

# The Madawaska Highlander

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Oct-Nov 2007

## Pioneer Voices: Dougald McLellan (1877-1966): Part 1

*As told to Elmer Strong:*

**Editor's note:** Back in the 1960s Elmer Strong, originally of Matawatchan, conducted numerous interviews with local men who had been involved in the timber industry in their past. Many of these men who had worked the bush or the Madawaska River were at the time of the interview in their mid-80s or 90s. From these interviews Mr. Strong compiled a book entitled *Matawatchan: A glimpse into the past* (copyright). This is an excerpt from that book

*This conversation was recorded at Mr. Dougald McLellan's house at Camel Chute, in July of 1965. Those participating in the conversation were Dougald McLellan, Jack MacPherson, Peter Kelly and Harold Carswell. In preparation for the taping session, arrangements were made for Jack MacPherson to meet us at Mr. McLellan's house, and I picked up Peter Kelly and Harold Carswell before driving to Camel Chute. The session had all of the trappings of a social gathering of old friends who had gotten together to reminisce about the past. It wasn't often that these old friends got together, and it was evident that they truly enjoyed the afternoon.*

*As often happens when a group of more than three or four get together, there is a tendency for more than one conversation to occur at any one time. Apart from this minor problem in taping the conversation the only task necessary was to occasionally try to steer the conversation back to a discussion of current events to the primary purpose of listening to their recollections of earlier days. - E.Strong*

Mr. McLellan was asked if he remembered the old people talking about the old days when the first people came up into this country.

"Yes I did. It was a McLellan and a MacDonald who came first. My dad and Archie MacDonald. They came up in a canoe to the Colton's. He took the place where your grandfather lives - - MacDonald did. My dad took where Briscoe is. They lived there some time. Archie MacDonald never went away. He stayed there. But my dad stayed there awhile and he left it. Then somebody else got a hold of it. I don't know who it was. Then MacPherson's or Hutson's, I don't know which. They came up the road. They didn't come in a canoe. I think it was Hutson's. Do you ever mind Pete of anything of that? Their telling about your old people staying in the bush up there at the Pine Hill over night?"

"Yes."

"Well, it must have been them coming then through the road.

Pete said, "Well, Fraser's came in about that time and they came up the Colton Creek. Old man Fraser and Jim. They camped their first night up the Colton Creek just where the Hunter place and the Strong place meet. Right in that kind of a flat there?"

"Yes, they said that was the biggest cedar stump or tree in Ontario. It measured fifteen feet around, didn't it?"

"Something like that I heard. Dad seen it."

"Yes, well, I looked for it after. I went over there. I couldn't find it --it was gone I guess."

Pete said, "But that's where they were, around about the first, with the McLellan's and MacDonalds. My grandfather he come out first from Glengarry. He came in from the Plevna way."

Mr McLellan said, "I thought there was one, either the Hutson's or MacPherson's stayed on across the river over night,

*continued on page 3*

## Madawaska River seen from Thompson Mountain



*Painting modelled on last October's front page*

*Artist: Kim Carnegie*

## Greater Madawaska's changing profile

**By Bill Graham, Editor**

In September, Statistics Canada released the third round of data from the 2006 Census, which provides a family portrait of the Canadian population.

This statistical portrait shows developments during the past five years in family structure in Canada, as well as trends in marital status, common-law status, households and living arrangements.

This is also the third article this year in the Highlander that highlights the changing profile of the Township of Greater Madawaska. A fourth article is scheduled for the Christmas issue of the Highlander, which will provide information on language, immigration, citizenship, and mobility and migration.

In total (Canada), the census enumerated 8,896,840 census families in 2006,

up 6.3% from 2001. In Ontario the increase in families was marginally higher at 7.2% for the same period; while in Greater Madawaska the increase in the number of families was 19.7%. This mirrors the population increase of 20.1% between 2001 and 2006 for Greater Madawaska that was reported in an earlier article.

Canada-wide, the census enumerated 6,105,910 married-couple families, an increase of only 3.5% from 2001. In contrast, the number of common-law-couple families surged 18.9% to 1,376,865, while the number of lone-parent families increased 7.8% to 1,414,060.

In dramatic contrast, in Greater Madawaska the census enumerated 720 married-couple families, an increase of 17% from 2001. The increase in the number of common-law-couple families was only marginally higher in Greater Madawaska at 21.4%, while the increase in the num-

*continued on page 2*



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Census (Cont)

ber of lone-parent families since 2001 was 36.4%. To put this in perspective this increase is represented by an additional 20 lone-parent families.

For the first time, the census enumerated more unmarried people aged 15 and over than legally married people, Canada-wide.

In 2006, more than one-half (51.5%) of the adult population were unmarried, that is, never married, divorced, separated or widowed, compared with 49.9% five years earlier. Conversely, only 48.5% of persons aged 15 and over were legally married in 2006, down from 50.1% in 2001. In Greater Madawaska the numbers are far less dramatic and reflect what the national numbers were ten or fifteen years ago. Of the population 15 and over in Greater Madawaska 59.8% are legally married and 40.2% would be considered unmarried.

At the Canada level twenty years earlier, 38.6% of the population aged 15 and over were unmarried, while 61.4% were married.

Camel Chute campers raise money for charity

By Esther MacLean,

The Camel Chute Campground Activity Committee and owners Gary and Sandra Peter held a corn roast and Twist 21 tournament in Matawatchan to kick off September. Forty teams took part in the tournament with the younger folks helping with the scoring.

This was the second annual tournament. Last year \$430 was raised with half going to CHEO and the remainder to the Heart Institute. This year \$400 was raised with half going to CHEO in memory of Patrick Martel, an eight year old boy who lost his life in an ATV accident in March 2006. Patrick's grandparents, Fern and Pauline Martel are seasonal campers at Camel Chute. The remaining \$200 went to the Heart Institute in the name of Jacques Lalonde, who had successful triple bypass heart



Jesse & Mary Sherer

In 2006 the housing stock of Greater Madawaska consisted of a total of 2,419 private dwellings; up 5.8% since the 2001 Census. This count is made up of private occupied dwellings (permanent residents) with the remainder being seasonal dwellings (cottagers). Residents in occupied dwellings represent 49.6% of the dwellings, with the remainder (51.4%) being seasonal dwellings. While this almost 50-50 proportion of seasonal to permanent dwelling might seem dramatic, the proportion in 2001 was 43.1% occupied (permanent) dwellings and 56.9% seasonal dwellings (cottages). In 2006, most occupied dwellings (non-seasonal) were owned (94.1%) with the remainder renting. This is up from 2001 when 87.3% of dwellings were owner-occupied. In Ontario only 71% of dwellings were owner-occupied in 2006.

The majority (96.7%) of non-seasonal dwellings were single detached houses and it will not surprise to anyone there are no apartment buildings in the township. Most dwellings (67.5%) were constructed before 1986 with the remainder (32.5%) being constructed between 1986 and 2006. This proportion closely mirrors period of construction numbers Ontario-wide. With this most recent release of information from the 2006 Census a contemporary portrait of the township is beginning to emerge. In the December Highlander more data will be released and our profile will become more clear.

End

surgery in 2006. Jacques and his wife Muriel are seasonal campers at Camel Chute.

A special trophy was made up in the name of Jesse and Mary Sherer of Ohio who introduced Camel Chute campers to the game of Twist 21. The game is similar to horse shoes except that instead of a shoe, a bola (in this case, golf balls attached at each end of a cord) is used and thrown to wrap around three parallel bars. Jesse and Mary Sherer are leaving Camel Chute this year after camping there for the last eleven years.

Special thanks to everyone who helped make this a great day. Also thanks to Gary and Sandra Peters for letting us hold these special functions for campers.

End

Community Bus Service

Thursday, October 18 - The Community Bus Service provided by Henry and Louise Hogg will run to Belleville. Please call Louise at (613) 336-0227. Future trips will be to Pembroke - November 15 and Kingston - December 13. Cost is \$15.00.

SENIOR ADULT DAY PROGRAM: (CALABOGIE & SURROUNDING AREA)

By Wes Bomhower

Every Tuesday morning throughout the year, rain or shine, two very nice ladies arrive at Calabogie's Community Centre about 8-30 a.m. to give any eligible seniors a day of crafts, ceramics, gardening in season, discussions on various topics, music, card games, baking, spa days, quilting, bingo or bowling days, try your skill at the pool table occasionally, and other community activities and outings plus an excellent meal at lunchtime and snacks in between. (I speak from personal experience, their cooking is great.)

The day is usually completed by 4:30 p.m. or earlier, and all for the cost of \$20.00 per person. No matter how distant you may be from Calabogie, perhaps Centennial Lake, Griffith or Matawatchan, if transportation is required, it costs seniors nothing and can be arranged by local Home Support. The ladies mentioned above are Loretta Pender, Personal Support Worker,

The Magic of Candlelight

Press release

Burnstown businesses are once again hosting the Magic of Candlelight Village Open House and Salvation Army fund raising event on Nov. 2nd and Nov 3rd. Hundreds of candles lining the street welcome the visitors to the village and luminaries will be available for sale to help raise money for the Salvation Army. During the first weekend of Dec. (Fri. Nov. 30 / Sat. Dec.1) the fund raising continues with a special open house at Beyond the Bulrushes in Burnstown. Tour the beautifully decorated heritage log home/shop and take away some ideas for your own festive embellishing and as a gesture of good will leave a small donation for the Salvation Army. The shops in Burnstown will be offering extended hours for both weekends. Call 866-271-4737 for details.

Christmas Craft Show At the Griffith Lions Hall on December 01, 2007.

Call Diane at 613 333 1094 ASAP and reserve a table for the Christmas Craft Fair

and Julie Mayotte, Recreation Programmer. They both work hard to provide a supportive environment for each individual in a smoke free atmosphere where outdoor patios and walk ways are wheel chair accessible and secure for social activities and just plain fun. Activities are based on the capabilities and interests of each individual.

These girls are affiliated with Bonnechere Manor of Renfrew, but can be contacted any Tuesday at Calabogie, 613-752-1480 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., or to arrange a tour appointment, please call 613-432-4873 or Email [info@countyofrenfrew.on.ca](mailto:info@countyofrenfrew.on.ca) An application can also be made to:

End

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Contact us!



## Pioneer voices (Cont.)

stayed on across the river over night, when they come here. I can't tell which ones."

Pete said, "I never heard that. It could be the Hutson's. I know my grandfather, he come in from the Plevna side and he walked in and he took up the land. And he went back and him and Uncle Angus and Uncle Dan came in the spring. They built a shanty and they started to clean land. The family didn't come until fall and they come up and they came in by Holly's -- turned in at Holly's turn, you know. They come across by the Big Meadow and crossed the river at the Wolf here. That's the way they came".

Mr. McLellan said, "I know there was either the Hutson's or the MacPherson's. It must be the Hutson's."

Pete said, "Yes, it could be the Hutson's. Well anyway, when the MacPherson's were cleaning up the land that time all they had was grey flannel for underwear. You mind of that? Oh, yes --- home made.

Well it was a kinda of hot day too and they had eat their dinner and they took off their pants and top shirt and they went out logging off to get in potatoes and corn, you know. They looked back and the danged camp was already aflame and everything they had, only just what ...their underwear on, burnt. They were left here in the bush that way. It was pretty tough."

Mr McLellan asked, "What would they do?"

