The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

Volume 4 Issue 5 Free July 2007

Pioneer Voices: George Varrin (1879 – 1974) left sentences only partial

As told to Elmer Strong:

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

The following conversation was recorded in the summer of 1965, with Mr George Varrin. He was one month short of being 86 years old at the time the interview. The conversation took place in Mr Varrin's house, located on the Matawatchan township road, about 2 miles south of the village of Griffith. Mr. Harold Carswell and Mr. Varrin's son Georgie Varrin were present and participated in the conversation.

Mr Varrin was well known in the communities of Griffith and Matawatchan. For many years he travelled through the communities every fall with his grain threshing mill. It was a time when the neighbours gathered to help each other; the men working in the fields and the women preparing the meals. It was a momentous day in the life of each farm family in the community, ranking in significance with Christmas and picnic day. It was one of the last surviving community work bees which had played such a prominent role in the economic/social structure of the early communities.

This was clearly one of the more difficult taping sessions for the following reasons. Mr Varrin, because of his age and his Ottawa Valley French accent, typical for that generation and local region, was nearly unintelligible on many occasions. He tended to slur his words and often

left sentences only partially completed as he rushed excitedly to recount some long ago incident or exchange comments with Harold Carswell. The recording difficulties were further exacerbated when Harold and Mr Varrin's son Georgie occasionally engaged in a separate conversation while Mr Varrin was speaking.

This transcription attempts to capture as much of the factual content of the conversation as possible. In some instances, minor editing was necessary to ensure clarity of the issue being discussed. The conversation largely concerns Mr. Varrin's experiences working on the log drives on the Madawaska River. The drives included saw logs, pulp and ties. He was never directly involved in the square timber trade but could recall seeing the square timber floating down the river.

"I remember when the log drives went down. I mind when there was a log jam at Billie Thomson's, on that island. It went away up there, darn near to Tokley's mill up here. And there was logs and square timber. Look how much that would hold, eh? Some of them logs were so big that two would be enough for a truck today. My father and I cut a basswood back here. It was the biggest thing that went out of here. I don't know whether they got it sawed or not at that old mill of Fairburn's at Calabogie there. It was the best log or tree you ever saw. There were three or four logs in it. Oh, good Golly, I don't mind, it was about that high. It was so big we couldn't get a saw to cut it. We sawed away with the cross cut saw and then there was a long divel went out, you see and we broke about that much of the end of the saw, you know, and then we sawed with that to finish it. Oh, you couldn't saw it at all. We sawed down all we could with the cross cut saw - - a five foot saw, or five feet and half some make it. Then I fixed up that old divel saw. I broke the end off. You know, where it is welded at that end - - - you just break that off and you can saw. I drew that big log

continuted on page 3

At the cottage on the Madawaska



Photo: Shelley Monaghan: CalabogieRocks.com

More 2006 Census Results

By Bill Graham, Editor

The demographic profile of Greater Madawaska was filled out a little more with the release in July of the Age / Sex statistical results from the 2006 Census.

Data from the census show large-scale changes in the age distribution of Canada's population as a result of population aging. The two main factors behind the population aging are the nation's low fertility rate and increasing life expectancy. Data from the 2006 Census showed that the number of seniors aged 65 years and over surpassed the 4-million mark for the first time.

As a result, the proportion of senior citizens has increased from 13.0% in 2001 to 13.7% in 2006. This increase in the proportion of seniors was observed at the national level as well as in every province, territory and census metropolitan area (CMA) in the country. In Greater Madawaska, the median age of

our population aged by nearly two years. In 2001 the median age was 48.9 years while in 2006 it was 50.7 years. Ontariowide, the median age is 39.0 years. The median age is the age at which exactly one half of the population is older than that age and the other half is younger.

Data from the 2006 Census showed that the number of seniors aged 65 years and over surpassed the 4-million mark for the first time.

The fastest growing age group between 2001 and 2006 consisted of individuals aged 55 to 64 who are nearing retirement. The census counted nearly 3.7 million in this age group, an increase of 28.1% from 2001. This rate of growth was more than five times the national average of 5.4%.

In Greater Madawaska this group (55 to 64 years) also increased significantly (24.4%) but still below the national average of 28.1%. Where Greater Madawas-

continued on page 2

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Spending more, owing more

Household spending patterns remain virtually unchanged from 1971 to 2004. Most of the household budgets went to personal taxes (20%), followed by shelter (19%), transportation (14%) and food (11%). Households in the lowest income group allocated the highest percentage of their budget to food, shelter and clothing.

While Canadians have seen their paycheques steadily grow, they have been spending them at an even faster pace. Incomes increased by 10% from 1997 to 2003, whereas household spending grew more than twice as fast. In 2001, almost half of all households were spending more than their pre-tax income.

Over the past 14 years, lower interest rates and a continuing demand for housing and consumer goods have encouraged a significant run-up in household debt. By 2003, for every \$100 of disposable income, Canadian households had an average \$103 in debt.

Low income earners struggled the most. Nearly two out of three households earning less than 420,000 outspent their income, and they did so by an average of 54%. By contrast, only 15% of households with incomes of \$100,000 and over outspent their income. The toll has been high. In 2004, just over 84,000 Canadians declared

bankruptcy, a 57% increase from 1994.

Less money saved for the future, but higher net worth

Growing expenditures and debts mean that less and less money is left for savings. For each dollar of income earned in 1982, Canadians spent 63 cents on personal consumption and 20 cents on taxes, setting the remaining 17 cents aside for savings.

In 2001, by comparison, for every dollar of income, we spend 71 cents and only save 3 cents. The number of households that saved in 2004 fell to its lowest level since the 1930s.

However, a large increase in the net worth of Canadian households has helped to offset their growing debt, higher spending and lower savings. From 1990 to 2004, the value of household financial assets, such as investments and pension plans, more than doubled.

During the same period, the value of non-financial assets, such as homes and consumer goods, almost doubled. Residential real estate holdings alone accounts for \$1.6 trillion of Canadians' total net worth. Other household non-financial assets that have contributed to the large jump in net worth include vehicles, furniture and appliances. Source: Statistics Canada

Census (Cont.)

All data	Ontario (Township) Select another region Greater Madawaska, Township					
Population and dwelling counts	Total	Male	Female			
Population in 20061	2,751					
Population in 2001 ¹	2,290					
2001 to 2006 population change (%)	20.1					
Total private dwellings ²	2,419					
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents ³	1,201					
Population density per square kilometre	2.7					
Land area (square km)	1,011.67					
	Greater Madawaska, Township					
Age characteristics	Total	Male	Femal			
Total population ⁴	2,750	1,405	1,34			
0 to 4 years	85	55	3			
5 to 9 years	120	65	5			
10 to 14 years	125	60	6			
15 to 19 years	160	75	8			
20 to 24 years	105	55	5			
25 to 29 years	100	45	5			
30 to 34 years	105	60	4			
35 to 39 years	145	75				
40 to 44 years	175	90	8			
45 to 49 years	220	110	11			
50 to 54 years	240	120	12			
55 to 59 years	285	140	14			
60 to 64 years	275	125	15			
65 to 69 years	225	125	10			
70 to 74 years	170	90	8			
75 to 79 years	120	65	5			
80 to 84 years	55	20	3			
85 years and over	35	20	1			
Median age of the population ⁵	50.7	50.5	50.			
% of the population aged 15 and over	88.2	86.9	88.			

ka bucks the trend in the aged population is in the number of males over 85 years compared to females. There are 20 males over 85 years and 15 females in the same age group. At the Ontario level there is just over two times the number of females to males in this age group. Some of the explanation for this anomaly is the fact that there 60 more males in the township than females but it is not a full explanation.

Data also showed that there are barely enough young people entering the working age group to replace those approaching the age of retirement. Between 2001 and 2006, the population aged 15 to 24 increased by only 5.3% at the Canada level. There is some hope in Greater Madawaska in so far as this group increased by 18.9% and the younger ages (less than 15 years) are also showing an increase (9.1%) since the earlier Census in 2001.

In the 1970s, for every person aged 55 to 64 years, there were 2.3 individuals in the 15 to 24 years age group. By 2001, this ratio had fallen to 1.4, and in 2006, it was down to 1.1. This means that for each person leaving the working age group, there was just over one individual entering it.

One out of every seven Canadians is now a senior citizen (age 65 and over). In 2006, they accounted for a record high of 13.7% of the total population, up from 13.0% in 2001. This was nearly double the proportion of 7.7% in 1956. In Greater Madawaska that percentage is much higher at 28.4%.

Age and sex data are not enough to draw a full profile of the trends in Greater Madawaska, but they are good indicators. As more data from the 2006 Census become available; especially migration and income information, a more complete profile of the Township will be apparent.

End

The Madawaska Highlander

Greater Madawaska

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Pioneer Voices (Cont.)

and I upset going down that hill. My Golly, when it was on the sloop, it was that high. Well that was the best log he had ever measured ... that old Fairburn. He was measuring it for Todvin. He lived at Calabogie at that time.

I took logs down the drive one time for Gillies and I went down another time for McLachlin and old Paddy Dillon one time, and old Jack Ryan was another time. Do you member old Jack Rvan? He used to live at Mount St Patrick and he used to be in Renfrew. Harold said, "Paddy Dillon was on the time that Webber and LeClair was drownded. I mind it well. I was going down to where Boisse's lived there. Edna taught school down there. That morning, Mrs. Alex Sandy stopped us at the bridge. She said Emil and Webber had got drownded just before we got down there." Mr. Varrin said he wasn't on that drive. The logs I took down were saw logs and ties and everything. I never had anything to do with the square timber.

Joe Joyce kept store in that old store house at Vennacher. He didn't keep it long but he put the old lad in the hole. The old lad made him quit because he was affecting the old lad. The old lad had a bad leg. He was crippled up.

I worked in the shanty with old Bill Carswell, also for Bill Wilson for a couple of months. Jack McDonald was foreman. I was going away up above and who should I meet but Pete McCoy and old Lou Landry. They had just come down from up above. He says, come on, we will go and work for Uncle Jack, he says. We will put in the winter, anyways. It was out on Mud Creek. Gillies had a mill there one time down by Mud Lake. I didn't live in camboose shanties. The shanties had a stove. Heman Towns was cooking. They were all from Matawatchan, pretty near.

