Matilda prepares to celebrate 22nd Winter Carnival

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

As the snow falls and the cold winds blow from the north, and everyone settles in for a long winter, Matilda residents prepare for their Annual Winter Carnival, "The Snowflake Ball."

Yes, the 22nd annual Carnival Matilda Style will kick off on Saturday, January 11 at 7pm when Master of Ceremonies, Greg Adams gets the show on the road at Matilda Township Hall in Dixon's Corners. Greg is an OPP officer from Prescott who does speaking engagements in the area from Kingston to Cornwall and enjoys his work behind the microphone.

As The Chieftain goes to press this week, there are six young ladies entered in the annual Carnival Queen pageant, with more hopefuls waiting in the wings. The deadline for entries is Tuesday, December 31, so anyone between the ages of 15 and 18 who wants to gain some valuable experience and maybe even carry off some prizes should give the Clerk's office a call at 652-3304 or call Dennis Cooper (652-4630) or Joy Harbers (535-2301) and enter now. Each contestant will have a sponsor according to Chairman Cooper and this business name will be displayed on the sash the girl wears, "this ensures that each gal goes home with something for her effort."

At press time, two judges had been confirmed: Pat Harper who operates her own business and has experience judging public speaking; and Don Hill Manager of Personnel at Beavers Dental who has a lot of experience interviewing. Looking for the girl who best exemplifies the spirit of the Carnival, the judges will look for sincerity, confidence on stage, level of enthusiasm, the tone of her voice, her articulation and her concern for others...the best all round person for the job of Carnival Queen 1997. Last year's Queen, Tracey Lewis will be on hand to crown her successor.

Music for the evening will be provided by Betty Casselman at the piano. This year, Marc Beach who has a wonderful voice will sing to the new Queen as she takes her victory walk down the ramp.

Back for his 22nd consecutive Winter Carnival will be Billy Sypes who will entertain on his accordion during the evening.

Sunday, January 12 will have everyone filling their faces as the annual Pancake brunch has things sizzling at the hall. Service begins at 10:30am and runs through until 1:30pm. Why make your own when you can enjoy this feast? The 1st Iroquois Scout Troop will assist at the Brunch as part of their community service. Free face painting will be available and the Matilda Majorettes will take to the stage at 10:45 to strut their stuff. Children's entertainer, Paddy Stewart will keep the youngsters laughing and clapping, from 11:30 to noon, and from 12:30 to 1 pm. The afternoon will be filled with activities as the Mackie colouring contest will have young artists working diligently. Snowmobile rides will be fun if there is snow, as well as tobogganing and the Woodsman Competition is always exciting.

Monday, January 13 is billed as Country and Western Night. Linedancing (Gwen Bosma) and clogging with the River-view Cloggers will have toes tapping and hands clapping at the Hall.

Tuesday will see local talent showing what they can do. Two categories will see those who want to use the Karaoke (Karaoke Express) as well as those who bring their own talent show what they can do. Three cash prizes will be awarded in each of the two categories.

Wednesday will feature a fashion show and an afternoon tea. Sponsored by the Matilda Women's Institute and Matilda Recreation, there will be Marge Veltcamp's Fashion Network and Lisa Froom's Leigh Morgan's Children's fashions. Things get moving at 1:30pm.

Thursday, the 16th is when under the BINGO a $1000. jackpot will have all eyes on their cards. Sponsored by the Lions Club, the canteen will be open.

Friday is dancing night, as Karaoke Express will play for the Pre-Teen Dance, from 6-8:30 and anyone up to 13 years of age can dance for $2. Then Theatre of Soul will play for the Teen set (13-19yrs.) and for $3. everyone can swing out from 9 to

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Have a safe and happy holiday season

The Chieftain

Merry Christmas

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Edwardsburgh council gives up battle to collect overdue taxes

by Steve Coleman
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Seven years of fighting with the Ogdensburg Port Bridge Authority ended Dec. 16 with a new "uncollectible account" on the Edwardsburgh Township tax rolls.

Council threw up its hands Monday night, deciding there are no avenues left to them to collect $883,383 in back taxes owed by the agency that runs the bridge between Canada and the United States.

The township hasn't been able to collect the money, despite provincial and federal government intervention and court rulings that said the property taxes should be paid.

Dobbie singled out both Liberal MP Jim Jordan and Conservative MPP Noble Villeneuve during the meeting for the lack of help they've given the township trying to collect the bad debt.

"We asked for provincial help," said Reeve David Dobbie. "It was about nil. We asked for federal government help. They seem to be spinning their wheels."

The only option left to Edwardsburgh was to give up, said Dobbie. Lawyers have advised them they can't sell the bridge. Negotiations started between the federal government and the State of New York in the last year haven't produced any results.

Meetings went as far as the state capital in Albany, N.Y. before things came to a close.

The Leeds and Grenville County Board of Education is owed $364,343 in back taxes, while Edwardsburgh has been left holding $57,960. At the county level, the bill is $160,001.

The totals don't include $301,-078 in interest charges.

That doesn't mean township residents will be left footing the bill for the Edwardsburgh portion. Council made a point of setting aside reserve accounts in case things fell through.

As the newest uncollectible account on the list, the county and school board won't be able to ask the township to forward the money, either. The township acts as the tax collector for all three.

The township is the biggest loser of the three when it comes to finances. All of the interest charges would have gone to them.

Dobbie said Edwardsburgh plans to set up meetings with the other two to see if they'll absorb some of the loss, too. By law, the township has to forward the money, even if it isn't collected if it's listed as a normal, collectable account.

The township has also been paying the legal bills for the court battles that have gone with trying to get their hands on the money.