"Well there was quite a few people there. McLellan's was here then - the Adam McLellan boy. Well they give them this thing and that thing, a few things. I don't know how they got along but anyway the family come that fall. They went to work and put up another old shanty. The kitchen, that's the one that burnt when the house burnt years later -- the same one. It was a big house they built."

Pete said, "It was pretty tough when in a strange country and away back in the bush.

" Mr McLellan said, "Take some of them old fellows -- older than I am there. Take my dad's people. They tell awful stories. Your grandmother, Pete - - the ghost stories they used to say. Her and my mother would get together when we were kids, you know. Golly, we wouldn't go out side that door at night if you paid us."

Pete said, "My grandmother used to smoke the old clay pipes but she didn't want it lit with a match. Of course there was sulphur matches then. She always wanted it with fire -- a sliver -- lift a coal -- maple coals. She would get us to fill her pipe. It was her that learnt us to



*L-R: Jack MacPherson, Peter Kelly, Harold Carswell, Dougie McLellan*

smoke. We got it started for her. Well she would start there, telling them stories. I would sit on this side and Hughie here and we would have a hold of her by the dress -- right in the house -- all day-- and the likes. We were afraid to look behind us. Oh, by the boys, that was a shame because --."

Mr McLellan said, "You know, it's a bad thing to talk like that to young people. Yes, that's a shame to do that. Well, she believed them."

"Oh, sure and my mother too. Things she had seen in Ireland. She would tell about ghosts in Ireland. All that darn foolishness.

Pete said, "He said that when they come to Glengarry, the next farm to him was a MacDonald lived there. He was all alone. He was supposed to have a lot of money. Well anyway, he died and they couldn't find no money. They said there was a hollow log in the cedar, facing the barn door and they thought maybe he had it poked in there. But they started to go and something happened and they couldn't get there. She said they tried and tried and at last this man --- he was a traveller of some kind and he said he would go. She said that when he got near the barn, there was a black pig with a handkerchief tied around its neck running around the barn. He beat it."

Mr McLellan said "He remembered some of these old stories they used to tell. We were very young, you know and cripes we wouldn't go outside if it got dark. Everybody was like that. We were all afraid --- didn't take much. There was a lot of that talk went on."

Pete said, "Do you mind the big Sandy that put on the shows at corners there for about a week or so? The great big Scotchman."

" Yes, the great big Scotchman. Big Sandy, they called him."

Well, he told me, you know, it's a terror what used to go on in the olden times. He said in Scotland, there was the Lowlanders and the Highlanders.

He said the Highlanders were always about three to one of the Lowlanders. They used to go down at night and steal their sheep, steal their cattle and take them on the heights and there was always two of them. They had them pretty near skinned all the time. Well then, if they caught one of them doing something they would go down and take him. He says, I have sat on the rock and saw where they had a ring in the rock. They would take them up there and tie them there and build a fire under them and burn them. Now, he said that didn't happen in my time but my father and mother, in their time it did".

"Burn the people?"

"Yes. Why I don't doubt it. But he said, that was going on in different countries in there."

Mr McLellan said, "They chopped their heads off. That's the way they settled them. They chopped their head off."

Pete said, "They got that down here at, oh, what do you call it -- down at there -- McNab Township. Why yes, when old McNab was living. Yes, you mind they caught him going home at night put him across the stump and cut his head off."

"Is that the way he was killed?"

"Sure".

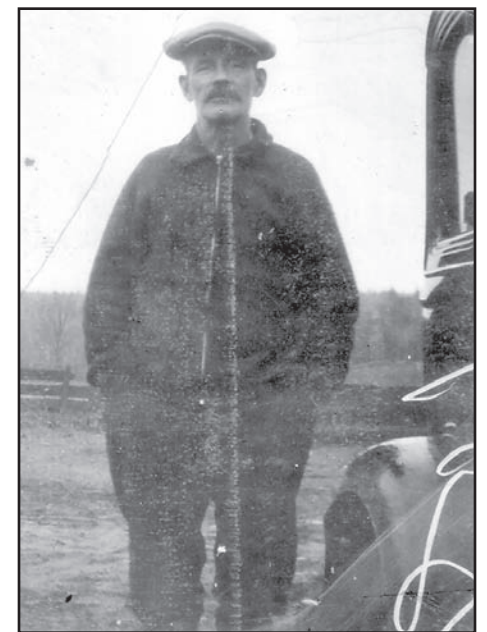
"Well, I heard a lot about him but I never heard about how he died. Not old McNab, not him but one of his worst partners. There was more than him in that. Oh, yes. Oh, it was a terror what was done. My brother Johnny, you know he minded it and he was older and people was talking about it down there. But McNab done --. He was an awful rowdy too. Oh, yes, they sent him over here as a land agent and when you and the other ones would come over, he would give them their land, you know. He had the money. Well then, he would give them so much money to start to farm on it. To get a cow or horse or something or flour or some-

thing. He would take a mortgage on the land. Well, just as soon as it was due he would close down and take the land from you. He owned the whole darned settlement there."

Mr McLellan said, "They had to pay him for every stick of timber when they were cutting. That's where the pine limits started with.

Yes, even after they got their deed for the land, still when you cut the timber on it, you had to pay old McNab so much money for each stick."

Mr. McLellan said, "So they met him, two lads one day in the bush with an axe. They cut his head off over a stump. That's what they done eh?" "I never heard what they done but they say -- I



*Daugald McLellan*

know that's true. They must have killed him right that way. But still for all, he was honoured, just to this day."

Pete said, "When they built the power dam down there, they tore down some of those old buildings and they found some of his old writing there. He was a great scholar. Oh, he was a preacher and everything.

He was into everything -- teach school. Did you ever see his mansion?"

"It was -- I seen that. Did you? Before it was tore down."

Pete said, "That was a McNab that taught school at Matawatchan. He was related to him".

"Yes, all the McNab's. Yes and there is some of them yet in Ottawa. There is some of them working in the civil service. I wonder if Mrs McNab is dead too?"

"Oh, yes."

"They are all gone, eh?"



# An Historic Journey

By Jennifer Jimmo

**Editor's note:** *This account by Jennifer Jimmo of Renfrew follows from the article "Could it happen here" published in the previous issue of the Highlander.*

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, 1615, Samuel de Champlain portaged around the Chat's Falls above Fitzroy Harbour, and then paddled and poled through a second set of rapids upstream on the Ottawa River in his voyageur canoe. He then entered a lake six or seven leagues in length, (Chat's Lake at McNab-Braeside), and noted the river to his left, flowing into the Ottawa from the south. About five days journey up this river, as Champlain wrote in his journal, lived an Indian nation called The Matoupouescarini.

In researching the early pioneer settlers of the Township of McNab, I wanted to know a bit more about the first people here, who I quickly learned were actually the Algonquin, and not the Scots. So far all I really knew was that the tributary rivers that flowed into the Ottawa through McNab-Braeside; the Bonnechere and the Madawaska, and further downstream to the Mississippi, were the summer hunting grounds for The Matoupouescarini.



## Journeys end in Otawa

I imagined that this native band would have been white-water specialists, as the waterways they travelled in the summer months while en route to their trap-lines all descended from headwaters located at much higher elevations in the backcountry, giving way to some serious rapids. I believed that this particular band may have receded to the safety of the higher ground behind Calabogie, into the Lanark Highlands, and then beyond, as European settlement and war with the Iroquois drove them into more hidden places.

It was by sheer happenstance that I first heard about the Ardoch Algonquin First Nation. It was when following an Internet search that I located the band, and found them to be in trouble down in Robertsville, deadlocked against the government and mining interest, hold-

ing out against them in an Aboriginal occupation, protesting against uranium mining on their ancestral lands.

They were organizing a demonstration, "The Rally of the Canoes", which was to be an historic journey by canoe from the headwaters of the Mississippi River at Ardoch to Victoria Island, below Parliament Hill. The Ardoch band would be bringing water from the Mississippi River to the government and people of the nation's capital, following the same waterway that contaminated (radioactive) waste might follow if the proposed uranium mine site at Robertsville was put into operation. It was a powerful symbolic message.

At this point I knew I had to participate in the "Rally of the Canoes". Despite my inexperience, I invited myself

to meet the paddlers at Victoria Island to learn more. Intuitive whispers had taken me this far, so I should follow through.

Before heading out, I contacted Paula Sherman, Professor of Indigenous Studies at Trent University, and ran the name Matoupouescarini past her, looking to substantiate a link between The Ardoch and this Indian nation Samuel de Champlain noted in his journal entry of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1615. Paula pulled through in record time, despite the workload on her plate not only as a teaching professor, but as Co-Chief of the Ardoch First Nation. She corrected Champlain's naming of the native band to actually be the Matouweskarini, which she confirmed, yes, they were partly included in their Ardoch Algonquin ancestry—Perfect.

The "Rally of the Canoes" had been launched the previous Saturday at Ardoch, on the Mississippi River. The purpose of the "Rally" is declared on the Ardoch First Nation website as: "We will be transporting two maiden Water-Carriers from the Shabot Obadijwan First Nation and Ardoch Algonquin First Nation, in a traditional birchbark canoe, accompanied by escort canoes. The paddlers will be ceremonially descending the headwaters of the Mississippi watershed to Victoria

Continued on next page

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## Journey (Cont)

Island and up to Parliament Hill. The water and the message of their demand for a moratorium on uranium mining will be poured out on the steps of the Parliament Buildings to show how the waters of the Mississippi are close at hand to Ottawa. A proclamation demanding a moratorium on Uranium Mining will be delivered to the Governments of Canada and Ontario."

It is similar to an historic journey taken by the James Bay Cree during the 1980s when they canoed into New York Harbour to lobby the State of New York and the United Nations. Ironically, both historic journeys were concerned with water.

Now, six days later, on the banks of the Ottawa River at the War Museum, on Thursday September 27<sup>th</sup>, the five canoes came to shore in a V-formation, like Canada Geese, with the lead canoe bearing the Unity Flag, a flag of peace, and paddled by Randy Cota, Chief of the Ardoch First Nation in the bow, and Honourary Chief and Elder, Harold Perry, at the stern. Jack LaPointe, also of the Ardoch, paddling solo in a birch bark canoe, flanked their side, with Dave Martin, the Adventure Agent of Snow Road Station, paddling solo in a settler escort canoe on their other side. The term settler is given to non-aboriginal

supporters. Close behind followed two more settler canoes, bearing David Gill and Conny Rennebarth, both of Arden, together with two journey guides supplied by TrailHead bringing up the rear.

As small media storm gathered and filmed the paddlers as they came in to shore and then portaged from the War Museum and through street traffic over to Victoria Island, a long-standing, sacred Aboriginal and neutral native ground. The circle of support grew as the sun set and Grandfather William Commanda, an Algonquin Elder, presented the proclamation prepared by the Ardoch Algonquin, calling for a moratorium against uranium mining on their ancestral lands and throughout the province.

Next morning, Friday, September 28, at 10:00 a.m. the protest portage started from Victoria Island up to Parliament Hill. About seventeen canoes in all were carried up Wellington Street, amidst a parade of about 100 or so supporters walking along side, carrying flags and banners and raising their voices in unison against uranium mining.

