

THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

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PRICELESS

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A look back on Griffith and Matawatchan

By Bill Graham, Editor

This is the story of two townships, which have been closely linked for many years. Before the political organization of this part of Eastern Ontario there were many small settlements, which were isolated communities of people trying to eke out a living from a stony landscape.

The first settlers in the area were shanty men. They were the loggers who worked the Madawaska River and decided to settle their families along the river. Settlement was located mainly near the river and they were predominately French from what was then Lower Canada (Quebec). Around 1850 there were already some settlers—MacDonalds, Wilsons and McLellans—in what is now the Village of Matawatchan.

In the 1850s a number of events conspired to open up the area to settlers. In 1852 the government passed the *Public Lands Act*, which made it lawful to give genuine agricultural settlers free grants of land along public roads in newly surveyed townships. It is interesting to note that while the Crown gave the land, it retained the rights to the pine trees. To administer these grants Mr. T.P. French was appointed Crown Land Agent in 1852. He dispensed his largess from Mount St. Patrick and was said to be overly generous in his description of the land being granted. This might explain why family names that existed in a community in one census year no longer exist in that community in the next census

year, ten years later. Many were probably disillusioned by their granted land and moved on. Happening at this same time was the development of settlement roads, which were critically important for bringing settlers into the area.

Griffith Township was the first to be politically organized. In 1858, Griffith Township was established as a township and joined Grattan, Algoma and Sebastopol as a united township. Around the same time (1866) Renfrew County split from the United Counties of Lanark and Renfrew to become a county on its own. The township of Griffith at that time had three communities: Griffith, Balvenie and Khartum. Griffith is named for Sir Thomas Griffith who served in the Crimea War, including the Battle of Balaclava. Many of the first officials (especially Post Masters) in the area were ex-military officers who had received land grants from the Crown in recognition of their military service. This probably explains the unlikely names given to some of the villages and postal stations; including Balaclava and Khartum.

It is an interesting footnote that Crown Land Agent T.P. French became the first reeve of Griffith Township in the mid-1860s.

It is unclear when Griffith Township separated from Grattan, Algoma and Sebastopol to become a township on its own, but we do know that in 1871 the Township of Matawatchan, which was a union of several sparsely populated settlements, joined Griffith as a united township.

The Township of Matawatchan had two communities; the Village of Matawatchan and Camel Chute. Camel Chute was originally named Campbell Chute after a local logger, but when surveyors arrived and asked residents the name of the place the local brogue was misheard as Camel. Matawatchan is an Indian name (probably Algonquin) and in some records it's spelled as 'Mataouschie'. Some believe it means "running through rushes", but Indian Affairs says it means "first settlement." Some current long-time residents think the name should be translated as "hid-

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Getting through the winter



Calabogie Residents Rally for their school

By Richard Copeland

Within a two week period, the Calabogie community has rallied for a fight with a passion not seen since last years' Stop-the-Track campaign. This time the community is united. The threat of closure of the Calabogie School is perceived as a threat to the whole community. Opposing the community are the Renfrew County Board of Education and the Ministry of Education. Three recent public meetings about this possible closure are covered in this article.

**January 25, 2005
— Calabogie Public School - Meeting**

The question facing the Calabogie Public School Organization is how to save the community's only public school. It is one of a number of public schools slated for closure in Renfrew County. The question should have been how to celebrate the school's fiftieth anniversary of educating the community's children, but unfortunately not.

It's a small school consisting of three rooms, 24 students and four teachers;

one of which is the part-time special needs and French language teacher. The school's principal, Therese Narbonne, also serves as principal at the Horton School, which gives her double responsibilities and lots of travel. The three full-time teachers are also challenged when they deal with class work for two or three grades at one time.

The teachers were present as well as the part time secretary and 12 of the 17 school parents. Representing the municipality were Reeve (Isobel Kristijan) and the new Township Administrator, John Baird.

After a full agenda, professionally managed by Robyn Emon (The School Organization's Chairperson), the final agenda item was then

tabled and it cast a pall over the mood of these parents. The resignation on the part of the audience suggested that Goliath as represented by the County Board and the Ontario Ministry of Education had already won the fight.

Discussion centred on the logistics of bussing. For some young children the round-trip to Queen Elizabeth (QE) Public School in Renfrew with stops

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Calabogie School

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and transfers might mean hours a day on the bus. The school within a school concept, which would have Calabogie Public School share physical space with St. Joe’s Separate School, was also discussed. But the lack of space defeated that option. Parents were told that they could send their children to other schools, but the parents would then have to look after transportation.

A School Board Report communicated to the meeting mentioned the advantage of attending a bigger school and the fact that due to grant levels the Board would actually lose over \$100,000 when Calabogie School closes. Finally, the report indicated that the village of Calabogie will not grow—a piece of fortune telling slight-of-hand that goes against the growth goals of this dynamic Calabogie community

Reeve Kristijan, forecasts a much different future for Calabogie than that of the ministry report. For this reeve there is growth in Calabogie’s future. She has been a supporter of local growth and as she astutely pointed out to this group: “every young family will ask a real estate agent about the quality and availability of the local schooling before moving into an area.” Without a Calabogie Public School, this ministry report would fulfill its own prophecy.

Calabogie will find it very difficult to grow if there is no school here. And it is notable that most recently Calabogie has turned a corner in its growth. The



Kaleb Marek sits at one the schools referbished computors

potential for growth is encouraged with the expansion of Highway 17 to four-lanes, which now extends to Arnproir. It is expected that the next leg of construction will continue past Highway 508 to Renfrew. Arnprior is already experiencing a building boom as a result of this and something similar for Calabogie is not an unreasonable conclusion. Improved access to Ottawa and beyond will be a real plus for families moving into the area.

Having experienced the passionate position taken by the reeve and the positive support and wealth of experience of John Baird, this group of concerned parents and residents re-discovered their power as individuals and set a course to fight this closure.

Township Council, at their meeting approved several actions: to support the School Organization; to express its concern about the impacts to the com-

munity; to sponsor the next public meeting; to meet with the board officials in Pembroke and to request an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Education.

With the assistance of Council and the hard work of Robyn and her organization a Community meeting was put together for the next week.

February 3, 2005 – Public Meeting at Community Centre

Calabogie residents gathered in force responding to a call for a public meeting, facilitated by Reeve Isobel Kristijan. It was hoped that 40 people would respond from the community to voice their concerns to the two trustees who would attend. The turnout approached 60 residents, including students, parents, grandparents and I’m sure great-grandparents. The Township Council was there along with John Baird the new Township CAO. There

were representatives from the business community; folks who had their kids safely placed at St. Joseph’s and people without school age children.

Isobel introduced Robyn Emon (the School Organization’s Chairperson) and Marjorie Doering (Trustee: Madawaska, Horton, Renfrew) and Norm Hazelwood (Trustee: Arnprior McNab). Robyn chaired the meeting and opened with a review of all the concerns which had been tabled from the recent meeting at the school. She noted that parent participation at the school was 100%. Robyn then turned the meeting to the floor for input from the audience. They had plenty to say.

Bussing received much of the early attention from participants. School Bus ‘safety’ loomed large with concerns for children missing their stops due to sleeping. Children tire from bus travel induced longer days. Bus safety together with the lack of seat belts for young children was discussed. Beyond safety, bussing also steals away time, and without late bussing, children would no longer be able to participate in extra curricular activities.

The likelihood of declining population and failing economic growth also seized much of the deliberations. It was pointed out that building permits are on

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Of Correction and Confusion

The Editor

The value of proof-reading was brought home to us at the *Highlander* with the last issue (December 04 / January 05) of the paper. We had monumental problems in getting any sort of paper to our printer (Runge Press) at the scheduled press time. For the first time the paper was being designed on a MAC laptop computer and was nearly completed when 18-hours before our deadline the MAC power supply developed a fatal flaw. Luckily there was enough battery time to move the entire paper and all supporting programs over to a DVD. We then had to reassemble the whole paper in a PC (Microsoft) computing environment. Well, we lost formatting, fonts, portions of stories and some photos and ads.

With the clock ticking we had to put it all together again. Our new designer (Adam Copeland) learned to work in a PC environment. His Adobe Illustrator program, which he used for ad creation was a MAC version; so many ads had to be recreated using other existing (PC) software. Three of us worked until 1: 30 a.m. on the Monday morning of our press day and then we were up at 5:00

a.m. to do the finishing touches and then transport the paper on compact disc to Renfrew for our 8:00 a.m. deadline. Without Adam’s professional diligence we wouldn’t have made our deadline.

As you can imagine we didn’t have much time for proof-reading; and it showed. So, our apologies folks! What follows are a few notable corrections from that issue.

The photographs of: Calabogie sawmill early 1900s and of M.J. O’Brien, were supplied to us by the National Library and Archives, and credit should go to them. A few of the ads were missing information and a number of classified ads didn’t contain the important fact that these items were for sale. Some classified ads, which should have been published, were not.

You may have encountered some black boxes, which should have contained text, and then there was the spelling. We had a few significant alterations in standard Canadian English spelling other than the Valley brogue expressed in Garry Ferguson’s stories. And, we had some confusion

about heritage, but not the spelling.

We want to extend our apologies to Vic Garbutt and the Heritage Radio organization for the photo accompanying the Heritage Radio article on page 20 of the paper. The photo, bearing the caption “Valley Heritage Radio Committee” was in reality one of the Heritage Old Time Country Music Association board. Though mutually supportive of each other, these are two different and independent organizations.

The Heritage Old Time Country Music Association was formed to focus on the cultural, historical and social aspects of a dance and musical heritage specific to the Ottawa Valley watershed. It will preserve and perpetuate this heritage through performances and campaigns to encourage related programs within the educational systems.

Heritage Radio CJHR (98.7 FM) will broadcast scheduled agricultural and other programs of local interest, as well as a variety of music, but will gather, protect and promote Canadian music in general,

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Griffith - Matawatchan

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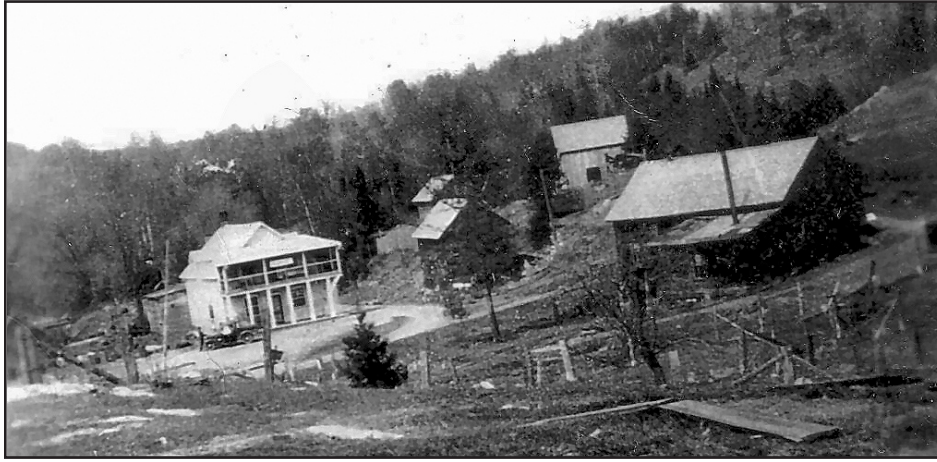
den village.” It suggests that there may have been an Aboriginal settlement here before the Europeans arrived.

While Griffith was primarily Irish and French in the early days, the population of the geographic township of Matawatchan was primarily Scots and French. Local memory says that the first settler in the Village of Matawatchan was a MacDonald, but soon after there were Wilsons, MacPhersons, McLellans, Hutsons and many others. Many of the French families are still here but their names have become anglicized over the years. The LeClaire family were very early settlers and they are still prominent in the area.