The time I was down for Wilson, there was Parks -- George Parks had a team and Briscoe had a team there, Ben Carswell, Pat Carswell, Red Colin Thompson, had a team and a Thompson from Thompson settlement. Gall darnest bunch of horses you ever seen. Alex Kelly and Pete Kelly had teams. Hughie Kelly drove the old lad's team - - the boss's team from Portage. I cut logs with Alex McLeod. I said why did you pick a small man like me? "Well he said I want to be with someone who can fix a saw and after that I don't give a darn. I can pull it through." I would sharpen the saw while he would be cooking the lunch. That's why he picked on me, because he knew I could fix a saw.

There are many graves of log drivers buried along the river. Alfred John claims bones are still visible at the Wolf Rapids. Their names are engraved in the stone on the far side of the river.

They claim there is a bunch of them at



George Varrin 1974

Slate Falls. The Hydro plan to move the graves before the area is flooded by the dam at Black Donald. There were two buried up here - - a George Dumas and a Joe Restego from Ottawa. They drowned at Highland Chute. Swept off a dam or a boat.

I was on a drive once with Wensley and I saw the river where one fellow got drowned. And I went over the same darn patch of water first, the day before with a bunch of logs. He tried it the next day and by Golly, he fell in and he couldn't swim. It was right at the foot of the chute - - a narrow place ... the logs keep coming down. There was a ridge in the rock. You would think it was darn near for a bridge and if they did start getting wedged on it, McLeod would shout, "shove off, shove off." It was a difficult time getting logs past there.

they used to make 300 of them. At that time they made them in Eganville, Pembroke, North Bay and Arnprior. I guess Gillies bought them from there. Now they make 60, I think it was - that was said a couple of years ago in Pembroke. Where ever in heck they get rid of them. They shipped them up to the head of the river. They claim that years ago they brought them back up the river. But, my Golly, there would be nothing left of them boats when they get them back up. One trip was darn near enough for them. Some were 6 and some were 4 oar boats and an odd great big divel for a cookery.

Down at the Mountain Chute, I was in a boat, by Golly. We were a small gang. Where ever they wanted that boat, by Golly, it went there. By Golly, we were picked on to go down the darn chute. There is one man in the bow of the boat and one in the stern. If you got a

good boatsman, you knew where you were going but if you got some gall darn good for nothing. We durn near went over the Colton one time with a boom timber. The gall durn cahoot of a sternsman. You know, you have a couple of boom chains throwed over the top of your boat and you run a pole into it. But this fellow goes and puts it through the ring and then at a certain place where your hook, to fasten there, and then turn it over again, you see. There's that timber that was catching in the rapids and Golly before you could let it go, we were darn near going over it, before we got that thing out of the ring. So I watched after that. I will get out of the boat before he goes and does that again. Golly, if you play around the head of the rapids with a boom timber with the heel of the cross piece in the hook and the throat of it is narrow, and there's a link, and it goes through there and turns round, you see, - - you have to do all that. He didn't need to put it in there. You could put it over the end of your boat and then a paddle into it. That's the way to do it. Just let it go like that. They say, the idea is to get it into the gall durn ring down in the stern. We were darn near going over with the boom timber. If the boat got into a jam, it would go clean over it.

They portaged some rapids. At Camel Chute here, they run them. Sometimes you run the Wolf and sometimes you didn't. Louis Mitchell and Joe McLaren were good at running the rapids, and Jack McDonald. I was on here one time with old Jack Dool who was in the bow. George McLennan was in the stern, son of old Adam. Two good ones were Dan Boudrie and Alex Monticy (?). They were great. They knew how to handle a boat. Some will go to swing a boat and kill it dead.

End

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Charboneau Store: An 80 year History

By Wes Bomhower,

In the little village of Calabogie, everything seems to be changing, not the least being the business deal which sees the purchase of the General Store on Mill Street by people of the Perth area. No more to be Charboneau's Store, an institution which has been in the family for four generations, going back to 1938 when George and Annie Charboneau first purchased a house on Carswell Street, (Lanark Road) from Mick Moran and proceeded to make it into a butcher shop and General Store. George and Annie owned and lived in a big house on the hill which was formerly a church. It is now owned by Helen Charboneau, Jimmy's widow. George and Annie raised two girls, Jane and Genevieve, (Genny) and five boys, Milton, Pat, Jimmy, Melville (Smokey), and Bob.

They had just completed stocking the shelves of the store and were ready to open for business when fire broke out in the night, destroying the store plus six other buildings on Carswell Street including the large Wilson Block. Undaunted, they rebuilt with the help of son Pat who came home from university and son in law Ken Lamourie (Jane's husband) and re-opened the store in 1941.



George and Annie Charboneau 1947 In the meantime, George cooked in the logging camps and ran a small butcher shop on the lake front close to what is now Willard McDermott's garage.

The second World War was in progress and Milton, Bob and Smokey enlisted in the military. Milton never returned. His plane was shot down by the enemy and crashed in the English Channel. Bob returned and made a career with Ontario Hydro as did his brother Jimmy and both lived in Calabogie. Smokey stayed with the Armed Forces, making his home in Barrie, Ontario until later years he moved to Winnipeg. Genny married Lee Caniff, another Hydro man and also lived

in Calabogie. Jane and husband Ken Lamourie resided in Calabogie for some time, then moved to Renfrew.

Pat completed university and helped his father George in the store plus driving taxi in Calabogie. Pat would drive right out to the farms to butcher and cut up the meat and he was also postmaster from 1954 until his death in 1977. They purchased a 1951 Ford pickup truck and used it for hauling meat, mail or whatever for twelve long years. This truck could be seen on many of the back roads of the Calabogie area where few other vehicles dared to travel in the mud and snow of those years. It can still be seen amongst a clump of Manitoba maples along Parnell Street, (just behind the old post office on Carswell Street), where it has sat since Pat parked it there in 1963. The truck had become too hard to start and Pat purchased a new van which was more suited to the jobs at hand. The old 1951 Ford has become rooted to the spot, so to speak, the maples growing right up through the floor boards and cab and the rear loading area. Worthy of a few pictures at least.

Pat met Mary Merkley of Westport in the late 1940s when she was teaching school at White along the Lanark Road south of Calabogie. They were married in 1949 and continued operating the store and post office on Carswell Street with father George. They also operated a number of cabins where Jocko's Motel now is situated. They purchased the house next to the store from a Mr. Mousseau and lived there, raising a family of four girls, Joan, (who died as a baby), Annette, Elaine and Yvonne, and two boys, Pat Jr. and Louis. George's wife Annie died in 1952 and George himself passed away in 1967, the Charboneau business continuing on in the hands of Pat and Mary and their family until Pat went into hospital in 1977 for an ulcer operation. He died in hospital. Pat, who was a Charter member of Calabogie Lions, was only 50 years of age.

Mary carried on the business and the post office on Carswell Street, Pat Jr., Louis, Elaine and Yvonne doing the butchering, and Annette, who was working in Ottawa, came home to help in 1981. In 1985 they purchased a store on Mill Street which had been temporarily closed, and Pat Jr. and Louis ran this business while Mary and the girls ran the post office and the old original store.

A new post office was built beside the new Charboneau Store on Mill Street and they closed the old original store on Carswell in 1994-1995. In 1996 Peter Emon rented the old store and operated Calabogie Trading Company for a few years where he kept a fine line of clothing among other things.

Louis Charboneau passed away suddenly in 1989, and Pat Jr, was already

continued on next page



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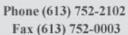
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Charbeneau (Cont)



Original store: 1980's

making his name in Property Management, so Annette took over the reins and the rest is history. She worked hard and 1994-1995 saw a large addition to the store, business being fairly brisk with the gas pumps, the L.C.B.O. next door plus the post office. Elaine Charboneau (Mulvihill) has been post mistress for many years, while sister Yvonne (Pennock) is a schoolteacher and Pat is still in Property Management. Both he and Louis were great hockey players in their day, and on Louis' headstone are embossed hockey sticks and a Jeep,

which Louis loved to drive. He was Fire Chief of Calabogie when he died.

All of Mary's grandchildren, eight of them, have worked in the store at some period, including Daniel who still works there. He will be 14 in November. This makes four generations of the Charboneau name who have been involved with Charboneau's Store of Calabogie.

Author's note: Many thanks to Mary and Annette Charboneau who were invaluable in compiling this small history.







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The Madawaska HIGHLANDER

"read cover to cover"

Investing In Energy Independence as Retirement Savings

By Gary Martin

Editor's note: Gary lives in Cormac and works at the Energy Options store in Renfrew.

How does one prepare for retirement in a world where the cost of living increases at a rate higher than wages? How as a senior citizen in Canada can we afford to pay rising costs of electricity, heating fuel and transportation costs on fixed incomes and retirement savings? We work our whole life in preparation for this time, yet I have never felt comfortable with the solutions presented to me.

When I set out to build a new home, these were questions that nagged at the forefront of my mind. The answers were readily available and only required some creative digging and thinking:

- 1. Small homes cost less to build, less to heat and less to maintain. Simple enough; build a small home. Canadians got into a routine of building large homes as status symbols and now we are struggling to find energy to power and heat these homes.
- 2. Use a readily available heating fuel with reasonably fixed costs associated with its production. Simple enough; firewood. Locally available, easy enough to harvest, often harvested from dead and dying trees; and carbon neutral when burned in an efficient heating appliance.
- 3. Reduce the amount of energy required to operate our daily lives. Simple enough; eliminate the typical energy hogs—the clothes dryer, use a clothesline; the electric range, cook with more efficient gas; the electric water heater, again change to more efficient gas.
- 4. Grow more food. Simple enough; get more involved in the family owned organic hobby farm and produce enough food for most of the year.
- 5. Since we were already dumping the electrical energy hogs, why not just dump electricity?

This is where the captive audience usually gasps in disbelief. Live without electricity? How is this even possible in 2007?

The bulk of the world's population have lived without electricity since the dawn of time and are continuing

to do so even today. It can be done, even in our culture. We can live in safety and comfort and be in control of the energy we require to live.

I break energy usage into two categories; necessity and luxury. Necessities are the things we just cannot live without. Luxuries are the things advertisers tell us we cannot live without. As I did an energy audit on my new home plan, I realized that if we dumped the luxuries, we could live without electricity.

My wife and I formulated a plan to build the most efficient home we could afford, heated by a single woodstove, for which I cut the fuel myself; lighted with efficient CF and LED lighting and with only a stereo as an energy using luxury—no TV, home theatre, electric wine cooler, hot tub, etc.etc.