For security purposes, there would be no presentation of the maiden water carriers on the steps below the Peace Tower, said the firm but friendly RCMP Liaison Officer assigned to this group

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# The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

*“read cover to cover”*

## We came for a good time, not a long time

By Mary-Joan Hale

“We came for a good time, not a long time”, so the song goes. For some residents of Calabogie, the song is quite different. They’ve been here for a long time, but not a good time. In the early days, there was logging, mining and farming. The village also had hotels, a bank, a telephone company and merchants to supply the daily needs of the community. They suffered fire, floods and loss of industry. Many men found work in the mines or shanties. A few of the family farms are still extant, but many are abandoned. Those still aiming to make a living at farming and logging should be supported and applauded as part of our heritage and future.

To compensate for loss of these industries, a new form of employment arose. Forward-thinking folk used the natural environment to develop campsites and lodges. Lots were divided for cottages and hunt camps. For the locals, these were a godsend, but still a wet, cold summer or wet warm winter could spell disaster. Many businesses failed. If the larger draws fail, the supportive ones cannot be sustained with just local visits. Children left and many did not return.

In the past, entrepreneurs opened the ski hill, tearooms, restaurants and a golf course. Others followed. Unfortunately, there was a great hue and cry to prevent these ventures. With every delay, costs of development increase. When I lived in St. Catharines, Calabogie Peaks made the ski report from Hamilton. My pastor golfed here with Father Pat and a caretaker at the school where I worked, came here to fish. (He wore the ‘I did the Calabogie Boogie’ T-shirt, which the kids just loved). Calabogie is known for its tourist offerings.

There is the beginning of a minor baby boom. We are not talking post WW II, but in spite of what some say, babies are being born in the village. At a recent CABA meeting about the future of Calabogie, and the Township as a whole, I suggested that the area should be marketed as a place for families to safely raise children. The trend is for young parents to move to the rural areas. It is not a retirement community! Retirees make up a portion of the residents, but there are folks whose families settled the area. In order to support the children of long-time residents, the new young families and the seniors, there needs to be sustainable growth. We are not talking about

turning the village into a tacky huckster’s venue, but a place where there are shops and attractive green spaces. We need recreational activities as well.

When new ideas are put forward to enable folks to earn a wage, they should be encouraged. We’ve lived here for almost eight years, love the area and wish it to grow sustainably. Merchants and accommodation providers have benefited already from the CMP. People are employed. If we can attract more businesses and hence young families, we will get our payback when the residential tax base ceases to sit at 97%. We do not wish to become another Valley ghost town.

I have always believed in the ‘Buy Local’ idea even before the campaign. We shop here; have our vehicles fixed here; and worship at a local church. If something is not available here, Renfrew, Arnprior or Pembroke are close. Money should be spent here. The more we support the local economy, the better it is for all of us, but more importantly, we will be helping to provide employment.

There is developing a NIMBY attitude in this community. It is divisive and unhealthy. All of us should be working together to help grow rather than stifle new initiatives. Folks from elsewhere will be discouraged from coming here. We need to encourage new economic development and with it, young families to move here. It is time for people to stay here and contribute, not complain about every effort to enhance the future of Calabogie. Folks who hear about efforts to provide a new service or recreational activity, should interview the company and then their neighbours to assess the costs and benefits to the community as a whole. Look beyond your neighbourhood. Our elected representatives must work for their entire ward, talk and listen to all sides of a debate and vote accordingly.

So let’s ‘stay for a good time and a long time’

End

### Quotes

**Never argue with a fool.  
Someone watching may  
not be able to tell the  
difference.**

**- Anonymous**

## Looking back...



Horse-powered threshing at Black Donald in earlier days. Photo courtesy of T.J and France McLellan.

## Letters to the Editor

### Dear Editor

I would like to congratulate some very forward thinking people in this community, who came up with the idea of the Matawatchan Market. I will not name names for fear of missing someone and everyone involved deserves a round of applause for the amount of thought and work that went into it.

The Market is a great spot to get a wide range of products. It also gives vendors a place to sell their wares. This is a fantastic thing for our community.

The Market has done a greater job than providing a place for vendor to meet buyer. It has strengthened our sense of community; it lets you see your neighbour on a weekly basis.

Matawatchan like most small communities in recent years has suffered many losses. It lost its school, post office and store: many folks in our community don’t attend the local church; we now have citizens of all faiths. As

### Dear Editor

I enjoyed John Roxon’s Cottage corner article about trapping mice.

I have had a full blown WAR with mice here, forever it seems. Here are a few tips.

Don’t use peanut butter—but get some good glue and stick a half peanut on the back of a plate. Or if you need to change weapons (those little buggers are smart) cut jelly beans in two and use the sticky side to hold on to the bait plate.

When they persist, get two or three different kinds of mouse poison—they seem to know not to eat each kind.

well as these changes Matawatchan gained Centennial Lake and with it a surge of new residents both permanent and summer. I’m not saying that this is all bad; it is great that we have so many wonderful new residents and friends.

The market gives a relaxed setting to see your neighbours, maybe meet some new folks, perhaps just chat or enjoy lunch together.

I recently met people who had camped at Mazinaw Lake for nearly 30 years and had never heard of such a place as Matawatchan, but heard of the market and came to check it out. They were pleasantly surprised and in fact very impressed with our community. What a great showcase for the community.

The Market is great and yes it has done a service in strengthening our community. Let’s hope it flourishes for many years, strengthening as it grows.

Gail Holtzhauer  
Matawatchan

When they are smart to poison and traps, get a few sticks – about ten inches long and shaped like a ruler and a five gallon bucket. Put about four inches of water in the bucket. Then on the edge of a table balance the stick over the bucket with peanut butter on the extended end—so the mouse runs out on the stick—it tips down and they end up in the bucket. Best to soak the stick so it won’t be used as a boat—also don’t provide oars—these little guys REALLY are smart.

Carmel Gowan  
Vennachar



## People helping people: Seniors' home support

**Judy Ewart, Coordinator of Volunteer Services**

According to Fran Lebowitz an American writer and humourist, "Food is an important part of a balanced diet". Food provides energy and the nutrients that everybody needs to stay healthy and as we age we may need less energy but we still need the nutrients from food. Good nutrition can lessen the effects of diseases prevalent in older people to improve their quality of life.

Some of the benefits of a healthy diet and proper nutrition include: increased mental acuteness, resistance to illness and disease, higher energy levels, a more robust immune system, faster recuperation times and better management of chronic health problems.

While we recognize the need for good nutrition, for some seniors eating healthy can become a challenge. Medications can affect appetite, changes in dexterity can make food preparation more difficult, being alone can make seniors less motivated to prepare a meal or a limited income can all affect our ability to meet our nutritional needs. To help seniors meet their nutritional needs, Renfrew and Area Seniors' Home Support provides a frozen meal program in conjunction with Carefor (depot) and the Renfrew Victoria Hospital (storage facility). Private Recipes Limited is the supplier of these meals, which have been designed by dieticians to ensure that nutritional needs are being met while providing a tasty product. There are currently 25 different meals available for purchase and for those seniors with special dietary needs, meals are available which are suitable for renal, gluten free diets, no lactose, low sodium diets, people with diabetes and salt-free diets.

To take part in this program, seniors

or adults coping with disabilities just need to call the Renfrew office at 613-432-7691 and ask about the program.

When you call, we will review the program with you and then follow up the phone call by mailing a brochure and a letter explaining the program. Meals can be ordered as frequently as every week as we place an order with Carefor every Thursday afternoon. Meals are then available for pick-up at the Renfrew Victoria Hospital the following Wednesday. If you are unable to pick-up the meals on your own, arrangements can be made through the Home Support Office to have them delivered to you. If you choose to utilize the delivery service through Home Support, a volunteer driver will come to your house on Wednesday afternoon to pick up your payment, go to the hospital, pay for your meals and then deliver the meals to your home. Meals (which have an expiry date) need to be kept frozen until used and can be heated either in the microwave or oven.

If you would be interested in a "taste testing" session for our frozen meals, please call our office at 613-432-7691 to let us know and if there is enough interest in Renfrew we can schedule a session.

Renfrew and Area Seniors Home Support has also started a grocery shopping program in conjunction with Loeb to help ensure that seniors and adults with disabilities can get groceries as they need them. This program is open to seniors and adults with disabilities who are not able to get out and get their groceries on their own due to health or mobility concerns. For more information about this program, you can call the office at 613-432-7691.

**Author's note:** This article is made possible through an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant

End

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# Griffith Matawatchan News

By Garry Ferguson

Folks in the area are saddened by the fact that the Reverend Joseph Legree – better known as Father Legree or Father Joe – has left the area, but at the same time, happy to know that he is about to begin a well-deserved retirement in Douglas. He has served in the priesthood for more than half a century. The fact that Father Legree will return each week to keep the church active by serving as a Visiting Priest in Griffith is good news. Otherwise, parishioners would have to travel considerable distances to attend mass and other services.

Nasty weather on September 15, 2007 didn't dampen the spirits of the 40 to 50 attendees, including 12 bowmen, (bowpersons?) who came out to the Fish and Game Club's first Bow Shoot held at the Gaulin spread in Miller/Matawatchan. Twelve participants vied for prizes in one category. Jacques Lalonde and Daryl Norris tied for first, Doug Gaulin took second and Jordan Sinclair claimed third.

The club has also taken on the huge task of raffling a Suzuki four by four ATV, (see ad and photo in this issue) sponsored by Centre Town Cycle of Renfrew. The draw will take place on November 17, 2007 at about the same time that the results of the deer weigh-ins are released. Books of the \$5.00 (or five for \$20.00) tickets will be mailed out to all members, so look for a fish-and-gamer or drop into any business



from Renfrew to Denbigh for a chance at this little beauty. Those wishing to get a gander at it may drop around to Lacourse's Store in Griffith where it's on display. For information, contact President Pete Bourdon at 613 333 1909.

The Matawatchan Hall Annual General Meeting (AGM) on September 12, 2007 at the Hall was an unusual success. This was probably due in part to Bill Graham's article, "It's Your Hall" in the last edition of The Madawaska Highlander. Judging by the number of folks in attendance, (28) Bill obviously has that writer's knack for inducing a little productive guilt. I have a sneaking suspicion that similar articles by yours truly in past years have scared people away.

The major reason for the successful AGM however, was the willingness of people who came prepared to volunteer for a new board. In a thorough round-table discussion regarding board duties, it became obvious that many of the tasks, other than the administration of the facility, must be downloaded to volunteer committees and individuals in the wider community in order to avoid overload as has been experienced

in the past. The consensus was that the position of gardener, janitor, social convener, cook, bartender, interior decorator, carpenter and on and on should not come with the territory. It was gratifying to see that there was no shortage of volunteers from among the attendees who are willing to share these duties and a committee was formed to draw up the terms of a new contract shifting more responsibilities – such as setups, lockups and bartending – onto renters. As well, a decision may be made to close the hall over the winter months in order to save on the \$3700.00 heating bill. An annual donation to the Hall was made by Sally Buesch in memory of her parents, Elson and Marie Buesch who were great supporters of the Hall and the Village.

The incoming executives consist of: Adam Copeland, president, Brenda Green, vice president, Jillisa\_Garie, secretary and Mary Wilson, treasurer. Ken Birkett and David Guest are directors while Judy Clark is an associate director. I'm sure that we at The Madawaska Highlander speak for the community when we say, "Thanks a lot eh."

A hall-sponsored pancake and sausage brunch is planned for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Remembrance Day, Sunday, November 11, 2007. This is one of the few fundraisers left for the year, so come out and lend your support. The \$s are needed. The Annual Tree Lighting and Christmas Concert is scheduled for December 08, 2007. Tree lighting will begin at 7 p.m. in the village centre, the concert at 8 p.m. in the hall. A donation box will be placed at the door with proceeds going to the Griffith Kids' Club and the hall.