With the shanty men and the early farmers a population developed and with it a small service industry to serve that population. There were blacksmiths, cheese makers, store owners, carpenters and even two dress makers and a weaver are identified in the 1891 Census for the Village of Matawatchan. It was a local economy where, for example, any milk remaining after a settler's cow had provided milk and butter for the family would be turned over to a local cheese maker who would provide cheese for a little cash back to the family. It was very much a barter economy. This type of transaction happened for many commodities and it happened throughout Renfrew County.

The Townships of Griffith and Matawatchan were very isolated for much of their history. It was not until the mid-1930s that there was a modern road to Dacre through to Renfrew with the building of Highway 41. It was not until then that a concrete bridge over the Madawaska replaced one made of wood. Before then most of Matawatchan's supplies came from Perth via the Lanark and Calabogie Roads. Supplies for Griffith probably came via Denbigh and the Addington Road. Depending on the merchant involved both communities may have been supplied by both these routes. Who now can say?

Travelling beyond their immediate community happened seldom for residents. Local Matawatchan residents Annie Thomson and Olive Parks (née Thompson), who are sisters now in their 90s; report that they first visited Renfrew, for the Renfrew Fair, when they were in their teens. It was a two-day trip by wagon with a night spent at a 'stopping place' in Dacre. Former Griffith residents Eric and Irene Boeltge reported that: "Travelling by rough wagon roads was quite difficult in earlier times and it usually took two days to travel to Eganville, which we travel today in not much less than an hour! At Tooley's Lake, there was a large stove and always wood, where a traveller could stop to have their lunch.



Early Matawatchan: General Store and cheese factory in the foreground

Coming back from Eganville in the evening, travellers sometimes stopped about three miles this side of Eganville and stayed the night. In the morning they could resume their journey and arrive back in Griffith in the afternoon.”

Often residents would travel with the mail, which would arrive about once weekly. It was an antiquated form of hitch hiking. Mail was often the only form of communication outside of the immediate community. Post Office locations and postmasters were significant in these times.

Many of the historical highlights of this area are connected to communication with the outside world. According to Alvie Strong the first telephone arrived in Matawatchan in the 1920s though not everyone had one. Calls could only be made in Matawatchan or as far as Griffith, according to Bill Thomson, but you had to shout. In addition, in those days you had to buy your own telephone and supply some telephone poles. The first car arrived in the 1920s but it was years before it was a common means of transportation. The arrival of Highway 41 in the mid-1930s was significant for this area and finally in the mid-1950s hydro arrived here.

Today residents have communications and access to the world outside the community, but it is still an isolated area. However, today that might be more a blessing than a curse.



A dance in Griffith in the 1940s

Early memories of Matawatchan

By Audrey Copeland

Editor's note: *Audrey Copeland was also at the original meeting with Annie Thomson and Olive Parks when The Highlander interviewed them about their early lives in Matawatchan. Subsequently, Audrey spent an additional three hours with Olive to learn more about the day-to-day life back then. Early memories of Matawatchan provides a complementary view to the story, I mind the time.*

Let's for the moment place ourselves in the mid-1920s, without hydro electricity and without motorized machinery or vehicles, living in the isolated village of Matawatchan; Olive and Annie's world in their young teens. Life was centered around family, farm and the immediate community on which all of their survival, social and spiritual needs, depended. Each person had a role within the family and within the community. Family members ate all their meals together (except for lunches at school), worked together for the common good, and played together. There was closeness and purposefulness to all that they did. Olive states that it was a lot of work, but it wasn't a hardship. They had a lot of fun.

The Matawatchan community consisted of 20 to 25 families. These fami-

lies supported the same general store, which remains at its original location today. They supported a one room school house and a cheese factory both southeast of the store on the other side of the road. To the west of the store across the street was Eli Troke's place and Billy Smith's hall (where many social activities occurred). The protestant church was at the present St. Andrew's church's location. Eli Troke is mentioned as he owned a team of small black horses that he made available for any one in the village who needed emergency transportation to see the doctor in Denbigh. He also provided a place for some of the student's horses that were used for transportation to school. For example, the MacPherson children lived more than 3 miles away down a logging road off Matawatchan Rd. The Thompson children, who lived at the far end of Hudson Lake Road just had one and a half miles to walk to school, barefoot mind you, until the frost came, to save on the wear on their shoes.

Speaking of school, most children started at about the age of 7 years. The classes were divided into five groups rather than grades: Primary, First, Second, Third and Fourth Class. There were entrance exams to write to get into high school in either Denbigh or Renfrew when the 4th class was completed at the age of 14 or 15. Many students couldn't afford nor had the inclination to leave home to board in either of these towns, so their formal education came to a close and there was much need for their help with the chores at home.

Activities of daily life were very much dictated by the seasons and what Mother Nature could provide within her cycles. And as we examine more closely this way of life, it becomes amazingly evident how interdependent and inter connected the domesticated animals and their owners were in their every day lives.

Most families had their own team of horses for ploughing, hauling logs out of the bush, pulling the sleighs / wagons for going to church, school or social function, for hauling ice from the lakes for the year's supply for their ice boxes, carrying the gathered sap through the maple bush, and carrying filled milk jugs to the cheese factory.

Raising cattle was a main source of outside income, since the farmers were fairly self sufficient. The cows would calve in the spring and graze all summer and in the fall the calves that would not be kept would be sold to a cattle buyer that came around once a year. There were the 14 milking cows that supplied the Thompson family's needs with the extra going to the cheese factory. This money would go toward buying what they didn't produce, like flour, sugar, tea, shoes and some clothing, although most

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Griffith & Matawatchan: 120 years of change

By Bill Graham

Every five years the national census, now conducted by Statistics Canada, provides statistical portraits of communities across Canada. For over one hundred years the township of Griffith and Matawatchan has been one of these portraits, but with aging the community's appearance has changed. In 1881 one can see a community with many families and many more children, while today there is a smaller population, a consequence of much smaller family size and many fewer children.

Looking back

Looking back 120 years, Griffith and Matawatchan was a much more populated place. The 1881 Census counted 618 people distributed over 103 families. While Matawatchan can today boast of at least one family with ten children, back then it was more common. A small family would average five children and a very large one fifteen. In addition to family members, households of the time now and again also had lodgers and domestics. At that time Scottish, Irish

and French ethnic origins accounted for most of the population and most were born in Canada. The majority also married within their own ethnic group.

Twenty years later, as shown by the 1901 Census, Griffith and Matawatchan had grown to 700 people in 108 households. The ethnic mix remained the same, and again most were Canadian born. There is only one family that is listed (Dwyer) that emigrated en mass (from Ireland) and settled in the township. Even between 1881 and 1901 there was considerable change in the population with some names disappearing and other names appearing. Certain names however are constant and still in the community today: MacPherson, Strong, Seely, Leclair, Hutson, Wilson and Thomson, among others.

Almost a hundred years later a different portrait emerges. The township of Griffith and Matawatchan still has a stable number of families (110), but the family size and the consequent population had fallen to 400 people in 1996. This was actually a 5% increase in population from 1991. How times change.

The 1996 Census is the last census that

looks at Griffith and Matawatchan as a distinct community. The township's 400 people were distributed in 110 families averaging 2.9 persons per family and housed in 170 dwellings. It was an aging population with 84.9% over the age of 15 and the average age being 43.8 years. This compares to Ontario at the same time with 79.4% of its population over the age of 15 and the average age being 35.8 years.

Memories

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was made at home. The Thompson family had 25 sheep for wool that was sheared in the spring when it would be washed and dried. Then it would be teased, carded and spun into thread, usually in the winter months by the women. There were pigs, chickens and turkeys as well. Most of the livestock that was needed to supply the table for the winter were killed in November. The pork would be cured and salted, stored in barrels, the beef hanging, then frozen as it became frigid outside. Annie pointed out that having unexpected extra company at mealtime was never a problem as there was always plenty of food available to share.

In general, the men did all the barn and outside work that related to looking after the animals and maintenance of the buildings, fences and tools. The children would pitch in with feeding the smaller livestock, milking the cows,

and washing the milk pails and cans twice a day. The men, with the help of the boys would maintain the fires and look after boiling the sap for the maple syrup. In the fall and winter the men would gather and cut the firewood.

The mother was the leader of the household, running the home, looking after the children, preparing meals, keeping the wood stove going, looking after the laundry and making bread twice weekly. The daughters would wash the clothes on Saturdays. The late summer and fall brought the harvest where again the outside chores were relegated to the males doing the haying and the women would be busy with indoor activities like canning and drying the fruits and vegetables from the garden. Various chores like churning the butter, the daily filling of the oil lamps and cleaning their globes and bringing in the firewood were shared. In the summer, the children cleaned away the Burdock, purple weeds and wild mustard from around the buildings and especially in the grain fields where the wild mustard could ruin the crop.

In the early spring, when the sap began to run, the children came home from school and helped with the gathering of the sap from the pails on each tree (300 in the Thompson's case). The sap was poured into large barrels on the sleigh pulled by the horses. It was quite the job and sometimes they needed to go around twice a day when the sap was really flowing. Any extra maple

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The first grave in Matawatchan Cemetery

By Gail Holtzhauer

A young boy with a dream told his mother that when he finished working on the log drive in Mackie Creek he was going to school to become a minister. He also told of his plans to build a church on a hill near the family home. Fate however put a tragic end to that dream, for the following week this boy, David McLellan, was drowned on the drive in Mackie Creek.

Since there was no cemetery in this pioneer community, the devastated family buried young David on that same hill where he had visualized his church.

If you visit Matawatchan Cemetery you can see the stone in memory of David, who drowned on June 25, 1859. This is where he was laid to rest on top of the hill—the first grave in Matawatchan cemetery.

David must have been a boy of vision to have picked such a beautiful spot and because of his vision Matawatchan has a beautiful location for its cemetery. It gives such a feeling of peace and tranquility as one looks over the valley

and farms and to finally catch a glimpse of Centennial Lake in the distance. This same cemetery is also said to be the hottest spot in Canada in summer and the coldest in winter, a fact to which many in our community will attest.

Author's note: As a matter of interest you can view most of the stones in Matawatchan Cemetery on the Internet by at: <http://nocgg.maddoc.net/renfrew/matawatc/>



David McLellan's grave in Matawatchan

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THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

The doctor dilemma

By Bill Graham

If you have a doctor, even one located as far away as Renfrew, Arnprior or Northbrook, you are one of the lucky ones. If your doctor is located in Calabogie you are among the blessed. Anyone moving into the township is out of luck. You can't even get on a waiting list. There is a doctor shortage in Greater Madawaska and throughout Ontario; especially rural Ontario.

In Ottawa, it's a long wait to see a specialist or to get access to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), but in rural areas just getting a family physician is a struggle. Personally, I have to make a 320 kilometre round-trip to Ottawa to see the doctor that I luckily kept when I moved to Matawatchan full-time. Otherwise I would have to rely on the Emergency Department at Renfrew Victoria Hospital. It's not that they aren't competent doctors, rather it is the fact that I would be seeing whoever is on call at that time and that whoever is attending would not know me or have immediate access to my medical history.

Luckily this dilemma is recognized by our local politicians, by our local hospital board and by the provincial government and during the last year some positive action has been set in motion. The federal government has already committed \$41 billion to health care over the next ten years. Some of this money, which will be administered by the provinces, has found its way into provincial programs in Ontario. For example, the McGuinty government recently announced that it will be spending \$1.7 billion to help foreign trained doctors living in Ontario get work in the health sector while they work on getting their licence to practice medicine in Canada. In addition, there are plans to increase the number of places for qualified students in Canadian medical schools.

