

THE MADAWASKA HIGHLANDER

Volume 1 – Issue 3

FREE

May 2004

The Track Issue Gets a Public Meeting

By Bill Graham, Editor

The Track issue finally had its public meeting. To anyone attending all of the preceding public council meetings, it was a relief to have the long process of positioning from both sides of the issue finally coming to some final culmination. The May 1st meeting was the official venue for final arguments. However, there is some possibility that there will be a second public meeting. Council is currently determining this possibility. There are still a few noise and drainage issues to be resolved and two council members are planning visits to other motor sport tracks as part of their 'due diligence' in coming to a decision on the 'track issue'.

On the morning of May 1st the meeting kicked off at the Calabogie Community Centre. This venue, with its large space, was necessary because of the equally large public interest. The regular council meeting space wouldn't accommodate the 200 plus residents who arrived well in advance of the official 10:00 a.m. commencement. It would be a long day,

ending at 4:00 p.m. For many it was not a 'long enough' meeting.

MEETING IS PART OF THE PROCESS

Municipal solicitor Peter Mirski in his introduction set out the purpose of the meeting and the rules by which the meeting would be conducted. By law the public meeting was a part of the process under the Planning Act for an amendment for rezoning. Without the rezoning there can be no Track. The purpose of the meeting was 'information gathering' so that Council could listen to all issues and concerns; but especially to hear new evidence on either side of the subject. He emphasized that any final decision would be based on evidence and law, and on good planning principles. He emphasized that the law requires a balancing of rights; those of the applicants (Calabogie MotorSports) and those of the public and neighbours. He also said that it was not a matter of how many were for or against the proposed

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Trilliums signal that spring is finally here!



A Portrait of Greater Madawaska

By Bill Graham, Editor

The legislated amalgamation of the three neighbouring townships of Bagot and Blythfield (Ward 1), Brougham (Ward 2) and Griffith and Matawatchan (Ward 3) in 2000 by the Ontario Government created the Township of Greater Madawaska. Despite the views of some, it's a good marriage since there is so much in common.

The former townships share a common history centred on the Madawaska River and the logging industry of the nineteenth century. They share the topography of the Madawaska Highlands and a rural economy based in tourism, service industries and primary industries; mainly logging. The summer population of the area more than triples the resident population because it is one of the major 'cottage country' hubs of Eastern

Ontario. It is also an area that is fast changing in character. Both census and municipal records are revealing about the changes occurring.

Because Greater Madawaska was the simple joining of three former townships, the aggregation of census information from these former townships allows us to have a reasonably close comparison of data from before amalgamation (1996 Census) and after amalgamation (2001 Census). It is an interesting portrait.

Population change

What would become Greater Madawaska had a population of 1,817 souls in 1991 according to the Census. By 1996 that had grown to 2,033 persons indicating a population growth of 10.6%. Between 1996 and 2001, when the population had reached 2,290, the

percentage change was 12.6%. This more than double the percentage change in population of Ontario, which only changed 6.1% in the same period. When we look at the ten years between 1991 and 2001 the percentage change in population is 20.7%—it's a population boom!

We are one of the geographically largest townships in Renfrew County with a land area 1,011.74 square kilometres. Even with our booming population we are definitely rural since we had a population density of only 2.3 persons per square kilometre in 2001. Compare that with Ontario as a whole, which had a density of 12.6 persons per square kilometre in 2001.

Until now we have been discussing only the resident (full-time) population. When the cottagers (the non-resident

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In Memoriam



Reeve Paul Doyle
1931 – 2004

The Track Issue Gets a Public Meeting

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zoning amendment, but what new evidence might be presented. Participants were cautioned to limit their submissions to a few minutes because of time constraints and not to repeat what had already been said at the meeting. This would later become an issue for some.

WHERE THE PARTIES STAND

County Planner Jim Hutton next explained the application and the process. He said that he had read all of the many letters and submissions on both sides of the issue and summarized the arguments for and against as follows:

Against:

- There will be excessive noise and no peace
- The noise can not be enforced
- Property values will fall
- There will be excessive new traffic to the area
- There will be a negative impact on wildlife and ground water
- A Track conflicts with the natural beauty of the area.

For:

- The Tract will provide new local employment
- It will improve the local economy
- It will complement and feed other local businesses
- It will increase property values
- It will be a boon to tourism
- It will turn Calabogie into an all-seasons destination.

He then explained that since noise was such a critical issue, the municipality had hired noise consultant Hugh Williamson to do a peer review of the noise study from Calabogie MotorSports, which was prepared by noise consultant Hazem Gidamy of S.S. Wilson.

Mr. Williamson reported that the noise study would benefit from a noise management plan and there was a need for an ongoing noise audit. He also mentioned that it would be unwise to waive Ministry of the Environment (MOE) guidelines for special events. His review was by no means unfavourable, but it did suggest the above mentioned improvements.

With the representatives of the Municipality heard from, the agenda moved on to hear the submissions from the applicant (Calabogie MotorSport Park (CMP)), followed by The Concerned Citizens of Calabogie (CCC) and then the general public. This would bring the meeting through to its conclusion at 4:00 p.m. For the two main combatants, CMP and CCC, submissions would include those of lawyers, noise consultants and spokespersons.

CALABOGIE MOTORSPORT PARK

The applicant was represented by Hazem Gidamy of S.S. Wilson as noise consultant and Peter Vice as lawyer. Spokespersons for CMP were Chris Fleming (developer), Marc Steenbakker (President) and John Hamilton (Vice-President). Gidamy defended his study and Vice pointed out that the developer (CMP) was not about to jeopardize future plans for developing a residential area around the Track by excessive noise.

Fleming spoke to the emotional issues surrounding this dispute by saying that he and his associates were also concerned citizens of Calabogie and that he wasn't about to foul his own nest. He also expressed a hope that everyone will get along after this matter is resolved. Finally he said that past development has always benefited the community and that his group had always tried to be 'up front' and available about all their dealings concerning the issue. Marc Steenbakker then addressed the noise and future employment questions and John Hamilton addressed the logistical issues and talked about the Track's future clientele.

THE CONCERNED CITIZENS OF CALABOGIE

CCC was represented by Urban Planner Ted Fobert, Noise Consultant Daliala Giusti and lawyer Alan Cohen. Fobert, who is a land use planner, was not in favour of the application for rezoning. He felt that CMP did not express a balanced approach and that their plan was not compatible with current land use. He also did not think that the Track fit with the County vision.

Noise Consultant Daliala Giusti of Jade Acoustics who conducted the peer review of the CMP noise study for the Concerned Citizens began by stating emphatically that she stood behind her report despite the interpretation of the last paragraph of her report by proponents of the Track. She stands behind her peer review, but not behind the findings of the applicant's noise consultant.

Lawyer Alan Cohen wrapped up by warning that a minute of decision in this matter could result in a life-time of consequences. He cited a number of examples to support this statement.

THE PUBLIC

A long line of individuals from the Public occupied the majority of the afternoon. There had been some concern about how heated passions might become, as witnessed by the presence of an OPP constable hanging around outside the meeting, but it really was a civilized and orderly affair. The 'for' and 'against' camps were evenly represented.



Don Becket, Greater Madawaska's unofficial environment watchdog, kicked off the public participation with his concerns about wetlands and ground / surface water concerns. Ross Richardson, a Track supporter who lives very close to the track site felt that sound could be controlled. Cathy Olmstead opposed the Track for environmental reasons and summed up with Joni Mitchell "they paved paradise and built a parking lot." Joanne Leclaire from Calabogie and Terry Holtzhauer from Matawatchan presented the meeting with petitions with 250 and 100 names respectively to show the support of the "silent majority". Moya Brackele warned that tourists would be driven away and Doug Timmons asked for a mechanism to ensure that the complaints of residents would be heard should the Track be built. Jay and Donna Paisley from Beaver Run Pennsylvania, where there is a similar track, told residents not to fear. Betty Carleton made the interesting suggestion of a 'performance bond' on the

part of the track proponents.

This is just a taste of the many comments and suggestions made on both sides of the issue.

IT'S NOT OVER

The issue of the Track is far from being resolved. Another 'public meeting' is possible and by the time the Highlander is published an announcement by Council will probably be made on the subject. No matter the final decision of Council about the rezoning application, the other side will appeal. That appeal will go to the Ontario Municipal Board and another period of debate will take place.

If you are interested in delving deeper into this debate, both sides are responding to the articles published in the March issue of the Highlander on the subject of the Track. You will find these rebuttal articles in this issue. Stay tuned!

Dealing with Outages (Part 3)

By Richard Copeland

THE INVERTER SOLUTION

The scheduled maintenance for March on the high voltage line in Mazinaw, mentioned in my last article, had given the Hydro One customers on the F1 line cause for concern. That maintenance generally implies power outages for the residents of Vennachar, Denbigh, Griffith and Matawatchan, but there were no outages in March of 2004. That's the good news. The bad news is that the maintenance was not done. It is now tentatively rescheduled for September of 2004, and this round of maintenance will involve not only the transmission circuit but also station work. Hydro One expects to have a public meeting in Denbigh some time in Au-

gust to make everyone in the area aware of their plans and how they are going about the job. Hydro One will communicate more information to us as plans are firmed up.

So, if you haven't installed a generator or a transfer panel since the last publication of the *Highlander*, we're going to give you the chance to consider using an inverter and battery system as an alternative. Right off the top, there are advantages and disadvantages to either system. Like generators, there are a range of alternatives, in terms of complexity and costs to inverter systems.

The generator solution offers the 'least cost' alternative for the maximum energy output and with most generators

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A Portrait of Greater Madawaska

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population) are added in, the township almost triples in size. This is true of Wards Two and Three especially, but to a lesser degree is also true of Ward One. Township-wide the proportion of non-resident to resident population is almost 3 to 1—64.4% non-resident to 35.6% resident population.

People are moving into the area. Of the 2,215 persons 5-years of age and over in Greater Madawaska in 2001, 1,535 of them lived at the same address five years ago. Six hundred and eighty of them came from outside the township—615 from within Ontario and 65 from a different province, territory or country.

Who are we permanent residents? (2001 Censu)

Statistically we are not too different than you would expect. Most of us are Canadian-born (almost 93%) with the remaining foreign-born population having immigrated before 1991. This seven percent foreign-born population in Greater Madawaska compares with a foreign-born population of 26.8% in Ontario as a whole.

Ethnically, most of us identify with the British Isles (English, Scottish, Irish or Welsh), followed by French and then Aboriginal. The remainder identify with mainly other European or American. Many of the foreign-born among us are from the United States (one third), with the remaining being European from Germany, The Netherlands, Yugoslavia, Hungary, The Russian Federation or other European birthplaces.

Almost all are Christian or are without religious affiliation. Christians are almost evenly split between Catholics and Protestants, with an additional five percent describing themselves as Orthodox or other Christian denomination.

The economic characteristics of residents (2001 Census)

One thousand two hundred and five persons in the Township had earnings derived from work. However, only 515 of them had full-time, full-year earnings. The remainder were part-time. The average earnings for all persons with earnings were \$33,139, which compares to an average of \$35,185 for Ontario. For persons with full-time, full-year earnings, residents of greater Madawaska

averaged \$44,235, compared to \$47,299 as an average in Ontario.

Of the 1,090 workers from Greater Madawaska in the employed labour force, 740 worked at a usual place of work, while 180 worked at home and 165 had no fixed place of work; for example, construction workers.

But work is not necessarily paid work. A total of 1,760 persons in Greater Madawaska reported hours of unpaid work. A total of 1,745 of these people reported unpaid household work, 520 reported hours looking after children and 430 reported hours giving unpaid care or assistance to seniors.

Despite being rural, the unemployment rate in 2001 for Greater Madawaska at 6.4% was not much below the provincial rate of 6.1%.

Where we live

The 2001 Census records show 985 occupied dwellings in Greater Madawaska, but these are only the dwellings of permanent residents. Triple it to include our seasonal residents. However, of those occupied by permanent residents, most

were owner-occupied (87.3). Of the remaining 12.7% that were rental dwellings, the average rent (average gross monthly payments for rented dwellings) was \$478 in 2001.