Help from the Counties of Leeds and Grenville has been limited to moral support in going to the provincial and federal governments, said Fred Dollman, the counties' Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer.

Tuesday morning, county staff hadn't received word from the township about the amount they'd be billed. Whether or not there'll be a property tax increase at the county level depends on a council decision.

Everyone in the area served by the school board can expect a .6

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Have a very Merry Christmas holiday

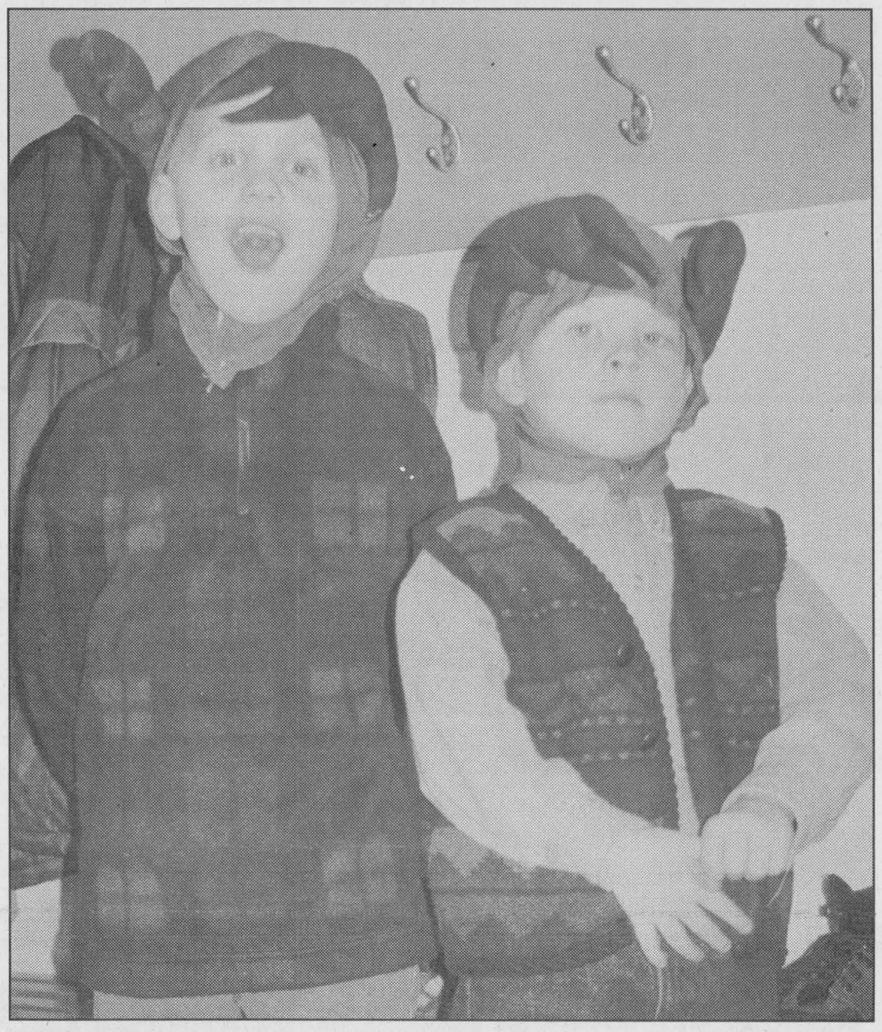
This is the last issue of The Chieftain before Christmas - Our staff would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season.

Merry Christmas from Karen Cooke, Sharron Bolte, Sean McKibbon, Wendy Leslie, Don Orr, Brian Crawford, Ann Marie Crawford, Sandra Lee Johnston, Michael Bailey, Dave Flinn and our regular columnists.

The Chieftain will close at 4 pm on Tuesday, December 24th. The office will remain closed on Wednesday, December 25th, and Thursday December 26th, but will re-open Friday December 27th at 8:30 am.

The office will be open December 31st until 4 pm. We will be closed all day on January 1st, and will re-open on January 2nd at 8:30 am.

Merry Christmas everyone and we wish you all the very best that the New Year has to offer. Remember, ride safe and ride sober.



In the spirit

Blaine Markell and Taylor Thompson are pictured outside the gymnasium at Dixon's Corners Public School last Wednesday night just before they hit the stage. The Dixon's Corners Christmas concert was once again a huge success. Blaine and Taylor were just two of the senior kindergarten reindeer. The whole class dressed up as elves, snowflakes, stars and bells. *Chieftain photo by M.C. Bailey.*

Morrisburg holds public meeting

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

It seems that it is a word used in hushed tones these days, spoken quietly and with sideways glances...the dreaded Amalgamation. Morrisburg Council decided to take the issue to the people they represent. While not too many showed up, there were enough to show that it is not something that will go away, and also that the general populace is divided on their opinion.

A letter from the Minister of Municipal Affairs Minister, Al Leach got things moving, as Reeve McGregor read from the response to Morrisburg's letter of support to a resolution the Town of Sterling passed calling on the province to hold a moratorium on municipal restructuring, pending the recommendations of the "Who does What Committee" concerning the delivery and funding of services. Leach's answered that the provincial government is encouraging municipalities to be as financially strong as possible, since the situation will be such that financial pressures and reduced funding from the province will make things tough.

Morrisburg Council is themselves divided on the issue. Some see the savings as a viable alternative to the present system, while others see it only as a way the province can download more debt and responsibility to the municipalities.

Speaking to Iroquois Reeve, Peter Swank late last week, he noted that Iroquois was planning to hold an open meeting in this Village, but have been waiting for some decisions to be made so that the people could be given some concrete answers to their questions on the issue.

