.J. McNaught. Mr. David Jones, Napanee Legion, then presented each of the family members with a special medal the government has issued, given to those who lost a loved one in Vimy Ridge. The Reverend Kevin Kay gave the benediction and "God Save the Queen", was played as the procession ex-

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Published in Matawatchan

# Buchanwald (Cont)

When the Second World War began in 1939, I was going on sixteen years old.

The people of Holland thought they could remain neutral but the country was invaded in May 1940 by the German army. Within five days, Holland surrendered and the Royal Family left the country. A dark shadow now fell over my country and our people.

My home village of Cuik was located only a few kilometres west of the German border so we were soon occupied by German troops. Quite often at night we could hear hundreds of allied planes flying over, headed for Germany. Very often we could hear the bombing and see the flashes of light from artillery and explosions. All the members of a neighbouring family of thirteen were killed from a bomb explosion. I had been in their house visiting only ten minutes before it happened. There was nothing left except a large hole where their house had been. If you were a farmer, you were expected to give the occupying forces a certain number of animals on a regular basis and this went for other produce as well. Our food supply in Holland was being rationed. You were not allowed to have in your possession a newspaper or radio. We began to notice the effect the German military was having on the Jewish population. Jewish people were forced to wear a Star of David on their clothing so they could easily be identified. There was a Jewish family in Cuik that disappeared during the war and never returned. Before the war, one of the neighbours, and I don't believe he was Jewish, had a car with a loud speaker and he was in the business of driving around the small villages announcing the news or up-coming events. One day, soon after the war had started, he was arrested. We found out that he had been brutally interrogated and tortured to death. They were kind enough to send his personal belongings to his shocked family. Prior to the war, we had German friends as did many in Holland. That changed. Sad to say, not all Hollanders were against the Nazis and their methods. Many joined the National



*German troops during invasion of Holland*

Socialist Bund (NSB), a political group that sympathized with the Nazi movement. Little did these foolish people realize that there would be a 'settling of accounts'. I know of one man who was beaten to death after the war because he had been too friendly with the Germans.

After I had finished school I worked in a tannery, in Cuik, making good money. One benefit of working at the Tannery was that I could bring home meat scrapings from the animal hides, which we fed to our chickens. Even chicken feed was hard to acquire due to the rationing of food and goods. It was in the tannery that I had an accident and my left eye was permanently damaged. The Tannery was a very smelly place and the work was hard on the hands. Our supervisor, a Meister Reynolds, was German. I considered him as being a tough and brutal man. One day he and I had words. Shortly after that my world was turned upside down.

On a spring day in 1943, I was stepping out of a coffee shop in Nijmegen when I was stopped by German soldiers. They asked for my papers and when I presented them, they took them and I was arrested. Around this time, there had been many labour strikes by the occupied Dutch people. This action led to harsh crackdowns by the Nazis who executed two hundred people in retaliation. In early May that there was a large movement to round up able bodied Dutch men to work as free labour for the war effort. This was the beginning of my terrible existence as a prisoner at one of Germany's largest concentration camps. I was put in jail in Nijmegen for six days and then sent to a small concentration camp in Eindhoven for four months. I was eventually transported, by rail, with hundreds of others to an area near Weimar in central Germany. It was the concentration camp known as "Buchanwald". It was here that I would spend the next two years until April of 1945 when the camp was liberated by the Third U.S. Army division. I always thought that Meister Reynolds from the Tannery had a lot to do with my being arrested.

Anyone who survived a German concentration camp has witnessed unspeakable, terrible things and has undergone tremendous mental and physical trauma. It is very difficult for any of us to talk about what we have lived through. The bad dreams never go away. The physical abuse stayed with me and shows up sometimes when I try to move my muscles a certain way. I know that for historical reasons and for my family it is important that I leave behind some personal information about my years in the camp. We say "concentration camp", but in reality it was a death camp where people from all over Europe were sent to be worked to death, used for medical experiments, tortured for one reason or another, but eventually to die there. I survived for two years but I don't think I would have survived another."

**Editor's note:** Part two of Anton in Buchanwald will appear in the July issue of the Highlander.



*Front gate of Buchanwald*



*Anton (Lower right) with siblings*

On arrival at the camp (Buchanwald) in the summer of 1943 we could see a large pile of clothes off to one side. We were stripped, had our body hair shaved off and then were made to swim through a large tank of disinfectant which stung my skin badly. We were then forced to take a very cold shower, given a number and assigned to a barracks. I wore a cloth triangle on my clothing with the letter "N" attached signifying I was a Dutch citizen. I later found out that each barracks had a Russian boss who was part of the underground running that aspect of camp life. We had to deal with the German Nazis outside the wires and inside, the Russian communists. There was no safe place in Buchanwald.

## Look who's reading the Highlander



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# HOWARD POPKIE'S HOMECOMING FROM KOREA November, 1953

By Howard Popkie,

One large landing craft took us from the shores of Korea to a waiting troopship out in the Pacific Ocean. We climbed up rope ladders to board the "Marie Ann Lynrix" which brought us to Vancouver, B.C. Canada. A lot of cars were parked on the shore at Vancouver and people blowing their horns to greet us while fishing boats and fire boats moved quickly about spraying water. A big banner read, "Welcome Home".

We marched down the streets of Vancouver with everyone clapping and cheering. A wonderful feeling indeed. I had two medals then and -later on the Government of Canada wrote me to say that I would be receiving two more medals, giving me the same proud feeling that I had when marching through the Vancouver streets. I guess you have to serve in a war to know that feeling, a feeling few civilians will ever experience.

We arrived a few days later in Ottawa by train. My brother, Rueben, didn't have much money, but he talked Grandfather John Stubinsky into coming along to meet the train with him. Grandad John always had money. Uncle Charlie Murphy who had served in World War 2, also came along.

Us soldiers came spilling into the Ottawa station and I spotted my welcoming party right away, but they didn't see me; there were so many of us soldiers all dressed alike and I suppose I had changed somewhat in the last few years. They couldn't see the tree for the forest sort of thing.

Most of the soldiers departed with their relatives and friends, and there was poor Rueben with such a disappointed expression on his face. I slipped up behind him and tapped him on the shoulder and said, "You looking for someone?" Rueban turned and exclaimed, "Where the hell did you come from Howard?" And there were greetings and hand shakes all round. Uncle Charlie said they didn't have much money to celebrate and I told them that I had a whole packsack full of money, then gave them ten dollars to purchase two twenty-fours of beer, "and if there is any change, "get some wine."

We travelled to Renfrew Hospital to pick up my Mom who had just given birth to my little sister Dale a few days before. Mom said it was the happiest day of her life—she was bring home both of her babies.

Rueben and my ex-schoolteacher, Lillian Gauph, set up a surprise 'welcome home party' for me at the school. Rueben asked me to press my battle dress uniform and shine my boots, we were 'going somewhere. He brought me to the little school I attended before going to

war, and when I opened the door there were all the boys and girls and some of my former classmates. They all stood up to honour me just like we used to do when the school inspector came calling. There were big "Welcome Home" signs on the blackboard written with coloured chalk and the children each made a card for me. The best artist of them all, Shirley Kelly, was allowed to read her card and give it to me. I still have it today; a cherished memento of times past.

Rueben and the teacher went outside leaving me with the children and the others who were part of my class before going to war.

Shirley Kelly's card reads: "Welcome home from all the boys and girls and your former classmates in Black Donald. We join together to express to you a hearty welcome and for your safe return to home and country. It has been a cause of pride in our classroom that we could number you among us, a soldier in Korea. You have gone through much, much more than we can imagine and we thought of you and remembered you in our prayers always. We are sorry that we failed to write to you even though we had your address, but we never failed you in our prayers and God has brought you home safely. (The card had red and green maple leaves drawn on it.)

The following is a copy of the letter sent to my mother:

Ottawa, Canada  
November 4, 1953

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am pleased to inform you that SA 1751 Private Popkie H.J. is listed among those scheduled to return to Canada from the Far East. It is expected that he will arrive at a west coast port approximately November 14, 1953

It is anticipated that he will contact you upon his arrival.

Yours very truly,  
W.H.S. Macklin  
Major-General  
Adjutant-General

**Editor's note:** Thanks to Wes Bomhower for editing and bringing Private Popkie's story to our attention.

**The greatest risk is  
to risk nothing at  
all.**

**- Leo Buscaglia**

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# Pine Valley

# Out on the First Concession.

THE SUMMER OF THE HAWK

By Wes Bomhower.

We left a rented farm and Dad and Mom bought a farm on the First Concession in 1938, the year I turned nine years old. Times were extremely hard and for milk that we shipped to a cheese factory, we received less than a dollar per one hundred pounds. The County was rebuilding one of their roads nearby and Dad managed to get work on one of the crews that summer to augment our income. He would be up at 4:00 a.m., do the morning chores with my mother's help, then be away to the road building job for 7:00 a.m. He would not return home until 5:30 p.m., which meant that I had to round up the cows for the evening milking since my older brother was already working away from home. Rounding up the cattle would normally be the collie dog's job, but he had been killed recently by a hunter's bullet, and the wee pup that replaced the collie was too small for doing any work.

The day pasture consisted of mostly low land on the east side of the farm where there was still some forest and scrub brush. The cattle seemed to favour the south end, but on really hot days I would find them among the cedars and tamarack at the north end of the property where a big mother hawk had her nest. I certainly had no intention of harming her or her little ones, but that mother hawk thought otherwise. Never once did I see her nest, but when I approached the cedars, she would scream and dive at me, her talons out and a mean look in her eye. She would come quite close to me and I was scared. I was a skinny little runt and that hawk knew I was terrified, so she made my life miserable for the whole summer.

I mentioned all this to Dad a couple of times but he more or less shrugged it off, perhaps thinking I was making excuses to get out of work, until one Sunday afternoon when I was away with my neighbour friends and Dad went to round up the cows himself. That old hawk had the audacity to scream and dive at Dad a couple of times and he threw a stick in her direction.

That night we had a little talk, Dad and I. "Wes, those baby hawks should be flying on their own in a couple of weeks. Do you think you can put up with that old mother hawk for that long?" I nodded and he went on. "Carry a stout club with you and use it if you have to, and if she still keeps bothering you, we will do something else".

Well, a whole three weeks passed, the young hawks were all flying on their own, but that old lady still insisted on chasing me. I knew Dad did not like shooting anything unless it was to but food on the table, but with a grim look he brought down the shotgun. "Stay by the barn Wes", he ordered. "I'll be back shortly" Soon I could hear the old hawk screaming at Dad and then the 'boom' of the shotgun. The screaming ceased.

Dad came walking back with a strange expression on his face, the same expression I had seen when he had to put one of our horses down the previous year. As he went to put the gun away, his only comment was, "that hawk will not bother you again Wes".

So ended the 'Summer of the Hawk'.