Most of these (985) dwellings were owned (860) and most were constructed before 1991 (785). Since 1991, two hundred dwelling were constructed (just over 20%). This corresponds to the significant population growth happening in the township.

The 2001 Census tells us that the average value of dwellings in Greater Madawaska is \$129,327. How does that compare with your expectations? Have a look at the MPAC story by David Lester.

The Census has a lot to tell us about ourselves and how we live. Soon detailed results will be available and we will report back to you. Greater Madawaska is a place in change. Who is defining that change? Is it a retirement population or a young upwardly mobile population? We'll keep reporting.

Outdoor Burning

With the winter finally over, the prevalence of open fires will increase. These fires may take the form of bon fires, camp fires, incineration of dead vegetation—brush, leaves, twigs, bark, etc.—or burning dead grass off a field.

The Township of Greater Madawaska has a by-law (7-01) to ensure that it is done safely. The by-law covers the period of April 1st to October 31st. When dry weather increases the risk of uncontrolled fire, a fire ban may be declared. A fire ban is a total ban on all fires, including campfires. When conditions are extreme even a small spark can lead to total destruction. A fire ban will be announced by posted notices and radio announcement. To confirm a ban is in place you can call the township office at 752-2222.

THE FOLLOWING IS TAKEN FROM SCHEDULE A OF THE BY-LAW:

To burn brush, grass, leaves and other wood by-products the following must be adhered to:

A fire may be started without a burning permit if conditions allow the fire to burn safely until extinguished and all necessary steps are taken to tend, control and extinguish the fire. *A person failing to burn safely shall be held accountable.*

You can burn piled wood, brush, leaves or wood by-products without a fire permit provided you meet all of the following conditions:

- the fire is ignited no sooner than 6 p.m. and extinguished no later than 8 a.m.
- only a single pile is burned at any one time
- the pile is not more than 2 metres in diameter and less than 2 metres high
- the fire is at least 2 metres from any flammable materials
- you have tools or water adequate to contain the fire to the fire site
- a responsible person tends the fire until it is extinguished

You can burn wood, brush, leaves or wood by-products in an incinerator, with a fire permit, provided you meet **all** of the following conditions:

- the incinerator is an enclosed device constructed entirely on non-combustible material
- the incinerator is covered by a screen having a mesh size of not more than 5 millimetres
- the incinerator is at least 5 metres from any forest or woodland
- the incinerator is at least 2 metres from any flammable material
- a responsible person monitors the fire until it is extinguished

You can burn areas of grass or leaf litter on land you lawfully occupy or give permission to burn off grass and leaf litter on land you lawfully occupy, without a fire permit, provided you meet all of the following conditions:

- the fire is ignited no sooner than 6 p.m. and extinguished no later than 8 a.m.
- the total area to be burned does not exceed 1 hectare
- the flaming edge of the fire does not exceed 30 metres in length
- a responsible person tends the fire until it is extinguished

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:

- In case of a fire emergency dial 911
- Never leave a fire unattended!
- Never burn when it is windy!

DID YOU KNOW...

????????????????

The Madawaska Highlander

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Contact us!
Your comments and story idea are welcome.

Doyle's legacy

The death of Paul Doyle in mid-April, just four months into his three-year term was a shock to the whole community. In his short time as Reeve of the Township of Greater Madawaska he had already put his own stamp on the conduct of council meetings.

His term as reeve came at one of the most divisive times in the living memory of the area. The question of the Track, which has split Calabogie, was introduced to the community in the summer before Doyle's election in November 2003. In fact it was probably his explicit opposition to

the Track that rallied the support of anti-Track proponents and resulted in his election.

Council meetings in the time before Doyle have been described as secretive and non-inclusive. Few ratepayers attended because they did not feel part of the process and were not given full access to information about council business. All this changed with the new administration headed by Paul Doyle.

One of his first acts was to announce that there would be no secret meetings of council, except for meetings concerning legal

matters or personnel. He required that all submissions, such as letters of support, reports and studies, etc. on matters concerning the Track should be made publicly available for the scrutiny of ratepayers at the Township Office. He instructed that printed minutes from each meeting be available from the Township Office for anyone requesting them. He encouraged the development of a township website for the broad dissemination of information to residents.



It is this inclusive approach to municipal government that many residents are remembering and lauding with his death. We hope that the spirit of inclusion and transparency in the affairs of our local government will survive Reeve Doyle. If it does, it will be a worthy legacy.

Water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink – Legally

Garry Ferguson

I shoveled a lot of manure in my younger days – as a scribbler of sorts, I'm still accused of carrying on with the tradition – but this valuable by-product was used to regenerate the fertility of our land. There was no shame in smelling a little like cow or horse droppings, though a hint of *eau de pig do-do* was pushing the limits of social niceties. A little scent went a long way in identifying you as an industrious farmer.

At some point between the years when I flung dung and the time I began to anticipate a pension cheque, the mega meat-producing operations, with barns bigger than many old family farms, came into being. While a growing population encroached on more and more traditional agricultural land, our appetites demanded more of these operations to provide piggy-back bacon, hamburger and chicken McNuggets. The export of Canadian protein made bank accounts and trade balance look pretty good. Unfortunately, international trade in crap is pretty flat so we're left to deal with the pollution from too much of a good thing too close to what we drink.

When the inevitable happened, the surprise was that it was to a town with a municipal water system. The deadly water-borne E-Coli outbreak that caused the Walkerton tragedy was a wake-up explosion that rocked Ontarians.

The ensuing legislation, which aims to prevent a repeat catastrophe, has been thorough and attempts to eliminate the "human carelessness" factor. Ontario Regulation 170/03, requiring any public facility taking water from a non-municipal source, to have its water system assessed and brought up to "minimum

standards," however, may destroy the social fabric of the rural society it aims to protect. Numerous churches, community halls, campgrounds and small restaurants that depend on wells are considering closure because of the anticipated cost in meeting those "minimum standards."

Most perceive that "thoroughness" in the regulation as a knee-jerk over-reaction to the Walkerton situation and are seeking some reasonable slack in the application of the new rules. Several petitions protesting the legislation have been distributed in this area. One such petition, raised by a local church group, ends with these words: "The ramifications of this regulation are absolutely horrendous." No mincing of words there.

Remembering that my technique of hoping an irritation will go away by just ignoring it hadn't worked with the GST or the gun registration, I decided to confront Regulation 170/03 head on and accept an invitation to a seminar on the subject in Eganville. This informative session was sponsored by the United Church's Bay of Quinte Conference and conducted by a chemist from a company specializing in water technology. Though the emphasis was on churches, the information pertained to all public facilities under the small, non-municipal, non-residential classification.

The speaker began on a positive note by dispelling the myth that an engineering study – said to cost as much as \$15,000 – was required before a system was installed. The first step consists of a site inspection and preliminary water testing. The cost is about \$500.

Most sites with deep wells have until December 31, 2006 to comply and will

require only a primary ultra violet (\$3000 to \$7000) or chlorination (\$3000 to \$25000) system. A secondary system, usually chlorination, (\$3500) is required if the water supply leaves the building. Establishments using ground water affected by surface water (known as GUDI in the industry) must have a filtration system (\$1000 to \$5000) to remove turbidity (sediment). These facilities must comply by July 1, 2005. An engineering evaluation (\$2000 or less) will validate the system after installation. A ball park figure for most churches and halls seems to be from \$5000 to \$7000.

The real kicker is that weekly testing must be carried out, by an accredited laboratory, on samples taken by a trained operator at an average annual lab cost of \$2000. That means forever. Imagine the annual shipping costs from anywhere in our area.

Those wishing to opt out may use bottled water for drinking and cooking, disconnect the water supply from everything, except the toilets, and install a hand-wipe station.

I learned a lot about 170/03 in a very short time, but it was well worth the drive to Eganville just to be able to watch the expression on people's faces when I casually mention the turbidity in their GUDI.

Two recently-published articles, "Over Their Heads," an article in the February 2004 edition of *The United Church Observer* and a more recent column, "Churches May Be Saved Safe Drinking Water Costs," in *The Frontenac News* cited a provision under Section 8 of the regulation, which allows for exemptions by posting warning signs at all taps and entrances to a building.

A glance at Section 8, however, indicates that it's not so simple. Posting signs does not relieve anyone from providing potable water that meets Ontario Water Standards. Organizations must also submit notice of intent (for posting signs) to the MOE Director by December 31, 04, use only MOE designated notices with larger versions at all entrances, notify the MOE Director that all steps have been taken, record weekly checks of all notices and keep these records for five years. After all this, facilities using ground water may be clobbered with a Sunset Date of either July 1, 08 or December 31, 09. The Sunset Date does not apply if: the system supplies water to only a public washroom (toilet) or the facility is a church, service club or fraternal organization that only conducts bake sales or serves meals to only members and invited guests. This poses the question of why anyone would wish to maintain a water supply to taps that can't be used.

In a very recent statement, Ontario Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky said, "It's possible the testing regime may be relaxed, along with municipalities being granted more time to comply with the Act."

To those who may be confused by all the idle chatter and legalese, I can only offer two unassailable pieces of advice. First, search for O. Reg. 170/03 on the Internet and get your information from the horse's mouth. Secondly, when you see the water supply to all taps in your church disconnected, for God's sake, don't drink out of the toilet.

Dear Editor...

Editor's note: The Madawaska Highlander welcomes letters to the editor, but due to space constraints, we can not publish all the submissions we receive. All letters must include the author's name and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity, clarity and good taste. Please limit your letters or e-mails to 300 words or less.

March 14, 2004

Letter to the Editor:

Re: "Opposed to proposed Motorsports Race Track", by Jack Ledger; Highlander, Vol 1, Issue 2, March 2004

After reading Mr Ledgers article in the last Highlander, opposing the Motorsports Track, I cannot quietly sit back any longer. I am now a very concerned citizen of Calabogie!

Since moving here, just over a year ago, to enjoy the beauty, peace and tranquility Calabogie has to offer, I am totally dismayed to find the peace and tranquility being destroyed by a small, vocal group trying to jam their own self-serving interests down our collective community throat. The rumour mongering and disinformation being spread is destroying our Community.

Where does Mr Ledger (and the CCC) get the right to spread distortions, half-truths and innuendo in his article, and imply it is "the community's" position? I take great exception to him titling the article "A Community opposed to proposed Motorsports Race Track". The last time I looked, there has been no referendum to determine the "majority" view! Be truthful Mr Ledger, it is not the Community opposed to the Track, it is the CCC.

Mr Ledger, what grand liberty you have taken with the English language and the facts! For example, how can the Track be on a "plateau overlooking the Madawaska River, Calabogie Lake and Stone's Lake" when it is completely surrounded by forest and not "overlooking" anything? I've driven around that Track and would like to know what portion you think is "over the tree line"? Need I go on? Your article is rife with misinformation and half-truths from beginning to end. I really look forward to reading Mr Fleming's rebuttal next issue. In fact, I am very surprised at how patient the Track Management team has been with you, throughout this whole ordeal.

Mr Ledger, you and the CCC are so concerned about the track producing noise and pollution, yet your community welcomes a vast number of skidoos and ATV's, that travel all over Calabogie and the surrounding areas. **It would be very interesting to know how many CCC members are owners and operators of skidoos and ATV's.** My, my, how loud you would scream if the "majority" in the community supported a ban on the use of your machines in the surrounding area! Do I sense a double standard here?

The truth is, the CCC can't stick to the true facts because they have no real case. From what I have seen, the Track Management Team is doing everything they can to be good corporate citizens and have bent over backwards to mitigate every concern, especially the noise issue.

In my opinion, the only thing that this community needs to be saved from is the CCC!

Please Calabogie Residents, let's not be meek Canadians (Calabogians) any longer. Listen to the facts, not the rumour and innuendo. Then, whether for or against, make your viewpoint known loud and clear. Show Council, once and for all, what the community's true "majority" position is.

Speak up and let's put an end to this divisive nonsense!

J. Maurstad

The Madawaska Highlander

March 15, 2004 (Beware the Ides of March)

Dear Mr. Graham,

This letter is to commend our new Reeve, Paul Doyle, for bringing life to the Greater Madawaska Council.