However, it will take some time before any of these measures are evident at the local level, so the local level is taking action. A 'Doctor Recruitment' committee has been organised by the 'Board of Trustees of the Renfrew Victoria Hospital'. At the Council meeting in late January representatives from the Committee made a presentation. The Committee is working on behalf of citizens who are served by the Renfrew Victoria Hospital. This would include the Town of Renfrew plus the townships of Horton, Adamson/Bromley and Greater

Madawaska, which the committee refers to as 'Renfrew and area'.

This area has a total population of 15,623 and is currently short of 3.1 doctors to meet the recommended ratio of doctors to population. There are currently 4,302 people without a family physician or 28% of the population. To add to the dilemma, the population of 'Renfrew and area' is older than the average for Ontario—a median age of 42.2 compared to one of 37.2 for Ontario where 30% of the population is over the age of 55 years compared to 22% for Ontario. We all know that medical problems increase with age.

But the 18 doctors in 'Renfrew and area' are also getting older and some will not be far from retirement. The average age of our local doctors is 52 and 72% of these doctors are over 50, while 17% are over 60 years of age. What aggravates the situation is that only 22% of medical students are choosing family practice and that there is fierce competition from other Ontario communities for these few graduates.

The 'Doctor Recruitment' committee has a plan and asked for a financial buy-in from Greater Madawaska for the sum of \$18,000 over three years. The other townships are committing a similar amount and the Town of Renfrew will be providing a larger amount because of its higher population. This was approved by Council. Service clubs and the Renfrew Victoria Hospital will also be committing funds. The Committee's budget will be \$70,000 per year over the next three years.

With this money the Committee will compete with other communities to attract doctors to our area. There will be salary money for someone to work on behalf of the project. Some money will be used for the development of a website and some for incentives and scholarships. The plan has three parts: keeping the public informed, contacting medical graduates and incentives.

Good luck and use our money creatively!

Did You Know

To grow a kilogram of wood, a tree uses 3.23 kg of carbon dioxide and gives 2.35 kg of oxygen.

Looking Back.....



Wilfred Varrin's Store in Griffith in the 1940s. Now operated as Lacourse Mini-Mart.

Being represented

By Bill Graham

In a recent report to the Township of Greater Madawaska by the Board of Trustees for the Renfrew Victoria Hospital, there was an announcement about a change to the Hospital By-law. The announcement says that a new by-law is necessary because of the amalgamation of townships, which created Adamson / Bromley and Greater Madawaska, and because of the "significant accountability requirements of Bill 8 (An Act to establish the Ontario Health Quality Council, to enact new legislation concerning health service accessibility and repeal the Health Care Accessibility Act, to provide for accountability in the health care sector and to amend the Health Insurance Act)."

The change of by-law announcement also cites the following as factors in the decision to change the by-law:

- Board membership changes after every municipal election creating poor continuity and institutional memory.
- Individual Trustees had varying degrees of commitment.
- Appointments are currently made without an understanding of the current skill and experience gaps of the Board.
- Municipalities could appoint or terminate key

Board members without fully understanding the impact on the corporation.

- Municipalities may be exposed to liabilities due to the appointment process and decisions of the Board including financial liabilities.

As we read between the lines, it seems that the Board wants a board of trustees with a broader skill set, which doesn't turn over every three years due to municipal elections. However, will there be a voice for the people of the affected municipalities in the composition of a new Board of Trustees? With no specific mention of representation by the municipalities, there is no guarantee that the views of citizens within 'Renfrew and area', who the Board serves, will be heard.

No one doubts the sincerity of the current Board in wanting to represent all citizens and certainly having a more efficient board makes sense, but what about ten years from now. Without political representatives who are accountable to their electorate on the Board, will the trustees on the board ten years hence have access to the grassroots needs and opinions of the people that they serve?

Out on the First Concession

AUSTIN CLAGHER

By Wes Bomhower

He wasn't the most desirable character, as I remember, and his constant companion was a big corn-cob pipe in which he smoked foul smelling tobacco. Austin stood about four foot ten inches, and in the winter months he wore a greatcoat that came right down to his toes. His skin was dark, although some said it was because he never washed.

He would hang around the village on a Saturday night and make lewd remarks about the teen-age girls who walked by; girls who were young enough to be his daughters. The boys in the village called him 'Snowball'.

Austin lived by himself in a ramshackle house five miles south of town and two miles from our farm. Dad avoided him like the plague because Austin had once shot our collie dog that was running loose. My brother, Everett, and I tolerated him, because after all he seemed harmless enough,

I mind the time

By Bill Graham

Editor's note: When we were planning the historical stories about Griffith and Matawatchan, we wondered what life was like here in the early twentieth century. Who better to ask than someone who was there. Several of us met with Annie Thomson and Olive Parks, who are sisters (Thompsons) now in their 90s and who have lived in Matawatchan most of their lives. From their collective memories we have sketched some impressions of what life was like for young girls growing up here.

Annie and Olive were young girls at the time of the First World War. Their world revolved around Matawatchan, Camel Chute and Wilson. Wilson was a loose term for the area along the Matawatchan Settlement Road beginning about the graveyard taking in homes – including the post office – along the road between Renfrew and Frontenac Counties and ending at the Lennox and Addington County line. It included parts of Matawatchan and Miller (in Frontenac) Townships. Wilson served as a mailing address because of the post office. For all intents and purposes the people residing across the road in Frontenac County were part of the Matawatchan community.

Maybe once a year they would visit Griffith for a church picnic. Summer picnics were one of the only times that people from different communities got together. Annie says that she

even if he wasn't very clean. Everett and I hitched a ride to the village that Saturday night in February and after visiting some of our cronies and listening to the new juke box at the little restaurant, we struck off home walking. It was a beautiful moonlit night and there wasn't much snow for that time of year. Our route took us pads past 'Paul's Hill Cemetery'; a graveyard that served both churches in town, and I will admit that general area seemed kind of spooky with the moonlight reflecting off some of the shinier headstones.

We reached the top of Paul's Hill and Everett turned to look back at the lights of town. "Hey Wes, there is someone else walking behind us," he whispered. "He's just starting up the hill and it looks like Austin Clagher with his long coat". Sure enough, in the moonlight there was no mistaking Austin's stocky frame, and I imagined I could smell his old corn-cob pipe.

"Hide behind that cedar hedge", Everett hissed. "We're going to scare the daylights out of Austin", and he picked up a handful of pebbles from the roadside. Everett threw the pebbles as hard as he could over the hill to-

was in her mid-teens before she ever visited Renfrew to attend the Renfrew Fair. For the most part it was only the men who got away; whether it was to deliver the cheese manufactured in the village to market in Calabogie, to bring in supplies from Calabogie or to work seasonally in the logging camps.

Cheese played an important role in the village in those days. It was a cash product and profits derived from its sale could be used to purchase items mostly at the Matawatchan Store or through the Eaton's and Simpsons' catalogues. The local cheese industry was a farmer's cooperative. There was a cheese factory in Matawatchan and another in Wilson. Every morning after the cows had been milked; any extra milk was taken to the factory, usually by the children, for processing. Annie and Olive remember it as a very good cheese that had a maple flavour. Eventually the finished product made it into round boxes that were carted to Calabogie. This was a three day round trip by team with supplies being brought back on the return.

Tom Love, who was the cheese maker in Wilson; lived in a house he built in Matawatchan, which is now owned by the *Highlander's* designer, Adam Copeland and his partner Filipa. Annie remembers that house particularly because in support of the war effort his whole front yard was full of poppies.

Continued on page 23

wards the cemetery where they rattled and clattered on the headstones. Then he jumped behind the hedge with me.

In less than a minute, Austin came running over the crest of the hill, his little legs pumping like pistons as a string of oaths flew out of his mouth. He was looking back over his shoulder at the cemetery as he ran, his feet became tangled in his long overcoat and down he went.

Word was that Austin lost his smelly old pipe that night and had to buy a

new one. We didn't see him around the village again on Saturday nights for some time and I don't think the girls missed him at all.

How times have changed.

Did you know...

That the first place to look for something is the last place you would expect to find it?

Classifieds

Heritage Old Time Country Music Association aim is to preserve, perpetuate and perform all old time music from within the Ottawa River watershed. Members will be encouraged to perform and market. Membership fee is \$10.00 per year. For information, call Stan or Barb Callaghan at 613 735 9682.

FOR SALE: Box stove 28" x28"x28". Sturdy custom built stove that has never been used. Ideal for shop or hunt camp. Call 333-2303

FOR SALE: Swivel rocker & stool, makeup dresser & stool, showcase counter, Hope chest & other small tables Call 333-2709

FOR SALE: Ferguson Tractor, \$2900, 12 volts, gas powered, PTO, rear hydraulic bucket (28"x32"x12") & utility blade (72"x14")), 3 point hitch, new front & 1 rear tires, rear tire chains. Ser. #TE 24215. (613)752-2953 or (613)831-0229. baxtric@ca.inter.net

NOTICE

Carolyn Jakes & Associates

will not be reopening the art & gift shop at Knock on Wood Gallery, Calabogie

Regarding the above, eg. past & future special orders, unredeemed gift certificates, the work of the 41 Ottawa Valley artists & artisans whose work was featured at the gallery, and workshops, call Carolyn at 752-2500.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS and EVENTS

Workshop (\$75) on Photo-pastels, for beginners
All materials provided May 14 (full), May 21 (seats available)
By Jennifer Jimmo with Carolyn Jakes

Free Workshops on
Candle Tips, Exploring Creativity and Tea Time
Call 752-2500 after March 1, 2005

See Carolyn Jakes & Associates at
Burnstown Affair of the Arts, May 28-
29 Calabogie Arts & Crafts, July 30
Calabogie Art Fest, Oct. 1-2

GRIFFITH / MATAWATCHAN NEWS

By Garry Ferguson

Station Two

Thanks to the hard work of some dedicated people, two recent fund-raising events have put over \$1400.00 into the Station Two coffers.

The concert in the Matawatchan Hall on December 11, 2004 was a fitting – and profitable – continuation of the Annual Matawatchan Christmas Tree Lighting. Wilbert (Bert) Kauffeldt, who doubled as a performer, M.C.’d a two-hour, variety Christmas program for a packed house. Organized by Station Two Women’s Auxiliary, the program was made up of performances by a number of organizations, families and individuals. It was entertaining for the audience, fun for the kids and it raised \$400.00.

The four-hour performance by Gerry McDaniel on January 22, 2005 in the Griffith/Lions Hall was the brainchild of Morgan Adams, a member of the Station Two Fire Brigade. Though the foul weather kept a number of ticket holders happy hostages in their heated homes, there was no wasted space left in the hall. The Women’s Auxiliary and the Station Two Brigade toiled for many hours to create a setting – complete with stage – that would have made any roadhouse or tavern proud and they laid on a lunch that added a few inches to even the scrawniest waistlines. Two young ladies, who had time to jig and step dance between sales, sold \$200.00 worth of popcorn to raise the night’s profit to more than \$1000.00.



Station 2 firefighters at the Christmas concert

Karen Wagstaff, president of the Station Two Women’s Auxiliary, Morgan Adams and Station Chief Gary Peters expressed their gratitude to the Matawatchan Hall Board and the Denbigh/Griffith Lions Club for the use of their halls as well as to the community for its whole-hearted support.

Fish and Game Club

There are a few Safe Boating and Hunter / Firearms Safety courses planned so get your name in early. At least ten warm bodies are required before a course can be scheduled. Those lucky enough to be on the green side of 16 will have the \$50.00 fee paid by the club.

The Kids’ Rock Bass Derby and the Annual Pig Roast are scheduled for the 16th and 31st of July so make sure to get your hands on a newsletter. That’s where you’ll

get the real info directly from the horse’s mouth.