Everyone seems to agree that it

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Williamsburg Christmas parade was a huge success

by Michael Bailey
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Sleigh bells were ringing in Williamsburg yesterday afternoon!

The Williamsburg Santa Claus Parade took place in the small hamlet north of Morrisburg on 31 Highway at 1 pm yesterday. An annual event that has been taking place for over 10 years, it was a day for the kids and the family and everyone was invited.

Organized by the Williamsburg Fire Department, Fire Chief Doug Disheau gave all of the credit for the annual event to the people of Williamsburg.

"There really isn't a lot to it," said Chief Disheau about the organization of the parade. "The Fire Department started taking Santa and Mrs. Claus around the town on one of the trucks and people sort of just started showing up."

"It's kind of just grown over the years," said Disheau.

The parade is always held on the Sunday before Christmas and most of the businesses in the hamlet take part in one way or another.

"Most stores show up with a float, but some pitch-in in other ways like giving donations," explained the Chief.

As is always the case, the streets of Williamsburg were lined with spectators eagerly anticipating the arrival of the man himself.

Following the spectacular parade, everyone was invited back to the Williamsburg Fire Hall to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and children had the opportunity to get in that last minute Christmas wish.

Santa speaks

The Jolly Old Gent himself had an opportunity to discuss the "Big Day" with The Chieftain and let us know that everything was a go for Tuesday night.

"HO,HO,HO, bless my buttons," he bellowed before we

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A Kindergarten Christmas Concert

These young stars of the Kindergarten Christmas Concert held at Iroquois Public School were a hit as they debuted as Toy Soldiers. Here they are snapped on film as they settle down to relax and watch a movie while awaiting their next stint on stage. The youngsters always draw a crowd and the applause was deafening as they sang and played their way through the program.

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston

SDCE helps 200 families locally

by Michael Bailey
Chieftain Staff Reporter

The South Dundas Christmas Exchange has been completed once again and organizers were pleased with the response.

Once again, over 200 families benefited from the generosity of South Dundas residents.

"We live in a society that often appears to be selfish and uncaring, sometimes even cruel. In these difficult economic times, it is truly heart warming to know that so many people are willing to share what they have with others who are less fortunate," said one of the organizers who was helping to set up the Morrisburg Legion last Wednesday.

Food baskets are prepared and laid out at the Morrisburg Legion and the families come to the Legion, pick up their basket and then pick up a gift for their children.

Using the donations from last year, the South Dundas Christmas Exchange purchases the food for the baskets and the gifts come from Angel Trees strategically located around South Dundas in Morrisburg, Iroquois and Williamsburg.

Each year the SDCE likes to give each child a book and book trees are organized by local churches.

Residents in Iroquois and Matilda were amazingly generous this year and all of the angels on the

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this week

A great performance

Chieftain Reporter Sean McKibbon had a chance to check out the Nutcracker at the NAC. Please dance over to page two and read all about it!

A unique experience

S.L.J. visited the Dundas Heart and Stroke Foundation Christmas celebration in Morrisburg and was really impressed. Please turn to page three for the story.

Volleyball

The senior girls volleyball team at SDHS won two games and gave up one in the season opener. Please spike over to page four and get the story.

Tag draw winners

Please turn to page five and find out if you were one of the lucky tag draw winners.

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Take note

Morrisburg Midget B Coach Jeremy Morrow told me at the start of the season I should come out and see some of the team's home games.

So, last Tuesday evening, I ventured out to the Morrisburg arena to check out the Midgets.

What a surprise!

There must have been well over 100 people at the arena!

I say it was a surprise, because I've covered a few of the Junior B Lions games and to be honest, they seem to be lucky to have 60 or so fans.

In fact, I was at the Lions game on Sunday, when they played arch rivals, the Winchester Hawks, and I happened to be the only fan standing on whisky row.

When I got to the Midget game Tuesday night, I had to basically fight my way on to the row because it was jam packed with fans from Seaway District High School.

Three years ago all of these kids would have been at the Lions games. This year they don't go to the Lions games because they say they don't know any of the players.

"They only have two guys from Morrisburg so why should we go," is the general response.

In the past the argument has been that to compete at Junior level hockey, you have to have players from Cornwall, Long Sault, Ingleside or the USA.

No one wants to cheer for a losing hockey team.

Well, the midgets didn't win Tuesday night, but the fans stayed until the very last minute of the game. As for cheering for a losing hockey team, all we have to do is look at the legion of Maple Leaf fans in Morrisburg and we see that although they might not like some of the changes Cliff Fletcher and the boys have made, they remain Leaf fans!

Night after night, Maple Leaf Gardens is filled to capacity to watch a Leafs squad who has one of the worst records in the NHL.

There is no substitute for talent and you can't win hockey games if you don't have talent, but you can have all the talent in the world and if the desire to win isn't there, you won't win.

Maybe Morrisburg can't ice a competitive Junior team without getting talented players from surrounding areas, and maybe the fans wouldn't come if the team was chalked full of local boys who lose night after night.

However, you can't win where it counts the most, at the box office, if you don't have local support.

MCB

Hang on to the spirit

It is that magical and wonderful time of the year. All the world seems grand, what with fluffy snow flakes drifting lazily to earth, Christmas trees all aglow in their finery, friends and relatives gathering to share love and comradship and festivities of all kinds bring the world closer together.

We have much to be glad about, much to rejoice about and be thankful for. All too often though, we get caught up in the materialistic, commercialized side of the holiday. Getting caught up in the hustle and bustle, spending, travelling, eating too much and not taking time to know what it is really all about comes easily.