I have attended Council meetings since July of last year and have sat through sessions that were very dry and uninformative to the public. Questions were asked and no answers were given except the usual response "We will look into that".

The first meeting with our new Reeve was truly a breath of fresh air. The attendees were told that all matters, excepting private legal items, would be made public and we, the public, would have access to any information that was of public concern.

Thank you, Mr. Doyle. I am impressed with your knowledge of all matters that are introduced and your open responses to the questions that are asked. I may not always agree with you but I feel that you are fair and honest. Your sense of humour certainly adds to the meetings as well as your ability to acknowledge your mistakes, few as they are. If you need to eat crow in the future may it be with a tall glass of Guinness.

Pat Green
557 Kennedy Road
Calabogie
613 752-0839

Classified Ads

Editor's note: *Classified ads for The Madawaska Highlander are priced at \$5 for 25 words or less. Each additional word in an ad or announcement will be charged at \$0.20 per word.*

BIRTHANNOUNCEMENT ROSENBLATH

Joey and Jenelle (Holtzhauer) are pleased to announce the birth of their son Caleb Wyatt on May 6th 2004, weighing 8lbs., 3oz. A grandson for Dale and Denise Rosenblath and Terry and Gail Holtzhauer. Great Grandparents are Lawrence Rosenblath, Joan

Deschamp, Roy and Bernice Holtzauer. A Great-great grandson for Mrs. Lena Martin.

BALL

Kevin and Carrie are thrilled to announce that their home is under new management and her name is **Michaela Anne Ball**. She was born March 22 at 12:49 pm, weighing 8lbs 3oz. With a smile so sweet and eyes so big, bright and blue our daughter's arrival has brought great joy. Delighted are proud grandparents, Ardean and Carol Anne Kelly and Cecil and Unita Ball; also, great grandmothers, Audrey Ward of Renfrew and Gladys Ball of Denbigh.

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Dealing with Outages (Part 3)

Continued from page 3

having a 240V output they can also accommodate a deep well pump. For an inverter system, the amount of energy needed will be dependent on the number of batteries in which one is willing to invest. However, if 240V is required a second inverter would be needed, but one of a type that can electronically communicate with (its sister inverter). While generators have the disadvantage of being noisy, cumbersome and needing constant refuelling, inverters are relatively quiet, not heavy and turning them on will likely not require an outdoors adventure. Once you have the batteries, you also have the electricity storage, and if you are willing to go the next step, you could feed those batteries with other energy sources, such as sun and wind. However, if the power remains off too long, without an alternative energy source to recharge your batteries you might need a generator to accomplish a recharge. An inverter/battery system if matched to your power needs, when fully charge should supply your power needs for a day or two.

Inverters come in a vast variety of sizes and features. The best retailers/suppliers for this equipment are the renewable energy businesses. This group has been dealing with residential applications for decades and their product lines have a history of success. Inverter outputs are generally 120V AC with most DC inputs at 12V, 24V and 36V. The AC outputs vary in quality, essentially providing three alternating voltage types: square wave, modified sine wave and perfect sine wave. Cost effective and perhaps the proven workhorse of the industry, is the modified sine wave inverter. It is suitable for induction motors, resistive loads, universal motors, microwave ovens and most electronics. It may fail or frustrate you if you power a device that has a clock circuit in it (and most electronics do) since the wave form will not allow proper time keeping (in many designs), throwing off the functionality of the device that depends on it. If you use compact fluorescent bulb

for lighting, when using the inverter system they will consume much less energy than a DC rated incandescent. But for back up for the short duration, the inverter solution is a good bet for running refrigerators, freezers, lighting, coffee makers, computers and the always popular TV.

With this type of inverter though, you will not be able to put power back into the Hydro lines, so if your intention is to be a seller of electricity, you have to go up a step to the Sine Wave Inverter. Although not perfect, this wave form creates small steps of increasing and decreasing voltage that follow the shape of the smooth sine curve. For almost any device, and to the satisfaction of Hydro One, it works extremely well. Don't even consider using a 'square wave' inverter.

Inverter choice is further complicated by needing to determine to the size of the output, or its wattage. For emergency backup, one should go for the minimum number of devices needing to be powered, and then estimate what the average outage period would be, which can be a tough call.

Determine what devices must run (e.g. fridge, freezer, lighting, etc) and add up the total watts. If the device does not have watts labelled, it should have the Ampere rating and you can find watts by multiplying volts X amps. Fridges and freezers are tough to energize for a small inverter since they draw 6 -10 times the rated amperage for a short period of start-up and drive the voltage down when doing this. The label should have the higher ampere rating for starting or inrush. When the inverter is too small the result is the inverter or the fridge will protect themselves by shutting off before you get fridge going. If the inverter is on the small side, don't allow the larger loads to be connected to it at the same time Plug in big load devices one at a time and let them run for a period of time before plugging in the next device. So what is a small in-

verter? This is where one must discuss the inverter with the supplier, with your requirements in hand.

A good residential unit will actually deliver three times its rated wattage output for about a half minute and double its rating for about a minute and a half. This higher output is necessary to start high inertia loads like compressors. If you don't get this short term higher output capability you won't accomplish much other than powering lighting and electronics. We failed to start a fridge last week with a 1000w inverter. My home has 3600w unit and I can start anything anytime. I suggest that something around 2000w be considered as a minimum and be sure that you discuss with the supplier what you are starting to ensure dependability. Your best bet would be to add up all the inrush loads (fridge, washing machine, pump, etc) and make sure that the inverter can handle these with its inrush rating. Other-

wise you will have to plug in one device at a time, which during an outage may be acceptable to you. If you are going the 240V route, then a pair of inverters, properly sharing the loads in the home, should give you trouble-free running. A 2500w modified sine wave inverter retails around \$1800 to \$2000, and a perfect sine wave is about double that. If you are buying all your equipment from one supplier you can likely negotiate better prices.

The second essential part of the inverter solution is the batteries that you use. The details about batteries will need to wait for the June issue of the *Highlander* since it is as equally lengthy a discourse as this article on inverters. Remember to reduce your hydro usage during peak hours and maybe we'll avoid the need for generators or inverters until the next update on 'power outages'.

Diabetes information

By Barbara Doyle

The Canadian Diabetes Association puts out a newsletter for the Eastern Ontario Region. In the winter 2004 issue, they tell us that in December 2003, the Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Diabetes in Canada was released.

The complete Guidelines can be obtained on the internet at this address: www.diabetes.ca/cpg2003. It is fully searchable and can be downloaded by topic, keyword or browsed by chapter. Any individual can "cut and paste" any section for their own use and reference.

That being said, here are some excerpts from the site:

1. **"New risk factor:** Everyone age 40 and over (down from age 45 and over) is now categorized as being at risk for type 2 diabetes. More than 2.5 million Canadians are aged 40-44; more than 14 million people are age 40 and over in Canada.
2. **Lower blood glucose targets:** Most people with diabetes should strive for a lower A1C (glycated hemoglobin – a test of the average blood glucose levels over the previous three months) below seven per cent. If achievable safely, an A1C of less than six percent (the normal range) should be attempted. Keeping blood glucose levels in these ranges has shown to prevent the onset and/or delay the progression of such diabetes complications as kidney disease and stroke, eye disease, and limb amputation due to nerve damage.
3. **Lower blood pressure and cholesterol targets:** People with diabetes should aim for a blood pressure target of 130/80 or below, as well as lower cholesterol and lipid levels, these lower levels are known to substantially reduce the most prevalent diabetes complications – heart disease and stroke.
4. **Recognition of diabetes as a cardiovascular disease:** A full eighty per cent of people with diabetes will die from cardiovascular disease (heart disease and stroke). Earlier prevention, earlier diagnosis and very aggressive treatment of diabetes by controlling blood glucose levels, blood pressure and lipid levels, have been proven to prevent or significantly delay damage to the body's large blood vessels."

There is a wealth of information on the Canadian Diabetes Association's website, so do not hesitate to search it out. It is amazing how positive reinforcement will help you maintain your diabetic self care.



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GRIFFITH-MATAWATCHAN NEWS

By Garry Ferguson

DENBIGH GRIFFITH LIONS

The Lions are beginning their summer activities, on May 21, with The Feeding of The Black Flies, a local bloodletting rite better known as “working the toll road.” The toll stations this year will set up, at noon, in Denbigh near the municipal garage and in Griffith near the Rapids End Store. Proceeds from this project go toward the Lions annual \$5,000.00 slice of their \$25,000.00 pledge to the Renfrew Victoria Hospital (RVH). This worthwhile effort needs our support, so round up your change (or ten spots) and drop by one of these locations. One can never tell when the old carcass may have to be towed into the RVH for some repairs.

For bingo addicts looking for a fix, the Griffith Lions Hall is the place to be twice a month. For a few loonies you can have a bag of chips, get a chance at the jackpot and rub shoulders with some of the best bingo sharpies this side of Ottawa.

MATAWATCHAN HALL

The euchre and darts evenings, this winter, were a roaring success as far as the participants were concerned. There seemed to be considerable disappointment when they ended for the summer. These functions require a good deal of effort from board members, not only in the preparation and conducting, but in performing their janitorial act next day. The help already given by a few good

locals has been appreciated, so keep it coming.

There’s a tough new tiled floor surface where the rug used to be. Those who have, in the past, found the rug a comfortable place to snooze through the wee hours of some dance, take heed: the tiles are cold and they’re hard. Those wishing to try it out anyway may do so at the Black Fly Dance on Mat, 22nd but I don’t think there’ll be any snoozing. Ron Hiderman’s Band will be back for a repeat performance of last year’s spring shindig. I have a feeling that folks will still be rocking long after the music has stopped.

Though the annual (120th) Canada Day Matawatchan Picnic – held on Saturday, July 3 - is sponsored by St. Andrew’s United Church, it’s been held at the hall for the past several decades. The fact that the Hall’s July Summer Dance (9 p.m.) follows the day’s festivities means that a number of board members become involved in both functions. The picnic will feature the famous Matawatchan stew dinner, beginning at 12 noon and musical entertainment from 2 p.m. on. A number of fine musicians from the Renfrew area will join up with local talent so there’ll be a whole lot of fiddlin’ going on.

The weekend festivities end with the Sunday, July 4th fun ballgame beside the hall. All are welcome to play – whether you can catch a ball or not – or just sit and watch. Players who still haven’t gone home from the dance may qualify

for a cot, providing it doesn’t block the base lines.

The Hall Board will hold its own picnic and barbecue on July 24th so grab a chair, come on out, have a hamburger and enjoy some low-key socializing.

THE FISH AND GAME CLUB

The busiest and largest club in town has a pretty hectic summer planned providing the pickerel ever get around to spawning and letting members finish their count. From the chatter out there, I’m led to believe that they could count more eyes in a rain barrel. I’m also led to believe that the annual count is not as simple as people think. Apparently there’s a lot of math involved. They count eyes and divide by two.

Members will be performing their own janitorial act during the cleanup at Dunn’s Lake on June 26th. This is not only an unselfish contribution to the community, but a lot of fun – especially if fellows struggling to do the impossible with dull chainsaws tickle your funny bone. If you’re interested in the Kid’s Fishing Derby or The Pig Roast held on July 17th and July 31st respectively, contact Karen Gaulin at 333 – 1206. Don’t forget the garage and bake sale at Lacourse’s Hardware Store on August 7th. Because of the date, I’m hoping that this one is in honour of my (29th, snicker) birthday.

NINETIETH PARTY

Though late by a day, Clifford Ferguson’s relatives and friends gathered

in the Matawatchan Hall to celebrate his ninetieth birthday on Saturday, April 28th. The old hall was filled to overflowing with those who came to wish him well, listen to Mac McCallum’s musicians and enjoy a delicious dinner of ham and scalloped potatoes. We’re hoping the relatives put on another spread like that on his 100th.

PETITION REPETITION

A number of petitions, objecting to Ontario Regulation 170/03, requiring any facility taking water from a non-municipal source to have its water system assessed and brought up to standards by the end of 2006 at the latest, are circulating throughout The Valley. The regulation, which came about as a result of the Walkerton tragedy four years ago, is seen as excessive and unfair to a region like ours where the air is pure – as are the inhabitants - the well water clean and domestic herds to foul it few and far between.