The time has come to again renew memberships. To maintain that “member in good standing” thing, just call Karen Gaulin, at 613 333 1206, and she’ll let you know where you can and plunk down the (I borrowed a fiver to verify this) little blue picture of Sir Wilfred.

Matawatchan Hall

The Friday-night Euchre and Darts sessions are on again for the season. Since the board has obtained a permanent liquor license, there will be a cash bar. It’s worth noting that community softball will resume on June 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the diamond, but several other events are planned to take place before that. The Annual Pancake Brunch at 10 a.m. on Sunday April 3,

2005; the Fish Fry at 5 p.m. on Friday May 7, 2005 and the Black Fly Dance on May 21 are a few activities not to be missed. There’s a full list of activities on tap for the coming year so we’d suggest a gander at the 2005 Community Schedule or the Matawatchan Memorial Centre Schedule for times and dates.

Much Pain for Much Gain

I’m not sure of the numbers required to define a trend, but I *am* sure that whatever it is, the folks in Griffith/Matawatchan have long ago surpassed it in acquiring new joints.

Over the past while, Gerry Marshall, Mike Gorman, Olive MacPherson and Marion Adamson have undergone knee-replacement surgery while Mary Claire Roche, Steve Maine, Doug Scott and Rowena Reynolds have had hip joints replaced. Happy walking folks!

If anyone knows of other names that should be on this list, let me know and we’ll continue this conversation in the next edition.

Greater Madawaska Library

Hours:
Monday: 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday:
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Denbigh Checking In ...

By Melody Jones

January is fading away into the dark recesses of my mind as we embrace February. What is it about a couple of "warmer days" and loads of sunlight that boosts the moral of young and old alike?

Even though February is a short month, Denbigh Public School students are busy, busy, busy! Red and White are the colours for school spirit day on February 10. Public speaking at the school level will be completed early in the month with the big event, sponsored by the Legion, taking place in Northbrook on February 11 at the Lions Hall. A pancake breakfast with sausages and real maple syrup will be provided for all of the students on February 24. Also on the 24, a hot dog sale at 11:30 and Winter Fun Day begins at 12:45.

School spirit day on March 9 will find the students decked out in Green. March break begins on

the 14 with students returning to school on March 21. The Easter holidays, March 25 to the 28, will find the students participating in family activities. A hot dog sale on March 31 will end the month nicely.

Thanks to a Trillium grant Denbigh Library is now barrier free. The library also purchased a new selection of large print books which will continue to grow in the coming months. Thanks to Industry Canada, the Denbigh Library is now a CAP site with new computers, Windows XP, Works Suite 2004, and Internet Access. These services are free to residents of Addington Highlands. Printing is available at a minimal charge. The library and services offered have undergone a number of changes in the last year, and the staff looks forward to new growth in the coming year.

Library Hours:

Tuesday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Thursday 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Coming attractions to the Denbigh library:

Hard Cover:

- The Broker - John Grisham
- Demon Rumm - Sandra Brown
- The Bay at Midnight - Diane Chamberlain
- Clutter Cutters
- The Gift of Change - Marianne Williamson

Soft Cover:

- Blind Curve - Annie Solomon
- The Border Guards - Mark Sinnott
- Dead on the Dance Floor - Heather Graham
- Depth Perception - Linda Castillo
- Hidden Secrets - Cait London
- I Spy - Jacey Ford
- A Killing Rain - P.J. Parrish
- Leaving Ireland - Anne Moore
- Love Overboard - Janet Evanovich
- Nothing More to Lose - Kathryn Shay
- Wild Card - Rachel Lee
- Family Claims: A Poisoned Pen

- Press Mystery - Twist Phelan
- Highlander in Disguise - Julia London
- Lord of Dunkeathe - Margaret Moore
- A Most Unsuitable Man - Jo Beverley
- Something About Emmaline - E. Boyle
- To Wed a Scandalous Spy - Celeste Bradley
- Wait Until Midnight - Amanda Quick
- Dakota Lawman: Last Man at Sweet Sorrow - Bill Brooks
- Longarm#315 - Tabor Evans
- Sawyer’s Quest - Will Cade
- Slocum #312 - Jake Logan
- Trailsmen #280 - Jon Sharpe
- West of Peco: Ralph Compton Novel - David Robbins
- DW: A Lifetime Going Around In Circles - Darrell Waltrip
- Dora #7 Eggs for Everyone - L. Driscoll
- Geronimo Stilton #16 A Cheese Coloured Camper
- Sponge Bob Square Pants #6 UFO

Happy Reading!

GREATER MADAWASKA LITERARY MATTERS

By Mary Joan Hale

Who would have thought many years ago, when a group of ladies decided to start a Library, in the village of Calabogie, that it would now be serving the largest township in Renfrew County?

Today the Library has the potential to become more than a room in the Township Office. The Internet opens up the possibility for the Library in Calabogie to better serve township residents living at a distance from Calabogie. The Library survey conducted last summer indicated that over 85% of the households who responded to the survey have a computer and one would assume that most of them are online.

The Library Board has been trying for years to provide remote services to Wards 2 and 3. There is software available to allow patrons to search the collection from home and reserve books online. We hope that the necessary funds will be in the budget to allow us to purchase it. This software would benefit the whole township, but most of all patrons who are confined to their homes and those who live in Wards 2 and 3.

If the software was purchased and the system set up, we would then need a centre in each of these areas for a drop-off and pick-up spot. It would also help to have a volunteer in each ward to co-ordinate the orders.

The Library already has some electronic service. We have electronic books (e-books) that patrons can access from home. There are thousands of titles available through your computer. However, first you must visit the Library so we can set you up to read and research these materials online. You can also get registered to search the Inter-library Loan file from home, if you want something not in our collection. When you have determined the books you want to order through the Inter-library loan program, a call or email to the Library in Calabogie will enable us to order these materials for you.

Excellent sources from the Library

The hills are alive with skiers and snow-boarders! The Library has some excellent resources about winter sports as well as the history of hockey in Canada. The youth section has some great novels about hockey and other sports.

As much as I love winter, my mind tends to wander into the garden during mid-winter. What can possibly be

under the blanket of snow? What new flowers will I plant in the spring? Also, gardeners have a real problem leaving plants in the same place every year. Forget the plants, what about a whole new landscape design? The Library has a great selection of books on plants, garden construction, plus wall and patio building. How about a birdhouse? Canadian Gardening is an excellent magazine and copies are available to borrow.

One Book-One Community

In April, we will be announcing the *One Book-One Community, Renfrew County Reads* book selection. All of Renfrew County will be asked to read the same book and enjoy many activities and readings by the author. If your business or community group would like to participate, as a champion, plan an event, or provide financial support, contact the Library for a presentation.

If you have young children, bring them to the Library Friday mornings from 9:30 to 10:15 for the pre-school story time. Children are introduced to the joy of books through stories, active play and crafts to develop those small muscles. The Public Health Nurse visits monthly to weigh small babies and answer health questions. Visits are arranged from the OPP, the volunteer fire fighters and other community helpers. The Snuggle-Up-and-Read Centre is a great place to read with your wee ones.

On Mondays at 4:00 p.m. there is an 'After-School Club' for elementary school children. Presently they are working on a puppet play from a story they have written. Not only is there a script to finish, but props and puppets need to be made. Other children are welcome.

We always need volunteers

You can participate in the Library by working at the circulation desk, helping catalogue and process books, inventory, 'Book Buddies' or by joining the 'Friends of the Library'. There will be a meeting on February 22, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. for current volunteers and anyone who would like to join the crew.

Please contact the Library if you wish to become a volunteer, act as a liaison person for Wards 2 or 3, participate in a One Book One Community: Renfrew County Reads event or for more details on services.

You can reach us at: (613) 752-2317 or mjhale@post.library.on.ca. Better still, drop in for a chat; or, if you do not yet have a library card, why not get one? They are free if you live in the Township. The Library has High Speed Internet, a copy machine, a scanner and books for all interests.

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Steve & Gayle Main
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www.TheEaglesRest.ca



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Ice Fishing Derby At Barnet Cottage Park in Calabogie

The Calabogie Fish and Game Club will be sponsoring their 4th Annual Jamie Wright Memorial Derby on Saturday February 26th, 2005. This will be a full-day event, which runs from 6:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Barnet Cottage Park.

The event will take place 'rain or shine' and there will prizes, draws, refreshments and a lot of winter fun. Having a club membership puts you into the running for the big prize money. Prizes are issued in Adult and Junior categories, with an adult being over 18 years of age and a junior under 18 years. However, if a junior wants to register as an adult and pay the adult registration fee, then they are eligible for the adult prize money. It should be noted that every junior registered will win a prize.

Registration fees for an Adult (18 and over) are \$6 and for a Junior (17 and under) are \$2. Calabogie Fish and Game Club memberships will also be available: \$8 for an adult membership; \$5 for a junior membership and \$22 for a family membership.

There is one entry for each Pike

or Pickerel caught and you can enter as many fish as you wish. All entries will be live released. You can register on site or pre-register at Jim's Bait & Tackle (752-2145).

There are great prizes available. Adult prizes include: First Prize - a trophy plus \$500 or \$600 with a club membership. Second prize is \$125 and third prize is \$75. In the Junior category First Prize is a trophy plus \$50 or \$600 with an adult registration fee and a club membership. Second prize in the Junior category is \$30 and third prize is \$25. Other prizes include \$50 for the first Pike caught and \$50 for the first legal Pickerel. The First Prize in the Adult category only will be chosen from a draw of all entries in that category.

Did you know....

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CONFECTIONS & SUNDRIES

Community Calender

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

St. Andrew’s United Church
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Easter: Joint service with St. Luke’s
Son rise service 8:00 a.m.
Followed by breakfast
Easter Service 9:30 a.m.
Minister: 333-2381

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 7:00 p.m.

DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

Vennachar Free Methodist Church
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Luke’s United Church
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Easter (at Matawatchan) - see above
Minister: 333-2381

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.,
Lent bible study – every Wednesday till Easter
Regular service – Sundays 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday – (Mar. 25) - 10:00 a.m.

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church
504 Mill St., Rev. Father Pat Blake
Holy Thursday (Mar. 24) – 6:00 p.m. (Mass)
Good Friday (Mar. 25) 3:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday (Mar. 26) 7:00 p.m. (Mass)
Easter Sunday (Mar. 27) 10:30 a.m. (Mass)

St. Patrick’s Catholic Church
Mount St. Patrick
Holy Thursday (Mar. 24) – 8:00 p.m. (Mass)
Good Friday (Mar. 25) - 5:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday (Mar. 27) - 9:00 a.m. (Mass)

Calabogie St. Andrews United Church
1044 Madawaska Dr. (on the waterfront)
Church Services Sunday Mornings at 8:45 a.m.
Good Friday (in Burnstown) – 7:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday (in Calabogie) - 8:45 a.m.
Communion - 1st Sunday of every month.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Calabogie

Calabogie Crafts: Every second Monday of the month at the Community Centre (call Marjorie Watts at 752-2598)
Calabogie Seniors: Pot luck dinner and meeting – the last Thursday of each month – Community Hall begins at 4:00 p.m. followed by dinner and meeting.
Calabogie Ice Fishing Derby: February 26 – 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Barnet Park
Ontario’s Largest Sliding Party: Sat. March 5 at Calabogie Highlands Golf Resort –begins at noon

Griffith & Matawatchan

Ice Fishing Derby: February 19 – Centennial Lake at Matawanooka (follow the signs) – starts around 8:00 a.m.
Pancake Brunch: April 3 at 10:00 a.m. at the Matawatchan Hall

Busy Bees Craft Club
Meet the second Tuesday of every month at the Matawatchan Hall. (Contact Jackie Jenks at 333-5542)

“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

Community Bus Service
Phone Kay Kelly for information and

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

Fellowship Luncheon
These meals are held the first Wednesday of each month at noon. Please contact Carol Anne Kelly at 333-5570 or Lois Robbins at 333-1082 if you wish to attend and be added to our mailing list. These meals are held in our community for those who live alone, seniors and retired people who enjoy a meal together. The location alternates between the Griffith Lions Hall and St. Andrew’s United Church, Matawatchan.
Cost \$5.00.