While we were building the home, with work was done by ourselves and friends; we would operate power tools and manage water pumping with a small generator. Lighting and music would be powered by a small solar system and we would wait until the end of construction to install a renewable energy system to power the rest of our lives.

Two years later, the construction is nearly finished, the solar system is ordered and soon my energy usage will change again. We have a system coming that will provide 5 kilowatt hours of power per day. That is 4 kilowatt hours more than we have had available to us for the past two years and approximately 70 % less than the average Canadian home consumes. I cannot help feeling that we are being a bit decadent. I also cannot help wondering if I will miss living with the meagre amount of power that I have had for the last two years. One thing I know for certain, when retirement comes and I look at my lot in life, I am certain I will take great comfort in knowing that I am as self sufficient as I possibly can be and I will survive any economic strife with heat, lights, water and food.

I feel that my investment in energy efficiency has the potential to pay off more than an RRSP. The money I have invested has never really made any money, yet I do see a payback every month when I pay the bills.

Author's note: This article was powered by renewable energy.

Looking back...



Thomson brothers haying in Matawatchan

Dear Editor:

As an avid reader of Valley newspapers, I took great interest in John Yakabuski's recent Queen's Park Report, where he indicated his interest in hearing me talk of my party's support of rural issues. I am pleased to report that he is in luck, because between now and October 10th, I plan to be doing quite a bit of that.

I can tell Mr. Yakabuski and all the residents of our riding that this is a government that has done a great deal for rural Ontario. We understand that the towns, villages and communities that make up rural Ontario are unique and, as such, we have made a great many investments, funding initiatives, and financial commitments to maintain, sustain and improve the quality of life for those living in rural areas.

Since 2004, under the five-year \$900-million Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (COMRIF) program, our government along with the Canadian government has been working with our other local partners to enhance and renew the public infrastructure of Ontario.

In Renfrew County, the McGuinty government provided COMRIF funding to rebuild bridges in need of repair. In the Town of Renfrew, funds were provided to upgrade the Wastewater facility. The Township of Greater Madawaska received funding to help with improvements to their solid waste plant.

Unlike the past Conservative government who cut the OMAFRA budget by \$120 million in their last

year of government alone, we know agriculture is an integral part of rural communities.

That is why the McGuinty government has provided over \$1 billion over the past four years for farm income stabilization and support programs. Our Buy Ontario strategy is investing \$12.5 million to raise consumer awareness of the excellent, fresh food produced in Ontario. We are supporting our farmer's markets. Our energy policy is supporting renewable power. Electricity generation from wind, solar and biodigesters represent a tremendous opportunity for farmers and our rural communities.

Nowhere has the commitment to rural issues been greater than in our own community. I am especially proud that the McGuinty government has put money into downtown revitalization projects in places like Deep River and Pembroke. Gas Tax funding has been given to Renfrew and Pembroke. Roads and bridges have been repaired in towns and villages across the riding.

The McGuinty Liberals have made tremendous progress over the past four years. But there is more to do, and I intend to keep things moving forward. And, in response to Mr. Yakabuski's request, I can assure him of my very real intention to continue to discuss the many positive initiatives our government has been part of, and to share with voters our plans for the future in the coming weeks and months.

Sean Kelly Ontario Liberal Candidate Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

A world of compost

By Ole Hendrickson

Compost is black gold for gardeners. At this time of year it's in great demand so our garden plots can produce healthy plants, lots of delicious vegetables and beautiful flowers.

Municipal governments here in the upper Ottawa Valley operate a state-of-the-art central composting facility. The contents of our green carts (mainly kitchen and yard wastes) are collected, turned into rich black compost, and sold to local gardeners.

Would that municipal governments everywhere followed this practice. Most large Canadian municipalities simply dump organic wastes with metals, plastic, construction debris, etc. Instead of being transformed into life-giving compost, wastes form a rotting mass that contaminates groundwater by leaching toxic chemicals and heavy metals, and accelerates global warming by releasing methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Nature makes compost, everywhere, all the time.

For every species of green plant, bird, mammal, amphibian or reptile, there are dozens of species of miniature soil animals, fungi, and bacteria. And when animals defecate, or shed skin, fur, antlers, and so forth; or when plants drop their leaves and branches; the worlds miniature maintenance workers are standing by, ready to tidy up.

Step off the pavement, and there is a complex living world under your feet. You probably have never even heard of nematodes, collembola (also known as springtails), oribatid mites, or enchytraeid worms. Yet thousands of species of these creatures are underfoot anywhere you go, busily munching away on bits of fallen leaves, flowers, grass clippings, bark - and each other.

Some soil animals engage in something similar to central composting. Ants are the best example. They gather food scraps and use them in fungus gardens, where they tend and harvest fungi to feed the ant colony. Earthworms pull leaves down into their burrows, where, instead of drying out on the soil surface, they become moist and nutritious, filled with fungi and bacteria.

Soil animals get most of their nutritional needs from microorganisms - fungi and bacteria - contained in the organic wastes that they consume. The microbes feed directly on the decaying wastes, and soil animals feed on the microbes. Animals also act as food processors, reducing wastes into smaller and smaller particles, exposing new surfaces for microbial attack.

They also help distribute soil microbes to new locations. As a soil mite walks about, its tiny footprints leave behind tracks of fungal spores, ready to germinate and grow if they are lucky enough to land on a suitable location.

Fungi themselves are highly diverse and specialized. Consider a pine needle: After several years on the tree it turns yellow and is ready to be shed. Airborne spores of yeasts and other sugar fungi colonize the needle while it is still attached. They grow and soak up readily available sugars, starches, and other carbohydrates. When the needle hits the ground, other types of soil fungi invade its center, which is relatively moist, and decay it from the inside out.

When only the least tasty parts of the needle are left, basidiomycete fungi take over. These large, mushroomforming fungi have strands, or hyphae , that extend throughout the soil. Through their hyphae they move energy and nutrients from richer locations into the needle remnants and complete the decay process. When they are done most of the pine needle has been converted into carbon dioxide. Small remaining amounts of organic matter make soil fertile by retaining moisture and soil nutrients.

Few scientists study soil organisms. Groups such as nematodes contain large numbers of species that scientists have never even named. We know very little about why there are so many different species, and what they do.

While our knowledge of soil organisms is embarrassingly limited, their importance cannot be overstated. Human life utterly depends on their waste management and soil fertilization services.

Watershed Ways is distributed by the Ottawa River Institute (www.otta-wariverinstitute.ca), a non-profit charitable organization supported by volunteers, local donors and a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. For more information call 613-333-5534. *End*

Bus Trip

August 2nd trip to Casino Peterborough Leaves Denbigh at 8:00 a.m. Cost is \$15

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Griffith/Matawatchan News

By Garry Ferguson

Anyone who's driven past the Matawatchan Cemetery during the last week will have noticed that the old wooden gate has been replaced by a new, streamlined model. (see photo this page) Joe MacPherson fabricated the steel gates and with brother Rodney set cemented anchor posts deep into the ground so that the two-section barrier should be in place for several lifetimes. Though the "Matawatchan Cemetery" sign was completed by a professional sign painter, Joe and wife Judy wielded brushes to cover the steel sections in black. An additional small gate permits easy access for pedestrians. The old gate was erected in 1960.

Greater Madawaska's Station Two firefighters have been busy training for something called "Vehicle Extrication." That means "extricating" a vehicle from a bad situation or "extricating" a person from a vehicle but apparently not a vehicle from a person. They've even procured the jawsof-life. Anyone who thinks a can opener is a wonder should get a look at this gadget. They've also upgraded their bush fire gear in preparation for a dry summer. It could happen yet. The brigade was called out twice in the last month. Once to provide fire suppression and traffic control for a



one-vehicle accident in Griffith when a pick-up left the road and a second time during the night to extinguish a brush fire resulting from a burning cottage. The fire was located about seven kilometres from Highway 41 near the Two Island Lake Road.

The Department is still looking for committed volunteers to join them, so if any of our readers live in the area and think that they're up to it, contact Station Chief Gary Peters at 613 333 1529 or at 613 333 2980.

The folks nurturing the Matawatchan Market were pleased – actually they were ecstatic but they tend to keep their emotions hidden – at the public's response to the "Grand Opening" on Saturday, July14, 2007. A large crowd not

only came early, but stayed until the vendors folded their tents and went home. The affair even attracted Reeve Peter Emon and Coucillor Karin Lehnhardt who came out to bestow their blessings upon the endeavour. Madawaska Highlander Editor Bill Graham ensured that The Weekender carried coverage of the day along with a photo that included yours truly in the background. Though I carried a pen and paper for a week, not one person requested an autograph and it would have been free. The "Market" is still looking for vendors, so for those interested, Bill Graham may be contacted at 613 333 1694.

The Fish and Game Club has started its summer schedule with two major events on two succeeding weekends. As usual, both events went over in a big way. On Saturday, July 14, 2007 Gary and Sharon Shumski made their facilities available to some hard-working volunteers who organized the annual Kids' Fishing Derby complete with cash prizes and a BBQ. Of the twenty-two junior fishermen/women that competed for the honour of landing the highest number of rock bass, Landon Vernick won the day with a count of 142.

Members Ron Young along with Marlene and Rob did the grunt work in making sure that the 120 (approx.) people that dropped around to the Saturday-afternoon Fish Fry on July 22, 2007 went home with their bellies full and smiles on their faces. There was even a musical jam session lasting into the wee hours. The Annual Pig Roast will be held from 1 p.m. to whenever at the Matawatchan Hall on August 04, 2007. Though the "roast" is free, a donation jar will be on hand for those who feel an urge to donate.

The mother of all yard sales on Saturday, July 07, 2007 created such a buying frenzy that the Denbigh Griffith Lions are already planning another for next year and the Tacky Tourist Party on the following Saturday allowed revellers to let their hair down - literally. This scribbler always thought that Bill Shipley and Pat Dicks were sharp lookers but they walked away

continued on page 16

Denbigh Checking In

By Angela Bright

*Eythel and Orlene Grant were treated to a party in their honour on Saturday June 9th to celebrate their birthdays. Approximately 50 family members and friends came from Belleville, Tweed, Cloyne, Vennachar, Denbigh, Bright, Stirling, Plevna, Oshawa, Slate Falls and B.C., delivering their congratulations and best wishes. A lovely buffet was set out and not one, but two cakes were served for dessert – one for Eythel and one for Orlene.