This season is all about the birth of our dear Saviour, the most important person who ever walked the face of this earth. Even great kings and rulers came to worship Him. They brought gifts to honour Him. Later in His life He brought us the message of showing love, compassion, kindness and understanding, even to those who seem unapproachable, unlovable, those who do not appreciate us, and even those who abuse us in any way.

It is that time when we can forgive, forget and turn in new directions to heal both mind and soul.

Think for a minute...have you uttered harsh or cruel things, neglected a friend or turned against someone who trusted you? God is always ready to forgive and forget, and can renew us. This is a time for us to rethink our own situatiuon.

As John Greenleaf Whittier wrote: "Somehow not only at Christmas, but all the long year through, the joy that you give to others, is the joy that comes back to you. And the more you spend in blessing the poor and lonely and sad, the more of your heart's possessing returns to make you glad." Thus, even if all you can do this year is drop a few coins into the barrel of the Salvation Army or lend your time to help someone less fortunate, share what you can with others, He would do no less.

Too bad we cannot bottle the spirit of this time of year when thoughts turn to love and sharing. Be the type of person you want others to know. His birth signalled the start of something great, it can be for you too...

Watch a child as they sit on Santa's lap; see the shining smile as a tot looks way up to the top of the Christmas tree. The magic which is Christmas can be caught in a moment and held...you create your own destiny.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a safe holiday season.

S.L.J.

The Chieftain welcomes your opinion. Write: Letters to the Editor, Box 529, Iroquois, Ont., K0E 1K0, clearly marking your correspondence as a Letter to the Editor.

Les Grands Ballet Canadiens' production of The Nutcracker

focus

by Sean McKibbon
Chieftain Staff Reporter

"Casse Noisette! Casse Noisette!" exclaimed the little girl to her mother and pointed from their theatre box to the National Arts Centre opera stage as the curtain drew back. I was not standing on my chair and bouncing up and down like she was, but I knew exactly how she felt. It was my first time seeing *The Nutcracker* and probably hers too.

When,months ago, my girlfriend Michaela suggested we go and see Les Grands Ballet Canadiens' production of *The Nutcracker* on Dec. 15th I'm not sure she knew exactly how much I was looking forward to it. There are still those out there-- most of them men--who think the ballet is for sissies. I've never thought that. In fact every year, if I can find The Nutcracker on television, I watch it. I must have driven Michaela half crazy on the way to the NAC humming the music as I drove the car.

"Doo do do do do do dodo dodo dododo...."

"You're a nut, Sean," she said.

Some arcane power, call it magic or imagination-- more rightly that quality that inspires imagination-- is infused in the story and the music and the dance. Children sit enraptured by it and so do adults.

For those unfamiliar with the story of The Nutcracker here is a brief outline. An aristocratic German family throws a Christmas Eve party for their two children Clara and Fritz. Lots of people arrive and have a good time. Then Clara's godfather Doctor Drosselmeyer shows up. Drosselmeyer is a bit of a sinister looking guy with a cape and a patch over his eye. At times he seems able to stop time and he's said to be a magician. He produces a number of magical gifts, such as life size toy soldiers that march around, as well as some more conventional ones like flowers. But he saves a small nutcracker, shaped like a toy soldier, for Clara.

Now, all party long, Clara's brother Fritz, along with his chums, have been little holy terrors, teasing Clara and her friends and generally making trouble. Fritz ends up breaking the nutcracker. Of course he's sent to his room but he escapes a number of times. Anyway, Doctor Drosselmeyer repairs the nutcracker for Clara and the party ends happily.

That night Clara goes downstairs to look at the nutcracker. Whether what ensues is a dream or magic is left up to the audience, but Clara falls asleep with the nutcracker and then awakes to rats menacing her. Drosselmeyer shows up and brings the nutcracker to life, and then the Nutcracker does battle with the rodents, assisted by a troop of tin soldiers that come to life as well.

Things go well until the King of the Rats shows up and just about kills the Nutcracker in a duel. Clara manages to save the nutcracker by throwing one of her slippers at Rat King, who dies.

Then Doctor Drosselmeyer rewards Clara's bravery by turning the Nutcracker into a prince. Clara and the prince go to the Land of Snow and then the Kingdom of Sweets where they meet the Sugarplum Fairy and a big party is held in Clara's honor and they are entertained by various dancers. Eventually a golden winged swan takes Clara home.

It helps if you remember this is a kids' story and that my relation of it doesn't do it justice. It's all about fantasy, and if you don't ever remember your dreams or don't daydream you probably would think it was for sissies. Everyone else loves it.

I was no exception. Every now and then during the performance I'd turn to Michaela wanting to say how neat it all was--the colorful costumes, the sweeping violins, cellos, crashing tympanies-but, I wouldn't want to disturb the people around us.

Oh, I'd seen the ballet before, but it wasn't the same in real life. I didn't expect to be able to see orchestra. I didn't expect to be able to hear occasionally the dancers' steps on the stage. I wasn't prepared for not having what I was looking at directed by a camera.

Often on the stage a hundred things seem to go on at once and I felt my eyes getting big just trying to keep track of it all. The party is a perfect example. The costumes are so beautiful, the children are so funny as they run around yanking pigtails or scolding one another and Doctor Drosselmeyer does a number of magic tricks while he's on stage. It's quite overwhelming.

According to the program for the show there are 150 different roles in the ballet. The program says 4,000 m of fabric were needed to make all of the 200 costumes required for the production

Of course my favorite part has always been the fight with the rats. The Tin soldiers get a cannon out and start blasting away at the rats, which works fine until the rats get themselves a bigger cannon. It's funny and it never fails to make me feel like it's Christmas. I remember pitting toy soldiers against Legomen, or occasionally my dog, on Christmas day after all the presents were open. In the ballet, Clara shrinks down to the size of the Nutcracker and when you are young it feels like there is a whole other world amongst the wrapping paper under the Christmas tree.