Denbigh

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

HEALTH CARE
Paramed Health Care Services Foot Care Clinic/Denbigh
Call 333-5559, Muriel Burgess, for an appointment

Sympathy for the Roach family and the family of Carol Anne Kelly

Thanks to everyone making sandwiches for Matawatchan Hall dances and to those helping with the clean up.

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Andrews United Church (Calabogie):
Bible study every Wednesday at the home of John and Marjorie Watts (call Marjorie Watts at 752-2598)

Hilltop Pentecostal Tabernacle: World day of Prayer on March 4

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

The New Apostolic Church, Denbigh
The New Apostolic Church in Denbigh invites all visitors to our area and all interested to join us for our Sunday morning services. Come enjoy our choir. They sing several selections before service which begins at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday evening services at 8:00 pm

Contact Bill Graham 333-1694 or Richard Copeland 333-1551 to have community and church announcements placed in future issues of the paper. Please note that we don’t always have the most current information for church services.

Olive and Annie’s Drop Cookies (makes 5 dozen)

Butter – 1 cup.
Brown Sugar – 11/2 cups
Eggs – 2
Vanilla – 1 tsp.
Flour – 2 cups
Baking soda – 1 tsp.
Rolled oats – 1 cup
Coconut – ½ cup
Raisins – 2 cups
Chopped pecans or walnuts – ½ cup
Optional chopped cherries (for colour) ½ cup.

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs and mix in well one at a time. Add vanilla In separate bowl, mix dry ingredients together, then add to butter mixture Mix well. Drop by teaspoon full onto greased cookie sheet Bake at 350 deg. F. for 10 – 12 min

The Township of Greater Madawaska

Notice

There will be one Council Meeting in February which was on Saturday, February 12, 2005 in the Township Council Chambers.
Next Council meeting will be held in March.

Canada Geese

Branta Canadensis

By Floris Wood

If a country must have its name associated with a bird then what better bird than the majestic Canada goose (*Branta Canadensis*)? Fans of swans, albatrosses and condors all argue that their bird is the largest flying bird, but the Canada goose is not far behind. They add to that distinction their undeniable grace, beauty, intelligence and their fierce courage in the defense of their families and territory.

These migrating birds are found in all but the most extreme northern parts of Canada. They tend to nest in roughly the same area each year, usually close to where their parents nested. But after the nesting season some Canada geese will spend the summer traveling great distances, as if touring within a very large defined area. Other flocks will stay in the same 20 square mile area the whole summer. More and more researchers are finding that Canada geese stay in northern climes even during the winter. They are found in the most isolated and in the most heavily settled areas in North America. They love water, short grass and clovers, and, incidentally, so do humans. Like Raccoons, the Canada geese, especially the common subfamily known as the Giant geese, Honkers or Black geese, have carved out a living space in areas heavily populated by humans, sharing our lakes, ponds, parks, and fields of grain and hay.

Flocks often are made up of extended families, but many times more families than one fly together. As flying flocks land, family units will usually peel off and stay close together on the ground. Although some parents, who mate for life, prefer to raise their own goslings, it is not uncommon to see the goslings raised in communal broods with parents taking collective responsibility for the whole brood. Canada goose eggs take about a month to hatch. Goslings can swim within a few days of birth and quickly learn the art of diving and underwater swimming. Flying comes about six to nine weeks after birth. Goslings must eat almost constantly to build up the strength to fly their first migration at the end of their first summer. Eggs and goslings are very vulnerable to predators such as fox and birds of prey.

Canada geese are very gregarious and settle disputes among themselves with minimum commotion. Flocks appear to be very well organized. Animal behaviorists acknowledge that many deliberate decisions have to be made in traveling flocks. How these decisions are made is not well understood by us humans, who rather fancy that we alone are capable of such complex social



organization. Where does a flock go next? When does it leave? What route does it take? Who flies in what position in their famous “V” formation? When does it stop for rest and where? When is a flock too large? How does it split? What is the meaning of the constant honking taking place during flight?

Strength in numbers is one tactic not lost on Canada geese. A moderate sized flock of geese made up of one family will frequently ally itself with a smaller family in order to numerically impress other flocks that occupy a plush feeding ground. Within an extended family, the parents of the largest families occupy the top of the social hierarchy. Ranked second are pairs with smaller families. They have more influence than coupled adults with no goslings. Single adults are at the bottom of the social structure. They will sometimes leave a family unit to find mates among the singles on the fringes of a different family. Even a widowed goose is allowed to take a new mate.

Deception is not unheard of in flocks of Canada geese. One study described how a single Cackling goose (a member of the smallest Canada goose subfamily) landed in the feeding area of a flock of Giant geese. The giants had no intention of allowing the single Cackling goose to eat “their” food. But another force of Giants in a flock larger in numbers than the resident flock of Giants landed nearby. As they made way in a single file toward the resident’s feeding area, the Cackling goose fell in line and entered the feeding territory under their protection. He was tolerated, but these alliances are often temporary mutual conveniences.

Managers of parks, airports and golf courses can testify to the Canada goose’s intelligence and courage. To keep Canada geese and their “goose grease” away from places where people like to congregate, land managers have used many tactics including mechanisms that periodically fire off shotgun rounds, as well as dogs and

cats, lasers, physical barriers, robotic scarecrows, etc., mostly to little avail. The Canada goose acclimates to new situations very easily or, in the case of cats and dogs, is willing to risk more in the defense of its territory than its adversaries are willing to risk for a good meal or for pleasing its master.

It is doubtful that a Canada goose could kill much of anything as large as a dog, even though each wing packs a formi-

dable wallop. But the goose’s ability to bluff is backed up by very aggressive charges with giant wings flapping and a cacophony of honking and hissing that tends to put even large predators on the defensive. If all else fails there is always the take flight option. Since geese travel in large flocks, a predator must deal with mayhem to get a good meal. A wily fox could easily conclude that mice taste pretty good this time of year and are far less nerve wracking.

Geese are divided into two genera. These are the Brantas, collectively known as Brant geese, and the genus *Anser*, which includes such species as the Snow geese and the Greylags. The most notable members of the Brant geese genus include the Canada geese, the Barnacle geese and the Brent geese. But Canada geese seem to be the most general form of the Brant geese. The others Brants have developed more specialized traits that exploit niches that are less tolerable to the Canada geese.

The Canada goose subspecies (race) familiar to most of us has the common name of Giant goose (*Branta canadensis maxima*). They are the largest Canada geese, with a wingspan reaching nearly 6 feet, about ten inches more than the loon’s wingspan. The weight of a giant goose can occasionally reach

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24 lbs, but the average is around 15 lbs. The smallest Canada goose is called the cackling goose (*Branta canadensis minima*) for which a 6 lbs bird is very large. The Cackling geese breed in a small area of northwestern Alaska and the Yukon. While 11 subspecies of *Branta canadensis* exist, within each of these subspecies there are significant color and size differences. The sexes differ little in size or coloration, although experienced goose watchers can usually tell the slightly smaller females from the larger males. The familiar elegantly long, black neck topped by a black head and bill, with the bright white, broad chinstrap, is the most noticeable feature of a Canada goose. The name *Branta* reportedly comes from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning burnt and is taken from the dark black color on much of its body.

Canada geese tend to use several north-south migration routes; some are heavily traveled and well known, such as the Mississippi, Atlantic and Pacific flyways. There are many geographical populations of Canada geese, and geese within each population tend to use the same flyways. The genes of Canada geese that breed together deep within a population zone tend to become isolated, promoting local variations of size and color.

Although the different subspecies of Canada geese do not tend to interbreed, except at the fringes of the populations, they use the same migration corridors, even intermingle as migrating flocks.

A person can frequently spot several smaller birds in the middle of a flock of Giants. Canada geese flocks fly at high altitudes and at speeds of 40 to 55 mph, enabling them to cover 1000 miles in a twenty-four hour period. Some researchers believe the V-formation in which they fly promotes drafting off each other, reducing the energy needed for such long distance flying, and it aids in keeping visual contact with each other. Man-made physical features such as north-south interstate highways in the U. S., lined with their "borrower" ponds (ponds dug during freeway construction to provide dirt for the approaches to freeway overpasses.) and golf courses provide permanent nesting and migration resting places for Canada geese.

As plentiful as Canada geese are now, some sources say they were hunted nearly to extinction as recently as the 1960s and good game management brought them back. Undoubtedly the DDT insecticide ban in Canada in 1975 and in the United States in 1972 also contributed somewhat to rebuilding Canada goose stocks in both countries.

When crossing the Constant Creek Bridge on Highway 132 in Dacre, one cannot help look over to the embankment to see if the flock of Canada geese is still there. It is a little disconcerting when the flock is not there and it comes as a bit of a relief to find them.

You go, goose!

Memories

continued from page 4

syrup was sold for 50 cents a gallon!

Just before the yearly Matawatchan picnic, the girls would make the trip to Rose Hill to pick wild strawberries, enough to sell and earn the 50-cent admission to the picnic. They got 25 cents for each 10-pound honey pail they filled. Then there was the picking

The July 1st. picnic was a highlight for the community where each family would bring homemade breads, cookies and special treats to share, all spread out on outdoor tables. In those days, Heman Towns would cook the beef, part of the traditional meal that is still served at the picnic to this day. Annie remembers when Charlie Strong would offer the children a ride in his truck for 10 cents and also remembers that she



Photo courtesy Matawatchan General Store

Billie, Bob and Walter Ferguson in front of Matawatchan General Store.

to supply the family's store of jam and preserves for the winter. The raspberry picking came next and included taking the boat on Hudson Lake to the Narrows, where they would leave the shore and find their way up the hills to the raspberry bushes. Later in the summer, would be time for blueberry picking in the mountains in Griffith, which would be a full day activity with picking and travel. Those picking excursions created fond memories for the Thompson sisters.

couldn't afford it the next year as he'd put the price up to 15 cents a ride!

Life was different back then. Closer to the earth and all it has to offer. As teenager Annie and Olive would have needed two days if they wanted to travel to Renfrew. As seniors they can travel to anywhere in the world in less time. However, it is in Matawatchan where they spend most of their time. It is the place where they still find the fun in their lives.

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Cordwood

By Richard Copeland

There is little unusual about leaving the roads to travel to a cabin out in the bush. Hunting camps populate in this territory. Places built deep in the bush without access to the services supplied along more frequently traveled routes. So when Chris Cooper suggested I travel into his Mom and Dad's place, where he would meet me and snowmobile out to his **cottage** reconstruction site, I thought little of it.

Chris's parents, Rudy and Lois, live a good distance off the beaten path, but their driveway access was quite good. Threaded through bush, the ploughed driveway wove through the trees, but the 'usual' aspects of a country visit began to dissolve as I approached my destination. Rudy and Lois live in a cordwood home. It is partly round (the 1st floor) with a squared off second floor. Solar panels sit high on a nearby wooden tower, above the reach of shading trees, where they can be turned and tilted to take best advantage of the angle of the sun. There are no phone lines into the property, and of course no cell phones, most of the Township.