*Fourteen kids turned out on June 14th at the Denbigh Public Library to make some neat ties, a special certificate for their dad and listen to two Father's Day stories. Then on July 12th, the TD Summer Reading Program began with a story and games, lead by Rebecca Lloyd. The theme this year is, "Lost Worlds", and there is lots of fun planned around learning about ancient civilizations over the course of the eight weeks.

*Evelyn Petzold is happy to have her son, Foster, home from Afghanistan, arriving back on June 18th. While overseas, Foster took a seat at NATO

headquarters as part of his six month assignment.

*Canada Day in Denbigh was celebrated with a good turn out for the afternoon even though rain threatened. Some good food was served up, especially the sausage on a bun piled high with sauerkraut - yum. The kids were able to fish for prizes in the fish pond and get a fun tattoo or design painted on their hand or cheek. Janice Kerr gave a welcome to the crowd, followed by the raising of a new Canadian flag, while Christi Schroeder sang the national anthem. The children then gathered in the rink area for the bicycle parade. Many of the bikes were decorated with balloons, streamers, stickers, ribbons, and flowers. Winners of the best dressed bikes for the girls was 1st Dianna Weichenthal, 2nd Sasha Berndt, 3rd Chantal Keller and for the boys, 1st Eric Dorion, 2nd Dwayne Rosien, 3rd A.J. O'Brien. Creativity in the costume contest was awarded to Maria Dorion for 1st place, Brooke Dorion in 2nd place, and Kara Rosien for 3rd place. For the boys, Nicholas Keller won 1st, A.J. O'Brien for 2nd and Ben Mieske came in 3rd. Way to go! The finale for the day was a game of baseball, two

actually – one for the children and the other teens versus parents. When the rain started, everyone ran into the rink building and ran back out to the field once it stopped. Thank you to Denbigh Recreation for a good day of fun in our own backyard, and thank you to all who helped to celebrate our nation's birthday!

*July 1st the entire congregation of The New Apostolic Church in Denbigh was invited to the Lindners for a BBQ following the morning service. A few sprinkles and cool temperatures on Canada Day did not hamper the happy festivities. Then on Friday July 6th, the Sunday School children and their parents enjoyed the day at Storyland in Renfrew and had a great day out.

*The motto of Lion's International is "We Serve". The Denbigh Griffith Lion's Club can do this only with the help of the community around them. We are so very thankful for your support to make this possible. Every time you buy a ticket, Easter Bunny, Christmas Cake or attend a function you are helping us. Thanks to the Griffith Matawatchan Fish and Game Club for their generous donation of

\$1000.00. It will be put to good use. Co-Chairs of the Sightfirst 11 program, Lion's Gail and Ruby are pleased to report they have sent their first \$1000.00 in. Our pledge is \$170.00 per member. We have at this time 33 members, and have five years to raise the \$5610.00. From the collection of your old eye glasses to a team going to 3rd World countries to test eyes and fit these people with the glasses, we feel it a very worth while cause. We would like to thank Trevor and Melody Jones for their donation of paddles for raffle, Glenn and Rebecca Hartman for their monetary donation and to all who have helped raise this first \$1000.00 we are thankful. Because of your help "We Serve".

*Mid-June we went to Ottawa with our little one to see the "Thomas & Friends Live on Stage!" performance. We purchased the tickets in January so it was a long awaited day for all of us. Soon into the show, we were clapping and singing along to some of the tunes we recognized. The energy from an arena full of children was amazing, and we have to say that we loved the musical too.

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Dispatches from the South Seas west

By Jane and Rick Baxter

The week after we moved house there was a long weekend so we decided to make a trip to the island of Maré. Maré is part of the Loyalty Islands off the east coast of New Caledonia. Friends told us that it was a small island with not much to do there but soak up the sun and relax - perfect. We packed light and headed out. We got up at 4:30 am on Saturday and drove to the municipal airport for the 30 minute flight to Maré. Of course, as soon as we landed it started to cloud over and it looked like rain. Once we got ourselves sorted out with our bungalow at the resort, we thought we would make the best of the day by going for a hike. The temperature was about 24 with a strong wind blowing off the ocean and it wasn't exactly beach/pool weather. As anyone who has ever gone for a walk with Rick knows, he never takes the easy route. Since we had anticipated just sitting on the beach, I did not pack any shoes other than flip flops so I was hoping it wouldn't be a marathon hike but I should have known better.

We saw a path leading from the resort along the oceanfront so we started along it. At first, it was relatively easy as we followed the shoreline and

we stopped occasionally to dip our feet into the ocean (mine sure needed it), to take pictures and to look for interesting coral and shells (that would be me doing that). We kept going further and further and the path got more and more obscure. Rick was just marching right along but he wasn't wearing flip flops and he was oblivious to my whining. We went through interesting forests of pines which reminded us of the cottage at Black Donald Lake and we went through a very jungle-like terrain with lush tropical plants crowding the path. It reminded me a bit of scenes from Indiana Jones and I half thought about poisonous arrows coming at us. Remember, my feet were killing me so I had to think of something! We had gone about 3 km when I noticed piles of animal poop along the way – a big animal. I don't blame you if you want to hit the "delete" button at this point. My imagination had now gone from Indiana Jones to Jurassic Park. We saw more and more of this poop the further along we went and I was convinced we were in a thicket with some wild boars. The local tribal people quite often wear boar tusks around their necks so it wasn't such a stretch. Finally, we reached a fairly high cliff and we decided to turn back. All the way back I kept asking Rick if he would please ask the people at the resort what large animals roamed around this area as I didn't know how to say it in French. He told me not to be so silly and he had no intention of asking. Perhaps it was my constant nagging (I have been known to do this), but between the main course and dessert, Rick popped the "caca" question to the waitress. I, of course, kept interjecting "beaucoup de merde" so when she told us what the beasts were it was a little embarrassing to be told that the cows go into that part of the forest to get cool. I heard some laughter in the kitchen as she went to get our coffee and dessert but perhaps it had nothing to do with us...merde indeed.

The next day we rented a car and made our way around the island. It was easy driving and we saw some wonderful scenery. The water is so clear and there were some pretty amazing limestone cliffs and caves, along with a natural aquarium. The aquarium was a large pool close to the sea separated by rock and with no direct passageway for the water to enter or exit. It was fed from below as the tide rose and lowered. The colour of the water was turquoise and there was multi coloured coral growing in the pool with plenty of fish swimming there.

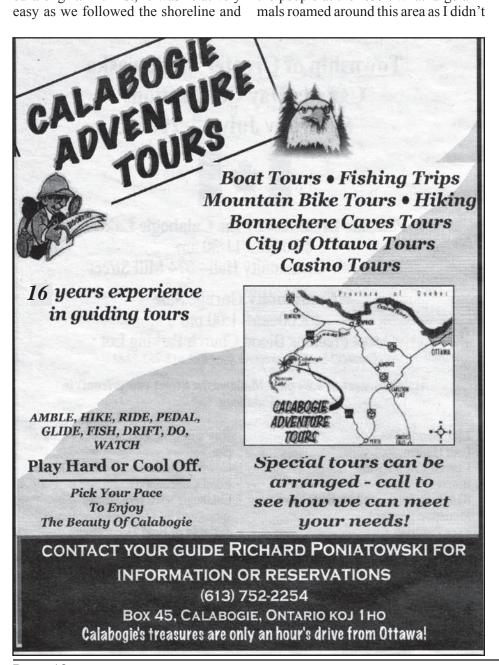
The island of Maré does not believe in putting information signs up so it was always a challenge to find the tourist highlights of the island. It is known for the large and deep sink holes in the rock throughout the island. We found

the "trou de Bone", the best known hole by following the instructions like "look out for the first guardrail on the left" or the "third grove of coconut trees past the stop sign". This incredibly deep hole was only a meter from the road and was surrounded by bush. One false step and you might never be heard from again. It made the day interesting and we finished it off by finding a lovely sandy beach and going for a swim and snorkel in the crystal clear water.

Maré is a beautiful, little island and it was a nice break to have spent the weekend there.

The ensuing weeks have been spent settling into our new home. We don't miss the apartment we have lived in for the past year and we don't even mind not overlooking the water as we now overlook our own little garden and are only one block away from two of the most beautiful beaches on the island. Unfortunately, Rick has had problems with sciatica so we are in the process of getting him back on his feet. Drugs are quite cheap and are given out much more freely here than at home. We could open a pharmacy with the drugs we now have stockpiled on our dining room table. Getting in to see the back specialist was just a phone call away which was very much appreciated, especially by Rick. We have easy access to the general prac-

continued on page 20





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"Fibre to Fabric:Pioneer Textile

Production"

August 10, 11, and 12 at the Barrie Township Hall in Cloyne

The old expressions "to raise your hackles', "dyed in the wool" and to "spin a yarn" will be more easily understood when visitors see the exhibition "Fibre to Fabric; Pioneer Textile Production". This fascinating exhibition will be presented by McDonald's Corners and Elphin Recreation and Arts, otherwise known as MERA, in partnership with the Cloyne Pioneer Museum August 10, 11 and 12.

The production of textiles for clothing and household use was a major domestic endeavour of the early pioneers in this area.

This exhibit will feature many old pieces of equipment used by the settlers to produce textiles from local resources. The growing and processing of flax to produce linen for clothing, household items, sewing thread, and rope will be featured. Transforming sheep's fleece into yarn for knitting and weaving will also be presented. This yarn was knitted or woven by the pioneers to produce rugged, warm clothing, blankets, coverlets, and carpets. There will be ongoing demonstrations of this old equipment by members of MERA throughout the weekend. Demonstrations will



include "beating' and "hackling" flax and spinning wool and flax into yarn.

Afterwards, visitors are encouraged to walk to the Cloyne Pioneer Museum next door to see the pioneer handweaving loom and pioneer artefacts on display there.

MERA has an active group of spinners and weavers. The MERA Schoolhouse Heritage Weavers specialize in weaving pioneer inspired textiles. Items woven by the weavers will be available for sale during the exhibition. There is no charge for admittance and refreshments will be available.

The exhibit will be open Fri., and Sat., August 11 and 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday August 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. These hours coincide with the hours of the Cloyne Showcase Art and Crafts Show and Sale which is an annual event held in the North Addington Education Centre.



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Brave the Shave: Over \$800.00 was raised June 24th in support of the Calabogie and Area Food Bank. Tim Monaghan (seated left) and Mark Coulombe agreed to shave their heads for the cause. Working on Tim is son Charlie, while Marydeth White

looks on. Kirsten White clips Mark, with Sue White supervising. Keisha Cruise and Joshua Clark-Griffiths wait their turn at the clippers as Patti Patno records the action. Thanks to all who supported the event and to Mark and Tim for being good sports!