Members of the Denbigh Griffith Lions have been saddened by the passing of an original member, Bud McKinnon of Denbigh. Bud and wife Mary have been active members who have missed very few meetings or functions since the club's inception. Bud will be greatly missed.

For all you (us) nosy parkers who have been watching the progress of the building activity around the Griffith Lions Hall, we now have inside information directly from the lion's mouth. The addition, to provide handicap washroom access and a larger improved kitchen, has been started by Lions volunteers. Funding for the project has been provided by the Township of Greater Madawaska. When completed, this upgrade will provide a facility more suited to the needs of every member of our community.

Anyone who may be up the proverbial creek and depending on the paddle ruffled by the Lions, is out of luck. Pauline Erlind's lucky ticket won it for her. She didn't win the last fifty-fifty draw though. It went to Bill Davis (not to be confused with any ex-premiers) of Renfrew.

If you're a crafty crafters you'll contact Diane at 613 333 1094 ASAP and reserve a table (remind you of a country song?) for the Christmas Craft Fair on December 01, 2007. Upcoming bingo dates are October 02, 16 and 30 as well as November 13 and 27. Bingo fans should dust off the daubers and crank up the hearing aids in preparation for the Christmas Monster Bingo on December 11, 2007.

End

## Denbigh Checking In

By Angela Bright

\*More than 60 people came out Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate 35 years of marriage for Jack and Nancy Puhl at the Denbigh Hall. It was a good mix of family and friends enjoying the afternoon, with plenty of reminiscing, catching up and eating. Entertainment was provided by Harold Kaufman, Paul Isaacs, Ginger Miller, and Garry Ferguson, who played a number of beautiful selections as background music for the party.

\* The New Apostolic Church celebrates Thanksgiving. The focus of our life is our Faith. We therefore dedicate the Sunday before the National Holiday as our Church Thanksgiving Day. Our Bishop John Wiesel, accompanied by his dear wife Laura, led the congregation in bringing a special heartfelt Thanks to God for what we as His children have experienced and received out of his goodness in the year past. He assured us that the irrevocable Godly law of Seed and Harvest also applies to our time, talents and resources thankfully offered in God's work of Salvation. Blessing for the future is relative to

our Thankfulness today. A wonderful Thanksgiving dinner was prepared and enjoyed after the Divine Service. In true thankfulness, the entire congregation contributed to the meal and most stayed to help clean up. A real Family Feast atmosphere prevailed. The Entrance, Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary and especially the Altar were adorned with the finest offerings of the local harvest of field, garden and orchards. The Sunday School created seasonal centerpieces for the Dinner tables - all a masterpiece worthy of honourable mention in any decor magazine.

\*Sunday School opened for the fall session at the Vennachar Free Methodist Church on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Children and adults were welcomed back at a gathering at the Fellowship Hall. A skit was performed, followed by muffins, coffee and juice. Then on September 21<sup>st</sup>, the Adult Fellowship group enjoyed a Progressive Dinner. Different areas take turns hosting this annual event, this year it was held in Plevna and area. The first New Beginnings of the fall season was held on

Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Clar-Mill Hall in Plevna, sponsored by Vennachar FMC. The video, "How Great is Our God", was shown. October 21<sup>st</sup> will be the next evening for New Beginnings, with "Lower Lights" performing for your enjoyment. Everyone is welcome to attend – same time same place!

\*If you would like to be at the next meeting of the Diner's Club, please contact Faye Mieske at 333-2784 to have her add your name to the list of attendees. The first Monday of every month a yummy lunch is served at the Denbigh Hall by many helping hands. \*Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar for the Children's Programs, with stories and crafts, at the Denbigh Library! Join in the fun from 6 to 7pm, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and December 13<sup>th</sup>.

\*Christina Hermer is set to release a second printing of her book, "This Was Yesterday", seven years since the first. This book paints the picture of life in Denbigh and area in days gone-by - a must-have for those interested in local history. Anyone wishing to get a copy of their very own may contact Chris-

tina via email at [hermerc@persona.ca](mailto:hermerc@persona.ca) or Judy Berndt at 333-2203.

\*Fall was welcomed in Denbigh with the celebration of Countryfest, September 21, 22, and 23. The weather was mostly bright and beautiful and everything went smoothly - only a slight hiccup in the early hours of Saturday morning with a short power outage in the area. Kicking off the weekend on the Friday evening was Local Talent Night at the Denbigh Hall. The Horse Draw on Saturday afternoon brought in teams from Eldorado, Bancroft, Eganville, Vennachar, and Denbigh, just to name a few. For the horse draw Best Teamster Trophy went to Gary Lentz, Best Matched Team Trophy to Perry Hartwick, and Best Dressed Team Trophy to Calvin Stein. There were 18 teams total entered in the horse draw. The canteen stayed busy and a good sized crowd (many more than expected) sat down to the home-cooked Ham & Scalloped Potato Dinner with pie served for dessert.

Following the meal, an old-fashioned dance had many people out and up and

continued on page 10



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Denbigh (Cont)



**Horse pull in Denbigh**  
about. Then on Sunday the Logger's Competition showcased skills with the cross-cut saw, axe throw and pole drop. Curtis Grant won the trophy in the logging events for the best overall points in competition. Roy Berndt had his collection of antique engines on display, much to the delight of children young and old. The ambulance and new fire truck also made an appearance on Sunday afternoon.

All three days were very well attended, with cars lining the road way to

the ball diamond and rink area. Fish pond, pick-a-duck, sponge toss, remote control racers, the minnow race and the rigged egg game were just a few things available to keep the kids entertained, with special mention of the bouncy castle that never really got a break all weekend. There were also lots of sticky fingers around thanks to the candy floss, popcorn and other candy treats. It has been a while since we have had a fall fair event to call our own and quite obviously we are overjoyed to have this festivity back. The winners of the draws were: pressure washer won by Philip Platz, the Quilt - Darwin Weichenthal, the Afghan-gan-Jason Keller, and the Countryfest basket - Tracy Rutledge. After all of that said, thank you to the Denbigh Recreation Committee and numerous volunteers who organized and accomplished exactly what you set out to do. We appreciate the time you invested and look forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Countryfest, which I've heard is going to be bigger!

\*The Remembrance Day ceremony in Denbigh will be held Saturday, November 10th, at the United Church, beginning at 11am.

End

SUDOKU

Doug. Bell

Level: Medium

- Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.
- Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

Degrees of difficulty include easy, medium, hard and difficult.

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anwsers on page 23

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## CABA Corner

By Carolyn Jakes

### Awards for 2007

The Calabogie and Area Business Association Executive and Directors selected four award recipients:

An award for Excellence in Customer Service was given to Jim and Ruth Weatherall of Jim's Bait and Tackle in Calabogie.

In 1996, Jim and Ruth started a minnow business that grew into a full bait and tackle shop with hunting and fish-

ing licenses, tackle, bait, confections, sundries, snacks, RV and automotive batteries. Ruth is the only licensed issuer of fishing and hunting licenses in Calabogie.

Jim has concentrated on building a guiding service for tourists who want to experience fishing the local lakes. Are they in for a treat! Jim is an expert, a great teacher and has lots of patience. With his long, bushy, white beard, he looks like he has just returned from exploring all the crown land that covers the major part of the township.

Members of the Calabogie Fish and Game Club, they volunteer their time at fishing derbies, helping with registration, weighing fish and stocking fish

in cooperation with The Ministry of Natural Resources. Jim is a member of the Bait Association of Ontario and a past director. Jim also writes a regular article for the local paper called "Fishing with Jim".

Ruth enjoys the opportunity to do some fish education when children and tells them about this invasive species and what to do if they find any in our area. She teaches them why it is important to not dump unused bait in the lake.

Recently, Calabogie had an unexpected influx of tourists wanting fishing licenses. Jim quickly made an emergency trip to Pembroke to get more licenses so that tourists would not be disappointed.

If you visit the shop at 6 am, you will find a group of tradesmen getting their coffee fix and sharing news. If there isn't any, they create some! In the winter, they congregate around the cosy wood stove. The atmosphere is like the rural general store of bygone days. Anyone around the stove or table is comfortable answering questions, dishing out minnows or making a pot of coffee. A community effort! How is that for old-fashioned customer service?

An award for Excellence in Community Service was given to Mary-Joan (Skippy) Hale, the librarian for Greater Madawaska Township. She is an outstanding role-model for community service.

As soon as she moved to Calabogie with her husband in December 1999, she felt welcomed and wanted to be an active member of the community. The "volunteer" gene she inherited from her parents is evident. Her first year here, she was a cast member in a Seniors' Club play. The second year here, she was VP of the Calabogie Senior's Club. She and her husband have adopted a large section of Highway 511 and can be seen out collecting discarded garbage along the highway as part of the County's Adopt-a-Road Volunteer Program.

Also an active member of her church community, Skippy works on the Christmas pageant committee, by writing the script and directing the children. She helps tend the church garden. She serves on the liturgy committee and organizes the schedule for the lay ministers and altar servers.

Follow her around and you will be amazed. Once a week, you will find her visiting the local schools. Tuesday afternoons, she holds story telling sessions for children from age 0 to 5. On Canada Day, you will see her in a Mother Goose costume. For the Santa Claus Parade, she dresses as a library elf. Her library is a drop off for the Food Bank and asks for food in lieu of fines during November and December. Her annual mitten tree has grown into a mitten, cap and scarf tree for the needy. Currently she is collecting Toonies and Loonies for CHEO. She also writes a regular column called Dewey-Data for the Renfrew Weekender and Greater Madawaska Literary Matters for the Madawaska Highlander.

Her library is small in size (too small) but the services it provides are extensive. Skippy works closely with the Library Board of Trustees. Residents in Wards 2 and 3 now receive book delivery and pick up service as a result of a Trillium Grant. Children, who do not have computers at home, can be seen

continued on page 21

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## Red Fox

By Floris Wood

World literature teems with fox lore. Characteristics usually attributed in literature to the fox are mostly fairly complimentary, compared to, say, the wolf. Literature often portrays foxes as wily, crafty, smart, quick, playful, keen sighted and thieving, but usually without the kind of supernatural terror sometimes evoked by the literary references to big, bad wolves.

By far the most prevalent fox in Ontario is the Red fox. Gray foxes are fairly rare with only one known Canadian family denned on Pelee Island in Lake Erie. Other Gray foxes have been seen near the American border with Canada but that seems to be the northern edge of their range. The Gray fox, like other foxes, is in the canine family, but it is not classified with other foxes in the *Vulpes* species. While Red foxes occasionally have been known to climb leaning trees or trees with low branches, Gray foxes have the ability to climb trees much like a cat, enabling them to add tree nesting birds to its diet.

Most people living in the Madawaska Valley have seen Red foxes, if only fleetingly. Although called Red foxes there are variations in colouring that can be quite beautiful. The Cross fox is a red fox variation that has broad black stripes on its back and sometimes its shoulders. Silver foxes range from completely silver to a silvery black. Red foxes usually have a white tipped tail but some tails are tipped with black. Many will have black on their legs.