End



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# The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

“read cover to cover”

Dear Editor:

Concerning the Matawatchan Hall

It seems that there are many stories and opinions circulating about how the hall is operating under the new board elected in September, 2007. This board is committed to enhancing our hall as a place where community events and rentals can take place in a clean and well maintained facility. To these ends we have already started replacing tables, and have done improvements to the hall and the yard. By reducing our operating costs by \$3000 or more through closing the hall for January, February and March, we have eliminated our dependence on alcohol sales at dances and all the associated liabilities and insurance costs. The hall no longer runs licensed dances or other events and the board concentrates its efforts on managing the facility in a responsible and financially sound way. We have opened up all our board meetings to the community with the dates posted on the local notice board and even provide snacks for all who attend and discuss events and policies. It is true that the hall board no longer sees itself as a recreation committee in the sense of organizing all events at the hall but does welcome any person or group who wants to get activities started. We are partnering with the HOTCMA to bring a Jamboree and square dancing here in August and are looking for a small

team to open up the hall on Wednesday nights for kids' and adults baseball. The hall is rented every Saturday morning for the Community Market which brings a healthy new atmosphere and opportunities to Matawatchan. Our rental agreement with the market also provides for complete lawn care all summer with work and equipment provided by market volunteers.

In the area of rentals, all renters must sign our new rental contract which requires a refundable damage deposit and places all responsibilities for alcohol serving with the renter. Special occasion permits are available for anyone hosting an event for as little as \$25 for a non-sale license. Renters provide their own insurance for these events.

Hall rental fees have been revised and are \$80 for a 4 hour event and \$150 for an all day rental. The hall continues to be free for local churches, Northern Lights seniors, open community events and meetings.

This board is working hard to keep our hall as a viable and energetic centre in Matawatchan. The board appreciates all input and suggestions and hopes that people will help plan activities, come out to events, and help out at work bees so necessary for its maintenance.

Ken Birkett for the Matawatchan Hall Board

Dear Editor,

The Community Ambulance Committee wishes to express its sincere appreciation to everyone who attended the meeting of the Council of the County of Lennox and Addington on April 9, 2008 in support of the Denbigh Ambulance Service.

The Committee will be making an ongoing effort to advocate for the Denbigh Ambulance Service. We wish to see that the ambulance base remains in Denbigh, that the service is maintained at its historic level and that the level of service increases over time.

Our meetings are open to the public and our activities and records are publicly available at our website [www.denbighcac.8k.com](http://www.denbighcac.8k.com). The web site also has a place for comments. We invite everyone to participate. The ambulance service is important to all of us.

We intend to have public meetings periodically. If you are inter-

ested in having us come to a meeting in your locale, please let us know.

Yours truly,

Paul Isaacs, Chair  
Community Ambulance Committee

**Community Yard Sale**  
**Once again a community yard sale is being planned for Sat. August the 4th in downtown Matawatchan. Plan now to bring a table and set up. All are welcome.**  
  
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## Looking back...



Rev. Shannon at Matawatchan Picnic cir. 1910

Dear Editor,

### ALERT TO INTERNET CUSTOMERS

Given our recent experience with FCI Communications of Bancroft, I am writing to alert potential consumers in the region about the need to be careful when subscribing to an internet service.

A few years back, we signed up with FCI Communications of Bancroft to obtain an internet service to our home in Matawatchan. Payments were to be taken via monthly auto-deductions from our credit card. We continued the service without problem until last December (aside from very slow connection speed due to poor quality telephone lines, which was not FCI's fault).

On January 3, 2008, we sent a registered letter to FCI asking that the service be terminated immediately and to cease the monthly deductions after the January payment (deductions were taken around the 20th of each month). In response, FCI left an unintelligible message on our answering machine towards the end of January. I called them immediately and it seems I had forgotten to provide them with the telephone number where the service was being provided. I gave them the number and was verbally assured the service would be cancelled forthwith. There was no indication that this would be a problem.

We were away until the end of March and returned to find that payments had continued to be deducted in February and March. I called FCI several times between March 19th and April 3rd. I spoke a couple of times to an employee (whose name I have), though most times I reached a voicemail and my calls were never returned. I asked why the service had not been stopped and why payments were still being taken. She indicated that the person responsible was a poor manager. She said he was better at the technical side than the management side but she assured me she would follow up and take care of this.

We then had to go away again for an-

other month. When we returned at the end of April, we were stunned to find that FCI had taken the April payment. I called again several times and always ended up speaking with the same young woman. These conversations were always courteous and polite. She said she would again remind her boss of the need to address the issue of reimbursing us for payments from February through April. Having heard nothing further after nearly 2 weeks, I sent another registered letter on May 13th asking that we be reimbursed for 4 months of payments. Not only did FCI not reply to our letter, they proceeded to take the payment for May (by the way, we have not attempted to use the internet service since January and have no idea if FCI has even stopped it, as we requested). So, after 5 months, it seemed we were no closer to resolving this matter.

I contacted our bank. After they were convinced that we had done all in our power to resolve the matter amicably with FCI, they agreed to prevent any further deductions from our credit card and to reimburse us for 5 months' of payments. They will now seek reimbursement from FCI's bank and we hope the matter will end there. That said, even if our case appears to be almost resolved, we believe it is important to alert potential customers. They should look around carefully before signing up with a service provider. If, notwithstanding our warning, someone chooses to go with FCI, we would strongly urge them to refuse to pay via auto-deductions from a bank account or credit card. FCI may be a reputable firm but it has been unresponsive to us as customers and caused us to waste considerable time and money on resolving what should have been a straightforward matter. We have reported them to the Better Business Bureau of Ontario and we urge any other FCI customers who may have run into similar problems to air their grievances, so as to alert the general public.

Brian & Beverley Davis  
Matawatchan

## Ontario Power Generation and Ontario Provincial Police Join Forces To Issue 'Stay Clear, Stay Safe' Message

[TORONTO, ON]: Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) have joined forces to issue a 'Stay Clear, Stay Safe' water safety message around dams, hydroelectric stations and surrounding waterways.

"We're delighted to be working with the OPP in delivering the 'Stay Clear, Stay Safe' message, especially as the public's safety is a number one priority for both organizations," says John Murphy, Executive Vice President, Hydro at OPG. "Warmer weather brings increased recreational activity around water and it is vitally important for outdoor enthusiasts to understand the need for heightened awareness and safety around waterways, dams and hydroelectric stations."

### Stay Clear, Stay Safe Public Service Campaign

While the Stay Clear, Stay Safe is an ongoing educational campaign for OPG, a new advertising campaign highlighting the dangers in coming too close to hydroelectric dams and stations will be launched throughout Ontario. The 30 second commercial, which will run from mid-May through to August 2008, features Provincial Constable Larry Butterfield from the OPP SAVE Team (Snowmobile, ATV & Vessel Enforcement), showing how water around dams and hydroelectric stations can change in an instant. "With the OPP's support, we hope the message of staying clear to stay safe this summer will be emphasized," says Murphy.

"We recognize water safety as an important community issue and with the summer months soon upon us, the need for greater awareness of the inherent dangers that come with activities in and around waterways is paramount," says Karen Harrington, Acting Staff Sergeant, Specialized Patrols of the OPP. "Ontario has an extensive array of lakes and rivers, many with dams and hydroelectric stations that can cause water flow and levels to change suddenly and dramatically. We urge all Ontarians to obey posted signs and to know their

waterways before they venture out."

OPG operates 35 hydroelectric stations, a green power portfolio of 29 small hydroelectric plants and 240 dams on 26 river systems. Most of these facilities are remotely controlled by operators many kilometers away. To meet the fluctuating demand for electricity throughout the day, these operators open or close dams or start or stop generators as needed. This causes frequent and rapid changes in the water flow and levels, often creating strong undertows, turbulence and sudden, powerful gushes of water moving downstream in what was once calm looking surface water.

### How To Stay Safe

All waterways where an OPG dam or hydroelectric station is located have well-positioned warning signs, buoys, fences, booms and barriers. "We urge everyone to obey these warning signs and barriers," says Murphy. "They are there for the public's safety and to let everyone know that the areas around the signs are dangerous, so stay clear."

OPG also recommends that people stay away from the edge of waterways where footing may be slippery; do not wade into moving water; be aware of changing water levels or any sign of increased currents and to always stay a safe distance outside of warnings and barriers. Wearing a personal flotation device while around water provides added safety. Boaters need to remember that drinking and boating do not mix and is often the cause of unfortunate mishaps.

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The OPG Stay Clear, Stay Safe public service campaign also stresses that parents set an example for children who may not be aware of the dangers, even if they can read. This can be done by explaining what the warning signs and other barriers mean as well as identifying where they can and cannot go.

OPG offers the public a number of educational materials on water safety around dams and hydroelectric stations including a brochure, a DVD for adults and an educational interactive computer game for children. These, along with further safety tips, can be obtained free-of-charge by visiting [www.opg.com](http://www.opg.com)

End



# DANGER

## Recreational activities near hydroelectric facilities are hazardous

Ontario Power Generation and the Ontario Provincial Police want you to stay clear of hydroelectric stations, dams, shorelines, and surrounding waterways.

Hydro electric stations operate all year round and can have a significant effect on water flows. These changes in water flows can happen suddenly. At some of our dams, the gates are operated remotely. In just a matter of minutes, calm waters can become turbulent and dry riverbeds can fill with powerful rushing water.

For your safety, please obey all warnings, signs, booms and buoys.

If you see water levels changing, move immediately to a safe location.

To obtain a free water safety DVD or children's computer game visit [www.opg.com](http://www.opg.com)

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Gerry and I wish to extend our very sincere thanks to this wonderful caring community for the get well cards, visits, prayers and delicious food from so many of you after my recent mishap. I am improving every day and look forward to maybe having my cast removed in early July.

Thank you all most sincerely.

Annabell Marshall  
Matawatchan

## Internet (Cont)

Western and Southern areas surrounding Calabogie Lake, thereby completing a "ring" of service around the lake.

3. Black Donald Lake: Bell is looking to see if there is an interest (and sufficient potential revenue) to justify a second node - presumably somewhere close to Stubinsky's (the original Bell switch location for the area) which might serve the area from Chimo Road South through to the North and West shores of Norcan Lake (in North Frontenac Twp.) and including both shores of Graphite Bay on Black Donald Lake. Bell estimates that this project would cost \$170,000 to \$190,000 and would provide high-speed Internet service to 150 dwellings.

Discussion centred around the fact that a high-speed node was installed in the Green Lake area in 2007 and whether the extension of high-speed service to other parts of the township, such as Norway Lake, Springtown, Griffith, Matawatchan and even Burnstown. While a modified plan might be able to include many of these areas, Griffith and Matawatchan were considered too remote to be included.

The revised plan now calls for 3 additional high-speed nodes and some technical improvements to the existing system. The resulting 5-node architecture would then provide coverage on all sides of Calabogie Lake; in both the Springtown and Norway Lake areas; in the Green Lake area and along the adjacent sections of the Centennial Lake Road; all of the Chimo Park subdivision; through to Stubinsky's, around Graphite Bay and South to the Norcan Lake development in North Frontenac Township. Total cost is now estimated to be approx. \$600,000. An additional 520 dwellings would be served with high-speed Internet, including the tourist businesses at Calabogie Peaks, Calabogie Highlands Golf Resort, Fawn Ridge,

and Stubinsky's Tent and Trailer Park.