Rumour has it that Ontario Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky will be making an announcement soon on the water issue, but we’re still waiting.

I’m aware of two such petitions in our little corner: one was originated by St. Luke’s United Church in Denbigh and the other by St. Andrew’s in Matawatchan. Most rural folk seem happy to sign when asked, though a few of my acquaintances are luke-warm about the whole issue. They claim that drinking water only rusts your innards.

Denbigh Checking In !!!

By Evelyn Inwood

Oh, it’s a very wet day! The skies are grey and the rain keeps repeating its downpour and the air seems so heavy. But April showers bring May flowers; at least that’s the old saying. I do see that my tulips have popped up about 4 inches and by the time you read this, their flowers will have come and probably gone.

Are there any birds at your house? We have had a fair number. It is so good to see them flitting around to look for food and to find a home to lay their eggs and start the cycle over.

Gilbert and I have completed our OWL Survey for 2004. We have been doing the survey since 1999 and find the process really interesting. To do the survey, we must be a member of Bird Studies Canada and be prepared to spend three hours listening in the night for “the call of the owl” and when they do call back, it is well worth the time and effort!

NEWS FROM DENBIGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hours open:

Tuesday: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Thursday: 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 12 noon

Coming in June:

1. Nothing is Impossible (Christopher Reeve)
2. Guinness World Records 2004
3. 2004 New Car Guide- Consumer Guide
4. Sam’s Letters to Jennifer (James Patterson)
5. Unlucky In Love (Perry O’Shaughnessy)
6. Dark Horse- (Tami Hoag)
7. People of the Owl (Kathlean O’Near Gear)
8. Daughters of Eden (Charlotte Bingham)
9. Bare Bones (Kathy Reichs)
10. A Little Fate (Nora Roberts)
11. Wild Orchids (Jude Deveraux)
12. Between Sisters (Kristin Hannah)

13. Second Chance (Danielle Steel), and many more!

The Denbigh Library CEO, Board Members and staff would like to thank everyone who came out and supported us at our May 1st sale. Over \$300 was raised from this sale, which will go towards the cost of our Children’s Summer Reading Program. Details of the program are available at the Library and will also be sent home from the school.

We encourage you to come out and check out our new craft and cooking sections.

Wheel chair access has been completed and the two new computers are ready for use.

NEWS FROM DENBIGH PUBLIC SCHOOL

1. May 6 - Grandparents & friends Tea
2. May 13 - School Spirit Day -

- Stuffed Animal
3. May 24 - Holiday - Victoria Day
4. June 11 - School Spirit Day - Opposite
5. June 17 - LOGO’S Land - Trip for the whole school
6. June 22 - Awards Ceremony 1:00 p.m. in the gym
7. June 24 - **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

OPP K9 UNIT VISITS DENBIGH PUBLIC SCHOOL

On Thursday, April 8, Constables Jackie Perry, Helen Lamont and Glen Perry visited the school with a very special guest. The special guest was “BUD” and he is an 8 year old German Shepherd. He showed everyone how he could sniff out drugs and attack on command. Students learned that “BUD” helps to track missing people and helps to find criminals.

Greater Madawaska Literary Matters

By Mary-Joan Hale

Well, since the last edition of *The Highlander*, I have met many new faces in the library. It was wonderful to welcome patrons from all over Greater Madawaska. For some of you living at a distance from Calabogie, I hope that the trek was worth it. Library membership is yours for a smile. A portion of the funding for the library comes from the provincial coffers and another from the municipality so you do help pay for it in your tax bill! The balance of the funding comes from donations and grants. In the past few years, these have made up the bulk of the support. Eventually we hope to offer remote services in the further reaches of this large township. If you would like to see that happen, contact your council representative.

The Library Board will be mailing out a survey to help us plan for the future. It is only one page and straightforward. In keeping with our Mission Statement which commits us to literacy for all ages in the township, we are asking for your guidance so that we might provide the best service to you. Please watch for it in the mail and return it as soon as you can. The library is yours and we are committed to meeting your needs.

The Pre-school program on Tuesday mornings is into the second year. Through songs, nursery rhymes, finger play, crafts and sharing great books, the children are introduced to the joys of reading. Community visitors from the O.P.P., fire fighters, the school nurse and

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!
On Thursday, April 15, 2004 students and staff participated in the annual "Jump Rope for Heart" campaign to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The students raised \$1,659.00 and the school has earned points, which will be used to purchase new gym equipment.

And to finish this time, a few lines from Ruby Malcolm's poetry collection:

1. "I have feet to take me where I'd go,
I have eyes to see the sunset's glow,
I have ears to hear what I would hear,
O God, forgive me when I whine:
I'm blessed indeed — the world is mine!"
2. Yesterday is a cancelled cheque
Tomorrow is a promissory note
Today is the only asset you have
Spend it wisely!

Santa have delighted the children. Our Public Health Nurse visits every 5 to 6 weeks for a Well Baby Clinic. She weighs the infants, visits with the children and their parents, and answers questions about parenting and childcare.

All of the 'CBC Canada Reads' books are available in the library.

- *The last crossing*:
Guy Vanderhaeghe
- *Barney's version*:
Mordecai Richler
- *The love of a good woman*:
Alice Munro
- *Green grass, running water*:
Thomas King
- *The heart is an involuntary muscle*:
Monique Proulx


After much discussion, the CBC panel voted for "The last crossing" as their choice. It was also the People's choice in a CBC survey. This is the first time that this happened. Go to <http://cbc.ca/canadareads/people'schoice.htm> to view the People's choice top 20 Canadian books. It is interesting to note that all five were listed. The first four are from the Canada Reads list for 2004. Monique Proulx's was number 15. Send us your votes for Canadian literature. Let us know what Greater Madawaska readers think. Results will be published in a future edition of *The Highlander*.

- NEW ADDITIONS:**
- Adult fiction: Scott Mackay: Cold comfort; Jacqueline Carey: Kushiel's avatar; Michel Basilières: Black bird; Mary Sheldon: Reflection.
 - Reference: (in-house use): The Oxford dictionary of quotations; The Cambridge guide to Literature in English; Roget's Thesaurus; Chambers biographical dictionary. The World Book Student Discovery Encyclopedia. This is a gift from the Friends of the Library.
 - Children: Florence Paige Jaques: There once was a puffin; Andreas Dierssen: Timid Timmy.

Please note that Summer Hours start June 1st. We will be closed Friday mornings and open from 4:00 to 7:30 p.m. The rest of the week remains the same. Come for a visit and stay for awhile!

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Blazing Paddles

By Ernie Jukes

Here is an easy, step by step guide, for a family or group of friends to canoe-camp their way into big fish, a packstack of laughs and an economical adventure to boot.

The early Ontario morning air was still cool but clear as we slipped our canoe into the warm July waters of the Madawaska River. Through the rising mists we could make out a great blue heron taking off as we stroked away from shore to commence our expedition.

This stable old craft always brings back the past for me. History proves that no single object did more to open up the land, carrying early explorers and trappers, than the native canoe. And here we are 400 years later still enjoying it.

As a simple introduction to this grand and almost perfect craft, let's have a look at her anatomy. First there is the bow, thus the bowman. The other end, the stern holds the sternsman, who normally steers her. By the way, was it Erik the Red's wife who started referring to all watercraft in the feminine gender?

There are decks, seats and cross-bars called thwarts, all joined to the top mouldings called gunnels. Flip the canoe upside down and the ridge you see going lengthwise is called a keel. Plastic hull design allows more than one. This helps keep the canoe on track when paddling and prevents blowing all over the lake in a wind. White water canoes are keel-less, for greater manoeuvrability. Keep an eye also to hull shape for improved stability and movement.

Don't get caught up any creek without a paddle. There's a variety of shapes and materials; maple, ash, cherry, fibreglass, heavy, light, laminated. A guide here would be not to sacrifice strength for lightness, and a blade wider than six or seven inches may wear you out. The stern paddle should be longer than the bowman's for easier steering, a general rule is bow paddle to the chin, stern to the eye. Always take a spare along in case you crack one.

Our 16 foot Fibreglass canoe, her scratches and patches showing her wear, was wide, deep, strong and unsinkable. A canoe should "feel" and respond comfortably, a 15' or 16' with a 32"-35" beam and 13" to 14" of depth are good trip specs. to start with. The surge of present canoe use has brought about change in styles and materials. There are canoes for racing, sailing, touring, open or covered, made of Cedarstrip, Aluminum, Fibreglass, Royalex/ABS or Kevlar, which is used in bullet proof vests. Different shapes, different weights, different prices. A proper one can last a life-

time.

Past buyers have been able to choose from reliable names like Peterborough, Chestnut, Lakefield, Old Town, Sawyer, Grumman, Scott and more. A few of these firms still exist and there are dozens of new manufacturers, some good, some bad, some really bad. Try them out with an experienced canoeist before you make your purchase. If the dealer won't allow this—don't buy it! Also watch the classified ads for a used one.

You can start by reading a selection of the many excellent books on canoeing.



Then borrow or rent a canoe, find a quiet stretch of water and with first hand instruction become familiar with the basics. It is especially important at the outset to learn how to board, how to stop, how to steer, how to land and carry.

Remember, before getting into any boat make sure it's completely afloat. Hold the canoe steady while your partner boards. Then they can hold for you with their paddle pushing on the shallow bottom. For stability's sake the novice should kneel on a rubber pad with buns against the edge of the seat. When you stop on shore the pad becomes a seat. Passengers may sit flat on the bottom with their back against a thwart and paddle too. For comfort wear loose pants and top.

Now with much care you have picked your route, practiced your strokes, and collected your canoe and equipment. Let's go over your checklist: first and foremost sun lotion with paba UV screen, wear it daily with lipsal, life jackets, rain gear, hats, patching kit, flashlight, first aid kit, insect repellent, canoe ropes fore and aft, map and compass. A sheathed axe, folding saw and dining fly are needed. Other personal or group equipment are well outlined in publications readily available from your library. Be sure to take garbage bags to bring out all your unburnable garbage.

Travel light with bedrolls and clothing double waterproofed in two large garbage bags, tightly tied, and then put into a canvas duffle bag to prevent puncture.

Factors that will increase your pleasure are genial and willing companions, an appetizing, nutritional menu and comfortable sleeping conditions, sleeping pads help. Take time to investigate flora, fauna or historical spots along your route to keep it interesting. It is important to stop early to pitch camp and only cover distances that are in keeping with your group's condition and experience. The scout motto "Be Prepared" becomes

hour or so drive of most cities. Natural Resources offer routes and maps. If you only want to go one way, meet a vehicle at the other end. Allow lots of time, rushing can cause fatigue and accidents, so take things easy and enjoy the trip, rain or shine.

We prefer to keep the last day of paddling a short one for various reasons. Unfortunately a canoe journey is always over much too soon. We were on our homestretch to the big bridge over the Madawaska. In the distance we could see the reflection of our mini-van sitting in the sun near the boat ramp. Not so strangely, everyone seemed to pull their paddles a bit harder, perhaps quietly envisioning that in a few hours time we would be stopping for some delicious ice cream on our way back home. Not very inspirational compared to nature's offerings, but another pleasant treat all the same.

A few last words, keep it simple, go with the right attitude, and hang on to it, if you do you will probably delight in it. Out there sits an important part of our heritage. There is your opportunity to experience the outdoors from the water and embrace the peace and pleasure that it offers. With lofty sentiments millions would agree the benefits of canoeing are invaluable. But it's also extra nice to know that here is an outdoor activity that can fit most anyone's budget and a sure way to catch fish, in places the big boat people simply can not go. Please enjoy it all safely. Pace yourself....tomorrow will be here for sure—even if you are not!

more important as you ramble further off the beaten waterways.

There are many enjoyable routes for beginners and family canoeing within an

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Your Property Valuation

By David Lester

Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on MPAC and property assessment by local real estate broker David Lester. The first part published in the March issue of the Madawaska Highlander was entitled: The world of MPAC / municipal taxing and your property values.