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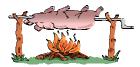
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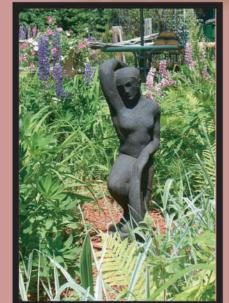
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Community Calendar

CHURCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

GRIFFITH AND MATAWATCHAN

St. Andrew's United Church

Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 8:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Griffith: Sat. Mass 7:30 p.m. Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.

Hilltop Tabernacle

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

DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

Vennachar Free Methodist Church

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

St. Luke's United Church

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

The New Apostolic Church

Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.

CALABOGIE

The Calabogie Bible Fellowship Congregational Church

The Mill Street Chapel at 538 Mill St., Regular service – Sundays 10:30 a.m. Bible study: Wed. at 7:00 p.m. Vacation Bible Camp - August 13-17, 9:00 - noon each day; Christian 12 Step Recovery Program every Friday night at 7:00

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church 504 Mill St., Rev. Father Pat Blake

Sundays 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Calabogie

Calabogie Arts and Crafts Tea and Sale. Community Hall August 4, 10:00 to 3:00 pm. 613-752-0072

Calabogie Womens' Institute

meets the second Thursday of each month, 7:30 pm; Contact Marjorie Watts at 613-752-2598 for info; new members welcome

Calabogie Arts and Crafts Assoc.,

Every 2nd Monday (if holiday, then 3rd Monday), 10:00am – 1:00 pm, Community Hall, prospective members welcome (\$12 per year), 752-0072

Lion's Club Bingo

every Wed., 7:15 pm, Calabogie Community Centre, 752-0234

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Calabogie Seniors: Pot luck dinner and meeting – the last Thursday of each month – Community Hall begins at 4:00 p.m. – All seniors 55+ are welcome

The Calabogie and Area

Ministerial Food Bank

538 Mill Street, Calabogie 2 days per month [2nd and 4th Thursdays] 10:00 am to 12:00 noon For emergency situations, please call 752-2201

Griffith & Matawatchan

Downtown Matawatchan Yard Sale

Saturday August 4 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Corner of Matawatchan and Frontenac Roads Come to sell or come to buy

Matawatchan Community Market

Every Saturday morning June 16 to October 13 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Matawatchan Hall

Matawatchan Community Cemetery Annual Memorial Service

Sunday August 12 at 2:00 pm Matawatchan Cemetery In case of rain: St. Andrews Church

Pig Roast and Dance

Fish & Game Club & Matawatchan Hall Saturday August 4 – begins at 2 p.m. Then dancing through the night Matawatchan Hall. Bar opens at 8pm.

Jamboree in Matawatchan

Heritage Old Time Music Association Sunday August 19 – 1:30 – 5:00 p.m. Matawatchan Hall – 1677 Frontenac Rd. Live music / cash bar / food \$8.00 per person

Lion's Club Bingo

Every second Tuesday at 7:30 pm August 7; August 21 Community Centre, Griffith, 613- 333-5523 Sylvia's Foot Care

Every six weeks July 11 – 9:30 a.m. St. Andrews Church (Matawatchan) Call Annabell Marshall 333-1752

"Northern Lights" Seniors

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

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. Contact Pat Holleran 333-1229 or Lois Robbins at 333-1082

Denbigh

Diners Club

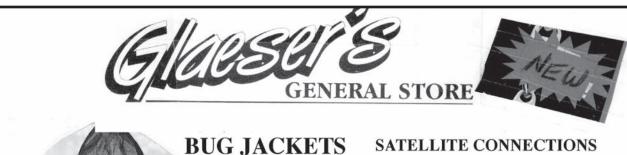
Dinners are held the first Monday of the month at the Denbigh Community Hall at 12 noon. Full Course Meal \$5.00. Contact Lynn McNicolle at 333-5586 for information.

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

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Fishing with Jim

By Jim Weatherall,



Summer is almost half over and the Pickerel are still biting. but I have found that they have moved out of the faster water to the deeper parts of the

lake. On July 12, I was at Barret Chute and only had 3 Pickerel in 3 hours, so I left and went out to Crab Island. We drifted a shoal of 27 to 45 foot depth, using white ½ oz. jig heads and a minnow. We managed to get 11 Pickerel in about 45 minutes.

Calabogie Fish & Game Club had their annual Bass Tournament on Calabogie Lake on July 7th. It was a great day, with 66 fishermen turning out, both young and old. There were a lot of Bass caught, but not too many big ones. I weighed in about 35 Bass.

Bev James took first place price of \$200.00 with a Large Mouth weighing 3.8 lbs. Joe Bare took second with a 2.98 lb. Large Mouth.

In the Junior category, the first place prize of \$100.00 went to Isiah Lulloff with a 2.52 lb. Bass, while David Parsons took second place with a 2.44 lb. Jim Bass

Jessica Cox took the Mystery weight prize with a Small Mouth weighing 1.94 lb.

It turned out to be a good day all around, even with the rain. Thanks to Calabogie Fish & Game for a good day and to Brian Moran and Lawrence Blimkie for all the hard work to put this day's

A lot of people are asking me how to get down deep when trolling. If you don't have a downrigger or lead core line, what I do is run a 3-way swivel. Off the bottom of the swivel, use about 12" of line and a 1 to 3 oz. weight, depending on how deep you want to run, then about 2 ft. of line back to your bait, whether it is a crank bait or live bait. On the line to the weight, run a lighter line (example: if your reel is spooled with 10 lb., use a 6 or 8 lb. to the weight). You will feel the bottom and if you get caught, the weight should break off first and save your bait.

Hope this helps you to catch the BIG

Be safe and have a good one.

The vitamin difference

By Susan Veale

Sickness is the result of a disruption and disintegration of the electrical, chemical and mechanical functions of the body at the cellular level. The cause of this is many and there is no one rule or modality guaranteeing a sickness free life as some sickness is necessary to build the immune system, however; there are changes people can make in their nutritional diet to help the body stay healthy or rebalance itself (homeostasis) before, during or after a disease or physical injury.

One example of change is understanding the nutritional quality difference between vitamins and minerals within the marketplace. Many people know the importance of vitamins, minerals and essential fatty acids but tend to purchase from TV commercials, magazine article information or from the recommendation of a friend.

TV and print publications are designed to sell products. Along the way, the cost of production, delivery, marketing and profits must be built into the selling price of the product. To remain competitive, the price must be low; if the price is low, "What is the nutritional component of the supplement?" In addition, if the TV, print publication or friend is not a health care specialist with confidential knowledge of an individuals health needs, "How can the correct product recommendation or dosage be given?

Disease is patient specific; relationship patterning of organs within the body is specific, therefore, the needs of the body at the cellular level are specific.

In my health practice, before recommending any product or supplement, I perform a series of tests which guide me to a better understanding of knowing where the body is deficient and what dosage amounts it needs to assist itself in recovery. I also test for "cell overloading" as some people tend to carry too much of something and this something be it pharmaceutical or not, often creates a domino effect leading to dysfunction such as migraines, lack of energy, low sex drive, soreness in the joints, irritable bowels as well as many other complications.

a natural health professionmy criteria for nutritional supplements are the following.

•Preservative-free and made from a pure vegetable source making them suitable for vegans and vegetarians.

•No lubricants or fillers but if filler is necessary during the encapsulation process, products containing the purest source of cellulose or biodegradable vegetable cellulose.

•Cold-pressing and low pressure compressing rather than the use of heat. This way, the supplements retain the full healing properties.

•Products that are GMP (Good Man-Practices) ufacturing approved.

•Selecting from manufacturers who will provide independent assays and verification of ingredients. This ensures I am recommending a reaction free product. •Products that are tested by governmentapproved independent laboratories.

•Manufacturers who reconfirm by lot number the potency of each vitamin and mineral; each capsule's and tablet's weight variation and disintegration time; and more importantly, the absence of heavy metals, bacteria, E. coli, salmonella, yeasts, mold, GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms) and other contaminants.

Natural vitamins contain proteinbonded vitamins and nutrients that are better absorbed and utilized by tissues in the body. Synthetic vitamins contain only the isolated vitamin which may not provide the same benefits as vitamins derived from natural sources.

Bottom line, there is a difference in nutritional supplement quality and the difference lies in the body, not the wallet.

Susan Veale BSc Wellness Natural Health Centre 613-752-1540 <u>info@mylysis.com</u> www.mylysis.com

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GREATER MADAWASKA LITERARY MATTERS

By Mary Joan Hale

What does your library mean to you? My Inbox had a neat story from the library in the small town of King City. Apparently someone knocked down two hydro poles, causing a two-hour power outage. A two-kilometer stretch of King Road, through the centre of town was closed. In spite of police roadblocks and detours, children heading to the TD summer program and other patrons made their way to the library. As the Head Librarian stated, people love their library and will overcome difficulties to get there and statistics do not document the human element. Discussions with patrons illustrate our residents feel the same way. However, coming from me, it seems almost selfserving. This summer, we are asking you to become Library Advocates. Tell us why you value this library which has been going since 1978. Folks in Wards 2 and 3 can send their letters via Gary's red courier box. This is open to everyone from birth to seniors.

Our TD Summer program is chugging along. This year's theme 'Lost Worlds' lends itself to some of my favourite topics. So far we have made a talking stick. Each child has added a ribbon or coloured strip to the stick. Whoever has the stick may speak in circle. In Week one, the children learned about the oral tradition, which had its roots around the earliest campfires. They understand why we sit in circle because it is unending and unifying. They discussed pictographs and made their own 'picture stories'. Since some stories were told in dance, the children reluctantly moved to the aboriginal music. They listened for the sounds of animals and discussed what the music told them

Then they made animal masks. As promised a short Latin lesson followed and their names were translated to Iulia. Davus and Camelia to name a few.

This week, they learned about soapstone carving from my sister, Dr. Judith Hughes. She showed them some Inuit carvings from her collection and taught them to carve a whale out of Ivory Soap. The results were wonderful. Some children asked for a plastic (safety first!) knife to take home and to make some more. Judith, a retired VP Administration from Athabasca University, traveled the circum-polar countries when she and other colleagues created the University of the North. She told us about northern peoples from Canada, Greenland, Iceland, Russia and Scandinavia. One thing she wanted them to remember: "The medium is boss!"