The western side of the township has always been considered to be too remote for high-speed; especially high-speed via a telephone line. For many years dial-up Internet access was only available from an Internet Service Provider (IPS) in Bancroft called Aryntel Communications. Funny enough, while it is long distance from Griffith-Matawatchan to the rest of the township, it is not long distance to Bancroft. More recently, another ISP in Mazinaw, south on Highway 41, was able to provide access for this area and Sympatico provided a local number in Griffith for access to dial-up for their services. Others went high-speed via satellite with Xplornet through Noron in Renfrew.

Dial-up speeds for this area are very uneven. For example, I would average a very respectable speed of 42 Kilobytes per second (Kbps) while my partner in this paper, Richard Copeland, who lives five kilometres down the road, had a frustrating average speed of 12 Kbps. He couldn't even consider doing Internet banking and any files for the paper had to be sent to me—he didn't have enough hours in a day to look after the potential download traffic.

In the spring of 2007 word circulated in the village about the possibility of high-speed through Aryntel Communications. Soon rumour was substantiated by posters offering limited access to high-speed Internet via 'line of sight' towers. The deal was that a number of residents, limited to twenty, could get access to high-speed by July of 2007 if they would put up \$212 in advance to pay for the tower. Twelve local residents paid the \$212 and an additional \$54 (Industry Canada fee). Many had a 'wait and see' attitude since they didn't trust Aryntel Communications because of previous bad service and some mishandled financial incidents. A letter to the Editor on page six of this paper illustrates the type of problem some subscribers were experiencing.

July passed and there was no high-speed. Subscribers were told that there weren't enough subscribers buying in, so the new availability date was "before winter". In late autumn local subscribers demanded a meeting with the President of Aryntel Communications for an explanation. These were not happy people. Again promises were made, but it became clear that Aryntel had no idea about the challenges of our local topography—we live in very hilly country.

To date, there is no high-speed via tower from Aryntel and no one who contributed money in advance has received a refund. Recently the OPP were informed and an investigation was opened.

That is the 'bad news' story about high-speed in the west of the township, but in the last month 'good news' about high-speed has emerged. Another satellite provider, Galaxy Broadband, through a Belleville company called Logic Solutions has targeted the Griffith-Matawatchan area. A number of local residents, including the production staff at the Highlander, had a satellite system installed. The file size of many of the ads we receive were getting too large for dial-up. For example, a 22 megabyte ad from Logic Solutions for the last paper took three hours to download via dial-up. We can now download

that same ad in fifteen to twenty minutes.

Another outcome of this satellite service is that there is now some local distribution of the satellite signal from a very local IPS. Gayle and Steve Main of the Eagle's Rest store and marina have purchased a 71 centimetre commercial dish and can broadcast the satellite's signal up to 1.5 kilometres from the store where there is 'line of sight'. They already have five local residents sharing their satellite signal for a fee. In a similar vein but different arrangement, I am sharing my satellite signal with Adam (the Highlander's designer), who lives across the street within 300 metres of my house. These types of arrangements can make high-speed satellite access affordable.

Steve and Gayle Main have become the authorized Galaxy Broadband contacts for Renfrew County. The hardware purchase and installation is handled by Logic Solutions.

Depending on where you live in the township different options are available to you. The dream of having the same speed of access to the Internet as our urban cousins is beginning to be realized, if ever so slowly.

**Editor's note:** Thanks to Bruce Parker for his excellent minutes. **End**

### Matawatchan: a glimpse into the past

Because of expressed interest in this book, author Elmer Strong is willing to do a reprint if there is sufficient interest. Contact the author at: [elmer.strong@kos.net](mailto:elmer.strong@kos.net)

This book has been featured as the history article in numerous issues of the Madawaska Highlander.

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# Community Calendar

## CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

### GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

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

**Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church**  
 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.

**Hilltop Tabernacle Summer Program for Kids**  
 July 6 – Western Round Up  
 July 13 – The Amazing Game Day  
 July 20 – Treasure Hunt  
 July 27 – Hiking in the Woods  
 For more info: 333-2933

### DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

**Vennachar Free Methodist Church**  
**Summer worship time**  
 10 a.m. Sunday mornings  
 Sunday School and clubs will resume in the fall

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

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

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

### CALABOGIE

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

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

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

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

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

#### Calabogie

**4th Annual Calabogie Gospel Fest & BBQ August 16 – 1 to 4 p.m.**  
 St. Andrew's United Church  
 (Calabogie) BBQ following entertainment

**Canada Day Pancake Breakfast**  
 Calabogie & District Snowmobile Club  
 July 1 – 8 am to 11:30 am  
 Calabogie Community Hall

**Canada Day in the Village of Calabogie**  
 July 1 – 4 pm start  
 Lakeside activities, food, entertainment  
 And fireworks

**Canada Day Beef on a Bun / Hot Dogs**  
 St. Andrew's Church  
 July 1 – 4 pm to dusk

**Calabogie Seniors - Monthly Dinner Meetings**  
 dinner at 4:30 followed by meeting last Thursday of the month.  
 May pot luck dinner at Community Hall and June to Sept. catered dinners at Barnet Park Cottage.

**Calabogie Women's Institute**  
 meets second Thursday monthly, 7:30 pm. For info 752-2598.  
 New members welcome.

**Lions Club Bingo**  
 Every Wednesday, 7:15 pm.  
 Calabogie Community Hall  
 Info 751-0234

**The Calabogie and Area Ministerial Food Bank**  
 538 Mill Street,  
 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month  
 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

#### Griffith & Matawatchan

**Matawatchan Market Day**  
 Every Saturday – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
 Bedding plants, early vegetables, Planters, etc.  
 Lunch will be served

**Denbigh-Griffith Lions Open House**  
 July 6 – 1 to 4 p.m.  
 Griffith Lions Hall (Griffith)  
 Dignitaries and refreshments  
 Everyone welcome

**Griffith & Matawatchan Fish and Game Club Kid's Fishing Derby (15 and under)**  
 July 15 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 Hollaran's Hidaway on Hutson Lake Road (Matawatchan)

**Lion's Club Bingo**  
 Every second Tuesday at 7:30 pm  
 July 8 and July 22  
 Community Centre, Griffith, 613- 333-1489

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

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

#### Denbigh

**Dedication of flag & pavilion**  
 July 1 – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Denbigh Rink Area  
 Games, canteen open

**Young Family Band Concert**  
 July 5 – 7 p.m. Denbigh Hall  
 Tickets: \$10

**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.

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# AUCTION FEVER

By Garry Ferguson

"You told me you'd be callin' 'er quits, as far as the farmin' goes, Grandpa," I said. "So you're not *really* gonna bid on any of them cattle, are you?" When Grandpa acknowledged my question with only a smirk, I added, "Besides, Dad says Joe Sullivan didn't git rich from these auctions by bein' big-hearted."

"Shush, Davey m'lad," Grandpa Mattson whispered holding a gnarled finger to his lips. "First off, keep yur trap shut b'cuz ya don't want to tip yur hand and let 'em know y're interested, eh. Y're as near to bein' a man as damn is to swearin'. So it's time I was learnin' you a few tricks about this livestock business. It's good fun, eh. You might even make a livin' at it someday – if you're half as good as me."

I shook my head and snorted to show my displeasure. "But, you said yourself that an old milk cow and a few chickens was enough to keep you busy."

"Well y'know, I've been sittin' and figgerin' – and I want you to keep this under your hat, eh – I might git into some cattle dealin' – just for fun. We seem t' be the only ones here from up the Bracken way – which is good. Y'know how ever-buddy 'round there's gotta know your bizness."

"Grammar know about this?" I whined. "She probly thinks you're here just to watch the goin's on. Besides – you've been talkin' about how I'd come over to your place when you wound the farmin' down. You'd show me how to make a saltlick and how to jacklight –"

"Shush, Davey," Grandpa's whisper was louder than my complaining. "That's all turbly illegal stuff, y'know, so watch your lip. Anyways, you worry too much for a lad your age. We can still do all that – and the other things we talked about too. Turn you into a crack shot even. I'm only thinkin' to buy cattle cheap, pasture them for the summer then rake in the profits when freeze-up comes."

"Well – okay," I sighed. "Let's get up front so's *you* can hear what's happenin'."

"G'wan ya young scallywag," he hissed so vehemently that his upper plate dropped. He pushed it back into place with his thumb. "I'll be damned if I'll let you tell me I'm deaf too. Whassat he said?"

"He said the biddin's startin' at ten dollars." I nodded toward the sweating auctioneer who stood on the shaded side of Joe Sullivan's big cattle barn to avoid the glare of a July sun. He fanned himself with a large straw hat as he watched the crowd from his elevated position on the plank box of a haywagon.

"Okaaay now, bring 'er right out front, lads," the auctioneer began in a contrived monotone.

"Weeerrre a startin' heere ata ten ana ten ana ten ana ten fona this heera fine young cow. So, whoona tryna buyna fona ten ana five ana nen ana nive ana nen ana nive fona fifteen? Dooo I heerrra bidda now ata nen ana five for a fifteen na fifteen na fifteen adoona? Whoona gonna maka bidda fifteen –"

"Twelve," a thin voice offered from the far edge of the crowd.

"Whaa was that?" Grandpa snarled.

"Somebody bid twelve," I said.

"Fifteen," Grandpa bellowed. He had straightened until it seemed the six-foot stature of his younger days was restored. His baggy pants though, hadn't been around in those days and now hauled up by braces, failed by four inches to reach the top of his run down boots.

"Aaah – fifteen adonnas it is. I'ma bidda fifteen, over heere on my left. Thankew." The auctioneer's voice took on a normal tone.

Grandpa nodded while his Adam's apple slid up and down his long neck. Heads swiveled to seek out the bidder. I lowered my head and watched an ant trying to cross a hole in the toe of my boot.

"Okaaay now. Yewwwna heard it. I'ma bidda fifteen. Whona bidda twuty twuty? Maka twuty twuty twuty twuty twuty fona twuty measly donna." The heads swung back toward the auctioneer. "Whoona gonna take this here fine a specimen o'Sullivan stocka fona twenny? Cattle from Sullivan stock give so much milk that the lucky farmers, who own 'm from here t' Calabogie'll tell you they shrunk their herds all the way down to one cow."

Some of the more polite in the gathering made a few sounds, which might have passed for chuckles.

"Missed that." Grandpa removed his felt hat and shuffled a few paces through the onlookers as though he expected to hear better from a new vantage point.

"Nuthin' " I grunted as I followed.

"Okaaay," the mesmerizing patter resumed. "It's aaa twuty twuty twuty twuty. Whoona gimme twuty donna? Will you tryna bidda twuty? I'ma wanna twuty smackers fona twuty twuty twuty –"

"Make 'er twenty one." Grandpa startled me.

Faces turned toward us again and I busied myself pulling at a rip in the bib of my overalls. "Grandpa," I growled. "You're getting' so damned het up you don't know what he's sayin'."