They were seated at the kitchen table having a late breakfast. The interior was warm and inviting. The same cordwood array that made up the exterior walls was also inside, giving their home the country appeal of an old English stone structure. The Cooper



Chris Cooper's cordwood project

family had built the home with Rudy's design. The wood cook-stove was heating away and the smell of freshly brewed coffee hung in the air. Paintings adorned the walls in great numbers, mostly country scenes. Rudy, Lois, Chris and Chris's wife are all artists.

Steve, Chris's co-worker, appeared at the door to get me, the snowmobile's engine unheard by us, due to the insulating effect of the cordwood walls. After a quick coffee and a brief chat, Steve loaded me into the snowmobile and we wound our way through more bush, frozen lakes, streams and animal footprints. Rudy and Lois would ski in and join us for lunch.

The cottage that Chris was restoring is situated well into the bush, reachable

by car only in the summer. Located on a small lake, it too was cordwood construction; an eye-appealing building, which blended into the countryside and looked as natural as the trees themselves. Actually, the walls are the trees themselves.

In cordwood buildings, the logs, of just about any diameter, are cut into short lengths (12" to 24") and laid on their sides. Mortar is placed between them at the ends, on both the inside and outside of the building and insulation is stuffed between the two applications of mortar. Window and door frames are mortared in as you go. Many cordwood structures are round, eliminating the need to square off corners offering a strong continuous wall. It is a very inexpensive wall structure to build, in

terms of material, but a lot of time and patience are needed to complete the job. In terms of efficient use of wood, most of the tree trunk can be used, unlike a traditional log cabin. With say 18 inches of wood and 12 inches of insulation, these thick walls can offer the optimum in insulation value.

The original cottage was built in 1990—another of Rudy's designs. It was originally built on the ground and had been used as an animal barn for an extended period of time, resulting in the floor rotting out. The new owner, who had hired Chris, had to decide whether to keep it or build new. By all appearances, he made a great choice.

Chris started by ripping out the floor: "Came out like pieces of sponge" he reported. It was replaced with new material. The walls had not been sealed, and when the wind blew it blew right through the structure. Chris and Steve resealed the mortar with a latex product commonly used for chinking log cabins. "Had to chip away a 180,000 inches of mortar from around log ends", Chris claimed. Despite the long labour involved, it is beginning to look worth it. The restoration is now focused on the inside, where a wood stove has no trouble battling the minus 22C outdoors.

Chris has toiled on several dwelling structures, having worked for J Kelly Construction, where he

Continued on page 19

Favorite Feeds

Garry Ferguson

No matter where we Matawatchaners choose to live out our lives or to what exotic places we travel, each of us carries an ingrained, locally-acquired set of tastes against which we measure all culinary offerings from the rest of the world. Though most of us as young’ns packed away enough grub, of any sort, to convince the old folks that we’d eat the arse end out of a skunk, by adolescence, our tender taste buds had become more discerning and had imprinted, what Renfrew County folks would call, a *favourite feed* into our grey matter. The hint of spiced apple sauce on the chill of a Manitoba winter’s evening or

the aroma of new bread drifting from some little bakery along a sweltering Toronto back street could cause vivid flashbacks to large Matawatchan farm kitchens and to a time when simple tastes were becoming an integral part of the ties that bound us to our roots.

Most of us *do* acquire new tastes – I’ve even learned to like broccoli and to tolerate parsnips – but our entrenched lists of favourites seem to become enhanced with time. Even though we may eventually enjoy tucking into concoctions hotter than a bush fire or willingly sample some imported delicacy, such as kidney pie – which should cause any functioning

olfactory sense to trigger images of a pot once kept under beds – we stubbornly reserve the right to brag about that Madawaska Valley *haut cuisine* of childhood memories.

It’s safe to say that most of us still drool at the mention of fried bread, fresh baked bread, sand-baked beans, onion laced stews (even better with illegal venison as the main ingredient), seapies or any of the other standard fare we existed on, but each of us has his or her own unique, customized *favourite feed*.

Nothing has topped mine from its enshrined position up there at the pinnacle of my personal *gourmet*

delights list. If I could order it up now, I’d call for fresh Colton Creek brook trout fried in butter. Dessert would be warm, fresh-from-the-pan maple syrup and hot, torn, homemade bread splattered with home-churned butter. My arteries twitch and my taste buds beg sedation whenever I think about it.

It’s likely that I will again chow down on my favourite feed of younger days only in flights of fancy. Every so often though, an aroma from some kitchen or cooking fire will trigger memories of it and I drool. During the crippling hunger attack that follows I begin to wonder. Naw! I would never have eaten the arse end out of a skunk – I don’t think.

Ottawa Valley Crossword

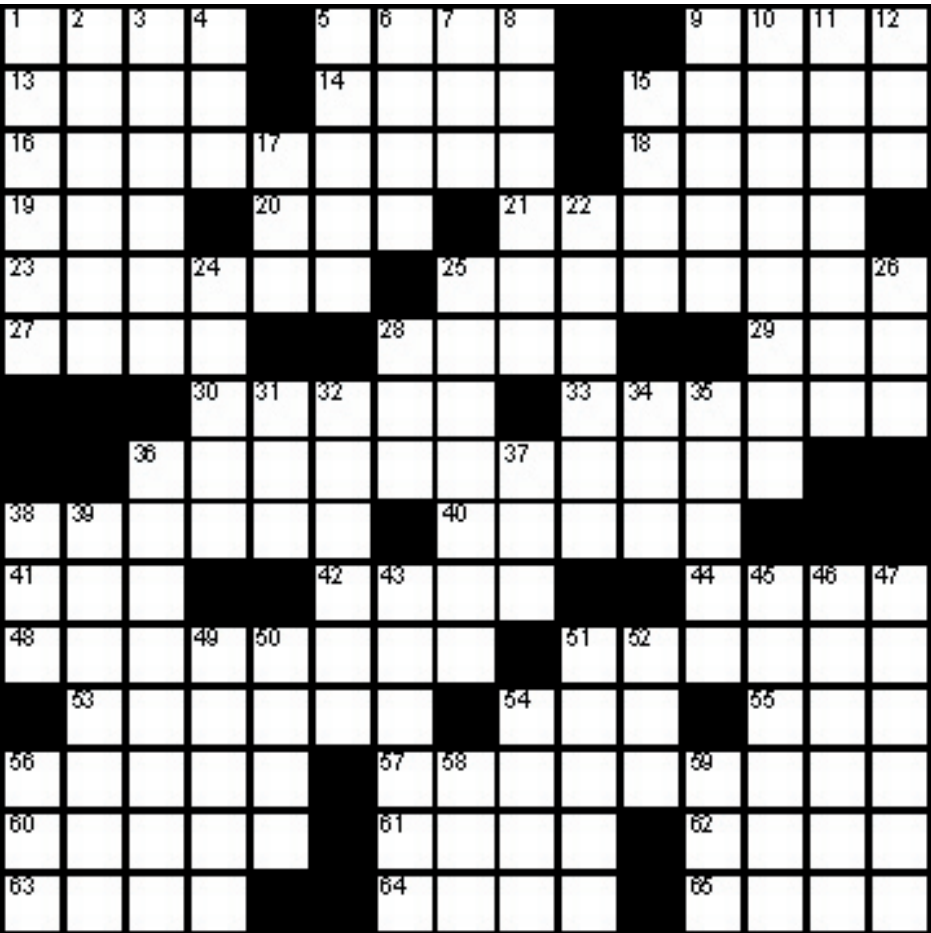
by Doug Bell

Across


- 1. Code word for “B”
- 5. Level up. in a way
- 9. Org. to protect animals
- 13. Take ____ (*rest*)
- 14. Lily-white
- 15. Complete confusion
- 16. Bass hole in the Opeongo Hills
- 18. Gull genus
- 19. Soul, in Paris
- 20. Concealed
- 21. Barrel maker
- 23. Harness ring
- 25. Treacherous roles
- 27. Along with
- 28. Gillette product
- 29. Ball holder
- 30. Iraqi seaport
- 33. Fountain nymphs
- 36. Accomplished Valley artist & sculptor
- 38. Japan’s chief religion
- 40. Delia of song
- 41. Barnyard brooder
- 42. Asian unit of weight
- 44. Honour with a party
- 48. One of the oldest cattle breeds.
- 51. Library listings
- 53. Showers frigidly
- 54. It’s slung in campaigns
- 55. Cereal grain
- 56. Begins to awaken
- 57. Black Donald Lake before 1967
- 60. Looks after
- 61. Lira’s replacement
- 62. Fortune-teller’s start
- 63. Energy units
- 64. Certain admiral
- 65. Region: (*abbr.*

Down

- 1. Chicle gum
- 2. Glossy paint
- 3. Bet acceptors
- 4. Mimic
- 5. Parted
- 6. Having colour
- 7. “Patriot Games” grp.
- 8. Textile dealer
- 9. Hammer out
- 10. Kind of guidance
- 11. Wooed
- 12. Fool
- 15. Hoof beat sound
- 17. Compadre of Fidel
- 22. Colour of Ukraine’s new political movement
- 24. A welcome sign of Spring
- 25. Had the lead
- 26. It’s in Iberville
- 28. Altar in the sky
- 31. Part of a play
- 32. Has aspirations regarding
- 34. Three toed sloth’s
- 35. “..... ____ my heart.....”
- 36. Circus partner of P.T. Barnum
- 37. Singer Shannon
- 38. Command in a library
- 39. Thief
- 43. Response
- 45. Plaza girl
- 46. Come-on
- 47. Swimming actress
- 49. Cattle travel in them
- 50. More’s partner
- 51. Give private instruction
- 52. Chemical compound: Suff.
- 54. Star in Cetus
- 56. Sault ____ Marie
- 58. Cry’s companion
- 59. Healthy



Questions, comments or ideas..... answers found on page 19
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Ventilation (It's really about my invention)

Garry Ferguson

I figured that do-it-yourselfers would be quite excited about my latest health-enhancing, cost-saving contribution to the home-building and renovation industry so I decided to let everyone in on it *even* before I got around to testing. I'm sorely tempted to jump right in here with a bit of bragging, but the snickers of a few (well, all actually) uncouth observers of this invention have made me a little gun-shy. For this reason I figured it wise to first provide some background and show a *consumer need* for this simple but ingenious device. It's all about ventilation and the need to solve foul air problems in homes.

Remember the days when we didn't have storm windows on the old farmhouses? When the curtains were parallel to the floor, we knew "she was blowin' up a corker." We always knew from which direction the wind blew without ever going outside. To say the walls breathed would be an understatement. They hyperventilated. If there was an upside, it was the fact that we never seemed to have colds. Folks would go from healthy to pneumonia to death, but I don't remember having a cold until I was an adult

living in a building with central heat. There wasn't a germ invented that could live in an environment where ice stayed in the thunder mug all day long.

Modern airtight houses are another story. Imagine a plastic bag over your head. Inside the bag the situation gets pretty tense as you foul the small, enclosed space. The plastic next your face becomes moist and the air unbreathable. Even though you were crazy enough to put a bag over your head, you *should* soon figure out that it's decision time: remove it or die. In winter, a modern airtight house with its caulked seams, polyethylene vapour barrier and closed windows is, in fact, a large plastic bag with you, the better half and the brood inside.

I once heard a Newfoundlander say, "Every time you Mainlanders breathe, (breathe) you pollute the air." He, unwittingly, spoke the truth, but we degrade the quality of the air inside that bag not only by breathing, but through every thing we do. Showering raises humidity levels and cleaning the oven unleashes chemicals: even the furniture pollutes the interior environment with gases that percolate out of synthetic materials. Don't stop

reading now: it gets worse. That new-house smell that buyers snort with such satisfaction is the stench from a witch's brew of construction chemicals.