If you read your MPAC valuation form correctly, you noted that you had until the end of March to contact the ARB (Arbitration Review Board) to let them know that you wanted to appeal your assessment. You may have also noted that you can get MPAC to come over anytime up to the end of 2004 to have another look at re-evaluating your situation if you think it's wrong and didn't appeal.

Of course, you'll have to prove to them why they were incorrect and that could be a bit tougher, but still, it's there and available. Those that did file Notice of Appeal found that they needed to lay down \$50 as a charge to lodge the Appeal. Of course, if you settle between now and the ARB date with MPAC, then you'll get your \$50 back. In the meantime, you should contact MPAC and arrange a discussion of what you think is wrong with your assessment through an RfR (Request for Reconsideration). Now the good stuff

HOW DO YOU WIN AT THE ARB?

First, there is one overriding element that the ARB looks at and that is the ASR. Formally known as the Assessment to Sales Ratio. In effect, it's the ratio you get by comparing the assessment given by MPAC for a property and the actual value that it sold for. For instance, if MPAC said that the house was worth \$90,000 and it sold for \$100,000 then $90/100 = .90$ or, in English, it was val-

ued at 90% of its sale price. That would be good for MPAC as they were close but not over.

If it was the other way around, MPAC thought it was worth 100 and it sold for 90, then you'd have an over valuation of 1.11 or 11% and then MPAC would have to justify why its valuation was out of whack. So logic says that MPAC would rather err on the low side than the high side right? Yes, and at the same time, if they say the value is lower than you think you should get on the market, you may be less likely to want to appeal right... maybe?

But remember what I said before, the valuations always seem to be lower than the actual value you could get for your home on the open market. You must remember that MPAC is only "grouping" homes and not actually setting a retail value. The Real Estate market does that when buyers buy. It really doesn't matter to the tax people what value is placed on your home as long as the same "value" of taxes are paid by equal and even home value levels and there's an element of fairness involved.

GROUP ALL THE REDS TOGETHER

Remember the "group all the reds together" routine I mentioned last time? Same here. They can undervalue your home to the point that you feel its way below market value and you would be more than likely to accept that value because it's to your benefit. Right? So they group everyone lower and then the municipality has to raise the mill rate to achieve the same amount of money coming in. Really simple and right ... Wrong Since you could still be paying more taxes than you should because MPAC doesn't set the tax rate; the municipality does and MPAC only tries to assure a proper distribution of the tax bite.

What if you are placed in the higher red group and you should have been placed in the lower yellow group (if you get my drift)? In a direct comparison method, MPAC is supposed to visit your home each year and note any improvements or changes. They don't seem to have the manpower for all that visiting so sometimes they might use a generic "umbrella" valuing plan in their black box statistical analysis, as in, building materials seem to have gone up about 10% so ...

Now do you see what's wrong? How do you fight the guys who say your home is worth less than it really may be and never came around to make sure they caught your neighbour, who added the pool and a garage, and you didn't? Well, you do your homework (pun intended).

You have to have comparables to say whether your home is located in the right group or not. Let's say the guy down the road has a fireplace, a two car garage, large back deck and is over 1500 sq ft., while you're only a single garage, no fireplace and a small back deck and less than 1300 sq ft. Is it fair that you should pay as much as him in taxes? Under our present system, no, but it really doesn't take into account that perhaps he compared his home to a more expensive one and won his appeal and you accepted yours and let the value slide upwards. You crept up into his bracket because you didn't feel like saying anything. He crept down to yours because he did say something. Sorry, but if you're not vigilant, you have no one to complain to but your wife and kids (and even in my house, they refuse to listen when I rant).

GOING TO THE ARB

So let's get to the ARB as see what we should bring and say. The ASR (Assessment to Sales Ratio) is very important as it could show the judges that your home was valued more than you actually purchased it for or what similar homes in the area sold for in the present period (plus or minus a shoulder year, if there's little data available). Here's a perfect example. You bought your home for 90K and the valuation is 120K. You show up and have the sales records and the sale occurred within the time of the

valuation and believe me, you've got it made. Actually, if you show up and make a sensible defense at all, you should be fine, as the ARB understands that the MPAC group has all the statistics to back up its argument and you have very little information and are just a little guy (don't forget a tear or two).

ARGUMENTS THAT YOU CAN MAKE

In general here are the arguments you can make ...

- 1) The value of my neighbour's home is the same or lower than mine and he has a better home and it's just not fair. (You'll need detailed descriptions of both to make this argument work).
- 2) The valuation does not take into account the fact that we have very heavy traffic on my street as compared to last year and here's a report to prove it from the roads department.
- 3) There's now a great deal of noise and pollution since the cement plant opened up across the street and we would not be able to get full market value for our home if we sold it. Or, the valuation doesn't take our real life problems of selling our home into account. i.e. the land just slides down the cliff at the back of the house and we have an independent engineers report showing our house shifted and is not marketable. OR, every time a dump truck goes by, the toilets shake and there are cracks (here's the pictures your honor) all over the walls.
- 4) They got the size of my house incorrect. It's not 1500 sq ft., it's only 1300 sq ft. or it isn't on the waterfront but only has a little view of the waterfront or is "water access" and not "waterfront".

These are factual arguments that you can win and probably get a reduction in valuation if your property fits. So, it would seem that the most important thing to find out



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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.
Rev. Angela Cory 333-2381

Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Church

Griffith
Saturday Mass 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.
Esmond Sunday Mass 9:00 a.m.

Hilltop Tabernacle

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

DENBIGH AND VENNACHAR

Vennachar Free Methodist Church

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Luke's United Church

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

Drop In Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. to noon
Memorial Service –

June 20 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Angela Cory 333-2381

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Memorial Service –
August 15 2:00 p.m.

The New Apostolic Church

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

CALABOGIE

Calabogie Bible Fellowship – Congregational Church

Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m.
• Prayer & Praise (1st & 3rd Sunday)
• The Lord's Supper & praise (2nd Sunday)
• Healing Ministry (4th Sunday)
Wednesday (Bible Study) 7:00 p.m.

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church

Calabogie - Saturday Mass – 5:00 p.m.
Calabogie – Sunday – 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH EVENTS

St. Andrews United Church – Matawatchan

- Strawberry Social – July 10, 4 to 6 p.m.
- The St. Andrews United Church Women's Group will be sponsoring dinners, bake sales, flea markets etc. to raise money for the summer camp facility at Golden Lake and for the Millennium Garden / Coffee Club.

Contact Bill Graham 333-1694 or Richard Copeland 333-1551 to have items placed in future issues of the paper.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Matawatchan Hall

Matawatchan Hall
- Black fly Sping Dance –
May 22, 9:00 p.m. (Live music)
- Matawatchan Church Picnic –
July 3, 11:00 a.m.
- Matawatchan Summer Dance –
July 3, 9:00 p.m.
- Ball Game – July 4, 1:00 p.m.

Griffith-Matawatchan Fish & Game

- Dunn's Lake Clean-up –
June 26, 10:00 a.m.

The Highlands Women's Group

A multi-community Garage and craft Sale is planned for Saturday, June 5 between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Stop 41, 22353 Highway 41 in Denbigh. In case of rain, go to 2515 Highway 41. Tables are \$10 and to reserve a table call Mary at 33-5120 or Juliette at 33-1352.

Busy Bees Craft Club

Meet the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. in the Matawatchan Hall. New members and visitors welcome. For information, contact Jackie Jenks 333-5542

"Northern Lights" Seniors

Meet the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. alternating between Griffith and Matawatchan. For information con-

tact Lois Robbins at 333-1082. **All Seniors Welcome**

Community Bus Service

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

Fellowship Luncheon

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

Diners Club

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

HEALTH CARE

Paramed Health Care Services Foot Care Clinic/Denbigh

Call 333-5559, Muriel Burgess, for an appointment.

Community Joys and Concerns

A big thank you to my friends, neigh-

bours and the congregation of St. Andrews for cards, visits, phone calls and flowers when I was in hospital.

Thanks also to Betty MacPherson for her care of my home. (Marion Rahm)

Sympathy

To Barbara Doyle and family on the passing of her husband Paul.

To the family of Allan Lambert

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An Issue of Rights and Respect for Ratepayers, Affected or Otherwise

By James Henderson,
Chairperson for CCC

The organization, Calabogie Concerned Citizens (CCC), was created in response to what is a significant intrusion on the rights of the many property owners surrounding the tract of land for the proposed Motorsport Park (CMP), as well as for all of the many residents and visitors to the region. The idea of 'intrusion on the right of others' is something which appears to have been lost to the developers and supporters of the Track, who seem to believe that their development plans should not be challenged.

Such was the tone of CMP's article in the March issue of the *Madawaska Highlander*. CCC appreciates the opportunity presented by the Editor of the *Madawaska Highlander* to comment on and challenge the statements made by CMP in that article.

RUMOUR AND MISINFORMATION

"We (CMP) were being asked to dispel the misinformation and rumour being circulated by CCC..."

CCC took its position as a result of an investigation of the experiences at other racetracks around Ontario and the USA. Since the same track designer was also involved in some of the other tracks investigated and since these other fully operational tracks were experiencing public opposition due to excessive noise problems, CCC and other property owners could ill afford to sit by silently.

To say that there is a lot of misinformation floating around is correct, albeit from which side? One only has to examine the information being published by CMP then decide what is fact or fiction! In a recorded letter to the former Council, signed by Chris Fleming, "thank you for your co-operation and confidentiality" Why the secrecy?

THE PROJECT

Why are there several versions of the CMP project? Their own advertisements and information releases state that CMP will be designed to meet professional level competition and be suitable to host national level races. Other Quotes—Wilson Motorsport:

- "Project goals for a Mt. Tremblant type facility ..."
- "the master plan for the facility will include the potential for expansion into spectator events"
- "it is inevitable that a race facility will result in some level of noise!"
- "there may be occasions where noise from the track might be able to be heard over portions of the

Calabogie recreational area" quotes – John Hamilton

- "for the first couple of years we're not going to have the infrastructure to support big races"

This project has been both minimized and maximized depending on the audience!

THE PLANNING PROCESS

"On 09 May 2003, The Greater Madawaska Township passed a motion to allow us to continue with the planning process"

Council's motion to allow the planning process to proceed should have in no way implied any kind of long-term approval for development. Nor did it indicate any endorsement to commence expensive construction of the track, including relocating a portion of the Wilson Farm Township Road. It seems that CMP may have made that giant leap considering that they proceeded beyond the planning stage to the physical development stage. Planning suggests devising a program of action and nothing more. In no way should our present administration or any citizen be influenced by CMP's misplaced enthusiasm. A property owner may undertake plans to build a house. It would be foolish of him to go ahead and build that house without first getting necessary permits or rezoning.

"We carried out preliminary work ... on our land to establish the sub-grades of the road. This then allowed engineers to conduct a proper comprehensive sound study".

We believe proceeding may have had more to do with part of their strategic planning to pressure Council into approving the re-zoning. This is unacceptable.

CMP SITE LOCATION

CMP identify the location as being 275 acres in the centre sector of 1,200 acres. Why is it that their maps clearly identify the location in the South Western sector? Why does CMP continue to measure distances from the centre of the site to any outlying residence? Cars and motorcycles will run on the track, which includes the outer perimeter of the 275 acres. Distances from the actual road course are therefore much closer to adjacent properties and residences than suggested, as close as 1.25 KM. There are letters in Council files from residents in other racetrack communities that indicate racetrack noise can be heard as far away as 12 KM.

"We undertook drainage, traffic and sound studies, MOE dialogue, planning

reports, and MNR approvals to properly assess and professionally answer questions".

It should be noted that all reports are based on the developer's intent, which can change. It should also be clarified that MOE dialogue is only that. This in no way implies that MOE has given CMP a go ahead. And what approvals were received from MNR? This was not clarified.

"A professional sound study has concluded that CMP will operate within the strict noise requirements set forth by the Ministry of Environment ..."

How CMP operates will be up to the developers. These are MOE Guidelines and not enforceable law. Also, the CMP noise studies are based on models, which are open to interpretation and have been challenged.

"What you will not find is night lighting, towers with loudspeakers, grandstands or large spectator parking areas".