"Just be qwite and listen, lad or I'll kick

yur arse all the way up to Newfoundout. Grandpa's Adam's apple was moving faster now. He scuffed his feet, like a ravenous rooster scratching for worms, until he had torn through layers of dried barnyard manure to expose the sandy Madawaska Valley soil. I imagined that those pants had given up any hope of meeting the boots again. "And watch your dam' language," he added.

"O-kaaay, sir. On my right, I'ma bidda twenny-one adonna." The singsong began smoothly. "Than-kew. Now, is there someone who'll give me twenny-five? Will ya bidda twenny ana five? Do I hear a twuty ana 'ive ana 'ive ana twuty ana twuty-five adonna?" A slight echo from the toneless voice splashed off the barn giving the illusion of two pitchmen.

"Grandpa," I persisted. "Let's git up front so's we can listen better."

"Will you cam down and shut your confounded mouth?" Grandpa snarled as he used a sleeve to wipe at the sheen of sweat covering his red face. "I'm tryna concentrate. I know what I'm doin' for pity sake. Some sneak's makin' biddin' signals, eh. Run the bid to twenty-five. Now pay attention." His scuffling was raising fine dust into the hot afternoon air by the time he decided to move again. Reluctantly, I again followed.

"It's not twenty-five." I spit the words at his back. "It's twenty-one but it should only be –"

"Come aaawn folks, yyyurrrre about to lose this one," the voice urged. "It's an 'ive ana twuty ana twuty ana 'ive ana 'ive ana twuty ana twenny ana fiver takes 'er. This here a heifer's a wortha forny if she's aworth adonna. You canna lose out now for a measly 'ive ana twenny-"

"Ah –" was all Grandpa said before I grabbed his arm.

"Not yet!" I implored loud enough to be heard but not loud enough to sound disrespectful even though my frustration had eroded my civility. "It's still at twenty-five – the bid."

"Dammit, boy!" He jerked his arm away. "Stop your snivelin'. I heard twunny-five. Are you deaf? You'll make me lose this animal yet." He turned back toward the hay wagon. "Twunny-six," he thundered.

"Twen-ny-sixer? Did I heera twenny-sixer?" "Okay now-ah from the gentleman with the – ah – boy." The auctioneer seemed to have become unsure of what he should do next. He turned and said something to one of the men who had led the heifer out. The man shrugged. As I walked away I heard Grandpa yell, "I said twunty-six, dammit'. So let's get goin' here."

"Yessir," Grandpa said as he walked past me, half an hour later, on the way to his buggy. That's how you do'er, Davey. Hope you learned a thing or two today?"

"Yah. How to look like a horse's arse," I muttered as I turned to follow.

"What's that?"

"Nuthin'."

"C'mon," he pushed. "Ya must've picked up something from watchin' me."

"You made us look like a pair of horses' hind ends," I exploded. "I'd be ashamed to show my face around here again."

"G'wan," He shook his head. "Don't be so hard on yourself. You just got a little rattled today, but you're young yet. You'll learn." He stopped and turned toward me. "Y'know Davey, I've been thinkin'."

*continued on page 26*



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# Denbigh Checking In

By Angela Bright

\*Saturday, April 26th was the highly anticipated concert by Concession 23. The evening was well attended and the group put on a grand performance. The audience really enjoyed the music, including some traditional hard driving bluegrass, as well as some lovely slower tunes. All in all they provided a very good evening's entertainment and the Denbigh Recreation Committee is always delighted to host a Concession 23 concert. June 13th was the Family Games night, a good time was had despite the off and on periods of rain. Here are the details you need to celebrate Canada's birthday in the village: On Tuesday, July 1st, the festivities will be held at the rink area from 11am to 4pm. At noon, the flag will be dedicated, followed by the new pavilion dedication. The Denbigh Rec Club and other community volunteers have been working on a new Picnic Shelter and this will be its grand entrance. There will be games, face painting, tug-of-war and other events during the afternoon. And of course the canteens at the hall and

rink site will be serving up all kinds of tasty treats. Then on Saturday, July 5th, the Young Family will be on stage at the Denbigh Hall at 7pm. Tickets are only \$10 a piece and available from the Rec members: Janice, Kerr, Betty Bass, Paul Isaacs, Caroline Keller, Karen Weichen-thal, Roy & Judy Berndt, Tony & Gail Fritsch, Gord & Janice Powell, Ruth Anne Green and Gary & Ruby Malcolm.

\*The children met at the library Thursday, May 8th for a Mom's themed program. Two stories were read and then it was on to the project. Each child made a sun catcher, fashioned from one half of a two liter pop bottle, a CD, stickers and bows. Cards were made too, to go along with the special gift for mom, and fruit snacks were handed out as everyone was saying their good-byes for the evening. Thursday, July, 10th will be the start of the Summer Reading Program at the Library, running from 6 to 7pm. Get ready to "Laugh out Loud"!

\*The Community Ambulance Committee is actively working on the key issues recently raised by the community. A web

site has been launched and is continually being developed as the Committee work progresses. Check out this website, [www.denbihcac.8k.com](http://www.denbihcac.8k.com) for further information on Committee membership, activities, or to offer suggestions or ask questions. We want to keep the community informed and involved as work on the issues progresses. The County has named a consultant and the review process is happening now. You are also welcome to contact any Committee member or sit in on a Committee meeting. The Committee members are Roy Berndt, Tony Fritsch, Dianne & Paul Isaacs, Elissa Keller, Suzanne Lee, Yorck Lindner, Janice Powell, Bill Snider and John Treacy.

\* At one of the Denbigh Craft Club's meetings, Martha Lips lead a session on the art of flower arranging and two beautiful pieces now adorn the Hall. Thank you to the ladies who kindly donated the works, adding a nice touch to the stage area. Following a visit by a representative from Project Linus, the Craft Club has also been involved in making blankets for children who are undergoing cancer treatment. The goal for the number of blankets to donate was 13, but they

have already surpassed that number. Well done! You may get in touch with Karen at 333-1428 or 333-2221(Swiss Inn) if you have any questions about the craft club.

\*The Vennachar Free Methodist WMI Mother & Daughter banquet was held May 9th. 30 ladies were in attendance and shared in a good time of fellowship. A pot luck dinner was enjoyed, a few games and quizzes were played, and choruses sung. Bev Snider ministered in music with a lovely piece. The speaker for the evening was Laurie Lemke, with an encouraging message to pray, let go and let God work. A White Elephant Table and silent auction were set up, with all money and donations going to Child-care International, for the three children who are sponsored abroad. Then on June 2nd, eleven ladies met for the spring meeting. Three hymns were sung, including the theme song, Psalm 42. A reading was given, then a bible study, focusing on the first 27 verses of the book of John, lead by Tony Chatson. Prayer requests were received and prayed on and the meeting closed with singing grace before enjoying some refreshments.

End

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## Otters Have More Fun

By Floris Wood

If a Northern River otter cannot make you smile, check your pulse. Just watching them run away from you on land is funny, like watching a large, loping, furry inch worm. J. P. DeGrandmont, of Matawatchan, tells of seeing otter tracks in the snow shows that the otter travelled mostly by repeatedly thrusting himself forward and sliding over the snow. Their long bodies and short legs make land travel awkward for the otter. And, if he is running away from you on land, he is headed for a nearby body of water. When he reaches the water the otter turns into a water ballet dancer. The water is his home. He is designed for swimming with a long, thin, sleek, muscular body, a thin, tapered, powerful tail, webbed feet, a wide, rounded head and oily fur. He swims using his webbed feet and by "porpoising" through the water with heavy vertical thrusts. Heavy whiskers



help him detect movement underwater. While some sea-faring mammals such as Sea lions and whales are more aquatic than otters, the otter is probably the most aquatic mammal you will every meet in

the Canadian bush. Beavers, while also very aquatic, tend to spend more time on land because of their need for wood to build dens. Otters are so aquatic, being able to stay under water up to eight min-

utes, that some consider them marine animals and, as such, they are the only marine animal with fur instead of blubber.

The northern climes are home to several other animals that look much like otters. The strong resemblance between these animals and the probability of seeing them for only a fleeting moment before they disappear into water or the bush makes positive identification difficult sometimes. Pine martins, fishers, minks, weasels and ermine are among those frequently confused with otters. Generally, otters are much longer than most of its relatives, reaching lengths of 4.5 ft (1.35 M).

One of the best clues that what you have seen is an otter is its location. If it is in the water or on the banks of a river or lake it is likely an otter. The beaver is much more bulky and has the famous flat tail. The others are far less likely to be found in or near water. Otters have thick necks that are about as long as

*continued on page 19*

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Front row L to R - Ron Huntley - Manager of the project, Gerry Foote - Operating Manager for the Madawaska River of Ontario Power Generation, Al Lawrie - President of the Calabogie Seniors, Linda Halliday, Public Affairs Manager, Ontario Power Generation. Back - Peter Emon - Reeve, Greater Madawaska Township, Marilyn Lawrie, Maura Dinan and Clark Isevor - Seniors' members

Photo: Rick Brown

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## O.P.G. Supports the Facelift of Barnet Park in Calabogie

by: Marilyn Lawrie

Linda Halliday, Public Affairs Manager and Gerry Foote, Operating Manager for the Madawaska River of Ontario Power Generation made the official presenta-

tion of a cheque for \$3,000 to the Seniors' Club of Calabogie. The Seniors are creating a butterfly garden in the park under the able guidance of Hank and Hennie Schaly. The site chosen for the garden is protected from strong winds yet has a beautiful view through the trees

continued on next page

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<p><b>Barryvale Rd \$7000</b></p> <p>Affordable time share on the Calabogie Highlands Golf Course and Calabogie Lake. Walk to club house where you have access to 36 holes, deeded access to Calabogie Lake. Week 25 3rd week of June. Come and enjoy golf, swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, dining room and magnificent sunsets for a week in summer. Located in this four season resort just an hour from Ottawa where you can enjoy the many attractions of our Nation's Capital</p>				

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# The Basics of Space Weather

By Douglas Vasey

For most people, our solar system is usually always out of sight and out of mind. However our planet Earth is going through a period of significant climate change and it's not all due to burning fossil fuels. It is becoming clearer there are a number of factors affecting Earth's climate. I thought some people might enjoy learning some basics about how solar storms affect our planet.

The sun is covered with grainy spots which are actually the tops of convection cells. The bright centre of each cell is hot, rising material and the dark edges are cooler dropping gases. These grains are very similar to the cells in a bubbling pot of soup. Though they look very small, the cells are actually quite large. The layer of gas that is responsible for the visible light that we see from the sun is only a couple of hundred miles deep. (UCAR)

Sunspots are often associated with violent activity on the sun. They are an important tool for predicting space weather disturbances. Sunspots are dark because they are the coolest places on the sun. Magnetic fields about as strong as those of a horseshoe magnet (which is 1000 times stronger than the Earth's surface magnetic field) keep heat from flowing up to the surface. (UCAR)

Solar flares (enormous explosive releases of energy from the sun) are most likely to occur in sunspot groups that are grow-

ing rapidly and rotating like a hurricane. The number of sunspots on the sun at any given time varies in an eleven-year cycle as does the number and severity of disturbances in space weather. It so happens that the sun began a new cycle in January '08. Even though it is in the minimum range (quiet stage), our sun has been surprisingly active.