This version of *The Nutcracker* was a reworking of the original by Lev Ivanov. This one was choreographed by Fernand Nault in 1963, first for the Louisville Ballet.

I don't have the dance vocabulary or experience to judge the technical merits of the dancers. I know I was enthralled by the experience and as Michaela and I sat watching the ballet we both found

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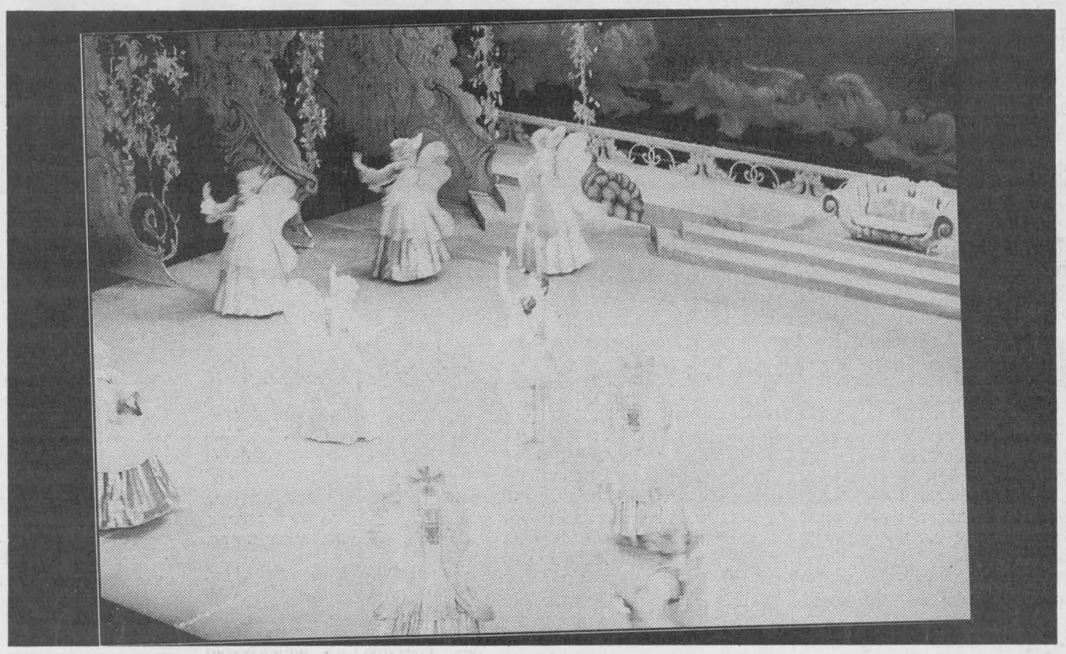

Cotton Candy Angels dance on clouds in The Nutcracker

The other reindeer at Swampview

Just plain livin'
with Sandra Lee



Ho-Ho-Ho, this morning as this writer was set to head out for work, on a Friday which is a Tuesday for the newspaper, the tube had the fat fellow in the red suit on. As would be expected, the jolly elf is on the Internet; youngsters can actually snag a conversation with the big guy and give him their list directly. He was in rare form and told a joke...seems he has a new reindeer this year...her name is "Olive" the other reindeer. When questioned by Dan on Canada AM, Santa said, Olive the other reindeer used to laugh...Great, Santa has a sense of humour!

Waking up to a dusting of fluffy snow on Friday morning brought a smile to more than one face. Christmas has to have snow to be a real Christmas for some of us, just seems to make the mood.

Speaking of the season, hopefully everyone has their shopping completed. There are those however who find that waiting until the final hour allows them to accomplish a pile in a short time..."You take what is in front of you, no time to dally and decide." Everyone to their own.

This old fool shopped last Saturday and since this year has had wild, crazy and full and then too the cold and flu drag on and shopping seemed to get forgotten in favour of work or sleep; anyway, choosing some gifts in Morrisburg, two ladies along with the writer were anxious to move on to another store and so the two gifts that were being wrapped were paid for and this one left the store as well. The idea being on the way back to the van, we would stop by and grab the presents. Yes, you can guess, it was some time later that the brain kicked into gear and yours truly realized that the two gifts were still at the store. A phone call and the very accommodating lady in the store assured the silly writer that they would be there when another trip could be made. Small town life is so wonderful, this would not happen in a city. Just another great reason to shop locally.

The wrapping has begun and will be accomplished in time for Wednesday. The tree is not yet up, but this weekend will see that done too. As you read this, Swampview will be ready for the visit from the fellow who squeezes down the chimney.

The outdoor display has improved, thanks to the big guy who brought home some bulbs and then, he and son number two strung another couple of strands of lights in the shrubbery at the front of the house and even if this writer is a bit biased, the blue and red lights look pretty good. Due to the cold and coughing and all they have been left to do all this themselves for the first year and they did a fine job.

The Scouts annual Christmas cheese packages have been picked up, sorted and delivered to the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to be delivered to the customers. This is the biggest fund-raiser the groups have so that the programs can be operated with the least cost to parents. Thanks to the generosity of the community and the terrific selling jobs the youngsters did, the profit will be in the neighbourhood of $1700. to be divided three ways according to what each group sold. Top sales people were honoured in Beavers (Andres Menges-$193. worth of cheese sold), Cubs (Samantha Shaver-$103 worth sold) and Scouts (Jeremy Johnston-$716 worth sold). Those who sold $100. or more will receive a prize in the new year...there were 16 in the three groups who sold at least one hundred dollars worth of cheese-WOW! Thanks to Shelley Fader for picking it all up and saving us almost $70. in delivery fees.