Male foxes, called variously reynards, dogs or tods, are good dads, but their husband skills would rival most men portrayed on Lifetime television. After copulation in February or March in northern climes, the kits are born 49 to



56 days later in litters averaging about six kits. Litters of 12 kits are not unheard of. The female, called a vixen, stays in or very close to the den during gestation and nursing, the male provides her with food. When the kits are weaned both parents provide them with solid food. The period during which the parents train the kits to hunt lasts until fall, sometimes longer for female kits. These groups of foxes are known as skulks (who makes these things up?). Then the kits and the male go their solitary, separate ways. The male returns to the female in the late winter.

Foxes are omnivorous eaters. Mice make up a large portion of their diets but insects as small as grasshoppers and animals as large as hares are fine too. Berries, fruit and carrion make up a smaller portion of their total diet. Foxes have very keen senses of smell, sight, hearing and touch. They are famous for their somewhat comical method of catching mice. When they

hear a mouse nearby they sit perfectly still until they positively locate it. Then they spring almost straight up and come down hard on their front paws to pin the mouse to the ground.

Foxes are playful and very athletic animals, capable of jumping two meters high and running as fast as 48 Km/H. They have been seen chasing their tails, turning somersaults, and leaping high in the air just for the sport of it. While these antics endear them to humans, foxes make bad pets. As kits they will play with a familiar person but at the first sign of a threat they will bite hard and with very sharp, tiny teeth, inflicting a nasty wound.

A Russian scientist, Dmitry Balyaev, selected some foxes from a fox farm and endeavoured, over many generations, to transform them into domestic animals by selecting for breeding only those kits most susceptible to being tamed. He succeeded but the fox he

ended with, after 30 to 35 generation's was not the fox he started with. Hair pattern, colour and curliness changed. The animals selected for tamability also acquired shorter and curlier tails, and smaller bodies. Genes seem to know that if they are to survive with humans they have to be cute. In his book called *The Covenant of the Wild*, Stephen Budiansky writes that the most distinctive characteristic of a domestic animal compared to his wild counterpart is that the domestic animal lives in a state of permanent adolescence. Being dependant upon humans for food, affection and shelter robs them of their adulthood. The naturally solitary Fox is notoriously reluctant to give up its independence, compared to the more social wolf.

Red foxes are the most numerous of all foxes, occurring in several continents including Africa, although they seem to prefer northern climes. Man introduced Red foxes to Australia and they have flourished down there as well. Regional differences vary greatly within the Red fox family, enough so that there are at least 44 distinct subspecies and heated debates over several others. The notable characteristics of the North American variety are that it is light in weight, long and has a high sexual dimorphism. In case your knowledge of biological terms is as lacking as mine, high sexual dimorphism means that there is a lot of difference in the physical appearance between the males and females of the same species, as in Mallard ducks and peacocks. Genetically there is only a small difference between Red foxes and Artic foxes, even though they have evolved to look very different in response to their environments.

Red foxes are prone to three major diseases that take a heavy toll on their own population and cause them to be a threat to other species. The threat of rabies in Red foxes has all but been elim-

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## Red Fox (cont)

inated in Ontario. The type of rabies carried by Red foxes originated with Artic foxes. Since their ranges overlap considerably and the Red fox is capable of contracting the disease, they became infected, as did the Striped skunk. They carried the disease well south of the Arctic foxes range and into well populated parts of Ontario. By 1954 rabies was a big problem in Southern Ontario. But according to the MNR the last human death from the Arctic fox strain of rabies was in 1967. The cost of investigations into possible rabid animal bites, positive diagnosis and treatment for rabies was very high for the province. So in 1989 the MNR began a five year trial to control rabies. Several areas known to have heavy, recent outbreaks of rabies, including one area just east of Ottawa, were chosen as the targets for the bait food inoculation project.

Food baits imbedded with a small blister pack of rabies vaccine were dropped from twin engine Otters over the target areas. The trials proved very successful and in 1999 the program was expanded to cover all of Ontario. However, raccoons, which carry a different rabies strain have infiltrated from the south.

The other two major disease threats to the Red foxes are canine distemper and mange. Foxes are naturally shy and fearful of humans, so any fox that appears too friendly when it sees you

should be reported to the MNR. A Red fox with a mangy coat or exhibiting eccentric behaviour, such as attacking inanimate objects, should also be reported. Keeping your own pet animals vaccinated and treated for mange should keep them safe from these diseases.

Predation by wolves, birds of prey, coyotes, dogs, and bears result in losses, especially of young foxes. Human hunting and trapping for sport and pelts is a major threat to foxes, as is human vehicle traffic. In spite of all these threats fox populations flourish and require little protection. In England, where fox hunting has been a major sport for centuries, fox population seems to be little effected. While fox numbers are not on the decline their life expectancy, which can easily top twelve years in captivity, is only three to four years in the wild.

Like the raccoon, the fox is highly adaptable when faced with habitat change. In less suitable habitat the territory of a fox may grow to 20 to 50 Km from its usual 5 to 12 square Km territory. The fox's keen senses, omnivorous diet, hunting skills and ability to quickly escape danger make him a heavy favourite for survival in a great variety of unlikely environments.

The fox has taken a bit of a bum rap in England where fox hunting has been a ritual for the upper classes for cen-

continued on page 18



Pete Bourdon follows his arrow

Photo: Pete Fisher



Fall colours in Matawatchan

Photo: John Roxon

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Community Calendar

CHURCH SERVICE  
SCHEDULE

GRIFFITH AND  
MATAWATCHAN

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

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

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

DENBIGH AND  
VENNACHAR

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

**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.  
Vacation Bible Camp - August 13-17,  
  
9:00 - noon each day;  
Christian 12 Step Recovery Program  
every Friday night at 7:00

**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

**Calabogie Arts and Crafts Association**  
Community Hall, Oct. 15 (note date  
change), 10:00 to 1:00 pm. Prospective  
members welcome (\$12 per year). Held  
every second Monday except for holiday  
Mondays.

**Christmas Craft Show**  
Community Hall, October 20, 10 to 3 pm,  
including wood, glass, dried flowers,  
weaving, jewellery and more.  
Bake sale by St. Joseph’s School,  
tea room luncheon and letters to Santa.  
Free admission: Donations to food bank

**Calabogie Seniors: Pot Luck dinner**  
at 4:30 pm followed by meeting,  
Community Hall, last Thursday  
of each month. All seniors 55+ are  
welcome.

**Remembrance Day Ceremony**  
November 4, 2 pm at the Cenotaph,  
Madawaska Street, Calabogie  
followed by refreshments by Women’s  
Institute at Community Hall-752-2598.

**Calabogie Women’s Institute**  
meets second Thursday monthly,  
7:30 pm. 752-2598 for info;  
new members welcome.

**United Church Roast Beef Dinner**  
Sunday, November 18, St. Andrew’s  
Church,  
\$12, under 12 - \$5, 5 & under free,  
Madawaska Street, Calabogie-752-2598.

**Bazaar and Tea**  
St. Andrew’s Church Women,  
Saturday, November 24,  
12:00 to 3:00 pm,  
Madawaska Street, Calabogie-752-2598

**Bogie Lights, Heritage Point**  
Saturday, December 1st, 5:30 pm,  
sponsored by Calabogie Seniors Club.  
Everyone welcome. Free hot dogs, hot  
chocolate, cookies. Singing of carols and  
turning on of the Christmas tree lights.

**Lions Santa Claus Parade**  
December 2, 1 pm start at St. Joseph’s  
School, Mill Street, Calabogie,  
Santa meets children at 4 pm at

Community Hall-752-2922.

**Lions Club Bingo**  
every Wednesday, 7:15 pm.  
Calabogie Community Hall.  
Lions Christmas Turkey Bingo,  
Community Hall, December 12.  
Doors open at 6:30. Bingo at 7:15.  
Lunch served.

**The Calabogie and Area Ministerial  
Food Bank**  
538 Mill Street, Calabogie, 2 days per  
month  
(2nd and 4th Thursdays) 10:00 am to  
12:00 noon.  
For emergencies, please call 752-2201.

**Fundraiser for Valley Heritage Radio**  
November 17, 7 to 11 pm at Calabogie  
Peaks in Black Donald Room at Ski  
Lodge, featuring Dai Bassett (the voice  
of Heritage Radio), the North Algona All  
Stars, Kevin Lentz of Calabogie & more.

**“Seed Money”** at Murphy’s Landing  
Sunday October 21, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.  
**Events:**  
1. Seed and perennial exchange for Good  
will donation. Seeds, place cards and  
perennials for sale.  
2. Garden stone workshop: Registration  
at library/event, \$20.00. Bring rubber  
gloves, mask, plastic garbage bag, garden  
trowel, and box to bring stone home.All  
proceeds to Library Building fund.

Griffith & Matawatchan

**Halloween Dance**  
Nov. 3, 8pm - 1 am. Matawatchan Hall  
LCBO 19 yrs and older. Professional DJ

**Hunter’s Supper**  
Nov 10. 5pm-7pm. St. Andrews  
Church Matawatchan.

Continued next page



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# Fishing with Jim

By Jim Weatherall



It is just about over... the boats will be put away for the winter and the ice augers will come out again.

Todd MacDonald took his young nephew T.J. out for Pickerel in Calabogie Lake again and T.J. caught 2 or 3 nice fish, but this time Uncle Todd got the "Big One". It was a 31 1/4" Pickerel and weighed in at 6 1/2 lb. Nice catch Todd!

Arthur Humble has been coming to Calabogie to fish for about 20 years. The first time I met him, he took the oil pan out of his car on a rock (no fish that time). Next time he came with a friend who got some nice bass. Arthur still got no fish. Next he brought his girlfriend and some fishing buddies. They all got fish, except Arthur.

Nowadays the buddies come with their families and get lots of fish and Arthur

comes up and.....you know.....still no fish. Keep on coming and trying Arthur. You are always welcome to try your luck (such as it is).

Remember folks, while storing your boat for the winter; be sure to drain the oil from the bottom unit to be sure there is no water. Then refill with new gear oil (80-90w) or check the manual for the right oil for your specific engine.

I am off moose hunting in a week and then deer hunting and then on Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> the wife and I will be heading to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for a month. I will be fishing for ocean trout. We will be back in the middle of December, so I will see you out on the ice.

On December 31<sup>st</sup> there will be a fish fry at the bait shop starting about noon. Drop in for a wee bite!

In the meantime.... Be safe and catch the Big One!

## GREATER MADAWASKA LITERARY MATTERS

By Mary Joan Hale

Celebrate the colours. Aren't they grand this year? Driving around the Valley with the sounds of fiddle music from the Heritage radio station and the trees, lakes and rivers in all their glory... Wow! I wish I could paint, but my stick trees and blobs of colour just do not do the trick. I missed kindergarten so I never progressed past that stage.


The library continues to grow in numbers, if not space. We are getting at least two new members every week. If you are new to Wards 2 or 3, pop in to Mill Valley, Lacourse's or Eagle's Rest for an application form. New and old residents join the crowd and get your reading fix. Manuals are at the stores, but we are on line. Go to the Township website and click on Library. On the right side you may search our collection or the Inter-library loan section. Email your requests or send them by the courier. We have access to libraries all over the province and beyond. We can obtain materials from the National Library & Archives, universities and colleges. We also have E-Books that you may virtually borrow as well.

We have welcomed a new wee one to our Pre-school Storytime. Moms and Dads, come visit on Tuesdays from 2 to 3. We read, sing songs, do finger plays, crafts and paint. It is open for ages 0 - 5. If you are new here, you will meet


other young parents and the children will learn to love books as they develop hand-eye co-ordination and small motor skills.