Perhaps the most important solar event for the people on Earth is a coronal mass ejection (CME) because it can produce spectacular space weather events in Earth's upper atmosphere. Periodically, the sun violently expels a huge bubble of gas (coronal mass ejection, CME) from its outer atmosphere into space. During the course of such an event on average, several billion tons of gas is blown toward Earth. This is equivalent to the mass contained in a small lake but vaporized and travelling at millions of miles an hour. In these shock waves, a fraction of the particles are accelerated to dangerously high energies before they encounter the Earth.

The sun is flinging 1 million tons of matter out into space every second, day after day, year after year. This mass loss is called the solar wind. The solar wind is formed as the sun's topmost layer blows off into space carrying with it magnetic fields still attached to the sun. Gusts and disturbances form in the solar wind associated with violent events on the sun. The gusting and blowing of the solar wind against the Earth's protective magnetic shield (magnetosphere) in space is responsible for space weather storms.

After a flare or coronal mass ejection erupts from the sun's surface, major disturbances arrive with a range of time delays and a storm begins to build in the space surrounding the Earth. Sometimes these massive disturbances have real effects on our atmosphere. Geomagnetic storms (magnetic storms on Earth due to solar activity) produce the awe-inspiring *Aurora borealis* and *Aurora australis* -- the Northern and Southern lights. However, they can also cause a variety of highly undesirable consequences. Geomagnetic storms disrupt satellite, radio, GPS or other electronic services or cause damage to our electric power grids. In 1989 a solar flare was responsible for knocking out hydro in the province of Quebec. Radiation sickness can also occur to astronauts on the outside of Earth's protective magnetosphere. Solar storms have been known to alter atmospheric ozone layers and disrupt the ionosphere. NOAA has issued 8 Electron Flux and Geomagnetic Impulse warnings over the past week. These would predominantly affect Satellites, electronics, power grids and the Earth's magnetic field.

Scientists are becoming more and more aware of solar weather and its effects. NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) have been putting weather satellites

*Continued on page 23*

## Barnet park(Cont)

to Calabogie Lake and the hills beyond. Ron Huntley, who is the manager of the project for the Seniors, has been working with the Schalys to develop a site we all can be proud of. Various members of the club will be taking turns tending to the garden throughout the season -- this of course means watering and weeding.

This garden is just a small part of the overall redevelopment of Barnet Park. The park committee, chaired by John Bonnar, is looking after the many aspects of development required. This includes making the park totally accessible for all people with various mobility and visual limitations, a playground structure for the children, a gazebo looking over the lake, and major reconstruction in the cottage itself. The beach and waterfront were cleaned up last year and 2 beach volleyball courts were constructed the year before. It is planned to construct a large gazebo/bandshell on the grounds as well.

The Seniors installed the new entry gates to the park a couple of years ago, and are very appreciative of the support received from OPG and look forward to enjoying the garden when all the butterflies find it.

End

## Nudie and the Turks play Pine Valley



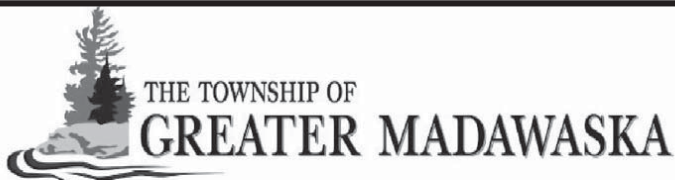
By Richard Copeland

On May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Pine Valley Restaurant, with the help of local booking agent Morgan Adams presented the music of the Maritimes group Nudie and the Turks. Bert and Carol Kauffeldt, Pine Valley's owners and event hosts put on a special Newfoundland brunch and an afternoon of the best toe tapping country and western music to grace the Griffith/Matawatchan area in a long time. A standing room only crowd of 2 years old to 92 enjoyed Nudie himself on guitar and vocals, Thomas "TW" Webb on guitar, Mark "Lefty" Geddes on the upright bass and Gordie "Rocket" McKeenan who could make the fiddle do things unheard of.

Nudie and the Turks are a Maritimes group, spawned in spring of 2005 and achieved an East Coast Music Awards showcase after only three months. They did some busking and travelled with a Willie Nelson tour in 2006, entertained through the CBC and have played The Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario and the West. Their debut album *Nudie and the Turks* and their recently released *Looking for a Good Time* were both available at the session and well worth the purchase.

Congratulations to all involved for providing such an outstanding afternoon of entertainment. You can find Nudie and the Turks at [www.nudieandtheturks.com](http://www.nudieandtheturks.com).

End



### July Meetings

**Standing Committee Meetings:** Thursday July 3/08 - Council Chambers- Calabogie (all day)

**Committee of the Whole Council Meeting:** Thursday, July 10/08  
DACA Centre (4 p.m.)

**Council Meeting:** Thursday July 17/08 - Council Chambers (4 p.m.)

**There are no meetings scheduled for August 2008**

# A Final Dispatch from the South

## Seas

By Rick and Jane Baxter

We are now happily back in Canada and settled on the shores of Black Donald Lake. Enjoyable reunions with family and friends have been conducted and the process of organising ourselves for our new adventure in life here is underway. This means mundane things like purchasing a new vehicle, all household basics and foodstuffs, arranging for health and home insurance coverage, television, telephone, internet service and meeting residential income tax requirements. The initial shock of finding two meters of snow at the end of the driveway and deep snow all around the property was chilling. However, after having retrieved our winter coats and boots, we have managed to adapt to the Canadian climate. Before too much more time goes by I thought I should just write a note about our vacation bus tour through New Zealand – March 3 – 19<sup>th</sup>.

We left our home and friends in the South Pacific paradise where we have lived for the past two years, in Noumea, New Caledonia on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We enjoyed an evening in Auckland, on New Zealand's north island, dining on Indian food and then flew to Christchurch on the east coast of the south island on Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Arriving in Christchurch early in the morning, we were picked up by our friends Mike and Jenny Andrews who gave us a motor tour and provided a detailed commentary of Christchurch's surrounding countryside and seascapes. They then treated to us to lunch at a local winery along with a cool bottle of New Zealand's renowned Sauvignon Blanc – it was a great day.

Once back at our hotel, we met the tour director and the 45 other vacationers who were on the bus tour with us. The majority of the other travellers were from Australia, although there were also several from England and only two opinionated Americans. The first day of the tour began at Christchurch railway station with a ride on the Tranz Alpine train. The train travelled in a north westerly direction from Christchurch over the Canterbury Plains and then through the Southern Alps to Arthur's Pass. The scenery was impressive going over the mountains and the weather was sunny and cloudless. We then boarded the coach (bus) at Arthur's Pass and proceeded to the west coast and subsequently south to the town of Fox Glacier. The coastal scenery was rugged and spectacular.

The next day we went to the base of the glacier where a raging river of ice cold, milky grey/green water flowed. The colour of the water is due to the silt that the glacier produces as it recedes up the mountain while grinding up the rock. We then travelled along the coastal road over the Haast Pass. A group of us took

a jet boat ride along the Haast River. It was exciting doing 360 degree turns at full speed and entertaining as the boat driver had a great sense of humour. In some places the water was flowing rapidly over the shoals and was very shallow, it looked to less than 12 inches, yet the jet boat zoomed over the water at top speed.

Back on the bus we travelled further south to Queenstown, stopping at the historical town of Arrowtown for lunch. We spent two days in the quaint town Queenstown and they were magic. It is located on the shores of Lake Wakapiti and surrounded by mountains. Very much like a North American ski resort with gondola rides to the top of mountains, but without any snow. There are no trees on the mountains as just the bare multi-coloured rock is seen. The weather was warm and there were lots of activities going on in town. One evening we watched para-sailers land on the beach after having started their flight on the local mountain top.

After two idyllic days, we headed west through Fiordland towards Milford Sound. This part of New Zealand is their alpine region and the west coast is inundated with several Fiords or Sounds. At the port of Milford, after travelling through a dark and narrow one mile long, single lane tunnel carved by hand through the mountain, we boarded a boat for a cruise through Milford Sound. Milford Sound is composed of a deep narrow inlet that comes in from the Tasman Sea that is about 2 kilometers long and is surrounded by a steep rock escarpment. The average rainfall in Milford and the surrounding rain forests is 2 meters each year. Not surprisingly then, it was raining by the time we arrived. Rain is preferable for tourists since the result is surging waterfalls gushing out of crevices, and over the top of the high rock sides of the Sound.

From Milford Sound we headed east across the fertile farmlands and lush rolling hills towards Dunedin on the south east coast. The sheep stations or farms are vast and often several thousand acres in size. Although there remain many sheep farms, we were told that dairy farming is now much more prevalent as it is more profitable. Along the way, we rode on the historical steam powered Taieri Gorge Railway. Again, we were blessed with great weather and because we were a little squished on the historically restored, but small carriages on the train, Rick and I spent most of the trip standing on the ramp between the cars. The train travelled through 17 tunnels while we peered down into the deep gorge with the raging river below.

In Dunedin, Rick took a tour of the Speight's Brewery. Speight's is one of few "gravity" type breweries left in the world and is situated on the edge of a cliff. It is composed of a six storey building next to the cliff with spring water flowing out of the ground at the top storey. The process starts at the top storey and,

each subsequent processing step drops one level until the finished beer is available on the ground floor for consumption and shipping. It was an impressive process with, of course, a visit to the tasting room afterwards. I took this time to do a little shopping in the shops of Dunedin. An interesting point of nomenclature is the name "Dunedin," which is the Gallic translation for "Edinburgh" and the influence of the Scottish immigrants into New Zealand is seen in the names of places and the architecture.

Following a visit to the steepest street (Baldwin) in the world, (we did not try to climb up), from Dunedin we followed the Waitaki River to Omarama and from there past Mount Cook National Park to Lake Tekapo. Because it was such a clear sunny day, Rick decided to take a plane tour of the mountains and glaciers and he wasn't disappointed as the visibility was great. From the small plane you felt that you could reach out and touch the snow covered Mount Cook.

From there we headed back to Christchurch for the night. The next morning we continued north along the coastline towards Picton, but we stopped to see the fur seals at Ohau Point. These fat (and smelly) seals were just lolling around fast asleep and you had to be careful not to trip over them. Our tour director said to be careful as they could be nasty, but the bunch we saw looked too fat and lazy to be dangerous. From there we headed to the Marlborough wine region to the Montana Winery for a tour and tasting. This area was covered in vineyards loaded down with grapes almost ready to the harvested and made into wine. We then headed to Picton to board the inter-island cruise through Queen Charlotte Sound and across Cook Strait to Wellington on the North Island. Unfortunately, I came down with a cold at this point and didn't see much of Wellington – I spent that day in bed which was the best thing to do as I felt much better the next day. From Wellington we travelled through the farming land to the Tongariro National Park and from there to the shores of Lake Taupo. We stopped to see Huka Falls on our way to Rotarua.