The cuzzin celebration is history as you read this. The city mice and the country mice try to get together each year at this time. When families grow up, time seems to be at a premium and we do not see one another as much as we would like, this provides the opportunity for the extended family to party, eat and sing the seasonal songs.

This is always a special time of year for us. Having lost a family member before his time, we try to think that he is with us, more so at this time of year, he enjoyed Christmas so. We gather at each family members home to exchange gifts, check out their decorations and share the spirit of the season. When all the gifts are open and we end up at Gramms and Grampas, brunch awaits and then it is on to enjoy too much food and try out the new items, listen, read or just rest. This year is a bit uncertain as to meals and such, but it will be sorted and the Swampview gang wished you and yours a very Merry Christmas.

Yesterday was the concert by the children at church. They are so cute and then too the son number one and his dad played the "Little Drummer Boy" during the service. Dad was on the organ and the son played the drum. Nice touch to the event.

Christmas Eve service is always a family affair and with the big guy playing the carols, this has been anticipated for a while. The chimes add that special something to these songs.

As you read this we will have been to the Playhouse and taken in the Christmas Carol. From all accounts, Charlie Marsden makes a perfect Scrooge (was there ever any doubt?) and this is such a wonderful way to begin the celebration of the season for us.

Take care if you are out and about this holiday. If the season takes you away, be careful. Enjoy what traditions you savour and allow your children to know the true meaning of Christmas.

A treat came to the office the other day and the goodies were just great, thanks Mom! The boss provided some goodies as well and we exchanged gifts...you really have to watch what you say at this time of the year. It went like this: one of us mentioned that if ever we won the lottery, the house at this time of year would be unindated with Santas from everywhere. Anyway, the little girl who got the old co-Editor's name, provided a marvellous Santa under the wrapping. He is already in a place of honour at the ranch, everyone loves him.

Also in the box was a "dammit doll", this wee fellow is all handmade from material and filled

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the bottom line

OK PEOPLE, 'TIS THE SILLY SEASON AND WITH ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT everyone should be extremely careful while driving. It's always nice to see the relatives and have a few glasses of Christmas cheer, but before you drive home, take time to rest a while, or better yet, designate a driver. I don't know anyone with a licence who can afford to be without it for a minimum of three months! (mcb)

* * *

IF YOU HAVEN'T GOT YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPLIFTING DONE, YOU'D better get started quickly! There's only a day and a half left! For all you late shoppers, I'll be heading to Cornwall (one more time) Tuesday and if you drop off some money and a list, I might be able to pick up your gift for you! (mcb)

* * *

SANTA CLAUS CALLED THE CHIEFTAIN FRIDAY AND WANTED EVERYONE to know that there has been a lot of good little girls and boys in Iroquois this past year! He saw Karen and Sharon, Autumn and Lynn, David and Frank, Francis and Kim, and oh yea... he saw you too! So everyone be good this Christmas Eve, by your tree he will stop, many gifts he will leave! (mcb)

I WAS WATCHING THE LEAF VS. SHARKS GAME LAST WEEK AND DID YOU know that Tie Domi is only a few minutes away from having spent 29 hours in the penalty box! That's more than a whole day! (mcb)

* * *

THE CHIEFTAIN STAFF WANTS TO WISH EVERYONE IN OUR COVERAGE area a very Merry Christmas. Our next publication hits news stands everywhere on December 30, so don't forget to stop by a store near you and pick it up! Merry Christmas people. (mcb)

* * *

THE WILLIAMSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT HELD ITS CHRISTMAS PARADE last Sunday and the event was a huge success! The floats were all amazing! Doesn't Williamsburg have the most amazing community spirit! (mcb)

* * *

IT WAS REALLY NICE TO SEE REB LAST FRIDAY AFTERNOON. THE FORMER Chieftain employee stopped by to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Well Reb... We want to wish you and the family a Merry one too! P.S. say Hi to Dave! (mcb)



Summer Festival winners

Mary Foster (left) and Ron Fader (right) posed for this picture with Little Gent Andres Menges and Mini Miss Crystal Cooper. Mrs. Foster and Mr. Fader were winners in the Summer Festival draw held last week. Mr. Fader won a $100 gift certificate from S&F and Mrs. Foster won a $50 gift certificate from Crawford's Meats. *Chieftain photo by M.C. Bailey.*

A unique celebration of season

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

It was NOT a craft show or sale. It was NOT an afternoon tea. It was so much more and those who came out were certainly not disappointed.

The civic centre in Morrisburg was decorated in a fantasy, Christmas motif. The Dundas Chapter of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario gave everyone a unique and interesting way to celebrate the season.

There were artisans who create marvellous items to share with friends and family, especially at this time of the year. Visitors could browse, stop and visit, ask questions about how things are accomplished, meet these talented folk and take one giant step closer to getting into the Christmas mood.

A marvellous exhibit of Christmas trees decorated by local folks who have a talent that perhaps many were not aware of created a wonderland of ideas.

One example was the Fruit Decorations that adorned the Christmas tree decorated by Connie Cinnamon. Who would think to use dried fruit as a complete method of trimming the tree? Dried oranges and other assorted fruit were hanging from the green branches. That was not the best part of this tree, there was nutmeg and cinnamon sprinkled through the green, what an aroma!!

The Christmas tree from the sea was something to float about. Peggy Leroy had collected decorations from the beaches on the East coast. There were shells of every description and then too there were sea horses and such dangling from the trees appendages. Coloured in golden tones, they were pretty brilliant.