A discussion about 'Dream Catchers' ensued and each child made one. This proved a little more complicated, but in the end lovely works of art were produced. Good bye bad dreams!

We only had a short time left to start our lessons about some Roman children. In the next few weeks, we will follow the Roman children's adventures and see that in some ways children have changed and in others, there is not all that much difference. 'Ecce Romani'!

Another project we are running this summer is "Get Buggy With Books". For every book a child reads they get a bug to colour. At summer's end, we hope to have bugs crawling all over the hall and maybe up the stairs. No calamine is needed when bitten by the Reading Bug.

There have been some strange rumours circulating about the library finances. Our budget this year is only \$40,000. This includes a provincial grant of \$11,818 and a \$320 subsidy for our summer student. Heat, electricity, telephone, rent and insurance are fixed costs that are deducted from the total. There are only two areas in which we can maneuver: books and payroll. The book budget has been dropping annually. This year it is \$1,700. Strange how the book budget in the library has to be lowered! The payroll which is about \$23,000 includes the CEO/Librarian. the Assistant, the Summer Student and the Cleaner when she is in the library. It is way below average. Over the

vears we have been active in obtaining grants and support from the local clubs to purchase shelves, computers, Hi-speed Internet, craft supplies, books and Outreach to name a few. I love my job. It is an honour and privilege to share my love of reading with you.

So cool off this summer at 4984 Calabogie Road downstairs at the Township Office. Read; borrow books, videos, DVDs, magazines, and audiobooks. Check your Email or surf the net. Kids, Get BuggyWith Books. Bring in food for the Food Bank. Are you a Library Advocate? Be one and join the crowd!

End

GM news (Cont.)

with the trophies for the tackiest man and woman in the place. Must have deteriorated since last I saw them.

Bingo goers should note that July 24th, August 7th and August 21st are their nights to howl.

On the seventh day of the seventh month of the seventh year, campers at the Camel Chute Campground held their seventh Fishing Derby complete with kids'

games, a potluck supper and fireworks. All - children and adults - who took part won a trophy. My kind of contest.

The Heritage Old Time Country Music Association (HOTCMA) will again come to the Matawatchan Hall for an afternoon jamboree on August 19, 2007. Last year's event was so successful that HOTCMA decided, on the spot, to return this August. Check the ad in this edition for details.

End

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The Perseids are coming to the Madawaska Highlands

By Floris Wood

If you have some open space around your home or cottage where you can get a clear view of the sky you probably have seen shooting or falling stars. If you are lucky you may sometimes even hear them swooshing and cracking through the sky.

I had occasion several years ago to be camping in August near the top of Mt. Mitchell (at 6.684 ft, the highest summit east of the Rockies) in western North Carolina close to Asheville. Several other campers were close by and one lady, an incurable organizer, organized a party of climbers to ascend closer to the summit of Mt. Mitchell to watch a meteor shower that was scheduled to be particularly intense that night. It was the promise of a spectacular light show that convinced some of us to make the climb in the wee hours of the morning.

It was not much of a climb and the Forest Service had provided a lookout platform that gave observers a great view of the surrounding mountains and valleys. Some of us were quite sceptical of the lady's claim of knowing the right date for the event she advertised. We built a nice fire in the fire ring and chatted amiably for a long



while as a few distant shooting stars darted across the heavens. She promised it would get even better. Gamely we snuffed the fire in the fire ring and turned our eyes skyward in anticipation. Besides sore necks, we were not getting much for our effort. Streaks of lights coursed across the sky, usually when we were looking in another direction, so we missed most of them.

Eventually, the frequency of the streaks across the sky picked up some. Then, of a sudden, the very air around us seemed to crackle and snap, the sky lit up and something swooshed

by us in a shower of sparks at what seemed a dangerously close proximity. The atmosphere seemed supercharged with static electricity. Those of us who were military veterans had to squelch the instinct to dive for a foxhole. A nervous cheer arose from our group as we looked around at each other in amazement. Some swore the air even smelled different. Even our now redoubtable tour guide was surprised at the brilliance of the display. We saw many more similar displays in the next half hour but none were anything like the one described above.

Although I did not know it then. what we probably saw was the Perseids meteor shower that occurs in mid August every year. This year of 2007 the Perseids is due with the greatest concentrations on August 12 and 13 under a new moon. These showers are scheduled to be strong this year, weather permitting. Although, I cannot promise you anything like what I saw in North Carolina, I have viewed the Perseids several times in Matawatchan and they can be interesting.

So what is a meteor and why do they shower down upon the Earth as such regular intervals?

Let's begin in our own solar system. As the planets were created, each in its own way, they had gravity because they were large objects in space, but

they had little or no atmosphere. They attracted other objects that were roaming around the heavens. These objects crashed directly into the planets causing huge explosions. Some of the objects were nearly as large as the planets themselves in which case the planet and the object striking it were torn apart. But, much of the masses of the two objects were combined to form a larger body, while smaller bodies were blown away at such velocity that they escaped the gravitational pull of the larger body. These bodies became space debris. As the planets aged by millions of light years, the planets and the debris settled into regular orbits around the sun. The orbiting debris came to be known as comets. The orbits of the comets were not on the same plane or concentric orbits as the planets. They instead wove in and out between planets and the sun. Some comets in our solar system are not visible from Earth because they never come close enough to be seen. Others appear at regular, albeit very distant, time intervals. Probably the most famous comet is Haley's comet which last appeared in 1986 and will appear again in 76 years from then, or 2062.

There are about two thousand known comets. Other famous comets are the Shoemaker-Levy which crashed in spectacular fashion into Jupiter on July 1, 1994. The Hale-Bopp comet, which

continued on page 20



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CABA CORNER

By Shelley Monaghan

CABA (Calabogie and Area Business Association) is proud to add two more members to our ever-growing organization.

This week we will focus on a long time resident most people will recognize by name that has recently become a member of CABA, and a new to the area artist, who has settled in Burnstown.

Don Adams, a Griffith native has operated a canoe rental and portage company on the Madawaska River for many years now. His client base is primarily

from Toronto, Hamilton and Kitchener. These people want to be able to drive to our area, rent a canoe and leave the car. He finds that people from closer communities such as Ottawa are willing to bring their own canoe with them, because of the proximity to the Madawaska. Don will then take your party and your canoe to Palmer Rapids, Almonds Bay, or Latchford, for example and you can leisurely spend a day or more coming back down the 40-km or so it takes on the return trek. Explaining how he got started, Don reminiscences about "A funny little story that happened roughly 20 years ago." Apparently a fellow known as Kevin Callan (who now is the leading author of books on canoeing in Ontario) was across the street at the local store in search of "Bob" who was to take him up river so that he could spend some time camping and writing while making his way back down. "Bob" was never found, as Kevin, upon meeting Don and asking him for help was chartered up river and the rest, as they say, was history.

Don has acquired 15 canoes over the years and attributes his success to "having the gift of gab." His hours of operation are from 7 a.m. "until pretty much whenever in the evening, depending on when folks will be coming back." In his free time he keeps busy maintaining the fleet and other things that need to be done to keep the operation afloat (so to speak!)

Welcome to CABA Don, and we'll be checking on those stories of yours! (Don can be reached at 333-2240)

Our second review takes us to the picturesque village of Burnstown, where

Ottawa native Karen Phillips-Curran has recently set up a delightful gallery which boasts her talents and personality. Karen has recently moved to our area from Rideau Ferry, which most will know as the "little place on the Rideau" just outside of Perth. Others like myself, remember the famous Rideau Ferry Inn...but that's a whole other story, the likes of which I myself, am best not to remember! Karen brings to the area, her multi-talents which include watercolour, pastels, pen, mixed media and she delivers it all in a strategically lit, well laid out, attractive area called River Stones Gallery which can be found directly on the corner of the 508 and the Burnstown Rd.

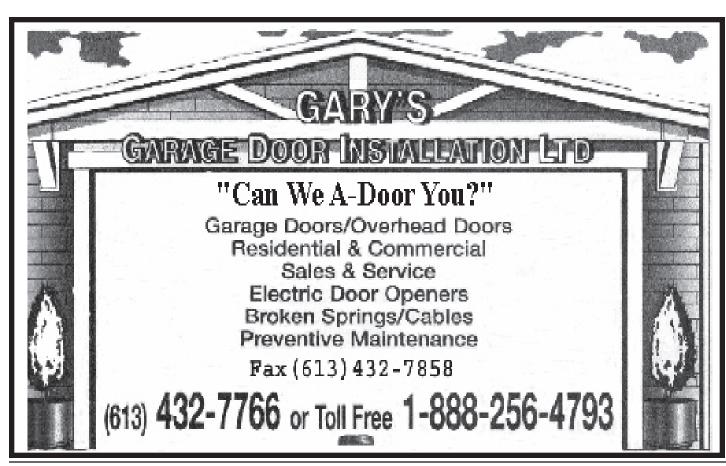
She shares with us her greeting cards, gifts and framing expertise. Her other passion is revealed behind the scenes, so to speak, as she has the lofty job of painting the sets for the National Art Centre in our nation's capital. A very talented woman, Karen enjoys swimming, reading and doing anything creative. She feels very lucky to have been able to land such a prestigious location in the tourist bound Burnstown and welcomes locals and passersby alike to drop in for a visit. Her river stone watercolours will make you want to dip your big toe into the water to test the temperature.... they are truly that amazing!

Don't take my word for it, drop in for yourself, browse around, relax, you'll be glad you did. The gallery is open Thursday through Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 1694 Burnstown Rd.

End

Democracy is the worst system devised by with of man, except for all the others.