With another 975 acres available for expansion, further development may only be a matter of time. Once rezoning is approved, all that is required, for each of the above noted additions, is to get further approvals, which will be virtually unstoppable once the adjoining property has already been zoned for a racetrack. It is the same situation, which might be experienced by a high-rise apartment building applying for a permit to add an outdoor pool. We foresee the probability that this development, if successful, will result in further expansion onto any part of the remaining 925 acres, which would be even closer to residences.

"An additional 2400 acres of vacant fully treed land surrounds this yet again – ideal for sound mitigation".

Science has proven that vegetation has little effect on sound propagation at certain frequencies. Further more, this land could be cleared of trees at anytime. In fact, a sizeable area of the Algoma land was clear-cut a few years ago.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

"Create demand for services at other establishments.... Attendees and family will require lodging, food and gas The influx of new tourists and their economic support will add to our community's economy and growth of services and businesses to all".

Information from other racetracks and magazine articles indicate that many racers bring their own accommodations, food, refreshments and even their own

gas! CMP literature and presentations have stated, that there will only be a small number of racers using the track and there will be no spectators... there is a big "GAP" between that and this latest statement re "influx of tourists". CMP mentions a new economic base. What about the existing tourists, will they continue to visit or go elsewhere? The question of real estate values and other land issues also is of grave concern and we already have on record letters about the negative affects in the areas around the proposed track.

"The proposed park would generate \$65,000 + in tax revenue".

The myth that additional property tax revenues are a benefit to a municipality has been disproved long ago. In many rural and urban communities, where property tax revenues have increased due to the addition of new development properties of necessity resulted in increased cost of services in direct proportion to the increased tax revenue. The township has already experienced additional costs for the administration, legal and planning of this proposal.

THANK YOU

"Historically, a small number of very vocal individuals have aggressively fought change".

This is misinformation! There are over two hundred full time and seasonal residents who have expressed their concern with a racetrack in the area. Many more individuals have expressed their support for our efforts. Few if any of these individuals would be opposed to traditional "non nuisance" types of development done in accordance with today's planning standards.

CCC appreciates the opportunity presented by the Editor of the *Madawaska Highlander* to comment and challenge statements from various CMP documents & releases.



A Response to the Concerned Citizens of Calabogie

By John Hamilton

We'd like to start by thanking the *Madawaska Highlander* for the fair and unbiased coverage of the proposed Calabogie MotorSport Park (CMP), and the opportunity to once again attempt to clarify some of the misinformation being spread by a small group of opponents, the Calabogie Concerned Citizens "CCC".

It's been almost a year since the May 9th, 2003 public meeting with Greater Madawaska Township Council, where the following motion was passed with unanimous support :

"The Municipality, after a preliminary review of the concept presented by Mr. Fleming endorses the plan as shown and request they proceed into discussions with various affected Ministries and to enter into discussions with the County Planning Department to negotiate a development agreement...we wish you continued success with your proposal."

Since then there has been much speculation and debate within the community as to what exactly was being envisioned for the former Algoma lands east of Calabogie and Highway 511. The nature of the project meant exploratory work would be required on the site before accurate answers could be given to some of the questions voiced by the residents of the community, and those surrounding the property. As with any good business, a great deal of analysis needed to be done before the project could be determined to be a viable undertaking.

OUR MESSAGE HAS BEEN CLEAR

Calabogie MotorSports' message has been clear, consistent, and forthcoming since the outset of the project. A community outreach program began early last summer with the establishment of an information phone line, and meetings with several of the prominent groups in Calabogie (Council, Seniors, CABA, among others). The key concern voiced at this time was the potential noise that would come from groups renting the facility. The sound engineering firm of SS Wilson and Associates was retained by Calabogie MotorSports in late June to perform a detailed sound impact study on the facility and its potential effect on the surrounding community. Results became available in October at which time an open house and public information session were held to discuss the results.

The study indicated that Calabogie MotorSports would be able to operate the proposed road course within the strict noise criteria of Ontario. Since then, the sound study has been peer re-

viewed by Hugh Williamson, a noise engineer retained by the County for Greater Madawaska Township. The results of the SS Wilson study were confirmed, and from this a sound management plan was drafted with several monitoring procedures – including a full sound audit to be undertaken after the first year of operation.

CLARIFICATION ON THEIR ARGUMENTS

It is unfortunate the 'Save Calabogie' group continues to spread misinformation. As evidenced in their previous article submitted to the *Madawaska Highlander*, and in propaganda distributed to local residents, they do not provide facts – they simply imply – hoping that people will imagine the worst. The CCC has had ample time to try and validate their claims, but have yet to provide any factual information. Their key arguments remain unsubstantiated, and must be clarified yet again:

- Future Expansion – the application for rezoning applies ONLY to the 275 acres within the 1200 acres of buffer land owned by Calabogie MotorSports. The site plans submitted to the township do not include any amenities for spectator-oriented events – no grandstands, no parking, and there is no provision for lighting or loudspeakers. Any expansion beyond the current proposal would be subject to the public process starting over from the beginning.
- Comparable facilities? – the repeated attempts to try and compare the proposed road course to an IHRA DRAG STRIP in St Thomas, Ontario, typifies the research undertaken by the CCC. There is no comparison. St Thomas operates during the evening until past 10 pm, has housing near the facility, and does not have to comply with the provincial noise criteria as it has been an active drag strip since before any standards were implemented (30+ years). Calabogie MotorSports Park will never have drag racing, nor will it have vehicles that come close to emitting the noise levels that the jet fuel dragsters can produce.
- BeaveRun, Pennsylvania – this is a facility where neighbouring residences are within 250 feet of the track surface. The property devaluations referred to by the CCC, resulted in a TOTAL tax revenue loss of \$3000 dollars to the local economy. What they neglect to mention is that taxes paid on the property before BeaveRun was built amounted to a total of \$1700, and

since opening have risen to more than \$120,000. The local economy has reportedly seen over six million dollars come into the community as a direct result of the facility since its opening in 2002, and some sixty new full and part-time jobs being created.

- Environment – the majority of the land for the proposed road course is a worked out gravel pit. The Ministries of Natural Resources (MNR) and of the Environment (MOE) have both been consulted & involved in the project since its inception. CMP has exceeded all requirements and MNR protocols. The risk of accidents causing any sort of spillage on the site have been documented to be negligible, and as part of the comprehensive emergency plan, the use of special absorption materials will be implemented immediately to not only protect the asphalt surface, but ultimately to protect the environment.
- Traffic – the site plan submitted to Township has provided for 50-70 parking spaces. On the busiest days, the facility will see less vehicle traffic than the local golf courses, and far less than the ski resort.
- Location - The facility was described by the CCC as being built on a plateau overlooking the Madawaska River, Stones Lake, and Calabogie Lake. A visit to the site or an aerial photograph will quickly prove that this is simply not the case.

Calabogie MotorSports has extended the CCC the courtesy of providing them with all new information and official reports as they have become available. The same cannot be said for the Save Calabogie group. A review of the sound study was conducted by Jade Acoustics on behalf of the CCC, and submitted to Council with a disclaimer that the information for the study was based solely on parameters supplied by the CCC, that the reviewer had never even been to Calabogie, and that they could not be held responsible for any of the information. This became very evident in the study, as many of the comments were not even applicable to the situation, and any potential concerns were easily clarified.

The sound management plan that is being submitted to the Township is legally binding, permanent, and registered on title with the site plan agreement. SS Wilson and Township noise consultant Hugh Williamson are currently nearing completion of this important document.

It is important to understand that the facility meets the criteria in the Official Plan for Renfrew County – we would not be this far into the process if it hadn't. There will be minimal draw on Township services, and in fact, the required ambulance and fire safety equipment on-site will be available to the community, and will be in a position to bolster and supplement existing Township emergency services, providing highly qualified and immediate response to serious emergency situations.

THE TRACK WILL BRING MANY POSITIVE BENEFITS

The positive economic impact that the facility will have on the community cannot be underestimated. Jobs WILL be created, and significant tourism dollars WILL be brought into the community. Calabogie MotorSports Park has no interest or plans to provide lodging or meals for clients of the facility - the community will be heavily relied on for this and many other essential services that the users will require.

If the CCC is determined to participate in the planning process, we encourage them to make judgements and proposals based on qualified research and factual information. Their campaign of fear-mongering and misinformation only serve in presenting the image of a community divided.

Calabogie MotorSports is committed to making the road course facility a valued and integral part of the community. We encourage residents to visit the site, review the information and reports submitted to Council over the past twelve months, and to visit our website or call our information line at 752-1252.

www.CalabogieMotorSports.com



HIGHLAND CATTLE: the oldest known breed of cattle

By J.P. De Grandmont

Highland cattle originated in the Highlands and west coastal Islands of Scotland.

Throughout the long recorded history of Highlands, breeders have taken great care to retain the original characteristics of these cattle.

They are distinguished by their long flowing hair, which may be black, red, dun, silver, brindled, yellow or blondish. They are typically short-legged with a straight back and a deep chest. Their long and elegant horns are a proud and prime feature for their admirers. On cows and heifers and steers, horns generally point upwards while a bull's horns will invariably be larger and point forward much like the horns of bulls we see charging matadors. Highlanders however are considered quiet, even-tempered animals who often love to be brushed and petted.

Highland cattle were first imported into Manitoba and Nova Scotia from Scotland in the 1880's. Later, Highland cattle were also brought to Saskatchewan and Ontario and by the 1950's there was importing and exporting between Canada and the United States.

Highland cattle are well adapted by nature to withstand all weather conditions, from the severest winter storms and deep cold spells to the withering July heat waves. Their secret is found in their very thick hides and their double coat of hair. In the spring, they shed their long outer coat of naturally oiled hair which can be as long as 13 inches to reveal their short inner downy undercoat. As the weather turns cool in the fall they again grow their marvelous long coats of silky hair. Throughout the year, they love to use cedar and juniper bushes to comb their hair and to provide them with shelter from the sun in the summer and shelter from the winds in the winter months.

Highlanders are unusually healthy and hardy and can survive on poor grazing lands, roughage and brush if necessary. These cattle are well known for their browsing and foraging abilities and are sometimes used to keep bush growth at bay in rough land farmsteads such as those found in the Scottish Highlands as well as the Madawaska Highlands. This doesn't mean that they don't love their hay or the fresh grass of spring, which is now greening the brown fields of winter.

Highland cows have a highly developed mothering instinct and a strong protective inclination towards their calves. It is quite common for the entire herd to visit a newborn calf to establish recognition smells and seemingly to welcome the newcomer to the herd. Alarming bawls from any animal and more especially yearlings are certain to draw attention from the bull and often from the entire herd. In some instances, I have

seen our herd form a muskox-like circle with all horns pointed outwards to face impending threats. During those lazy days of summer, I have often observed the herd sire calmly 'baby-sitting' the yearlings as their mothers go about their daily feeding routine.

While some recommend that heifers not be bred before they reach the age of three, Highlanders have a lengthy reproductive term and may produce 12 or more calves in their lifetime. Calving problems are few and newborns are exceptionally hardy and fast growing.

Pure Highland beef is known for its lower fat and cholesterol content and contains a higher level of iron and protein than other beef breeds. Highland products are therefore in demand by those who prefer this healthy source of beef.

Our Highlanders are usually visible in the front fields of Juniper Hills Farm bordering Matawatchan Road just south of the Centennial Lake Road turn off. This spring we are boasting the addition of four bouncy new calves all born in the last two weeks of April. While I have heard reports of people referring to us as "the place with the weird cows", we thoroughly enjoy our small herd of this very old and special breed of cattle.



Eagle's Nest Sacred Site

By Jingwakons

There is a place to the West that inspires my vision. It is a place that shares great power and wisdom; a place that shares the good medicines of Mother Earth and Father Sky. It is a place where Ravens, Vultures and majestic Eagles soar and dance upon the winds of the four directions. It is here where the Eagle offers its Nest to those who come to see; to understand, to seek truths.

Just west of Calabogie, Eagle's Nest Sacred Site is the apex of a rugged rock ridge in the Canadian Shield. Mother Earth once shifted here along a fault line creating a dramatic cliff with a spectacular view. But why is this site called Eagle's Nest? Why is it sacred?