Carol Sargent who has worked at Upper Canada Village, where this reporter first met her, had adorned a small table top tree, a real evergreen was decorated in Victorian style, elegant and beautiful in shades of burgundy, bows and ribbons and all.

Seasons Shop and Garden Centre's Eileen Johnston had a tall and magnificent pine tree decorated in natural attire. "Among the Pines and Vines" had a tale written to introduce this lovely green. "Among the Pines and Vines of the deep woods, away from the hustle and bustle of the towns and cities, the Spirit of father Christmas can be felt. Just close your eyes and imagine his Saintly figure travelling through the forests from town to town spreading Christmas cheer and good will. Along the way he might have watched with affection the flight of a bright Cardinal or stopped to pick up a fallen pinecone to admire its perfect form. In this collection, Seasons Shop and Garden Centre present a distinctive look. Combining the gentle charm of olde world Santas and tranquillity of decorations that spring from the earth. This year, enjoy a quiet Christmas among the Pines and Vines. A corner where the great outdoors came in for a rest, this tree was able to carry visitors away to a natural Christmas.



Eileen Johnston and Hazel Taylor were busy at the Creative Christmas afternoon sponsored by the Dundas County chapter of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. *Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston*

Along side the tree, Eileen and Hazel Taylor were busy wrapping gifts in brown paper and decorating them with natural items. There is no doubt that many who stopped to watch were mystified with the imagination these gals have...nice stuff!

Kathleen Leroux was occupied with "ribbon stitchery". What a rare and perfect way to make a picture. She also had a tree decorated with heavy brown paper bags stuffed and hand painted.

Joanne Notman was busy making Christmas ornaments, particular and delicate. Jenna Notman and Adrienne Leroy were also busy at the same table gluing pinecones, crafting candles and bird houses in pots, decorated and pretty as a picture. These two young gals have perfected their own style of creative work.

Doris Erratt was there on behalf of the Horticultural Society. Her "transplants" were on sale, and so very green.

Cynthia Foss had some decorative painting which she had decorated some cute wooden sleighs. Santa never looked so great!

Mary McNabb of Ez Tones was painting a ceramic wolf. Her ceramic creations were so very lifelike and seemed to call out to ride home with someone. Her work is well done and her manner invited everyone to stop and take another look. She offers courses and had available applications.

Marian Michalicka was using an old Christmas tree, recycling an old artificial tree or a real tree once the season is over is a neat idea. Her wreaths were blinking a welcome to each person as they walked past.

There was a CPR video, tips on eating Heart Smart and then the snacks and refreshments served by the ladies in the garden area were so tastey and inviting.

A great way to spend an afternoon....can't wait until next year! Well done everyone.

CONTINUED

Focus

Continued from editorial page

the two-hour show seemed to fly by all too quickly. I know that when we left the theatre, just about every kid in the lobby was either marching like a tin soldier or trying to pirouette. They were all smiling. The throngs of people who had gathered to witness the spectacle were abuzz with the excitement of it. Not one, I'm sure, could wait for Christmas.

Just Livin'

Continued from editorial page

with stuffing. He resembles Gumby a bit. He is to be used on those high stress days...to relieve it. The idea being that you take him by the legs and pound his head against anything close by, until things settle down...ah!

Turkey dinner from the Legion is arriving and the big guy has enjoyed his at school already; the sons have had their Christmas concerts and the parents were notably proud of the two drummers (One senior band, the other junior). They have had their annual Christmas assembly and the holidays are underway for the three men.

Take care and push back from the table before you think you should. This week's wisdom comes from Charles Dickens: "It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself."

Isobel Eastman is guest speaker

On January 12, the Valley Writers' Guild will be proud to present their guest speaker, local celebrity Isobel Eastman. Isobel will always be fondly remembered in Rideau as the nice Mrs. Eastman who taught kindergarten at the North Gower Public School for 25 years. Now, she is known as Isobel Eastman, author, and Isobel Eastman, actress in local drama productions. After retiring, Mrs. Eastman compiled the copious notes, anecdotes, and recollections she had collected over the years into a wonderful book, "Out of the Mouths of Babes" (1995), which tells us about the joys and experience of teaching four and five year olds. This was followed by a children's book published in 1996 called "When We Were Just Born". Both books were published by Cumberland Communication Concepts. The meeting starts at 2 p.m., at St. John's United Church, Prescott St., Kemptville. Non-members are welcome and pay $4 at the door.

Now in its seventh year, the Valley Writers' Guild has become a well-known institution in the Eastern Ontario literary community. The VWG boasts a large membership of writers of all types, who have achieved various degrees of success in publication. Our list of illustrious past guest speakers is a roster of national and international literary celebrities such as Tim Wynne-Jones, Charles Gordon, Clair Harrison, and most recently, Anthony Hyde. Our speakers all live and work in Eastern Ontario, proving that you don't need to live in Toronto to make it big on the literary scene.

The Guild also offers several writing contests over the year, with cash prizes and the opportunity to be published in our annual anthology, "The Grist Mill", which is sold in book stores. We encourage all writers, (published or hoping to be some day), to enter our writing contests, and we invite you to come to hear the guest speakers at our monthly meetings. Our contests and our meetings are publicized in most of the local newspapers and on the Internet. The meetings usually take place on the first or second Sunday of the month, from September to June, always at 2 p.m., St. John's United Church, Prescott St., Kemptville. Membership is $30 annually, $45 for family, and members receive our bi-monthly informative and entertaining newsletter. Non-members are welcome and pay $4 at the door. For more information about the Valley Writers' Guild, call chairperson Joy Hewitt Mann at (613) 658-5245.