That night we enjoyed a Maori cultural show. Rick was chosen as Chief of the group and as such, was required pick up the feather from the Maori leader, showing we came in friendship. Apparently, the entire bus tour would have been massacred and eaten if he did not pick it up. It was a fun evening. One of the fellows on our tour was a lovely Welshman named Arnold. He was an older fellow and a very gentle soul. To see him on the stage trying to look fierce while doing a Haka, the Maori war dance, was really funny.

The next day we were at the Agradome's Sheep Show for an entertaining sheep shearing demonstration and an explanation of the many different breeds of sheep – and NZ sure has lots of sheep! From there to the Whakarewarewa Thermal Reserve where we saw the geysers

and boiling mud fields. This was amazing stuff. Some of the houses in the area have geysers steaming in their backyards. One of the nights in Rotarua we did a farm stay and it was really enjoyable. Our hosts were a interesting and friendly couple who showed us the sheep farm and cooked us an amazing meal in the evening – all of it grown/raised on their land. Their home was on a rise of land overlooking Lake Rotarua and their garden was covered in blue/pink hydrangeas – it was certainly a lovely spot.

The next day we headed to the Waitomo Caves to see the Glow-Worm Grotto. I have to admit, I thought this would be something we wouldn't be interested in but it was so interesting. You have to be very quiet as you enter the cave and then you get on a boat and the guide pulls the boat through the underground river by ropes over his head. It is dead quiet in there with only the odd dripping of water. When you look up at the roof of the cave it is covered in glow worms and they are amazing – zillions of them. We then journeyed north through Hamilton before continuing on to Auckland. In Auckland, the bus took us on a city tour including Mt. Eden, Bastian Point and Auckland Harbour Bridge. That evening, our friends, Andrew and Julie, picked us up and we had a relaxing dinner with them – a backyard bbq which was fabulous and such a treat after all the hotel meals we had been having en route. On March 19<sup>th</sup>, we said goodbye to NZ and the South Pacific and headed home.

*End*

## *The Docks*

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# Fishing with Jim

By Jim Weatherall



This issue has a little different twist folks. It began two years ago when a gentlemen by the name of Mark Alford was looking to purchase property in this area dropped into our store. In conversation, I discovered he was a neighbour of Bob Izumi, host and star of "Real Fishing" that you have probably watched many times. Mark also works for Bob.

Upon returning home, he spoke to Bob about his visit with me and suggested that a show could be done in Calabogie..... so the wheels began to turn.

After many phone calls and visits with Mark, the day was set for May 28, 2008. In order to accommodate enough fishing hours to make a show, we scheduled two days minimum to get enough film to be edited to fit the time slot allowed.

When the crew (Bob, Mark and camera man Jake) arrived Wednesday afternoon, it was too late to venture out so time was set for 7:00 a.m. Thursday at Calabogie Lodge boat launch. Bob supplied us with a Lund boat with a 225 h.p. Mercury 4 stroke engine and we set out for the day.

We fished in 27 – 35 feet of water with jig heads and live minnows, looking for a big walleye. By 11:00 a.m. we had captured 40 to 50 walleye, which were released immediately after we checked the size...not 19.7".

Lunch time found us at Polly's L'il Shanty whose staff put on a delightful and filling lunch....so filling that Bob had to take a nap break, while Jake filmed some of the sights around the community. At 4 p.m. we were back on Calabogie Lake, back to the 35' hole near Barret Chute Generating Station. This time we used jig heads with Berkely Gulp Leeches, which worked well on the walleye. We found the leeches were not as productive as the live minnows but they are an excellent substitute if live bait is not available or is not your preference as bait.

We fished there until about 8 p.m. when the fishing slowed down, as night was coming on and they moved to shallow water to feed. We moved on to the opening of the causeway at Grassy Bay to fish until dark and landed about 14 walleye, with the last on of the evening being a 22" "keeper" which was returned to the lake. This final fish was caught by yours truly and I really was sorry to have to beat Bob Izumi at his own game, but as you know folks --- that's real fishing! Our total count was over 100, so we didn't have to fish on Friday.

I did learn from Bob that without a doubt, the more you can spend on

electronic gear...(fish finder) the better your chances are of locating the fish you are looking for.

Bob was kind enough to leave three autographed pictures that will be raffled off at the annual Bass Derby to be held at Barnet Park on July 5, 2008, sponsored by Calabogie Fish & Game Club. This is the "Free Fishing Weekend". Bring out your kids or grandkids for a fun filled weekend on the water.

Many thanks to Calabogie Lodge Resort for the great accommodations provided to Bob, Mark and Jake and to The Duck Restaurant for a beautiful and fabulous dinner provided to the crew of "Real Fishing". Thanks also to Polly's L'il Shanty for a superb lunch for all of us. Thanks also to Daryl Leclaire for kindly guiding the gentlemen to their destination.

When the editing is complete, we will be notified of times and channels that this episode of "Real Fishing" from Calabogie Lake will be aired and I will let all of you know via this column.

The main person I would like to thank for the great day of fishing was Bob Izumi himself. The promotion of this great province and the whole country and the best fishing spots is one of the things he does best. Hats off to Bob, Mark and Jake and their staff behind the scenes for a wonderful experience; especially Tammy who kept the lines of communication open.


Hope to see you out on the water. Be safe and above all "Protect our natural resources".

Jim

## Otters (Cont)

their heads. The flattish heads have very small ears. Their colouration is dark brown with a white chest and sometimes a golden throat and cheeks. Their thick fur looks short and sleek as opposed to the fluffy fur of some of their cousins.

Their most characteristic behaviour is their playfulness. Their propensity for play has earned them the reputations as the class clowns. They love water acrobatics, stone and stick manipulation, playing tag, playing hide and seek, mud and snow slides and tumbling with their siblings in mock wrestling matches and chases. They are great show offs. Some scientists speculate that the playfulness of otters is more than just for fun or because they have a lot of free time on their hands. But the exact purpose is not well known. Perhaps it keeps the body





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strong and agile for catching fish or there may be a more evolutionary purpose if these displays of strength and agility convince suitors of the superior survivability of the more athletic specimens.

Otters are intensely curious. Boaters and canoers have reported otters swimming up alongside their crafts to investigate the situation. My neighbour, John Richardson, tells of an incident when the otter even tried to enter the boat, much to the alarm of the occupants.

Much of the otter's energy comes from his very high metabolism rate that requires him to eat high volumes of food each day and serves to keep him warm. His fur is designed for efficient swimming but is only a fair insulator. An otter must hunt from three to five hours a day, a mother with pups up to eight hours a day. Their high metabolism accounts for the otter's hyperactive behaviour, even when not hunting for food. They are incredibly fast in the water and on land. They catch slower fish fairly easily with powerful thrusts of their body, webbed feet and tail. Northern River otters are known to dive to depths of 60 feet and swim underwater at +10 km (7 mph) for a quarter of a mile before surfacing for air. On land they can run up to 29 km/hr. On snow they slide on top of it or burrow into it very quickly.

Otters are members of the Mustelidae family which includes weasels, minks, martins, fishers, ferrets, badgers and wol-

verines. Skunks are not part of this family since recent molecular studies have shown that, in spite of many similarities, they belong in the family Mephitidae. Otters, in general, appear in every continent except Australia and Antarctica. The most common characteristics among most Mustelidae are the scent glands which have evolved in some species to serve for something besides territory marking. They are all carnivores and opportunistic feeders. Some, including otters, will eat the occasional plant when driven by hunger. Their smaller size but carnivorous appetites have made them into fierce hunters that use a variety of methods to hunt down and kill their prey. Fortunately the Northern River otter has adapted well to his speciality food, fish. Although the faster fish may be able to elude him, the otter can easily catch the slower swimmers such as suckers. His other favourite foods, such as frogs, turtles, snakes, crayfish, crabs, snails, clams, worms, birds and eggs, do not require him to be a fierce fighter like his cousins the martins, fishers, badgers and wolverines. With such a general diet of aquatic food and the ability to withstand heat and altitude, the Northern River otter can locate wherever a food supply and healthy water exists. He is very sensitive to polluted waters. Hence he can be found in nearly all parts of Canada and the U. S. except for the deserts of the U. S. southwest.

*continued on page 23*

# Griffith Matawatchan News

By Garry Ferguson

Both Kris Lehnhardt and his wife Erin have passed the three-day-long Medical Residency Exams in their specialties. After eight years of university and a five-year residency in London, Ontario, they are fully-fledged licensed doctors. Erin, a native of Edmonton, Alberta graduated from the University of Alberta before moving to London for further education and a residency, along with Kris, at University Hospital. Kris attended school in Eganville and Opeongo before receiving degrees in Guelph and London, Ontario.

On June 7, 2008 the Medical Residents Association of Ontario honoured him for his presidency and five-years of service on the board with a dinner in Toronto. His mother Karin Lehnhardt and Betty MacPherson, both of Matawatchan, were honorary guests. Kris will leave shortly for a two-month, scholarship-funded aerospace medicine training session in Barcelona, Spain. A previous article in this column, described his 2007 training session at NASA's aerospace headquarters in Florida, USA.

Both Erin and Kris are to be commended for such tenacity and dedication. Ontario's medical system sure as heck needs them.

On June 07, 2008, the Denbigh Griffith Lions (the DGL's) celebrated their tenth anniversary by throwing a grand party complete with a dinner catered by the Pine Valley Restaurant. There has been a lot of good works heaped upon this community through the efforts of "the club" in that first decade. Let's all wish it good luck in celebrating a *first century* in the do-good business. Speaking of doing good, the locals did pretty good by reaching down deep to make the Toll Road on May 16, 2008 a success. Hospice Renfrew can use all the help they can get.

Michelle Lloyd, daughter of Sandra and Cam Lloyd of Vennachar, walked away with this years Lions Bursary of \$500. The award is for outstanding students who will go on to attend a college or university.

Readers should note the dates of two upcoming DLG events. The first is an "Open House" - complete with refreshments - to show off the hall renovations from one to 4 p.m. on July 06, 2008. The second is the "Shine and Show" exhibition for antique and classic vehicles from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on August 16, 2008. Just follow the smells wafting from the BBQ lunch.

Don't forget Lions Bingo on the following Dates: July 08, July 22 and August 05.

Alden and Doris Dodge of Edmonton, Alberta returned to Alden's old stomping grounds and spent two weeks with Coral Kelly in Griffith. Alden was born and raised where Alden (a younger namesake and nephew) Dodge now lives. He attended two separate schools in Camel Chute along with Coral. In preparation for an upcoming article(s) about those schools, yours truly enjoyed a couple marathon yarnning sessions around Coral's kitchen table with the two old buddies.

The Fish and Game Club held its Annual General Meeting on May 17, 2008 in the Matawatchan Hall. The newly elected executive will carry on with the set summer schedule including the Annual Pig Roast so watch for a newsletter detailing other summer activities. The new board is as follows: Al Pennock, President, Amy Felder, Vice President and Filipa Martins, Secretary Treasurer.