To the Madawaska Anishinabe (The Original People), the Eagle represented nobility, strength, leadership and foresight. It still does. When we visit the place an Eagle calls home we can be inspired by all that Eagle represents.

Eagle soars high in the sky and sees things clearly in all directions. It is a bird of great vision and wisdom. When Eagle flies highest he transforms into the



manitou (spirit) of his Eldest Brother - the Thunderbird. When Thunderbird flaps his wings he creates thunder. When he blinks his eyes he creates flashes of lightning. Thunderbird flies even higher than Eagle and therefore flies closest to The Great Spirit; the Creator of all that exists. Thunderbird is the divine messenger of The Great

Spirit.

On the surface Eagle's Nest is an awesome place to visit because of its incredible panorama. But ironically, it is indeed a place to go "for a great view" because it's where one goes to "see". It is a place of visions—a Native vision quest site. A vision quest is a per-

sonal experience where one seeks divine guidance from the realm of the manitous. The intention of receiving a vision is to acquire spiritual guidance for one's existence or insight into one's life purpose.

Eagle's Nest is akin to places where the Anishinabe would attempt to receive visions because a vision quest site often required a great view to the West. West is a direction of particular importance because West is thought to be where thunderstorms begin and thunderstorms are the domain of Thunderbird and his divine messages. West is also the direction of the unknown, of darkness, and of our fears. It is the realm of the Great Mystery from where our most profound visions come.

Because of its high vantage, the site symbolically enables one to first sit in the nest of an Eagle, and then to see like an Eagle. And based upon the philosophy of the Anishinabe's Sacred Directions (East, South, West and North), Eagle's Nest enables a person to sit peacefully in one place and time while witnessing the presence of ALL things in ALL directions and ALL that each direction represents.

A last hurrah for winter

By Bill Graham

The first Saturday of April was clear, but damp, with the temperature hovering around zero. Snow was quickly disappearing from the region, but the slopes of Calabogie Peaks were still snow covered. However, at the base of the hills the mud and water lay over a still frozen frost line and the air was blue and energized by the sounds of a 158 snow machines ready to challenge gravity itself.

The occasion was the eighth annual Calabogie Hill Climb. This annual event organized and sponsored by the Calabogie and District Snowmobile Club (CDSC) has been growing in importance as a shoulder season event for the last several years. It has attracted national attention for Calabogie on TSN and in several snowmobile-oriented national magazines.

Snow sledding, as the club calls it, is an important part of winter in Calabogie, from both an entertainment perspective, and an economic one. The Hill Climb is a farewell to the season and a fund-raiser for the local club. With the expense of maintaining trails using very expensive grooming machinery, a source of funds beyond membership fees is essential for the survival of the club.

Each year CDSC realizes the Hill Climb through sponsorships from the commu-

nity and from snowmobile-related organizations. Hopefully all the expenses are covered, to allow the club some profit for their efforts. It should be mentioned that the Hill Climb would never occur without the volunteers from both the club and the community.

BEING KING OF THE HILL

Once again this year's enthusiasts competed for dollars and local fame but ultimately to be King of the Hill; to acquire the bragging rights that ensue with such a prestigious position. With competitors participating from two countries they had to push the limits of man and machine to achieve this daunting task. Anyone of knows Calabogie Peaks knows how steep a grade is involved. Every event has its memorable story and this year's event was no exception. Veteran CSRA racer Terry Leeder, was driving his Rev 800 Factory Mod sled against Branden Wirtanen driving a modified 800 Polaris Pro X for Bonter Marine. Leeder had the Bonter sled beat from the get go, but inches from the finish line his sled quit, you can only imagine the feeling, it was the final race of the day for a grand prize of \$ 1000. As it turned out something went wrong with his machine's wiring and the kill-switch activated stopping him dead in his tracks.

There were races in three divisions with a total of 12 classes plus a race for vin-

tage sleds and a ladies open. Each class was a race of elimination whereby the winner of a race of two snowmobiles returned to race another competitor until the final two raced to be King of the Hill in their division. To learn about the results visit the CDSC website at Snowmobiler TV was on hand again this year taping the event and Cogeco the local cable network taped all day. The Renfrew Mercury was on hand and of course the Madawaska Highlander was also there for the day.

There were between 1200 and 1500 people in attendance at the event this year. The revenues for the day exceeded \$27,000 and after the operational costs for the day the local club still raised a considerable amount to help pay for grooming equipment.

The Calabogie Peaks resort also turned in revues from the event as they were responsible for all the food and beverage sales plus the rental of accommodations. The hotel and condos had no vacancies for the weekend. This event definitely boosted the local economy for the weekend at a slow time in the spring when not much was going on in the area. Sponsors and volunteers made it possible

Of course sponsors are essential to the success of an event like this. Some of the sponsors this year included Calabogie Motorsports, which provided the ambulance coverage for the day, Christie & Walters provided the many radios needed, Greater Madawaska volunteer fire department handled the gates and parking, prize money was sponsored from a number of sponsors from past events including: Arnprior Sportland, Ken Dillabough of Pro Tyre in Renfrew, H2O marine in Arnprior, Bonter Marine in Marmora, Jack Raddatz Logging in Renfrew, Charbonneaus Grocery in Calabogie, the Buckhorn Restaurant in Calabogie, Calabogie Highlands Golf, Steve's Convenience store in Glasgow Station, M&R Feeds in Renfrew, Lapointe Drainage in Carlsbad Springs and Jim's Performance in Iroquois, Ontario.

This event was organized and put on entirely through the work of volunteers, without whom the event could never have taken place. A total of 60 volunteers helped out.

Editor's note: Thanks to Don Cameron, President of The Calabogie and District Snowmobile Club for his help in putting together this story.

To the "New Natives" and Anishinabe of today, Eagle's Nest is still considered a vision quest site because it remains a place of natural and divine power. Here we may yet gain spiritual enlightenment from all that exists upon Mother Earth and within Father Sky. Visions appear as natural animal guides in their physical form, such as Turtle, Bear, Raven and Eagle, and even in their spiritual form such as Thunderbird. Visions can also manifest as phenomena created by The Great Spirit such as supernatural sounds, voices and apparitions.

It is truly fantastic that local people and area visitors have the opportunity to visit Eagle's Nest Sacred Site; a wilderness place that still exists in a naturally serene and pristine condition. As an artist with Ojibway roots, the site inspired me and I felt it would be quite important, and wise, to share its indigenous nature with others.

I received encouragement from the local community to create an informational sign for Eagle's Nest that shares a valuable and symbolic Native perspective. In honour of the Madawaska Anishinabe and "All Relations Everywhere" past, present and future, I have

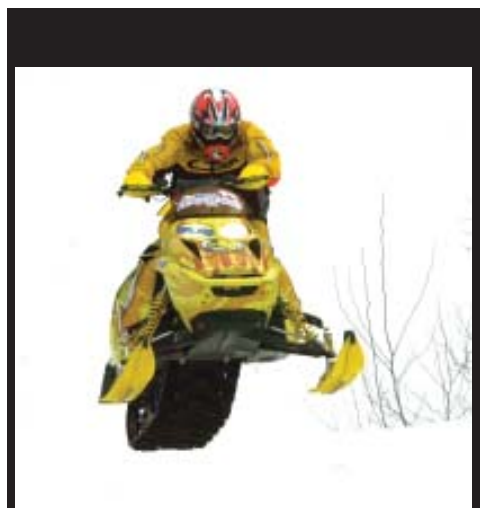
used the Four Sacred Colours in the design; ozawahn (yellow), miskwa (red), black (mukaday), and wabishka (white). The sign is entirely hand painted.

My intentions with this sign are to offer all visitors to the site a better understanding and appreciation of Eagle's Nest. It is my sincere hope that this knowledge provides us all with the opportunity to cherish the essence of a naturally wonderful place.

Eagle's Nest is a place of 'Beauty and Awe'. It is a place of profound Wisdom and Spirit; a place of Serenity and Peace. It is a place that deserves Honour and Respect.

We are all guests upon Mother Earth.
We are all visitors. Miigwetch
(Thanks)

Editor's note: Jingwakons (Little Pine) is an Ojibway artist, sign maker, writer and the creator of "Jingwakoki Journeys". (Website: www3.sympatico.ca/yearington). His latest artwork can be seen at "Knock on Wood Gallery" in Calabogie.



2004

Calabogie Hill Climb

Out on the First Concession

Billy Micks

By Wes Bomhower

Have you ever seen a cow with her reproductive system expelled after a difficult calving? Not a pleasant sight to be sure, but the cow's eyes are what draws your attention, sad and appealing. Does she realize her impending slow death from infection unless man can help her, or is this beyond her reasoning? God only knows.

Some would say the humane thing would be to put her down with a bullet, but hold on a doggone minute. This was one of our best cows and cows were hard to come by in 1939 out on the First Concession, or anywhere else for that matter. Money was as scarce as hen's teeth and our very lives depended on the small amount of income from the milk our cows produced.

Dad took another long look into the sad, pleading eyes and decided, yes, we will try to save her.

Right about then, Billy Micks walked through the stable door and took in the situation with his piercing blue eyes. Not a handsome man by any standards and not given much to talking, but those piercing eyes missed nothing. He turned to my Dad. "Ellis, that cayoo needs help rat away".

"Can you do anything for her Bill"? Dad inquired, knowing full well the man was rumored to be good around cattle, but needed a little coaxing. Billy shrugged, and we all stood waiting for his answer.

Everyone was poor in those Depression years, but Billy had less than nothing.

With three school age children to feed, he eked out a living by making and selling axe handles and doing odd jobs. Quite often he managed to show up at a neighbor's just at meal time but that was all right, everyone understood.

For an answer now, Billy said, "Lots of hot water, soap and some kind of disinfectant", and he stripped to the waist preparing for the ordeal ahead of him. He worked steadily for two hours, washing, rinsing and poking the untidy mess, pausing only to ask for more hot water.

It has been said that God gives everyone a special gift, and Billy certainly shone that afternoon. Born in a different time perhaps, and with money for the proper schooling, he may have become a great surgeon.

There are a certain number of 'buttons', small raised segments on a cow's reproductive organs, and Billy kept count of them as gently, but firmly he returned everything inside the cow. A SMALL harness was fashioned on the cow's posterior to hold everything in place and a large harness to keep her in a standing position most of the time.

Billy washed up and Dad invited him into supper. Nothing was said about remuneration for the afternoon's work until after the meal. "Ellis, I know you not rich", Billy began. "But do you think the chillun could get milk heayuh sometimes"? Dad looked at Mother and nodded. "Yes Bill, they can come for milk every day".

So until Billy's children were grown, they carried home two quarts of milk from our place each and every day of the year. How times have changed!