"Seed Money" is the name of our fundraiser. This will take place at Murphy's Landing, October 21 at 2:00 p.m. We will be selling seeds, perennials, handcrafted bookmarks and place cards. You may also exchange seeds and perennials for a Good Will offering. At the same time a Garden Stone workshop will be given. Registration is \$20.00 at the library (preferable) or at the event. Bring large leaves (hosta, rhubarb), rubber gloves, plastic garbage bag, mask, garden trowel and a box to carry your stone home. Funds will go to our Building Fund. The Scarecrow contest will be happening too. Thank you Betty Oates for sharing your venue.

Once again the Renfrew County Health Unit will be at the Council Chambers on Friday October 12, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Nurses and other Health Care Professionals will weigh and assess your wee ones. Bring your health-related, parenting and nutrition questions. Babies will be weighed. Immunization will be done if necessary. Speech and dental exams may be done as well. They are very friendly and helpful and you may meet other parents in the area.



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The new DVDs have arrived. They may be borrowed for one week. We are sent a new batch every 3 months. It is part of a pool supplied by Southern Ontario Library Services. Check the website for titles.

Thanks to our CAP grant (Community Access Programming); we now have thin flat screens for all six of our Computer stations. It is an important adjunct to our service for you.

John Watts has made two new beautiful wooden boxes for outside the library. One is for Inter-library loans. The other is for Book Returns. Our circulation has increased so much that we had outgrown the old one. Thank you John. They are beautiful. He and his wife Marge do so much for the community that I get exhausted just thinking about it.

We hope to see you on the 12<sup>th</sup> for the Child Health Clinic and/or the 21<sup>st</sup> for the Scarecrow Contest and Seed Money events.

*End*

## Calendar (Cont)

**Griffith Christmas Craft show see page 2 for details**

**Hunters Ball (Dance)**

**Nov. 10 8pm - 1 am.** Matawatchan Hall  
 LCBO 19 yrs and older. Professional DJ

### Pancake and Sausage Brunch

Remembrance Day – Nov. 11  
 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 Matawatchan Hall

### Matawatchan Community Market

Special Christmas Market  
 Lunch will be served  
 November 17, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
 Matawatchan Hall

### Matawatchan Tree Lighting and Christmas Concert

December 8 – 7 p.m. at the Village Corners  
 Concert at 8 p.m. at Matawatchan Hall

### Lion's Club Bingo

Every second Tuesday at 7:30 pm  
 October 16 & 30 – Nov. 13 & 27  
 Christmas Monster Bingo – Dec 11  
 Community Centre, Griffith, 613- 333-5523

### Sylvia's Foot Care

Every six weeks  
 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

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# Cottage Corner

## Chill Out at the Cottage this Winter

By John Roxon

A fine October day, the weather has been very nice of late, but I still see a lugubrious face staring back at me from the bathroom mirror. Thanksgiving is over, the hunting season is just around the corner and then the season of darkness and chill follows – at least four months of icy winds and too little daylight. So I guess my mournful expression is due to the death of a season.

We hang on to summer like a child hangs on to his mother’s skirt. And like a strong breeze that causes the child to lose his grip, the autumn winds signal that a change is due and the carefree days give way to winter’s sleep.

No doubt most of you have just spent a hectic couple of weeks blowing out pipes, acquiring and chopping firewood, putting away boats, noodles, inner tubes and other water toys, protecting patio furniture and, to those with seasonal cottages, packing all the food and drinks in boxes for the trip back to the city.

A funny thing, though. In the summer, the cottages around the lake are filled with sun and fun seekers. The water-

ways are busy and there is more traffic and noise. There is also a lot more humidity and bugs. The fishing isn’t really that good on a July day when the temperature is 32C. The animals in the woods stay quiet and lay still. And everything is green - too green.

After Thanksgiving – certainly after hunting season – there is virtually no one around the lake. From mid-November to early-April, all is still and very, very quiet. Oh, a few brave souls enjoy the solitude during the Christmas holidays, but not nearly matching the numbers on an average summer’s day.

I don’t really know why this is. Perhaps one reason is that there are few winterized cottages and the idea of sleeping, eating and living when the outside temperature is -20C and the inside temperature not much better than that does not appeal to many people. Other reasons probably include everything from snowy roads to inaccessible cottages. In fact, really, just the opposite should take place.

During the oppressive heat of the summer, we should all be in air-conditioned comfort in dark rooms. Like the animals who seek shade near cooling brooks under the boughs of large jack-pines, we should be doing much the same. We shouldn’t be in cars on hot asphalt. We shouldn’t be jogging or playing sports. We shouldn’t be outside drinking beer or gin and tonics.

And we certainly shouldn’t be adding additions, building decks and clearing land. But we do. For the average cottager the year is only six months long – from April to September. Everything that should normally take a year to complete has to be crammed into those six months.

Meanwhile, in the winter, our cabins sit forlorn and empty. The snow is undisturbed and the birds and the animals hunt and play and frolic with no witnesses. I think everyone reading this who has never previously considered spending time at their cottage or cabin or hunt camp during the winter months, should seriously consider it. Sure, there are adjustments, but that’s the fun of it.

You may not be able to drive in – no problem, bring a toboggan and load that up with your weekend’s worth of supplies. Be sure to bring warm sleeping bags and socks and boots and a few extra layers of clothing and all will be fine. Don’t be preoccupied with keeping warm. Instead, plan activities that will keep you outdoors. Spending six to eight hours outside on a January day makes even a cabin heated to 10C seem very warm and very cosy.

What follows is a short primer for enjoying winter at the cottage:

1. Travel light.
2. Bring a toboggan for over the snow portaging.

3. Put all your food and beverages into the lightest cooler you have – bungee the cooler closed in case it slips off the toboggan.
4. Bring high protein foods and yes, even high fat foods for they will satisfy on a cold day.
5. Plan for great outdoor activities – the obvious like building snowmen and snow-forts and the less obvious like ice curling (that is curling on a lake with chunks of ice).
6. Bring a camera – a manual film performs much better in sub-zero temps. There are many great opportunities for stunning winter photos in areas where the snow is undisturbed and still resting on the trees.
7. Winter tends to be dryer than summer so there are often many sun days – particularly in February. Be sure to bundle up and sit in a lawn chair facing the sun on days like this. You’d be surprised how warm you will feel even if the air temp is -10C or so.
8. Go with a loved one so you can cuddle up. Going to a quiet cottage in the dead of winter with no one else around is very romantic.
9. Don’t forget that beer and even wine can turn slushy very quickly when consumed outside in freezing temps. I would recommend a smooth cognac or a liqueur – perhaps B&B, Drambuie or similar.

Try not to ignore your cottage this winter and don’t close it completely. You may just find that our Canadian winter is the finest time of all.

End

## A successful season at the Matawatchan Market

By Bill Graham

There has never been a summer in Matawatchan quite like the one that has just past. Residents, cottagers and visitors came together every Saturday morning to buy local fresh produce, baking, crafts and other sundries while having a light breakfast of freshly brewed coffee and a muffin or croissant. Later in the morning a hot lunch was served. Many came specifically for the lunch and did so every week.

The summer season was a great success for the community and for the market. When this venture first launched in mid-February with a general public meeting we had only some ideas and a dream. Subsequent meetings resulted in a core organizing group made up of Juliette LeGal, Joanne Murray, Ken Birkett, Sandy Downs, Richard and Audrey Copeland, Dorit and Pat Healey, Adam Copeland, Filipa Martins and myself. Through a series of public consultations with the community, the ‘who, why, where, what, when’ and most importantly how of the new market was established.

In those heady early days we hoped to establish two paid local jobs associated

with the market, but that objective was quickly squashed when our application for a ‘local community development grant’ was denied. We had no money, but we did have willing hands. In the tradition of this community, we did it on our own. We made our own signs, used the Highlander shamelessly, and raised money to pay for the additional liability insurance. We paid weekly rent to the Matawatchan Hall, but instead of the \$100 per week we had hoped to pay, we paid \$50 and worked off the remainder by looking after the grounds at the Hall over the summer.

Once operational, it became quickly evident that the Matawatchan Community Market was going to be a success. Market patrons agreed; here are a few quotes (Market voices) taken from a survey of patrons: “Thanks for this unique and delicious experience”; “I loved it and want it to continue. It’s been a real success now becoming a social event”; It makes our cottage time much more enjoyable”; “A very positive initiative” and “A great social time to see the neighbours”.

The success of the Market is thanks to the many members of this community and outlying communities who supported it.  
**continued on next page**

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# The Scots Revenge?

By David Lester

What a frustrating game this golf is ....

It was invented by the Scotch madman way back when ... as Robin Williams says in his comedy sketch ... by mad DRUNK Scotsmen who wanted to get back at the English ...

After a night of drinking, wearing kilts and not even minding .... It apparently went something like this ...

Let's invent a game that hits a ball with a stick into a gopher hole!

Like Pool?

Nah, we'll make the stick have a big bend in it at the end, not a flat surface like a mallet. Wack the ball with the stick and make it go into the gopher hole ...

Let's play it on green space ...

Like Croquet? Like a pool table?

Yea, with pockets ... but we'll make the pockets so far apart you can't see them even when you're sober and, we'll put the holes hundreds of yards apart and make them hit it straight ....

Like a Bowling grid?

Nah, we'll put stuff in the way, like trees and tall grass and we'll make the grass so deep you'll need to hit it with a tire iron and still not get out .... Oh, that's it, we'll call each try a stroke because you'll feel like you're having a stroke and your going to die with each swing ...

Oh, and this is pure genius ... We'll put a flat spot at the end with a flag on it just to give them all hope ... yea hope ... but we'll put up some sand and water in the way to take the hope away and suck up their ball ...

And we'll do this once? ....

Nah, we'll do it 18 times ... that should make 'em remember us!

Ah yes, a nasty game it is .... But we all have hope each week watching the younger Tiger Woods do his thing so effortlessly. Hope springs eternal and sometimes it appears ... After 9 double boogies and losing 13 balls we hit a shot even Tiger would admire—long, straight and pure physics. Perfect flight soaring like an eagle and straight as an arrow in flight for over 275 yards and then gently bouncing back to earth in the middle of the fairway and we stand in awe over our accomplishment.

Of course, we couldn't do that again if our lives depended upon it, but still, if you can do it once, it is possible. And

that after all, is the comfort we hold and try to perfect, through all the trials and practice required to just break 100.

Hope springs eternal that we'll make the 30 foot putt or chip perfectly from the sand or hit it so far we'll lose it "Ah Bob, it was wonderful, I lost the damn ball I hit it so far LOL"

Ok, enough of the dreaming ... what to do about this problem?

Over the years, golf has had many interesting ideas. Lately, it's been over-sized clubs and quick as heck golf balls. Now, you all know we go out to Golf Town each spring to check out the new stuff and sometimes we think the equipment will help. Maybe as much as a new hammer will make a carpenter better .. maybe ... but in reality, if we didn't buy the new stuff, the business world would go down the tubes, so, in reality, we're all saving the world of business and keeping the people employed and allowing the rest of our neighbours to eat by hitting that golf ball in the water as often as possible.

Logic ... yea, it works ...

Need to hit more balls at the range ... yea that works until you notice that they're going all over the place and you don't know why or all of a sudden you've got a mean slice and it's a mystery where it came from.

Hands quicker than the club? Hands slower than the club? Face of the club too open? What speed did I swing that club when it went a mile? You'll never know on the open range ... never ...