Amateur historians interested in Word War I should be sure to catch Angela Bright's column (this edition) that describes the ceremony marking the presentation of Private John Leslie Ball's military medals to the Denbigh Library. Included in the 3600 killed (over 7000 wounded) at the Canadian-German Battle of Vimy Ridge that commenced on Easter Monday April 09, 1917, were John Ball and Charles Gregg of Vennachar along with George Quackenbush. It may

be of interest to the folks around the Matawatchan area to note that George's family, the Quackenbushs, lived near the lake named for them in Miller Township.

In the last issue of *The Madawaska Highlander*, we ran an article featuring Bernie Bedore, writer of stories and songs, poet and teller of tall tales but best known for the mythology he created around Joseph Montferrand or Big Joe Mufferaw. In preparation for that article, this scribbler spent an interesting fall afternoon in Armprior with Mr. Bedore and his wife Vera. It is sad that in this issue we now mark their deaths. Bernard Vance Bedore passed away at the age of 85 in the Renfrew Hospital on Tuesday, June 17, 2008. Vera preceded him in death by approximately two months.

End

### Community Yard Sale

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

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

## YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND A COMMUNITY MEETING

Ontario Power Generation's Ottawa/St. Lawrence Plant Group invites you to attend our annual community meeting. You're invited to hear presentations by OPG staff on how our operations affect water levels and flows during the year on the Madawaska River. There will also be an update on OPG operations, a general public safety update, and information on water levels and flows.

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

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**GREATER MADAWASKA LITERARY MATTERS**

By Mary-Joan Hale

Greetings from the construction zone! Things are progressing slowly, but progressing never-the-less. Sitting in a small construction trailer in the parking lot has taught me 'be careful what you wish for'. The present library is too small for our population. However, it is far bigger than the one small office which houses the reduced collection at present. Everything else is in the storage van.

In spite of all this, we are offering limited service. Library 'Open Hours' are the same. We have a selection of Adult, Junior & Youth fiction and Easy Readers. You still may order from the inter-library loan collection and service to Wards 2 & 3 continues. Cool DVDs are available. Fax, laminating wireless hi-speed and photocopying are available. There are many used books to take away at no charge. Please drop in and borrow or take away and have a chat. It can get very lonely out here on the asphalt!

We will be having the TD Summer program once again. I am very (giggle, giggle...) excited ...Sorry I cannot stop laughing out loud just thinking about the topic this summer. Did I just say, 'laughing out loud'? That is the theme this year. So kids, start doing your laugh exercises. You will need to

be in great shape for the program. Bring your funny stories to share. We will be getting a bunch of new books to tickle your 'funny-bones' throughout the summer. (Q) Why did the chicken cross the road? (A) Because she had to buy some seed. Well, that is a bad joke, but there are lots of funny ones to think about.

To add to the summer fun, the student who will be running the program this year is Kayleigh Felice. She just graduated from Dalhousie University with a BSc. in Marine Biology. In September she will be off to Western to study Library and Information Science. Her background includes a wealth of children's camp experience as well as her marine studies. We welcome her to our summer staff. She will also run the Preschool Storytime on Tuesday afternoons.

Please watch the website for updates on our library reconstruction. When the basic repairs are finished the library will open with partial service. After the whole job is completed, we will have a 'Grand Re-opening' with prizes for the kids and free draws for all. In the meantime, we are in the trailer.

**EVENTS:**

**Preschool Storytime:**

Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. (except July 8)

**TD Summer Reading Club:**

Wednesdays 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

(July 16, 23, 30, August 6, 13, 20, 27)

**Grand Re-opening:** To Be Announced!!!!

End

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# Cottage Corner

## The Inheritance

By John Roxon

The swivel TV chair is a bit uneven. The massage chair gives a rub like a one-handed masseuse and the couch emits a cloud of grey dust every time someone plunks down on it. Ah the trials and tribulations of buying a cottage.

When many people buy a cottage – whether it's their first cottage or fifth – they often not only get the cottage and the land and the nice view (hopefully), they also inherit a myriad of the previous owners' discards and final resting places disguised more often than not under the banner of 'fully furnished' or 'many extras included'.

The fact is, for many people the cottage is the final resting place of junk. The usual flow is from a room of prominence like the living room to perhaps the family or TV room to the basement or garage and finally to the cottage. If your cottage is anything like mine then it is filled with interesting bric-a-brac like end tables where the dog chewed one leg, couches with either fabric designs from a much earlier era or with the stuffing so flattened from years of compressing that it practically feels like sitting on a board and, of course, the 1970's stereo with

the old Advent speakers which has one blown tweeter. It's surprising to me, in fact, that more cottages don't come complete with avocado shag carpeting and matching furry bed covers and pink toilet seat covers.

Some people are great at tossing out anything and everything they never use. If they haven't touched it in six months or a year, then out it goes. Others, including me, hang on to the most useless junk for years and years because it either: a) will be valuable one day or b) will be useful one day. Most cottage owners fall into the latter category – that is – they like to hang on to every piece of flotsam and jetsam which floats through their harried life.

That Canadian Tire catalogue from 1983 represents a slice of our heritage. A Scrabble game from the bygone days when the wooden tiles were actually inscribed – even though two of the letter T's, one 'F' and the 'Z' are all missing – they don't make them like this anymore. Volumes 2, 5, 8 and 14 of the Hardy Boy series – even though no one in your family is under fourteen – must be kept for some future unseen and unknown generation. As if these were the only things people hang on to.

That irreverent comedian George Carlin said that the only reason people had houses and moved to bigger houses was that they needed more space to store their

stuff. The same can be said for cottagers. Probably the only reason some people are cottagers while other are world travellers or even campers is that the cottagers need a stable storage area for their 35 years of "treasures" that they've accumulated and can't possibly part with. Junk, for the most part, which would collect twenty-five cents (tops) at a garage sale. Junk, that mysteriously becomes useless upon the sale of the cottage.

Current cottage owners know what I'm talking about. They have inherited someone else's junk. Often it's not obvious. I mean you don't open the door to your newly purchased cottage to find every cupboard and closet filled with someone else's stuff. It's much more benign that that. There will be a sofa left here and a chair left there. There's a bed in one of the bedrooms and a chest of drawers in another. Then there's the old mop in the closet and some Harold Robbins or Harlequin paperbacks on a shelf and as you dig more and more into your new escape by the lake the full personality of the previous owner begins to unfold.

And once you incorporate the stuff already there into your day-to-day life, you start to add to it. You pack that old couch from your home family room and that comfy chair from the garage and slowly but surely they find a home in your cottage. And slowly but surely the cottage becomes an amalgam of different owner's tastes – each one in succession preserving something from the previous

command until you have something like you but also totally unlike you.

Chances are the look of the lakeside property is absolutely nothing like your urban day- to-day "real" world property. That other property represents everything which the good book and the rule book and our parents and our peers say we must adhere to. The cottage represents the Mr. Hyde - our carefree uber personality, full of past hopes and broken dreams, hobbies started but never quite completed and we cling to these as we would cling to a life raft in stormy weather. For it is this side of the personality which maintains our sanity and our reason so we can once again face the Dr. Jekyll which consumes most of our time.

A cottage sold is an awakening to the vendors that life trundles on. A cottage bought is a reminder that there is more, so much more.

Please feel free to email any comments, questions or bizarre insights to cottagecorner@xplornet.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

End

**It is not the horse that draws the cart, but the oats.**

**- Russian proverb**

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## Otters (Cont)

The range of a Northern River otter can be a short as two kilometres of river or shoreline, or where food is less abundant, as long as 78 kilometres. Their voracious appetites demand that they keep on the move, up and down their home range. If their range becomes depleted of food they may have to extend their range or find a new one. Northern River otters are only mildly territorial, preferring to just avoid one another rather than battle over territory. A male's territory will overlap parts of several females' and these are the females with whom he generally will mate. Both males and females are solitary creatures, coming together, then only briefly, during breeding season.

The mating season begins in late winter or early spring but the pups from that breeding may not be born until November through May a year later. The female does not necessarily mate with the same male every year. Female Northern River otters employ delayed implantation of the fertilized eggs into the uterus. The advantage of this method is that the female may breed at any time during the breeding season but still always have the pups at a time of the mother's choosing. In colder climates birthing usually takes place later in the birthing season in May. Once the eggs are released into the uterus the gestation period is only 60-63 days. A litter can number as many as six pups, but the average is between two and three.

Newborn pups are blind, toothless and ut-

terly helpless, but born with fur. The mother nurses and rears the pups by herself in a den near the shore of a body of water. Birthing dens, usually lined with softer materials such as moss, leaves, hair and grass, are somewhat more elaborate than a living den. Northern River otter dens are usually borrowed from other animals such as beaver or muskrats. Some are very temporary affairs in a brush pile, under a log or burrowed into the roots of trees. Otters often dig a burrow from the den to the water with an opening underwater.

At seven weeks the pups gain sight, and at three months begin to venture out of the den. Oddly enough the mother must teach the pups how to swim, sometimes by actually dragging them into the

water. By late fall the pups must move out to establish their own territories. They will not become sexually active until they are two or three years old.

Northern River otters have disappeared in some of their range due to pollution, habitat loss and loss of food supply. They have returned to some of these abandoned areas as adverse situations improve. Generally the otter is doing quite well. They are an asset to most areas they inhabit. They compete very little with sport fishing since their diet consists of what fishermen usual regard as junk fish. I had the privilege of being visited by a Northern River otter once while fishing with my father-in-law from the banks of the Madawaska River. He apparently makes his home among the huge rocks used in the construction of the Centennial Lake road. Judging from the number of empty clam shells in the shallows of a little inlet near there, he is still around. They are a real treat to watch.

End

## Space Weather (cont)

in Earth's orbit to monitor and study the nature of space weather. SEC (Space Environment Center) forecasts high-speed solar wind and particle events.

The activity of the sun does have an effect on Earth weather. However, it is erratic and mostly imperceptible because of the immensity of our atmosphere and the mass of the Earth. Solar cosmic rays do affect cloudiness in the Earth's atmosphere. The sun's energy drives our climate. A prolonged period of change in solar radiation reaching the Earth and being contained in the atmosphere would produce a change in climate.

The word "meteorology" is a Greek word meaning high in the sky. I find it peculiar that the study of Earth weather is called "meteorology" when meteors have nothing to do with our weather, except of course if we happen to have a meteor shower. Then it rains rocks instead of water.

Scientists believe that they see the effects of long term solar energy changes in the climatic record over thousands of years. This is complicated by the variation in the Earth's orbit around the Sun and the tilt of the Earth's axis over time.

**Sources:** New Scientist Space, NASA, NOAA, University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR). David R. Cook Argonne National Laboratory,

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# Lie Down and Heal

By Susan Veale BSc., Natural Health Practitioner

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# PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE: SENIORS HOME SUPPORT

By Judy Ewart, Coordinator of Volunteer Services

This article was made possible by an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant

June is Seniors Month and this year's theme is "Discover the Possibilities". For many seniors this is a stage in life when they often find they have the time to pursue interests, hobbies, travel, education, leisure activities or volunteer opportunities; many of which, they put "on hold" during busier times. With retirement, seniors gain up to 2000 hours per year of time for themselves and how this time is used can have a major impact on their quality of life. Remaining physically, mentally and socially active can help seniors to maintain their independence by helping them to stay healthy, strong and flexible. While some of these activities may require financial means to pursue; many can happen in spite of a limited budget. There are many ways for seniors to remain active. The challenge is finding what is right for you!