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Saturday	8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Sunday and Holiday Mondays	3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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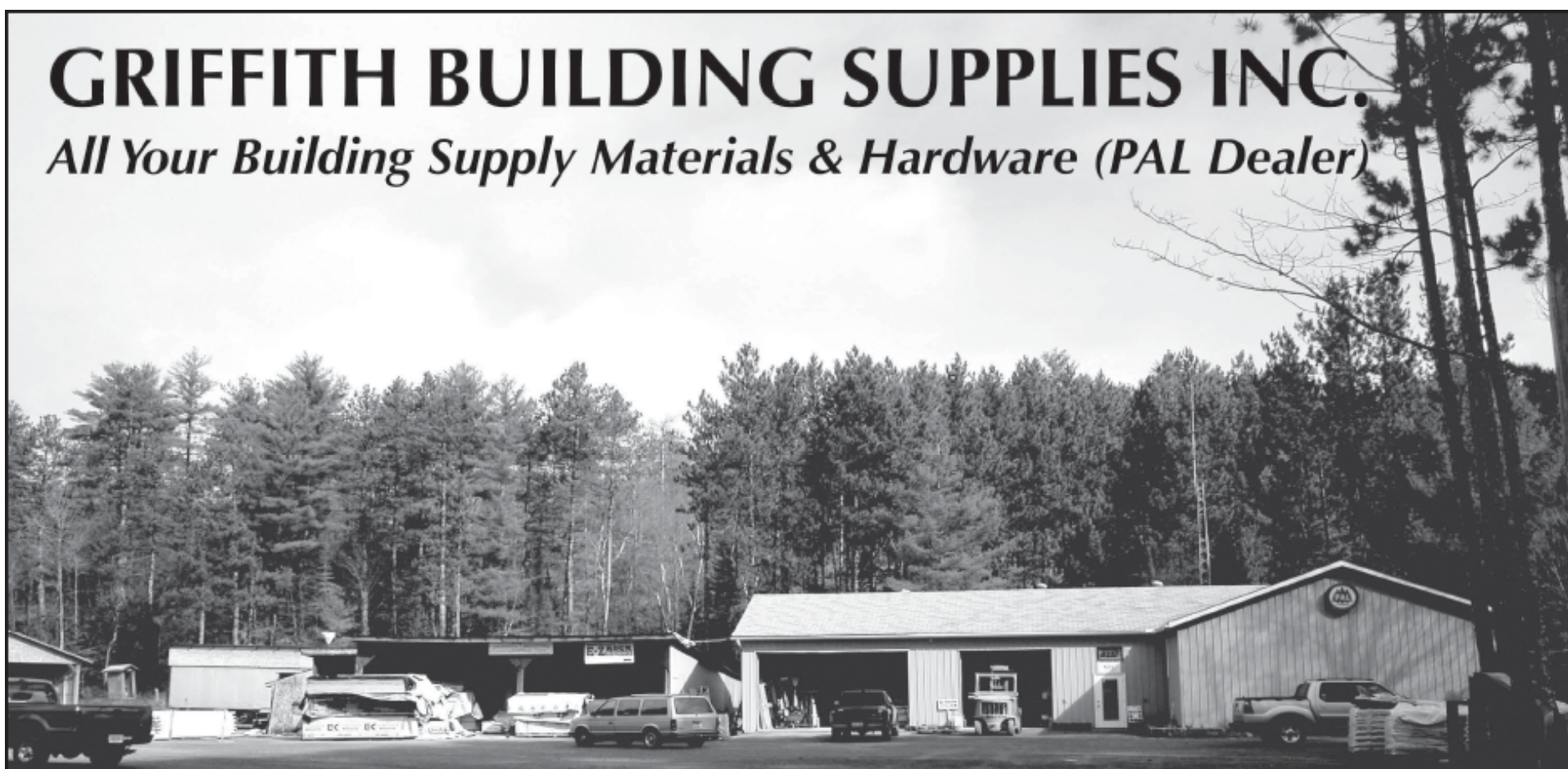
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Council Notes

By Bill Graham

Since the last update to Council Notes in the March issue so much has changed. One very high point was the elimination of the ANSI designations for the Constant Creek waterfronts and the very low point was the death of Reeve Paul Doyle on Easter Sunday. His passing was a shock to everyone since he was such an active and vital person. Despite his short time at the reins of Council he left a lasting impression. There will be no going back on the openness and public participation that he encouraged.

The high point in the proceedings since the last issue happened on March 28. The huge concern on the part of residents along Constant Creek regarding the ANSI designation to their properties was resolved by Councillor Isobel Kristijan and in Isobel's view, by God. This was a very worrisome issue for residents along the creek as evidenced by the turnout at a late February meeting when residents, represented by Jack Kelly and Tommy Ryan, were so numerous that the meeting had to be moved to the Calabogie Community Centre. In late March, Councillor Kristijan, obviously worried about this issue, checked the maps provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) against their final documents on the issue and noted a discrepancy. The map indicated a 'tentative ANSI', while the documents from the MNR indicated an 'established ANSI'. For the MNR to enforce the zoning there would need to be a very expensive environmental study, which had not been conducted for Constant Creek. Everyone is sure it was just an oversight on the part of the MNR but Council was very quick to squash the incorrect zoning. Tommy Ryan, President of the Renfrew County Land Owners Association, called the decision a "blow for democracy."

SOME MPAC IRRITANTS RESOLVED

Another irritant characterizing the winter of 2004 was MPAC and tax assessment. Being proactive, MPAC (Municipal Property Assessment Corporation) began assessing trailers that exhibited characteristics of permanency in all trailer parks and campgrounds for 2003 reassessment. The Ministry of Finance (MOF) cancelled these notices. Something similar was happening for 'maple syrup' producers and MOF asked MPAC and producers to decide on the criteria that constitute "industrial production", which was at the heart of their issue.

APPLICANTS TO COUNCIL

In addition to applicants for severance and other similar application processes, CABA (Calabogie and Area Business Association) sought the approval of Council for its projects. These include

the approval and support for improving the signage in the Township to help visitors find their way around, seasonal banners to beautify Calabogie, seasonal recreation activities for residents and the development of multi-use trails to support tourism and to benefit residents. It wasn't only CABA lobbying for multi-use trails. Resident Penny Mount made an excellent pitch for their development and the local snowmobile club reminded Council of the importance of their activity to the economy of the township.

Of course, both sides in the Track issue attended every meeting of Council and advanced their side of the issue. This edition of the *Highlander* already has good deal of information from both sides of the issue to satisfy any interest. Other parties seeking the support of Greater Madawaska's Council were other municipalities that were looking for solidarity and groups like the Victim Crisis Assistance and Referral Service (VCARS) who wanted to inform the community of their existence.

A CRISIS IN COUNCIL

Reeve Paul Doyle had been absent from Council for a few weeks before his death on Easter morning (April 11). With Doyle no longer involved in the decision process, many were trying to reassess the 'Track' politics. Without a reeve there was no longer a deciding vote on the issue. In addition, the May 1st public meeting on the issue that Doyle had called was fast approaching.

Early in the week of April 21, when an emergency meeting of Council was called, word got out and members of the public attended. Ostensibly the meeting was called to pass a number of administrative motions that would vacate the reeve's chair because of the incumbent's death and to set up the mechanism for determining a new reeve. The Municipal Act provides three options in this event, and the remaining council members decide on the option of choosing the new reeve from among themselves. While a number of the councillors did not expect a vote at the April 21 meeting, Councillor Mercer put things into motion by nominating Councillor Isobel Kristijan. This nomination motion resulted in a tied vote—two for and two against. Successively, each councillor was nominated but with the same deadlocked conclusion.

At the regular council meeting on the following Saturday, a vote was once more attempted and this time successfully. Councillor Lehnhardt after much consideration voted for the nomination of Councillor Isobel Kristijan as reeve for the duration of the term. During that same meeting there were tributes to Paul Doyle from all councillors and from ratepayers in attendance. A recommen-

dation was made to place a commemorative plaque to Reeve Doyle on the gavel he introduced to Council proceedings when he became reeve. A commemorative plaque was also suggested for Barret Park.

ATV BYLAW

Discussion about bylaws governing the use of ATV traffic on public roads is happening across the County of Renfrew and Greater Madawaska is no exception. In fact there are divisions within Council. The divisions are logical given the responsibilities of the two councillors at odds. Councillor Mercer, who is chairman of the Roads Committee supports his Roads Department staff in wanting to eliminate ATVs from township roads, while Councillor Peter Emon, who chairs the Economic Development Advisory Committee is reluctant to restrict ATV traffic because of the economic benefit that it brings to the area. Councillor Karin Lehnhardt said she would support a ban on ATV traffic on municipal roads in the villages of Calabogie and Griffith, but given the fact that ATVs are allowed on county roads, an overall ban did not make sense. While she has some personal views about ATVs, they are too much a part of the culture, especially in areas like Matawatchan, which she represents. Peter Lehnhardt Emon will draft a bylaw for ATV use on municipal roads, but it will probably con-

centrate on hours of use and place a curfew on their use in built-up areas during certain hours. More on this issue will be raised at the May 29th council meeting.

A detailed look into the work of the Economic Development Advisory Committee is scheduled for Council Notes in the June edition of the Madawaska Highlander. We will also provide details about the tiered response proposal being made by the Greater Madawaska Volunteer Fire Department for providing 'first response' in remote areas of the township when an ambulance is called.

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 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

**Matawatchan Hall**

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| Pep., green peppers, Mushrooms                                                    |       |        |       |
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| Pep. green peppers                                                                |       |        |       |
| COMBO #3                                                                          | 8.95  | 11.95  | 14.95 |
| Pep. mushrooms, bacon                                                             |       |        |       |
| MEAT LOVERS                                                                       | 10.95 | 13.95  | 16.95 |
| pep., bacon, ham, sausage                                                         |       |        |       |
| ground beef, roast beef                                                           |       |        |       |
| HAWAIIAN                                                                          | 8.95  | 11.95  | 14.95 |
| ham, pineapple, bacon                                                             |       |        |       |
| VEGETARIAN                                                                        | 10.95 | 13.95  | 16.95 |
| mushrooms, green peppers                                                          |       |        |       |
| olives, onions, tomatoes                                                          |       |        |       |
| GARDEN SPECIAL                                                                    | 12.95 | 15.95  | 18.95 |
| mushrooms, green peppers, olives, onions, tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, celery |       |        |       |



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# Calabogie MotorSports Park

Spring 2004

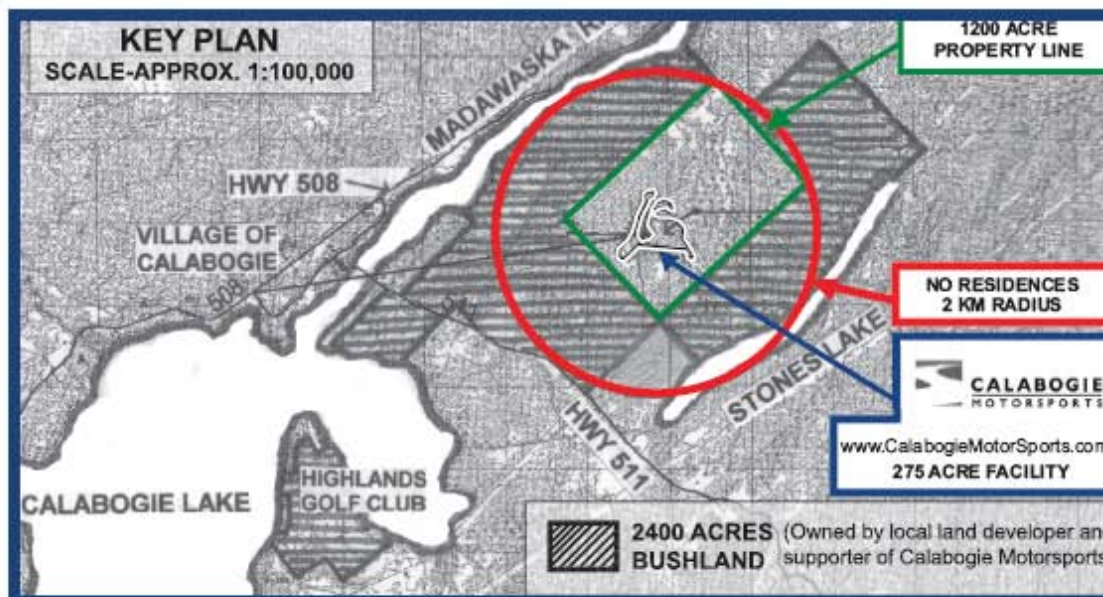
## Comments from Calabogie MotorSports Park and the Community

- Calabogie Motorsports Park (CMP) will diversify and expand the current tourist base.
- The facility will be an aesthetic improvement of a near depleted gravel pit.
- CMP will increase the marketability of Greater Madawaska as a tourist destination area.
- The clientele will have a positive effect on the current business climate.

"In my opinion, the only thing that this community needs to be saved from is the CCC!"  
J. Maurstad

"It's ironic that it is always the small but vocal minority of opponents that make all the noise."  
G. Smith

"There are a number of changes I would like to see in the area, but I realize it will take a greater "critical mass" to justify such investments."  
G. Wilson



"I attended the meeting the track developers held last October...I think the track will be good for Calabogie. It will bring more jobs and additional tourism. My children need a progressive village to grow up in."  
B. Fillator

"The track represents progress and with progress comes controversy. I personally applaud these guys for their initiative and drive to better the Calabogie area."  
K. McCartney

Calabogie Motorsports Park | 462 Wilson Farm Road | Calabogie, Ontario | K0J 1H0 | 613-752-1252

**www.calabogiemotorsports.com**