That's why they invented computers and indoor golfing. Not just to get out in the winter evenings for a perfect game with no bugs, 22 degrees (72 for those before Trudeau) and no lost balls. No, the technology today allowed Tiger to re-invent his swing this year even though he hit it a mile last year. He wants to be perfect (just like the rest of us want to repeat that perfect hit) and he's using the type of technology available right in Calabogie, to do it. Don't believe me ... Drop in for a demo and see the future. Now, go and dream about that perfect stroke with the tire iron ....

Editor's note: David Lester owns Mulligans Den in Calabogie. It is an indoor golf centre with state of the art equipment and 60 golf courses for improving or learning the game of golf.

End

## Calendar (Cont)

### Denbigh

#### Diners Club

Dinners are held the first Monday of the

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month at the Denbigh Community Hall at 12 noon. Full Course Meal \$5.00. Contact Lynn McNicolle at 333-5586 for information.

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

#### Remembrance Day ceremony

In Denbigh will be held Saturday, November 10th, at the United Church, beginning at 11am.

#### HEALTH CARE

**Paramed Health Care Services Foot Care Clinic/Denbigh**

Call 333-5559, Muriel Burgess, for an appointment

End

**Seventy percent of success in life is showing up.  
- Woody Allen**

## Market (Cont)

ported the Market with their presence and dollars every Saturday morning. Also, thanks should be given to the vendors who offered a wide variety of items for sale and made money doing it. Without the food concession and fabulous lunches that were served the market would have been found lacking. There are numerous volunteers that helped make this season a success. Not least are the musicians that added a musical dimension to several market days. Specifically, thanks to: Garry Ferguson, Ginger Miller, Harold Kauffman, Greg Roche, Paul Isaacs, Ben Copeland, John Neale and Barney and Rosemary O'Connor.

Yes, there will be a Matawatchan Market next year. Hopefully it will be bigger and better. Stay tuned to the Highlander for developments.

End



# Tasty Chickens

By Ernie Jukes

Sometimes I suppose, even in paradise, there can be a bit of a lull in activity. For example: is a herd of contented cows- really contented? Well apparently that seemed to be the case in one of our nearby back-country villages. It was just such a period, during the “dog-days” of summer, when one of the boys in Vennachar said “How about a chicken Booyon”?...a what? Then he, having had more learning from the university down in Kingston, explained about a feast that was first originated by the French Count of Bouillon around 1060. Gil had the delicious recipe but they needed a mess of chickens. No KFC buckets in those days. Of course there was the old questions like “why did the chicken go halfway across the road? And the answer “to lay it on the line.” The small group of high spirited youth agreed they could explore new horizons though it would require precise planning. They also knew the adventure could be fraught with danger.

Gil had explained how a new moon with clouds would offer the protection needed to make each strike successful. They had rationalized that their mission was not really theft but would provide their too quiet neighbourhood with a triple A dinner and a much needed happening. They also agreed that only the farmers with large flocks would contribute. Someone said he once saw a sign at a rich farmer’s gate that read “Free chickens ...our coop runneth over.” They would not be random in their selection and they must not be caught or they would never be able to face their fellow parishioners at mass on Sunday. Someone asked why the chicken crossed the road twice, and was answered that “it must have been a double crosser”. They were all sworn to secrecy! Evidently they spent weeks in planning and “casing” the respective farmyards. It would be the escapade of the century.

The night was as thick and hazy and as they had hoped, blacker than a witches soul. “Perfect” they thought as the small group of crusaders climbed aboard Tom’s old car and drove the 10 Km to their first stop. Quietly they dismounted in the inky darkness, leaving the car doors open for a quick getaway.

They may have imagined themselves as part of the Al Capone gang that had once “hid out” around Quadeville. Then they quickly slid over the damp, split rail fence and keeping low proceeded slowly along the cover of cornstalks past the large garden and finally to the log chicken coop. The only sound was crickets in the damp grass.

Here they paused to catch their breath and still their pounding hearts. They checked the farmhouse. All was quiet and in shadows. Gil carefully and slowly opened the chicken house door, trying to minimize the sound of the rusty and squeaky old hinges. Still dead quiet. ... so far so good. James shone his flashlight up and along the roost where they could make their choice. They had agreed to take no more than two birds from each farm depending on the flock size. Gil had previously instructed the crew how to neatly sweep them off their perch by the legs and snap their necks hard, virtually all in one motion.

Now, there they sat with their beady little eyes looking down on them.

Well it sounded real easy and logically efficient but the very first bird that James grabbed and flipped; hit its head on the roost and suddenly the worst of all their dreads happened. The whole brood swiftly flew every direction with what seemed a horrendous racket. It was sheer bedlam! They all ran out of the coop- birds and legs were flopping everywhere. Hands grabbing at feathers in the dark. Then the dog started barking loudly and someone at the farmhouse stepped out just as the porch

lights flicked on. Gil had just reached the protection of the garden, when he tripped and fell on his bird which gave a “wake the dead” squawk. To make matters worse the clouds parted, helping to lead Waddy MacPherson’s shotgun toward the sound. The lead pellets from the 12 gauge blasted through the tops of the cornstalks, falling onto Gil’s thick bird hunting coat.

Puffing loudly James was already in the car when Gil climbed in, tossing his bird onto the back seat, and Tom shifted into first gear. Down the steep hill they tore almost rolling over as they squealed around the corner at the bottom, in a cloud of dust. Then over the bridge they rapidly sped toward their next destination of sinfulness. The fearful foursome continued their chicken harvest into the wee hours, until their required limit was satisfied. The next day being Saturday they were able to get together quietly to soak and pluck the birds behind the old blacksmith forge. They generally prepared them for the pot as well as the remaining ingredients for the feast. Evidently two of the ladies of the village helped them complete the dinner and look after invitations.

Sunday after church, some local folks gathered. They also included the supposedly unknowing contributors. Then they all sat down at fold-up card tables, in the shade of a maple grove, for the

Grand Chicken Booyon. It was indeed a great affair with fine pies for dessert. It was told that some members of a band that was visiting the area from Smith’s Falls showed up to play. Everyone ate and drank and danced and agreed it was a long overdue and wonderful time. One that should be done more often. As far as we know, the only one with ruffled feathers, so to speak, was old Waddy MacPherson. He cautioned “it was just the other night that someone had stole two of his best laying hens.” as he continued picking his teeth with a wry half smile on his face.

End

## Red Fox (cont)

turies. In order to justify trampling down farmers crops in pursuit of foxes, hunters had to portray the fox as a grave threat to poultry. Indeed, the opportunistic and clever fox will invade a poorly protected chicken coop and raise havoc. And he will return if catching chickens proves easier than hunting mice. But, as one who grew up on a farm, I can attest to the fact that protecting chickens from foxes is far easier than protecting them from weasels and minks. What is more, rats and mice are big menu items on the fox’s diet, and these critters cause even more damaging to chickens and chicken feed. As farmers we welcomed the sight of a fox on our farm.

End

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## Carol's Izzy Dolls

By Louise Szabo

My passion for Izzy dolls began last March when I met a friend putting her groceries into the trunk of her car and spotted a shoe box filled with tiny little knitted dolls. They looked so cute all stacked side by side, with their dark faces, colourful clothing and different types of hats or wool hair. She explained to me why she was making these dolls and I was hooked. Not only could I have great fun and use up all the leftover wool from my many knitting projects, but I could do my part as a Canadian and put a smile on the face of a child.

Izzy Dolls are the creation of Carol Isfeld who began making them when her son Mark was serving with the First Combat Engineer Regiment of the Canadian Armed Forces in Croatia. They were small enough for Mark to carry in his pocket and he gave one to every child he met. Mark was killed on June 21, 1994 while removing landmines. After his death his troop asked Carol to keep making the dolls, which they had named "Izzy Dolls" in Mark's memory. From that humble beginning the project took flight. From friend to friend across our nation, people who saw the dolls fell in love with them and, like me, decided to make them.



Over the past 18 months the Order of the Eastern Star across Canada has given the Canadian Military Engineers over 12,000 Izzy Dolls. These dolls are shipped to wherever the Military is posted. Most of the dolls were sent to Afghanistan, while others found their way to Africa, where they are mostly given to children suffering from AIDS. The dolls give them comfort, and some children have been buried still clinging to their little Izzy doll.

On August 15, in need of more information for this article, I emailed Carol. Her husband Brian responded to my email and informed me that on the Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, Carol had been taken to emergency suffering from extreme pain in the abdominal region. They were going to run tests as they were at a loss to diagnose her. There was a chance that she would need surgery, to be performed on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The next message I received from Brian was on the day of her scheduled operation. Carol, at the age of 68, had died the night before. What a loss.

Not only did Carol start the phenomenon of the Izzy Doll but she was also involved in several land mine issues. Subsequently she received, from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, the Meritorious Service Medal (Civil Division), which recognizes individuals who have performed an exceptional deed or an activity that has brought honour to their community or to Canada. Carol was also the recipient of the Queen's Jubilee Medal, the Memorial Cross and was National Silver Cross Mother for Remembrance Day 2000.

With one small gesture, taking a crochet hook in hand and creating a little doll, Carol started a project that has grown and has spread to every nook and cranny of our country. What a successful national endeavor. It boggles the mind. Carol's wonderful legacy will live on thanks to Shirley O'Connell of Perth, who has consented to become the "New Izzy Doll Mom" to carry on the tradition.

If you have a bit of time on your hands, scraps of wool and an interest in doing something for the children in war torn or third world countries I suggest you make some of these tiny dolls. The "Izzy Doll" is only 5 to 6 inches tall, copyrighted by Carol Isfeld, (they cannot be used for financial gain). The dolls can be knitted, crocheted or sewn

from bits and pieces of yarn/cloth and stuffed with polyester fibrefill. The variety is endless and only restricted by one's imagination. To knit a doll takes very little time as you only cast on 32 stitches and knit 57 rows. How much more simple can it get?

The patterns can be found at the following Web site [www.Isfeldbc.com](http://www.Isfeldbc.com). You may also contact Mrs. Bonnie Page 613-432-7303. She lives in Renfrew and has agreed to collect completed Izzy Dolls in that area. If you have any questions about Izzy dolls as to patterns and collection of the dolls you can also contact the New Izzy Doll Mom, Mrs. Shirley O'Connell in Perth at 613 267-3145, email: [soconn@sympatico.ca](mailto:soconn@sympatico.ca) or me, Louise Szabo in Ottawa 613-828-1059 or at the cottage 613-752-2726 email: [szaboel@sympatico.ca](mailto:szaboel@sympatico.ca)

During these unsettled times, when I sometimes think that our world is going crazy, making my Izzy dolls helps me feel that I am contributing my own little part. As I knit I imagine that one day somewhere in the world in a war-ravaged land a child will reach out for my Izzy doll and smile and maybe, for a little while, that child will feel happy. Thank you, Carol, for creating a wonderful truly Canadian project. Your legacy lives on.

End



## Journey (Cont)

for the past two days. The stairs to the Peace Tower were barricaded at the top, the metal fencing glinting in the high sun of the eleventh hour as the speeches were made lower down the concrete walk, facing the west block instead.

First Grandfather Commanda spoke, then the politicians, followed by the voices of the leaders of the First Nations present. I noticed most of the politicians present soon disappeared after the cameras were gone, with the exception of Paul Dewar, MP for Ottawa Center, who appeared genuinely concerned against uranium mining and had been present throughout the past two days at various intervals.