- Winston Churchill



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Ottawa Valley Crossword

By Doug Bell

Across

- 1. Ancient article
- 6. Zealous
- 10. Camel's chew
- 13. Scotiabank Place, for one
- 14. Rice dish
- 16. Broke bread
- 17. Highly excitable terrier
- 19. Not any, in law
- 20. Bat wood
- **21.** Mad cow disease (abbr.)
- 22. N.E. Pakistani city
- 24. Iroquoian group
- **26.** Lurches
- **27.** Iroquoian group
- **29.** Men's curling championship
- **30.** Batter a beach, perhaps
- **31.** Flies heavenward
- **32.** ___-fi
- 35. Malarial fever
- **36.** "____ Were the Days"
- **37.** Box lightly
- 38. "___ Misérables"

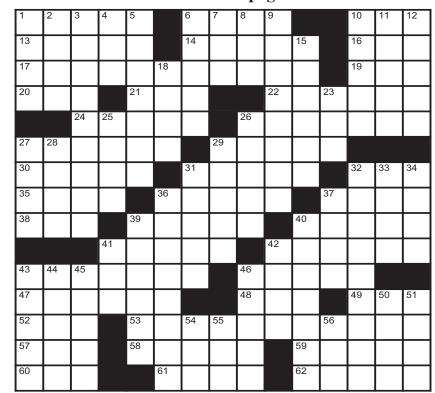
- **39.** Kind of stew or whiskey
- **40.** Taunt
- **41.** Not active
- **42.** Headwear for royal personages
- 43. Yellow cheese
- 46. Preakness pick
- **47.** Chargers or coursers
- **48.** Prospector's find
- **49.** Once premier of Ontario
- **52.** Jockey Turcotte
- **53.** Large powerful dog breed
- **57.** Here, in Paris
- 58. Over familiar
- **59.** Circle the earth
- **60.** That's all ____ wrote
- **61.** Early match maker
- **62.** Ring weapons

Down

- 1. King in India
- 2. Greek and Roman, e.g.
- 3. Lewd
- 4. India, for one
- F T-.... C ..: A -

- **6.** Church projections
- 7. '___ a ___ ' (face to face)
- **8.** ____ -de-France
- **9.** Author "The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda"
- 10. One of Canada's seven wonders (CBC)
- **11.** A 180?
- 12. Mark for omission
- **15.** Sudden burst of flames
- 18. Takes off the shelf
- 23. Part of H.R.H
- **25.** Pestered
- **26.** Computer's fatal error
- 27. Restore to health
- 28. Press
- **29.** Shot in the arm
- 31. Prepare eggs
- **32.** Cut of pork
- **33.** House, in Seville
- 34. Angers
- **36.** Highly valued
- 37. Red, Black and Yellow

Answers on page 23



- **39.** Seeing red?
- **40.** Loses interest in
- 41. Passports, e.g.
- **42.** Afghanistan's ____ Bora region
- **43.** Astronaut Hadfield
- **44.** Moonshiner's product
- **45.** Curling great Richardson

- 46. Like Mom's kitchen
- **50.** Throw ___ (get really angry)
- **51.** Semi-aquatic animals
- 54. Hinged cover
- **55.** Inc. in the U.K.
- **56.** Start of a threesome

ovcrosswords@gmail.com

The Perseids (Cont)

was discovered in 1995 stayed in Earth's view until 1997. It will not return to Earth's view again for 2,380 years.

The very irregular orbit of a comet is influenced not only by the sun but also by the gravitational pull of the planets. It is tossed from planet to planet or planet to sun in its trip through space. As it nears the sun it heats up to an extremely high temperature until parts are ripped from it. Each part remains in the comet's orbit, travelling at a different speed than the comet or its other parts. So, eventually, the whole orbit becomes littered with these small parts. The parts range in size from a grain of sand to fairly large bodies made up mostly of rocks, dust and ice.

With some two thousand of these debris littered orbits circling the sun and

weaving among the planets, the chances of a planet's orbit intersecting a comet's orbit are very good. These pieces of comet debris are called meteors. When the Earth passes through one of these orbits the meteors fall into the grasp of Earths gravity and are pulled into the Earth. The meteor is travelling several thousand miles an hour when it enters the Earth's atmosphere. The friction between the object and the molecules of the Earth's atmosphere burns up the meteor in a spectacular display of fireworks usually 30 to 80 miles above the Earth. If the meteor is quite large and made of the right stuff the meteor may actually strike the Earth, though it happens very rarely. When a meteor does manage to land on the Earth that meteor is known, from then on, as a meteorite.

On still more rare occasions, when the planet crosses the orbit of a comet it meets more than the meteoric debris, the

People helping people: Seniors Home Support

By Judy Ewart, Coordinator of Volunteer Services

Chauncey Depew, a United States Senator, when he was 92, was asked: "What is the most beautiful word in the language?" The elderly lawyer quickly replied, "Home." When I read this quote, it resonated with me. Our homes are our sanctuary from the world, it's where we return at the end of our workday, and it's where we share our lives with our families and friends. Whether we own our home or rent it, it's a part of who we are.

Having a home is a responsibility – we need to look after it so that we continue to have a "roof over our head". As we get older, looking after our homes and yards may become more challenging. When this happens, our families may help out, or neighbours may be willing to assist. But what happens, when our families are away, neighbours are unavailable, or we do not want to impose on anyone? Seniors' Home Supports are there to help, with their home maintenance programs. Home Maintenance workers are available on a fee for service basis to assist seniors with those chores (both indoors and outdoors) that they are finding difficult to do, either on an ongoing or one-time basis. Efforts are made to keep the costs affordable, as we recognize that many people who require this assistance are on limited income.

Seniors' home supports maintain lists of people who have successfully completed their screening process and will either give you a list of people that you can call to complete the work or will

match you with a worker available to do the job. Calabogie and Area Home Support has a list of people who are available to assist seniors with work around their homes. In Renfrew, clients are matched with a Home Maintenance worker after the client has called the office and explained the work that needs to be done. Once a worker is found, the client is called to let them know the name of the worker who will be contacting them to discuss the details of the job and establish a fee for the services provided. Clients are encouraged to be specific about what the job is and how they want the job done, so that the worker knows what is expected of them and can do a good job. If both parties are agreeable with the arrangements, they set a time for the work to be done and follow through. Clients are encouraged to contact the office if, for any reason, the work is unable to proceed or they require assistance to change the original arrangements. A follow-up call to both parties is generally made within a few weeks to ensure that both parties were happy with the work; however both are encouraged to call the office at any time if they have any questions or concerns.

If you are a senior or adult with disabilities who needs some assistance around your home you can contact Calabogie and Area Home Support at 613-752-2828 or Renfrew Seniors' Home Support office at 613-432-7691. If you would like to assist seniors with their yard work, especially grass cutting, the Renfrew and Calabogie offices would love to hear from you.

comet itself will be there. That is what happened when the comet Shoemaker-Levy crashed into Jupiter. The comet broke into 29 parts and each part crashed into Jupiter with much more spectacular results than astronomers anticipated. The whole event was much anticipated and caught on tape, so to speak.

The names given to these regularly appearing showers are derived either from the comets whose orbits Earth is intersecting or from the constellation in the sky from which the falling stars seem to come. Hence, the Perseids shower is named after the constellation Perseus and is associated with the orbit of the comet Swift-Tuttle. So for the best viewing of the Perseids on August 12 look toward the constellation Perseus in the north-west sky. The rate of appearance for the Perseids is about 60 meteors per hour or one per minute. They are supposed to be quite bright this year partly because there will be a new moon at that time, so the intensity of the burning meteors will not be washed out by a brighter, fuller moon.

While the Perseids are the most comfortable meteor shower for Madawaska Highlanders to watch, because it occurs during warm weather, the Leonids are sometimes the most spectacular. The Leonids meteor shower occurs

Dispatches (cont)

titioner who charges a flat rate of 3500 francs (roughly equivalent to \$35.00 US) for each visit. She arranged for a nurse to come to our house twice a day to give Rick muscle relaxant injections at a cost of 795 francs a trip (\$7.95 US) which was a real bargain. Things are now improving gradually with the pain beginning to recede. It has now been determined that surgery is not required and that is a relief. The point is, there are no waiting lists and the doctors are extremely accessible.

when Earth intersects with the orbit of the comet Temple-Tuttle. The Leonids occur in mid-November and appear to originate out of the Leo constellation in the eastern sky. November 18th has the most concentrated shower of meteors with only 10 per hour. However, every 33 years the Leonids meteor shower turns into a spectacular meteor storm, regaling us with hundreds of meteors per hour. The Leonids meteor storms of 1933 and 1966 were very spectacular, but the 1999 storm was less intense. Eat your vegetables and keep your car on your own side of the road and maybe you'll be around for the 2032 Leonids show.

Speaking of spectacular shows, the crossing of the Earth through comet orbits raises the question of what is the likelihood of the comet being in that part of its orbit as the Earth passes through it? Not very good. Comet Swift-Tuttle is the most likely of the known comets to come in contact with Earth. In fact, given the nature of the two orbits an eventual collision is a sure thing. But, equally sure is that it will not happen in the next millennium. The chance it will happen in the millennium after that are pretty small too. So, we have plenty of time to find other ways to make Earth uninhabitable by humans before a comet collision does the job.

End

That seems to be all our news from here. I will be heading home the end of June for two months and Rick will follow at the end of July. We have had some great adventures here but we are anxious to see our family and to get caught up on news from home. When we return at the end of August we will have sixteen months left to go on Rick's contract – lots of time to see more of the South Pacific countries. Have a nice summer everyone.

End



End

Cottage Corner

By John Roxon

I have been contributing my brand of nonsense to the Highlander for just over a year now. In that time I have waxed eloquently about bugs, nature, guests, water, winter and other sundry topics.

The one thing missing in all that commentary is the raison d'etre of cottage existence in the first place. Why do I and thousands more like me climb in a car with gas over one dollar a liter, brave crazy drivers weaving in and out of traffic while going 140+ kilometers per hour and a four hour drive just to arrive at a place that's off the grid, has no telephone service, no cellphone service, voracious blackflies, sadistic deer flies, groundhogs that eat the garden and mice which seem to push harder each year to get the cottage all to themselves.

In the summer the intense highland sun burns within 5 minutes, in the winter the frigid temps turn extremities to a brittle powder within seconds – yet we persevere and voluntarily head up time and again as if addicts – aware that the focus of our addiction is bad for us yet we gravitate towards it nonetheless.

It's no wonder that in a world where we are electronic prisoners of our own design, where globalization means that we have to be available 24 hours per day just to accommodate time zones if nothing else, in a world where increasingly people barely have time for themselves let alone other people. In a world where a glowing screen means friendship and a temporary end to loneliness for thousands of people. In a world which is moving faster yet the message is to slow down otherwise we pile-drive the earth into environmental oblivion, yet we don't know how to slow down just to go faster.

The cottage is none of these things. It's a chance to wind down, reflect, reenergize, reprioritize and to feel both incredibly small and incredibly large at the same time. It's a place where the urgency of a loon's call is really the only urgency that counts. Where the rushing of the chipmunks, chasing each other over stumps and around rocks is a rush hour built from spontaneous joyousness rather than necessity.