Winter is known as the flu season, not because the cold and snows bring them on but because we all go inside, batten down the hatches and go into an inactive human version of hibernation about the time hen manure begins to freeze. So how – short of opening the doors and windows or finding one of those wind tunnels we used to call home – can we get fresh air into the house? The answer is "mechanically". Every new house must have a piece of machinery that dilutes contaminated indoor air with air from outside, which is presumably fresher. This, of course, means more money out the door.

At this point, I'm fighting the urge to jump in and divulge my invention that I've christened the Ferguson Fresh Air Cylinder (FFAC). It may not only solve the foul air *and* inactivity problems but, even better, it could be built by any jack-knife carpenter or hobbyist from odds and ends thereby eliminating a potential loony shortage as well. I am, however, going to play it safe and work a little more on that *consumer need*

thing to avoid having to endure more finger pointing and hurtful laughter.

Blowing air into a house during the cold heating season is not recommended. Buildings become pressurized forcing an equal amount of air to move *out* via any path available. Along the way, this warm, moist air cools and leaves condensation in the darndest places. Eventually your house could rot away.

Sucking air out doesn't meet with approval from them's with all the answers either, though it seems that older *breathing* buildings with furnaces using indoor air to feed the flame did just that – quite well. Exhaust fans – including kitchen range hoods and bathroom fans - could lower interior pressure of the newer airtight houses enough to overpower the furnace and cause "backdrafting." Instead of providing exhaust, the furnace chimney becomes the point of fresh-air supply and poisonous products of combustion spill back into the house. Roaring fires in wood stoves and fireplaces using interior air for combustion can also create this hazard at the furnace.

And so those busy little government suits put their heads together and came

continued on page 19


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Council notes

By Bill Graham

December 2004 was relatively quiet at Council partially due to inclement weather that coincided with scheduled meetings. The issue of greatest impact on all citizens of the Township during December was a motion by Councillor Lehnhardt (Ward 3) to approve becoming a partner in the Ottawa Valley Waste consortium, which includes other Renfrew County municipalities. She characterized it as a responsible decision for the future. The issue of waste management has been before this council for more than a year and has faced individual geographic townships

making up Greater Madawaska for almost a decade. Council decided to wait until a COMRIF funding to cover the cost of compacting machinery is accepted (or not), and in the interim to try to negotiate a lower buy-in price. *The Highlander* intends to revisit the issue of ‘waste management’ in the May edition of the paper.

A propos of the waste management issue, SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation) has asked Council for permission and assistance in seeking leachate samples from municipal dump sites. Their report is for Environment Canada and it would indicate where there are

environmental problems stemming from municipal waste sites. Their request was raised during the January 8, 2005 meeting of Council.

During the same meeting the advertisement for a replacement for almost retired Roads Superintendent Bob Gorra was announced; as were issues of accessibility, a year-end report by the township’s library and Tsunami relief, among others.

A major piece of news was the introduction of John Baird as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for The Township of Greater Madawaska during the January 27 meeting. Mr. Baird most recently held the same position of CAO for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout. According to Councillor Lehnhardt he is already organizing Council and that they have some catching up to do. He brings new ideas and a very professional approach to Council. He has already involved himself in the Calabogie Public School question with positive suggestions for the coming fight to keep the school in Calabogie. He prides himself as being a tight manager of money, which he attributes to his Scottish birth.

The Calabogie School question, already covered in this issue of

the paper, has the full support of Council. It is recognized as a critical issue for the future development of Calabogie as a community. As such it is critical to the rest of the Township.

Early 2005 visited Greater Madawaska with a fire at the public works garage in Calabogie. The fire damaged the garage and totally destroyed a 2001 GM snowplough, valued at \$200,000. The fire was determined to have started in this very snowplough due to faulty wiring. The silver lining is that Township insurance will be supplied with a brand new truck. Councillor Don Mercer, who is responsible for the Roads Department, expressed his thanks to Bernard Norton, Clifford Strudwick, Claude Corneau and Jack Norton for their team effort in rescuing the Township from even worse damage to Township property. Contrary to rumour circulating in Calabogie, the fire was not sabotage and office records and two trucks and loader were not destroyed.

Much more than what is reported by the *Highlander* happens at council meeting. Those interested in deliberations of Council should visit the township’s website at www.townshipofgreatermadawaska.com to look at the details of by-laws and minutes of meetings.

A library for everyone

By Bill Graham

Being involved in words *The Highlander* is very supportive of literacy and access to library services. After reading *Greater Madawaska Literary Matters* in this issue of the paper, we were encouraged by the efforts of the library board to reach out to the remoter areas in the Township with their hopes for expanding library services.

Libraries are a gift. Thanks to the Carnegie Foundation during the late 1800s, citizens in Canada and the United States have free access to any book they wish to read. But many have no access because of distance. For citizens in Matawatchan getting a book from the library in Calabogie requires a 100-kilometre round-trip journey.

With the communications potential of the Internet, what wasn’t possible ten years ago is possible today. Library patrons would be able to order books

over the Internet and even have access to books from other libraries through inter-library loans—all online. Many residents in remote areas of the township are online and the software to make this happen is not that expensive.

This is not to say that making this work will be easy. Volunteers to collect and distribute books from local distribution points, like the DACA Centre, Griffith Community Centre and the Matawatchan Hall, would be necessary. Good communications to township citizens would be essential. To a certain extent convincing citizens in remote areas that the Greater Madawaska Library in Calabogie is their library might be the most important hurdle.

Until all citizens in our municipality can have real access to all services, this municipality will never be united, other than in the political sense. For the few dollars involved it is worth the attempt. If it fails, at least it was tried.

Look who's almost reading the Highlander



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Smart Serve for Matawatchan Hall

In November the Matawatchan Hall received a permanent liquor licence from Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. One of the requirements of the licence is that people staffing a licensed event have Smart Serve training. Smart Serve Ontario, a division of the Hospitality Industry Training Organization of Ontario, is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing and delivering information and training on responsible service for all individuals who serve alcoholic beverages or work where alcoholic beverages are sold or served in the province of Ontario.

The Matawatchan Hall Board is hoping

to develop a pool of volunteers among those who attend Hall events who can be called upon, on occasion, to work at a licensed event. However, Smart Serve training would be a requirement. The Hall Board is willing to pay the tuition fee for anyone wanting to volunteer.

The next local Smart Serve course is happening at Algonquin College in Pembroke on the evening of March 22. The course runs for three hours. The Hall Board is organizing a car pool for those interested in attending.

Contact Doug Vasey at 333-1578 or Bill Graham at 333-1694 for more information.



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Maple Syrup and Hardwood Management

By Filipa Martins

On January 12, I attended a seminar about the management of private woodlots for profitable maple syrup production. Being a city-girl, managing a sugar bush had a significantly different meaning for me than it did for the nice folks from the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association. If living out in the country has taught me anything, it is patience. Things are going to take as long as they take and producing maple syrup takes a lot of time and patience.

Getting fresh syrup from a maple tree isn't quite like fetching milk from a cow. It is much less direct. I suppose you could grab a fresh bucket of sap from that old maple by the back door for your morning pancakes, but I think you would be pretty disappointed with the flavour. Although, if you're prepared to put those hot cakes on the warmer for a day or two you could boil that bucket of sap and maybe get enough syrup for a serving of pancakes. A producing sugar bush will yield about one litre of syrup for every 40 litres of sap. On the other hand, a maple bush that has not been well managed might yield

one litre of syrup for every 50 to 70 litres of sap. That is quite a difference, so what are the variables you ask?

Making maple syrup involves far more than tree tapping, and sap boiling; it also requires careful woodlot management to increase the sweetness and quality of your maple's sap. Further, the equipment you use is very important because older equipment may contain lead that can contaminate the syrup.

Bush management starts with a walk through your maple bush and taking notice of the size of the trees available for tapping. They should be at least 10 inches in diameter to accommodate one tap. A productive and healthy maple tree needs a deep crown with a diameter of at least 30 feet, so that a large number of its leaves have access to sunlight. Photosynthesis in these leaves needs to take place for the tree to produce sugar, and the greater the leaf's surface area, the sweeter the sap.

As you evaluate the best maple trees, you should also think about other species of trees in your bush, which may be competing for sunlight and nutrients and encroaching on your maple's crown growth. If there are other species of trees or maples too

small for sap production, too old or simply unhealthy, think of them as potential fire wood. Consider the fact that some maple trees can produce sugar for over 200 hundred years. I can't think of anything else on a farm that will produce for that length of time.

Having thinned the woodlot to promote the growth of your sugar bush, you have also optimized their exposure to light and your maples now have the potential to grow one to three inches every three years.

Maples can also be exposed to stresses from over-tapping. A maple should be at least 10 to 14 inches in diameter for one tap. If larger—up to 20 inches—you can use two taps. Use three taps if the tree is 20-24 inches and try four taps if the diameter is larger than 25 inches.

Even the size of the tap used can affect the well-being of your trees. Research is showing that smaller taps (5/16 inch to 9/64 inch) can be just as effective as the larger one and they damage a smaller area so the tree spends less energy on recovery.

Overgrazing by cattle in the vicinity of your bush is another stress factor that can decrease your maple's

productivity. It may cause decay, trampling of the root system and cattle will feed on maple seedlings but not necessarily on those of other trees. So you'll end up with fewer new maples and more trees of unwanted species.

When I search for equipment to use in the collection of sap and boiling processes, I am going to avoid old galvanized items, such as storage tanks and flue pans. The main sources of lead contamination are galvanized equipment made before 1994. Solder (50/50) made before 1995 and 'terneplate', which is a tin/lead alloy used in older equipment, is a source of contamination. According to recently conducted studies, even if only one piece of equipment contains lead, it is sufficient to result in unsafe levels of lead in your syrup.

If you are concerned about your maple syrup, and wish to test it for elevated lead levels you can call the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association at 519-674-4000, visit www.ontariomaple.com or contact the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Wish me sweet results in this spring's syrup attempt!

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Ventilation

continued from page 16

up with something called the National Building Code or NBC. According to the NBC, "Dwelling units shall have a mechanical ventilation system capable of providing at least one-half an air exchange per hour during heating season based on the finished volume of the dwelling unit." If several of my FFAC's were placed to take advantage of the north wind in winter, I'm sure that most abodes could meet this specification.

The only material required to fabricate this little beauty is a section of CARLON 35MM (1¼ in.) RIGID PVC CONDUIT, 75 DEG. C., or something similar. Using a chainsaw, (a hand saw will do if you're out of gas but an axe is not recommended) cut the pipe to a length that will allow it to protrude through the exterior wall to a distance of one half the width of the soffit and to extend 10cm. (four inches) into the room. Supposing that the soffit is 45cm. (18 inches) wide and the wall 15cm. (six inches) thick, then the total length of the pipe would be approximately 48cm. (19 inches). With a fine grade of sandpaper, smooth one end of the pipe until all sharp edges are removed.

To determine the height at which the device will be mounted, have the family runt stand and lick the selected wall. At the wet spot cut a round hole, slightly larger in diameter than the outside dimension of the FFAC. A hole cutter or a jig saw (but neither an axe or chainsaw) is recommended for this task. After the pipe has been pushed through the wall, with the sanded end toward the interior, adjust according to the above, specified measurements. A few nails, driven into the wall and bent to stabilize the installation and an application of caulking, to seal any gaps, will complete the project. In the absence of caulking, wet toilet tissue may be used as chinking – it should freeze solid by November. A bathtub drain stopper, to plug the FFAC when it is not in use, will add a finished touch to the device; however, a rolled page of *The Madawaska Highlander* will do until you can get to town.