Harold Perry sought me out in the crowd. I had been bugging him for a chat about the historic journey for the past two days and it was time for us to talk. We needed a quieter place to go, and decided to head over to the empty steps below the Peace Tower. Harold carried his canoe paddle with him, using it to point ahead to our

destination as we passed the firm but friendly RCMP Liaison Officer, who in turn, waved us through with a smile.

Sitting under the hot sun, I asked Harold what made this journey an historic one. He explained, going back to the days of the Beaver Wars, and since first contact for that matter, how the same waterways have been used as a means of transport to and from the native capital at the Lake of Two Mountains, downstream of the Ottawa River near Oka.

Okay, I asked, what made this journey historic for him? He considered this, and then answered this was his first visit to "this neighbourhood" (Parliament Hill). I asked him what his thoughts were on what had happened here today, as we looked out over the crowds, media and canoes sprawled below, and he said it made him feel hopeful towards a positive resolution. I asked him how it felt, sitting on the doorstep of the Canadian government. He considered this carefully, twirling the canoe paddle around and around on the concrete ground, "It feels foreign." He answered quietly.

End

## Breast health awareness day

Breast Cancer, two words that turn lives upside down. By the year 2010, experts say one in four women will hear these words. Statistics tell us that 26% of cancer in women is breast cancer. Of that number, 15% will die from the disease. 77% of breast cancer occurs in women over the age of fifty. 50% of women have detectable masses five years after their first diagnosis. Breast cancer rates have increased 40% from 1973 to 1998 and the mortality rate has not changed in the last fifty years.

Sad to say, most people never think about their health until they lose it or until a problem surfaces. Women tend to believe breast tissue is healthy un-

less there is an abnormal measurement occurring on imagery such as a mammogram. Society has been educated to believe that breast disease occurs suddenly. Fact is, this is not true.

On Saturday, October 20th at the Rocky Mountain House Restaurant, 409 Stewart Street North in Renfrew from 9 am to 4 pm, Wellness Natural Health Centre is providing an education day for women to hear new information and factual presentations from professional health researchers and practitioners about breast health.

One of the keynote speakers is Dr. Chandra Martens, a radiation oncologist from McGill University. Dr.



Water from the Mississippi brought to Ottawa

Martens will be explaining the benefits, advantages and disadvantages between mammograms and MRI's.

Susan Veale, a Kinesiologist and Natural Health Practitioner from the Wellness Natural Health Centre in Calabogie, will present new information on Breast Thermography, a safe, non-invasive early screening tool used by women of all ages including teenage girls to detect changes in breast tissue. Susan will also speak on environmental toxins containing xenoestrogens. Xenoestrogens are synthetic estrogens that mimic natural estrogens. Susan's talk will provide information on where these toxins are found; how to identify them; how they disrupt a woman's natural chemical balance and how to eliminate the effects of xenoestrogens from the body to reduce the risk of breast cancer.

Mr. William O'Neill, Founder and CEO of ISM (Immune System Management), a leading advocate in breast cancer research, will provide valuable information on the role amino acids play in both breast cancer and breast health. Mr. O'Neill will demonstrate how the chemistry of the body can be altered naturally to fight disease. Mr. O'Neill's research has taken him around the globe and he has partnered with many institutions both Canadian and International to facilitate new treatment protocols not only for breast cancer but also prostate and colorectal cancers.

Ms. Pam Polly, a registered massage therapist specializing in breast massage and lymphatic drainage will explain the importance of caring for breast tissue. As part of her presentation, Ms. Polly

will show how to properly select a brassiere and how to be properly fitted for a brassiere to avoid breast tissue damage.

In addition to our health presenters, Helen Marr will share a moment of her life. Helen will tell of her heartfelt journey; one that weaves with emotion through the process of living and caring for her husband, a man who lost his life to cancer. Helen story is one of bravery, hope and understanding. It is a story that will take the listener into an ultimate test of life.

Breast Health Awareness Day is the first of its kind to the Renfrew area. It is a day to provide women with education and a simplified understanding of breast care.

Breast Health Awareness Day is an opportunity for women to self engage and to learn how to be proactive with their bodies.

Today, worldwide, 1.6 million women have been diagnosed with breast cancer. Breast cancer knows no boundaries. Breast cancer kills!

Tickets for the Breast Health Awareness Day are available at Wellness Natural Health Centre, Calabogie, 613-752-1540; Pura Vida Nutrition Store in Renfrew, 613-433-9437 and the Rocky Mountain House Restaurant in Renfrew, 613-432-5801. The cost for the day is \$45.00 including lunch.

For more information, please call the Wellness Natural Health Centre at 613-752-1540 or visit [www.mylysis.com](http://www.mylysis.com).

End

9am to 4pm  
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## CABA (Cont)

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End

### Wisdom Teeth

Haunting the halls of different schools  
in the wake of their towering peers  
many wise children grow up to be fools  
who merely grow old as the future  
unfolds

and the past over burdens their years  
Just as many young fools begin to be  
wise

as they walk through a complex world  
sifting inside the truth from the lies  
as blooming tomorrows will always  
unfurl

So when it comes to wisdom teeth  
let the medical records show  
while wisdom should remain  
teeth just come and go

Douglas Vasey

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# Out on the First Concession

## THE POND

By Wes Bomhower

Where I first started to school in 1935, there was a small pond just over the hill to the east of the one room schoolhouse and though the pond sometimes almost dried up, other years when there was plenty of rain it was a Mecca for the older boys at lunch time.

Jenny (Joe) MacDonald, our teacher, would quite often walk home for lunch, and that was in the opposite direction from the pond. Though we normally had an hour for lunch, we never knew if Jenny would be back at twelve thirty or maybe closer to one o'clock, so a look-out would always be posted to watch for her return, then away to the pond the older boys would go. It wasn't much fun being a look-out, so the boys usually drew straws for this unsavoury position. Today it was Roger Pilon who drew the short straw and he was extremely unhappy with the result. He began to cuss a little, but he stuttered so badly when he was upset that no one knew what he was talking about anyway, so he reluctantly took up his post where he had a good view in Jenny's direction.

The other boys wolfed down their lunch and climbed the school fence heading for the pond where they had a makeshift raft made up of old planks and fence posts and the like. It was great fun steering this conveyance around the pond and time passed quickly. The posts, planks and all had been roughly thrown together the past spring and held together with bits of rope, twine and wire, but over the course of the summer the rope and twine began to rot. They hopped aboard anyway and pushed away from shore toward deeper water with a long pole. The raft began to disintegrate, a post here, a plank there, a bit of rotten twine or rope dangling with each piece. Some of the boys had not removed any clothing except their boots before boarding, so were soaked as the raft completely fell apart. They scrambled to shore where they removed their clothing and wrung most of the water out, then surveyed what was left of their raft.

Well, it wasn't so bad they figured, with a bit of rope and wire they could probably make it seaworthy again tomorrow. But then suddenly over the hill on the run came Roger Plinth look-out. "H-H-Hurry up b-b-boys! J-JJenny is coming d-d-down the r-r-road"! He stuttered wildly.

The raft forgotten for the time being, the boys quickly dressed and piled back into the schoolyard just before Jenny arrived and began racing each other 'round and 'round the yard in an attempt to dry out their clothing before the one o'clock bell.

The bell called them all back to classes and right away the teacher suspected something was up because big Roger, the look-out, was all red faced and jittery. (Fortunately, she hadn't noticed the damp clothing on the other boys.) "Roger, what is the matter with you anyway"? She enquired as he fidgeted in his seat. Poor Roger, three times he opened his mouth to answer but no sound came out and he looked like a fish out of water, his mouth opening and closing, and of course all eyes were upon him, making him more nervous. Finally his answer came out in a rush, loud and clear. "Nothing wrong teacher", he almost shouted and his mouth went back to opening and closing again. "Well, get to work then, everybody", Jenny declared and gave the whole room a stern look. We returned to our books and an almost audible sigh, which was felt more than heard, passed through the entire classroom. Every one was much relieved.

The raft did not get repaired for at least two weeks because Jenny brought her lunch to school for that period of time. Perhaps she did suspect something but said nothing, hoping someone would tattle, but where teacher was concerned, we were a pretty closely knit group and we didn't much like the thought of half the school receiving the strap, even if they did deserve the punishment.

Times indeed have changed.

P.S. It was only a few short years later that some of these boys gave their lives in the futile defence of Hong Kong, the first Canadian soldiers to be killed in action in the Second World War.

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# The Local Yokel

By April Cappel

There is one fact that I still find amazing. We are an agriculturally based county, yet, how easy is it to buy local produce? How many of us know struggling farmers? We all need to eat, so why the struggle? You would think that this problem would be very obvious to solve, but somehow, it isn't. That is likely a topic for yet another column, at another time.

But for now, let's look at what we can do to find some of the goods that we have seen while wandering around our own Agricultural Halls during our recent fairs.

I am of course, referring to the Farmers' Markets that will, by and large, continue to operate until mid to late October.

There are I believe six Farmers' Markets operating throughout Renfrew County. They are in Renfrew, Pembroke, Cobden, Barry's Bay, Combermere, and a new one now in Matawatchan. (I do apologize if I missed anyone! Please let me know if I have)

Farmers' Markets have been in existence since 1780. The first one began in Kingston, all those many years ago. They steadily increased in numbers until the early 1970's, when, it is my understanding that we, as consumers, began to favour the convenience of shopping malls which began to develop on a steady basis at that time.

By the early 1990's the Farmers' Market Association had been developed, and since that time, the number of Farmers' Markets across Ontario has begun to steadily increase. They have a very comprehensive web site which will not only direct you to the operating hours of our Local Farmers' Markets, but also give you the history and ability to find Markets in Ontario if you are planning on visiting other areas.

I wish I could tell you, that I have had the opportunity to travel around, and attend all of the Markets we are so blessed with here in our "Little" Renfrew County, but, alas, that just hasn't been possible.

What I will tell you is this, every time I have attended a market, I don't manage to leave quickly. If I don't get caught up talking to people I haven't seen in a very long time, I end up spending so much time looking at the beautiful produce, that it doesn't take long before I am weighed down with purchases.

I also enjoy looking at the variety of hand made products you can find. Do you know what I mean? Those soaps, hand knit slippers and other interesting stuff we wish we had time to make? Those things for which we wait patiently until "Craft Fair" season arrives just before Christmas every year? Did you know you can find that stuff at the Farmers' Markets?

And the baking! I am sure I gain 5lbs every time I walk through that little street in Renfrew on a Saturday morning.

So, let me challenge you this: Over the next few weeks, when you are looking for a "close to home" outing with the family, take some time, and visit some of these incredible resources we have here within Renfrew County. Come

down to Matawatchan and meet some of these super people who are just cutting their teeth in this circuit, or take a trip to Cobden, Renfrew or Pembroke, or any of the other markets we have within the county.

Meet someone new, and learn a little more about what we have hiding, in our own back yard!

If you would like more information on Farmers' Markets in Ontario, go to their web site at [www.farmersmarket-ontario.com](http://www.farmersmarket-ontario.com)

For more information on the Buy Local in Renfrew County Campaign, please contact your "Local Yokel" at [buy\\_local@nrtco.net](mailto:buy_local@nrtco.net)

End

## Sudoku answers

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



Turkeys of Matawatchan.

Photo: Kit Pullen

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