Another funny thing happens on the way to the cottage. There's a magical transformation where this meek and mild city scribe who can't make soup without reading directions; who can't cut a straight line or cleanly drive a nail into a board: who looks at a washing machine with wide-eyed wonderment – at the cottage I turn into an uber Mike Holmes, the handyman. I can cut, I can build from scratch, I can repair plumbing, I can repair electrical, I can repair small engines, I can even build a scale model Dash 8 airplane from birch saplings. There is no end to my talents once I cross the dividing line between urban vertigo and rural stability.

That official document of city living, the Toronto Star, recently ran an article about the withering rural landscape. They explained that in the early 20th century, 40% of the population lived in cities. One hundred years later and the number is 80% and beyond. When a local store closes in the city - well, it just closes. When the same thing happens in the bucolic rural realm, the citizens refer to it as a loss - as in "we're losing the corner store." And this loss is happening more and more as people migrate where the jobs are and those jobs - increasingly low paid and service oriented – are in the urban areas of this country.

But this isn't a treatise on the future of jobs in Canada or the slow drip of people leaving small towns and farming communities. This, I would hope, is renewed vigor for the way of life offered in rural Canada that too few people are aware of. Many of these people are only aware of rural living because they have a summer home or cottage abutting these areas. And, due mainly to technology, due also to consumerism being the new community, urbanites are becoming more and more aware that something is deeply amiss in their way of life. That something isn't quite right when you don't know your neighbor's name, yet know the name of the server at the Tim Horton's drive through. When your child asks if you can play with him and you put him off because you're expecting an important email that must be acted on immediately – even though its 7:30 in the evening and you've been in work mode for at least 12 hours.

Something is stirring deep inside the human beast – it may be just the thin edge of something bigger and more permanent or it could be – though I hope not – false signals. That something is an almost innate need to connect in a meaningful way with nature, neighbors and a nurturing inner self. A need to slow down. A real desire to appreciate that which is surrounding us and that which doesn't need to be plugged in, answered, or viewed.

This is the real reason why I and thousands like me do whatever is necessary to reclaim that part of our soul which we forgot or never knew we had. This, I hope, will be the real salvation of rural Canada.

For the three people out there who actually read Cottage Cor-

ner, I now have an email address. It's cottagecorner@xplornet.com. I would love to hear from you. Whether its story ideas, or to swap recipes, or to complain about guests who do not leave – please drop me a line.

End

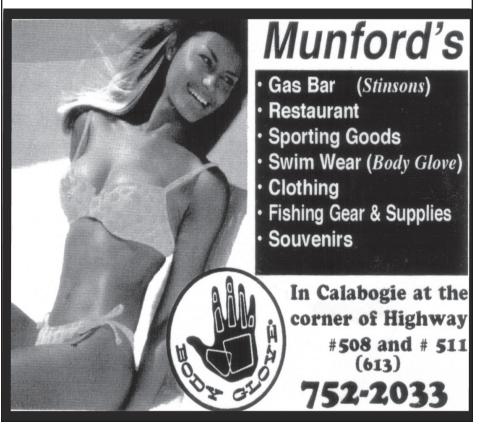
The fact that man knows right from wrong proves his intellectual superiority to other creatures; but the fact that he can do wrong proves his moral inferiority to any creature that cannot.

- Mark Twain (Samuel Clemens)

There are no rules here - we're trying to accomplish something. - Thomas A. Edison

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The Local Yokel

By April Cappel

The sun is shining. The kids are out of school. It is warm outside, and who really wants to spend their days toiling away doing the "9 to 5" thing?

That's right! It is the time of year when life slows down due to chronic "hooky". Everyone, even the most virtuous at heart will do it, at least once over the summer.

Some may try and pass it off as "vacations", or "sick days", or even in extreme "mental health days", but, when the sun is shining, and the birds are singing, and the kids are driving you nuts looking for something to do, sometimes there just isn't another choice to be made!

It is time to hit the golf course, or take off into the country for some extended R&R!"

When most people think of "buying locally", the first idea, or concept that comes to mind are efforts put towards buying local produce, or products. This is very logical thinking, especially this time of year when we are craving a sweet, ripe, fresh and juicy tomato, after a winter of existing on hydroponics stand-ins, thankfully available to us all winter.

But, with regards to the "Buy Local" campaign, our definition is a little broader. Where do you go on those days with your family when you just need a break from it all? Instead of leaving the county, why not look for places you can go that offer a variety of options everyone is sure to enjoy? This will be the feature idea behind the next few "Local Yokel" articles, hopefully making these choices a little easier for you to decide.

This week my travels took me in up through the Highway 60 corridor of the county.

My first stop was at the "Raven's Roost" in Kelly's Corners. This is a great little spot to stop and take a look for that "something different". The store maybe be small, but it sports everything from local art to local gems, and home-made pierogies.

Travelling to Eganville, of course there are many options for entertainment. You can take a trip to see "Cave Man Chris" at the caves (watch out for the Bats! Yikes!), or take plan a weekend at Mac's Ce-dar-est Campsite, or just pop into the Granary for a bite to eat!

What I was happy to find, was "Humm Dingers", an incredible little store, in Golden Lake. You can find everything from local beautifully handcrafted jewelry, to local wood carvings, clothing, books by local authors and much more. It is a labyrinth of treasure just waiting to be discovered!

Just around the corner is the Golden Lake Indian Reserve, Pikwakanagan, which deserves a column all to itself. There are many reasons to stop and visit here, which I promise to explore further at a later date!

A little farther down the road, I popped into the "Algonquin Trading Post". My first impression was the fabulous smell of tanned hide. The rich smoky smell of a smoke house fills your senses, not in a bad way, as you walk in the front door. As your nose is making sense of the smells, your body reacts by taking on the warmth of the cedar walls, and soft light that typically will accompany that smoky smell, perhaps touching that nerve of recognition from generations before with some kind of recollection?

While your senses begin to adjust, you have to stop and wonder if you have travelled back in time, or if you are really looking at some of the amazing artifacts and hand made native crafts and artwork on display in this store.

Golden Lake is well worth a trip whether for the day, weekend, or a week long stay. I highly recommend taking a look at the OVTA website to learn more about the accommodations available, from Golden Sands Vacationland to Grey Stone Manor and Cottages. There are many more sights to see and things to do while you are there as well! If I do it all for you, then where would your adventure be?

If you have any ideas for summer travel destinations within Renfrew County that are worthy of sharing, or any questions, please feel free to contact the "Local Yokel" at buy_local@nrtco.net

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Burial at Matawatchan

By Orval Strong,

From time to time we open our weekly newspaper and read an obituary, and we see these words:

> "Burial to follow at Matawatchan Community Cemetery"

"It is a community cemetery," we say. By that we mean it is not a church cemetery. Nor a municipal cemetery. Nor a private company cemetery.

"It is owned by the community," we say. But we are at a loss to put into words what that means. It is not an incorporated cemetery, it does not fit any government classification; it has no formal procedure for electing a board or choosing a manager. For the most part, its bylaws are not written down. And its fee structure could well be described as nominal.

Yet it is self evident that it is well managed and lovingly cared for.

For it is a community cemetery—in a sense of community that in so many ways goes far beyond the meaning of ownership.

Its budget for mowing and fence repairs and equipment and perpetual care comes almost entirely from volunteer giving-at the annual cemetery memorial service and whenever people are moved to contribute.

Truly a community commitment. The graves are dug by volunteerswho unfailingly arrive on the morning of the funeral-to dig the grave, to be invited to a home for coffee, and to return later for the burial. A community effort. And each deceased is laid to rest among those who have been his or

her friends, neighbours and relatives—some who will be the first generation buried here, and others who are the fourth or fifth generation. But all have been a part of the community-and are now ied in a community cemetery.

I enjoy living in this community, and like everyone else, I hope to continue enjoying it for some time yet. But we know not the day or the hour. And some evening a neighbour will sit down by the phone and dial a short list of volunteers. For my turn will have come.

"Yeah,tomorrowmorningaroundeight," he or she will say. And in Matawatchan tradition, by 7:40 the next morning the measuring will have been done and the shovels will be biting into the sod.

And I hope it will be shovels in the hands of friends and neighbours who are digging a grave in which to place the remains of a neighbour-and not the cold steel of a backhoe, operated by someone digging a hole in which to put a coffin in return for a few dollars in their pocket.

And as the digging intensifies, I hope there will be the usual stories; told at the expense of the deceased about dumb or unusual things I did or said.

And God knows I will have left them tots of material to work with.

And someone will ask, "And how was he related to so-and-so?"

"And was he the youngest of the boys?"

"And who did he buy his place from?"

And it will reaffirm that I lived.

was part of this community. And will be remembered. And someone will comment, "I think we're down about four feet-so-andso should be showing up soon." And perhaps when they reach the six-foot depth, a recent volunteer will be prevailed upon to "lie down and see if it's long enough". And then the shovels will fly into action and he will come scrambling out, shaking the sand from his clothes and hair.

And two or three may wander off to check on a recent grave or to settle how old so-and-so was when he died.

And maybe someone will recount how in 1858 a young community leader named David McLellan, still in his late teens and planning to be a minister, said "Our community needs a cemetery and on this knoll is where it should be. And when I return from the log drive in the spring . . ." only to drown in Mackie Creek and to be the first to be buried in this field that he chose. Indeed, this is a community cemetery.

And each year, on a day in summer, a wave of multi-coloured flowers will spread across the cemetery.

And a crowd will gather at this high point and the voice of the community will be heard in song.

And the pastor will speak of "those we loved" and "this sacred ground" and "the life eternal".

And nearby the unfurled flags of the cenotaph will bear witness to the fact that a price was paid by some members of this communitythat the world might be free ... And that this community might be free.

And from time to time, over the next hundred years or so, someone will kneel by a grave stone and perhaps scratch away the moss and read the familiar family name and note the date.

And will look up and away from the cold granite and wilted flowers.

And look across this field of tombstones, each with a familiar family name.

Andwilllookbeyondthefence, across the rolling pasture and down upon the green forest to the shore of Centennial Lake.

And will reflect for a moment or two about the meaning of it all for their life.

And then will rise and continue along a path that is now easier to follow.

We call this a community cemetery because this cemetery is part of our com-End

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If everybody's thinking alike, somebody isn't thinking.



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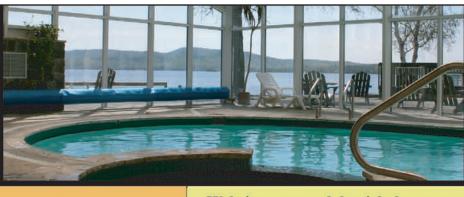
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