This year's theme encourages us to "discover the possibilities". Is there something that you have always wanted to do but never had the time to pursue it? This is the time to explore the many possibilities available to you. Remaining physically active can be as simple as going for a daily walk, working in your garden, taking an exercise class or taking part in one of the many sports available in our community. Not only does getting involved in recreational activities help us to maintain our health but these activities can also provide us with mental stimulation and social

opportunities as we interact with others.

As the Alzheimer Society's program "Heads up for Healthier Brains" tells us, good brain health can benefit us down the road. Challenging our brains is quite easy and does not have to be a costly pursuit - puzzles, games, crosswords and other word games, reading books or the newspaper or watching educational TV are all things that we can easily engage in. Starting a new hobby, learning new skills, maintaining skills or taking a course, all help to keep our brains active and engaged.

Social activities keep us connected to our community and helps to prevent isolation and loneliness. Seniors clubs can provide a group to join and meet people, as they provide activities, both physical and social, for their members. Volunteering is another great way to socialize and give back to the community. Many volunteer opportunities allow for the chance to meet new people and learn new skills, while at the same time, help you to make a difference in the lives of others in your community! Service clubs, art groups (quilting, drama, art) and many other organizations in our community are always looking for new members. While it is enjoyable for some to keep in touch with family more often, it is just as important to nurture new and interesting experiences, because growing one's 'circle of friends' leads to even more opportunities to stay active and involved in the community.

This month take the challenge and "Discover the Possibilities" in our community for staying physically, mentally and socially active. If you are interested in volunteering as a way to "discover the possibilities" we would love to hear

End

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# MARIPOSA MONARCHO

by Ernie Jukes

Kaboom -----The thunder rolled across our hills---she ranted, she roared and she cursed. Another crack of lightning shook the bush. Here it was only June and its been raining for weeks, so it seemed. Damnation! She poured, floating little hemlock cones and leaves down our driveway. The distant thunder boomed some more as the storm went down the Madawaska River. But hold on, was it brightening just a bit? By gosh was the surrounding green getting even greener? Yes, Nature's war was quietening -- the rain had stopped. You won't believe it but I actually see a shaft of sunlight streaking through the forest.

The bugs are gradually returning around the garden. Where did they hide during the deluge anyways? And suddenly there, most unique of all of our insects was the masterful Monarch. Yes there it is fluttering amongst Audrey's flowers--the miraculous Monarch Butterfly. My descriptive adjectives are well deserved when you consider that the last Monarch Butterfly we saw was in Mexico during the past winter. These tiny critters make the perilous 3000 Kilometre journey because otherwise they would perish in our winter's cold. They may have been making the Canada-Mexico flight for thousands of years. We are still learning about them.

Evidently it takes the Monarchs from six to ten weeks to travel from the Madawas-

ka Highlands in the autumn down to the Oyamel fir forests in mountainous Central Mexico.

This master navigator with a tiny brain uses a miraculous compass system that enables this fantastic migration. They ride thermals and glide rather than flapping the entire way. However there is another secret to its spectacular trip. You see the Monarchs who fly south to Mexico have never been there before. Their Great Grandparents made the journey the previous fall going to the same mountains that we visited. They started their return trip, much as we snowbirds do, in the spring. Along the way they have bred and died.

Their offspring completed the trip north to Canada and were succeeded up here by the next generation only a few of whom were around later to prepare for the next migration. These clouds of butterflies come primarily from the fourth generation, born so late in our summer that their reproduction instincts are halted by the need for winter warmth. They find that required warmth as they cluster in the millions near the town of Anganguero and others in the area. They don't mate again until spring comes to Mexico, again when they start the process all over. A mystery that the scientists continue to work on.

With Mexican amigos, we were fortunate to travel to those special mountains and explore why the ancient Maya used the

Monarch Butterfly as the icon for "Returning Life". It was not an easy mountain hike and we rode horseback for a portion of it. Once there however we were amazed at the pine trees just covered with giant clusters of Orange and

Black as far as we could see. At the end of this wonderful day we paused at Anganguero to do a watercolour of a portion of the old village, which you can see with many others in my collection. Come on over between raindrops.

End

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Ernie Jukes and amigo Jaun Diego near "Butterfly Mountain" in Central Mexico

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# Thinking about water scarcity

By Ole Hendrickson

Lester Brown, founder of the Wordwatch Institute and the Earth Policy Institute was recently in Ottawa to meet with government officials and discuss his new book "Plan B: Rescuing a planet under stress and a civilization in trouble". He predicts a global grain shortage in the next two years, aggravated by drought, ground-water depletion, and desertification.

Water scarcity will be a fact of life in this century, according to Brown. A just-released federal report, "Threats to Water Availability in Canada", supports this. It describes scientific concerns that climate change could increase the frequency, duration and severity of droughts throughout the country. Mean stream flows have significantly decreased throughout southern Canada over the past 30 years. Disappearing glaciers in the Rockies will reduce water supply for agriculture and other uses.

Brown urges us to rethink the notion that water comes to us pure, is used once, and turns into waste - the "flush and forget model". We've been drinking recycled water all our lives. The Dutch say that

every glass of water they drink has already been drunk by eight Germans.

Brown points to four problems with "flush and forget": it wastes water, it takes nutrients from the land and dumps them in the sea, it costs too much, and it is a major source of disease.

Even today in Canada, some cities dump untreated sewage into rivers and seas. Conventional sewage treatment systems are expensive to build and maintain. Some are poorly designed. Industrial wastes and oil and tire particles washed from streets during storms are mixed with human wastes. What should be valuable agricultural fertilizer becomes contaminated with heavy metals and toxic organic chemicals.

A past Watershed Ways column described systems such as John Todd's "Living Machine" and engineered wetlands that can treat sewage for far less cost than conventional systems. International agencies such as the U.N. Development Program are now promoting "ecological sanitation". One of the main principles is to

return nutrients to the soil. This has been done for thousands of years in countries like China. Now countries like Sweden are moving in this direction. Waterless toilets are not only for cottages. They are being successfully used in high-rise apartment buildings in Stockholm.

Other opportunities for household water conservation include water-efficient clothes washers, dishwashers, and showerheads. You can even change the way you shower. Get your body wet, turn off the shower, lather and scrub, then rinse. This conserves electricity as well as water.

Changes are also in store for agriculture. Brown points to the obvious benefits of growing as much food as possible with a given amount of water. Agricultural researchers have pushed the limits of yield per hectare - now it's time to push yield per litre. Well-tested technologies exist to increase agricultural water use efficiency, such as shifting from surface irrigation to drip irrigation.

Economic tools for water conservation can be just as important as new tech-

nologies. For example, Australia, which is a major grain producing nation with a warmer and drier climate than Canada, has huge areas of cropland that have been contaminated by salt from excess irrigation followed by surface evaporation. This problem is being addressed with tradeable water permits, in the use of which Australia now leads the world.

Water markets encourage farmers to find the highest value for water, and to avoid wasteful use than can lead to salt contamination. Often this means selling water to cities. The lessons learned in Australia might be useful in Canada, particularly if droughts continue in the Prairies.

Whether or not Brown's prediction of a global food crisis comes to pass, we all need food, water, and energy. A little ecological common sense can be quite helpful as we consider how to meet these needs.

*Ole Hendrickson is a member of the Ottawa River Institute, a non-profit charitable organization based in Pembroke, Ontario, Canada.*

End

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## Auction fever (Cont)

His face was still flushed and he was grinning, but he had sprung back into his bent posture so I was able to look him in the eyes. "About what?" I asked impatiently.

"Well," he said. "I figger we'll git home in time to have some fun with the thirty-thirty before dark. It could use a work-out."


easily but when I saw a genuine twinkle in his eyes, it occurred to me that Grandpa didn't just say he did things for fun. He did have fun. He was having fun now. Being more like him might be - well - maybe fun.

Suddenly, the humiliation that goes with lookin' like a "horses hind end" in front of a barnyard full of people seemed a little less crushing than it had a few minutes earlier.

I managed a weak grin and nodded.

I was determined not to be mollified too

End



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# Motorcycle Weekend in May

By Richard Copeland

The town of Calabogie got invaded by motorcycles during the May 24-25 weekend. The first invasion actually began May 23 as competitors established a temporary home base at the Calabogie Motor Sport Track for the Superbike competition, which culminated with a Championship race on the 25<sup>th</sup>. The second invasion was the annual 'Ride for Dad' campaign; a fund raiser for prostate cancer on Saturday May 24.

The Ride for Dad stopped at Murphy's Landing for a rest break where an assembly believed to be around 2200 bikes parked on the sprawling lawns out front the popular eating establishment. The vast range of bikes from nimble racing machines to large land cruisers provided a sensory overload of both sight and sound.

The track event brought in high-end racing teams from across Canada, complete with tents, trailers, tools and mechanics creating a virtual techno village in the track paddock area. Here the mechanics could go to work fine tuning their machines while the drivers tested and competed in qualifying rounds for the big

race. Calabogie restaurants found their evening hours well extended to handle the dining needs of their visitors, while hotels were booked solid, extending outside the Calabogie area into Renfrew and Arnprior. Casual comments from local businesses included running out of supplies and restaurants serving to much later hours than normal to meet the needs of racing crews and visitors. A Calabogie MotorSports spokesman reported 3000-4000 people on site during the event.

Two-time defending Parts Canada Superbike Champion Jordan Szoke won the opening race of the 2008 season at Calabogie Motorsports Park on the Sunday. The Brantford, Ontario racer rode his Canadian Kawasaki Motors ZX-10R to a 5.325-second victory over the Team Toyota-Yamaha's Kevin Lacombe of Granby, Quebec.

Some were less pleased than others, at least with noise. Two noise bylaw charges were laid on the Saturday of the event. Two other complaints regarding a 'major spectator event' and 'professional motor racing' are under investigation. The investigation should be complete in a couple of weeks and Greater Madawaska council will have to take the next step if they deem that necessary.



Race weekend in Calabogie



Ride for Dad in Calabogie

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Please welcome new staff member, Beth Higden. Beth is from Stratford & is doing an excellent job.

I am sure that with this excellent team (Joanne and Beth) and our new improved product lines, it's going to be a busy summer at Rapids' End!

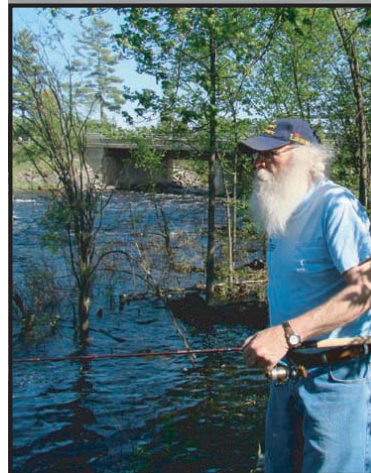


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