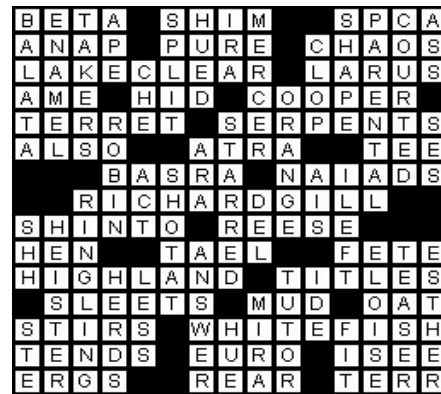
Now, when the air in the shanty gets a little high, the plug can be hauled and clean, fresh air will be blown into the house. It should be jammed back into place before grandma or the kids start to shiver. Unlike a mechanical system that operates according to its own whims, this gadget will allow the homeowner to exercise complete control over the entry of outside air. As well, fresh air may be taken individually by any member of the family – it was placed so that the smallest could reach it – by simply removing the stopper, placing his or her mouth to the opening and snorting as much free air as desired. Mounting the FFAC near the ceiling and providing a stepladder (a chair and sturdy table, placed under the

FFAC, may be used) could help to solve the winter's inactivity problem as well.

Warning to readers:

Forget the FFAC!! Testing of the damned thing has been suspended and, for me, it's back to the drawing board. During test trials, unforeseen design deficiencies became evident. I now advise the use of store-bought mechanical ventilation systems only and that a local contractor be contacted regarding installation. Use of a screen over the external (that's the outside) end would have been wise. I was able to spit out the wasp, suffering only a painful lip, but required some heavy back pounding to expel the wren's nest.

Answers for crossword



Cordwood

continued from page 14

learned much about construction techniques and practices. But here is where a melding of the carpenter and artist can really pay off. Chris has been working, mostly with pine, in finishing interesting and intricate design patterns in ceilings and walls.

An aspect of Rudy's unique design placed a second floor across the round structure resulting in two slightly curved outside walls at each end, but with long side straight bearing walls that run through the building on the inside. These walls have windows that open into the inside and allow heat to circulate in the upper levels when required. The original design supported the longer walls with a number of pillars. Chris eliminated all but one pillar by building a truss into the longer of the two interior walls. He then applied math to an intricate staircase design, which winds upwards from the first floor clearing windows and hugging a curved wall.

Attention to small details show. False beams have been added and stained to look like one piece, with the holes

of fasteners plugged and stained to the same colour. Small pieces of triangular pine are painstakingly fitted into the patterning within a curved wall, while deep window sills are stained to match the darker beams.

Rudy and Lois finally arrived for lunch after a 45-minute cross country ski trek. Chris displayed his design model (an artist/contractor is a very good combination) for a bath house. It is an impressive design with elements of Frank Lloyd Wright in the roof lines and the comforting look of cordwood walls tucked in below. Chris then set out a lunch of ribs, Greek salad, coleslaw and wine, while we all sat about discussing a little politics and a lot about cordwood building.

It was a visit in a warm building with warm hearts. I'll be back to see it finished.

For a real treat see Chris's art work on the web: www.ccooperart.com

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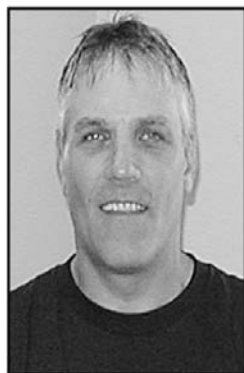
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School

Continued from page 2

the increase. One business leader, involved in developing land and creating jobs has employees coming from outside the community and he stated that a school closure would discourage these employees from taking up residence.

One mother, who is in love with the Calabogie area, has hesitated in encouraging other family members to relocate here, until this issue is resolved. If the school is closed, she believes that her family must move out of the area.

Marjorie Doering spoke to the gathering. She was a graduate of Calabogie Public and appreciates a small school. She spoke of past cuts and the realities of meeting a budget. Marjorie had looked into the school within a school option with St. Joe's and found there was not enough space. The Board did not want to use portable classrooms. Norm Hazelwood, a trustee since past November, spoke briefly about declining enrolments.

The trustees made it known that they had come to listen. The gathering, after a couple of hours of passionate contributions, finally reached its limit on inaction. "I thought we came to this meeting to find a community solution to keeping the school open. I am totally disappointed", said one mother. The Calabogie librarian, Mary Joan Hale, suggested a second look at the school within a school concept. She had seen it work with excellent results in the Niagara area. Sell the Calabogie



John Baird addresses the School Board

School Building and add to St. Joe's to solve the space problem. A St. Joe's mom said they would welcome the public school with open arms. With the facilitation of the Reeve Kristinjan and CAO John Baird a committee of six was put together. Calabogie is taking a made-in-Calabogie solution to the Board of Education in March.

February 10, 2005 – Public Meeting at RCI Renfrew

The Renfrew County District School Board hosted a public meeting beginning the consultation phase for the proposed closings of Calabogie and Horton Schools. Chaired by Eleanor Newman, Director of Education, this session brought updated the initial study. The closings would allow the removal of \$1.1 million from the budget.

The initial study found the county facing the prospect of declining enrol-

ment. The Board has a capacity for 16,500 students but is only 66% filled. The ministry pays support on a per student basis, but they will cover the 100% cost with enrolments at 80% and above. The county board's problem is the 14% not covered by the ministry.

Some supplemental money is paid for a distance grant and a good school grant and Calabogie meets both these criteria, generating \$103,837 in annual grant money, which would be lost on closing. Interestingly, the annual operating cost of the Calabogie School building is about \$39,000 per year and the additional cost of bussing is \$44,000.

The proposals were projected over ten years in constant and current dollars, the only variable apparently being the number of student (for Calabogie now at 24). Just how numbers were forecast was not revealed. In addition, the status of current grants will not be known until March. However, by my estimation, it would seem that the Board is avoiding \$76,328 per year by closing the school.

Eleanor Newman echoed the trustee's words from the February 3rd meeting regarding taxation. The local boards can no longer raise money through taxation; all the dollars are re-distributed through Queen's Park, awarded based on student numbers and grant structure. Thus local determination has been lost and school boards are at the mercy of the funding formula.

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Trail Talk

By Heather Stitchman

Let the engines continue to roar! Winter has just begun and we've had spectacular snowmobiling.

Congratulations to Garry and Carol Ferguson who won the "Name the Sled" contest with the name "Cool Runnings"!

Please check the OFSC web site — [KNOW BEFORE YOU GO! www.ofsc.on.ca](http://www.ofsc.on.ca) will give you all the up to date trail conditions. Some areas still have poor ice conditions. DO NOT BECOME A FATAL STATISTIC.

Pembroke has beautiful trails. I was out to Barry's Bay/Deacon area as well. One morning I departed on *Cool Runnings* to Pembroke at 8:15 a.m. I was just pattering along in the bush at Haley's Station and drove over a knoll and encountered 5 deer sleeping on the trail. They scurried around dazed and bewildered wondering which way to go. Two went left; two went right and last year's fawn just scampered down the trail in front of me stopping and leering at me as if to say what are you? Well, *Cool Runnings* slowed down and stopped and as I flipped my shield up on my helmet I called out to

her to "go along little one, away you go". I followed her for about a quarter of a mile when the two from the right ventured out and got her back in the bush again. It was such a beautiful sight! Ten minutes down the trail another two were dozing. Ten minutes further there was another one for a total of 8 in that section of bush. They were around the swamp areas. All in all that day, I put on 144 miles and saw 10 deer.

On the way to Deacon, we literally scared "the you know what" out of a deer. There were 9 machines. I was third in line and another couple were kind of "lagging" behind *Cool Runnings* (if you get the drift)! In between me and them, a deer had come out on the trail, took a dump and scurried off. The "dump" was still steaming as they passed by. The joke was that *Cool Runnings* scared the "s%*t" of the deer!

Now is a great time to visit your local dealerships and get some savings on snowmobile accessories/clothing etc. Remember the extra spark plugs, tow rope, belt, oil, compass, map, and flashlight. And most of all please remember Don't Drink and Ride! Save your thirst quencher for your last resting stop at night.

Prior to planning a trip with your group, call ahead for reservations whether it's a restaurant or motel. This will allow a short wait for your food and will guarantee your accommodations. A lot of tourists are flogging to the Ottawa Valley as we have ample snow this year. It's great for the economy and best of all we still have all of February and March! Until next time, remember to do the snow dance!

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Postcast: December 04 and January 05

Ah, winter progresses as it should.

The following data is from our small weather station in Matawatchan. Wind speeds are in kmh and temperatures are Deg, Celcius (C). A Degree Day (DD) is a measure of home heating requirements based on temperature differentials. To calculate a DD, add the high & low temperature for the day and divide by 2 for the average. If that number (in Fahrenheit) is below 65F (18C) subtract it from 65 to find the number of heating DD for the day.

	Dec 03	Dec 04	Jan 04	Jan 05
Hi Temp	7.4	7.2	6.5	10.7
Low Temp	-19.5	-32.4	-33.5	-32.3
DD	725.7	759.8	1029.8	922.5
Wind Hi	66.0	64.4	77.2	66.0
Wind Avg.	9.5	8.6	11.9	9.4
Wind Dom Dir	WNW	E	NW	N

December was a little colder year over year and January about 10% warmer, with winds a little more settled this season over last. East winter winds have been associated with damp miserable weather and this past December seems to follow that observation. So far, we should be using less wood than last year.

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Mind the times

Continued from page 7

One fond memory that they share about the old cheese factory was when Colin MacPherson fell into a tank of whey. They giggled at the memory. The cheese factories came to an end when automobiles became more common. At that time in the history of the village a cream truck appeared to haul the local cream to market. I guess they provided a better price; but the local cheese industry died.

The day-to-day life when you were a kid in those days was pretty gruelling. They would be up with first light (5:00 a.m. in summer) and head out to find the cows, then bring them in and milk them, go wash in the lake, have some breakfast, bring the extra milk to the cheese factory and then head off to school; all the while bare-foot. When they arrived at school the shoes went on, but were off again at 4:00 p.m. for the walk home. A pair of shoes was expected to last them for a year and then they were handed down. When home they had to bring in wood for the night and after supper do the dishes. Other chores they were expected to perform included raking hay, cleaning stables and looking after the animals.

It wasn't all work. They would play softball and there was socializing during school and after church.

Usually after church there would be visiting. Village entertainment included dances (square, round and step); having "sittings" on Saturday nights at the local store; communal listening to the radio, because only few in the community owned them and occasionally a Vaudeville show at Billy Smith's Hall, which is now torn down but on the property now owned by the Brown family in Matawatchan.

Contact with the outside world was through an occasional listen to the radio and the weekly appearance through the mail of the Ottawa Farm Journal. When emergency demanded quick transport, there was a team of drivers (horses) and a wagon in summer and a cutter (sleigh) in winter, to bring someone injured or sick to the doctor in Denbigh. Otherwise the drivers (the black team) were used for bringing in supplies, occasional journeys outside the village and delivering corpses to the cemetery.

It was a very different world. As Wes Bomhower in his column 'Out on the First Concession' would say, "How times have changed".

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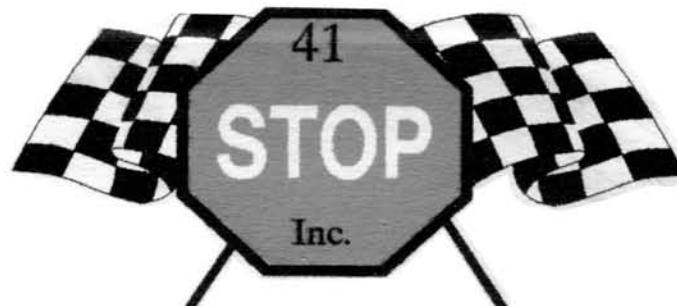
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