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SD&G libraries undergo upgrade

Last year the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry County Library received a $15,000 grant under the County Library Automation Supplement Program (CLASP). CLASP grants are given by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship Culture and Recreation to assist county libraries in providing their branches with direct access to their automated systems or CD-ROM public access catalogues.

Ultimately the ministry would like to see a province wide information grid develop.

"That (CLASP) grant provided the backbone for the improvements we've made," says Leanne Clendenning, County Library CEO. Clendenning says the library bought nine computers and printers for different branches and upgraded the memory of computers at other branches.

"Two branches didn't even have computers,' she says.

One Year Later

Now, a year after receiving the grant, Clendenning says the library is looking at using the Internet to connect its branches to its central circulation database. Right now five branches in the system can dial in directly to the database via modem to check circulation data. Unfortunately this is subject to long distance charges. Using the Internet would avoid the expense of long distance.

She also says that further upgrades are to take place via "Computers in Libraries" a spin off program of "Computers in Schools". Computers in Libraries is an initiative that sends old computers replaced by the public service or business to schools. A perfectly good 486 replaced by a Pentium, for instance, might go to a library instead of the garbage.

"Some of our branches still have some of the old XTs," she says. Clendenning says that in order for the library to upgrade to an internet based system it will have to raise about $25,000. She says fundraising is ongoing and a recent dinner and auction to celebrate the library's 25th anniversary raised $3,500.

Crime Stoppers

Seaway Valley Crime Stoppers needs your help in solving three related crimes that occurred in the Ottawa and Iroquois area on December 10th and 11th.

An unknown number of persons stole a green Voyageur van from Ottawa on the 10th of December. This vehicle was then driven to Swank's Construction warehouse located on Carman Road near Hwy. 401 where they abandoned it. They then forced entry to the building and stole a white cube van and $5000 worth of tools. The suspects then drove the stolen cube van to Craig Packaging where they entered the building by force and stole two computers. They then returned to Ottawa where they parked the van at 1785 Baseline Road. With the exception of the 2 computers stolen from Craig Packaging all the stolen property was recovered.

Remember: we do not have call display, we do not record conversations, you are always anonymous.

If you have any information on this or any other crime you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to $1,000.00. Remember we don't want your name but please give us your information. Call Crime Stoppers at 937-8477 and for long distance calls 1-800-265-8477.

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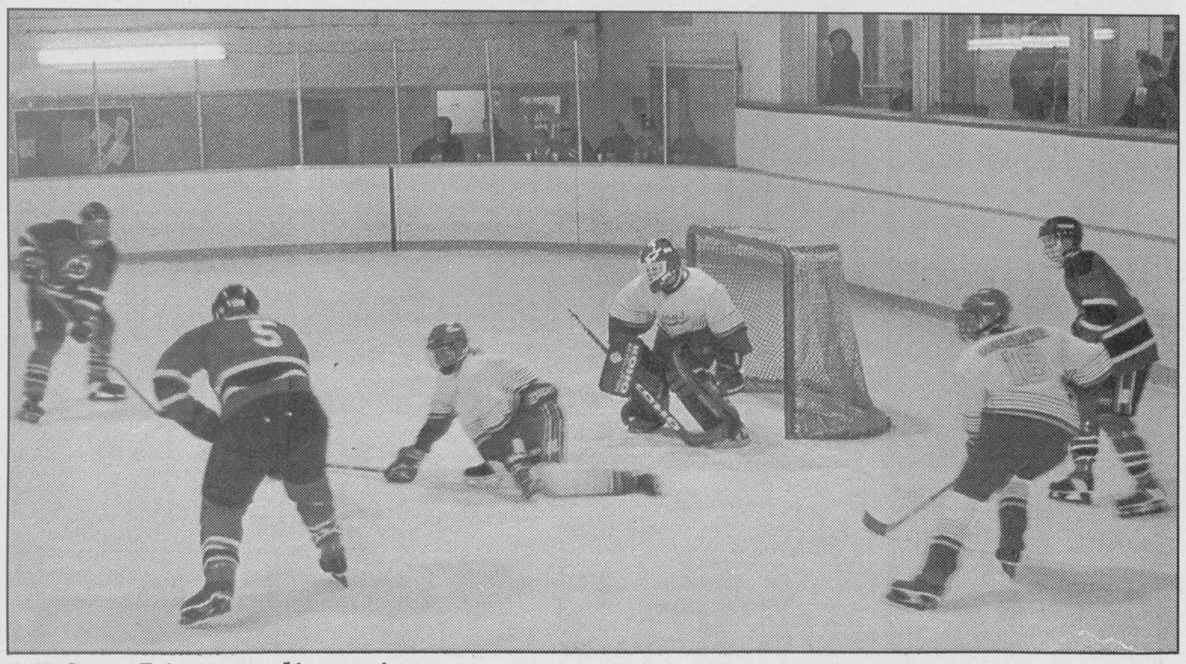
The Chieftain
Sports

- ✔*Seaway junior Spartans on a roll*
- ✔*Midget Lions lose 3-1 to Devils*
- ✔*Senior girls want SD&G title*

Lions host the Rebels this Friday



Midget Lions split series

The Morrisburg Midget Lions played the North Dundas Devils last week in a home-home series. Morrisburg defeated the Devils 3-0 in Winchester, but lost 3-1 in Morrisburg last Tuesday night. Coach Jeremy Morrow was impressed with the solid goaltending of (pictured in the Lions cage) Rene Croteau. *Chieftain photo by M.C. Bailey*

Midget Lions split home and home series with North Dundas Devils

by Michael Bailey
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Fans packed Whisky Row last Tuesday night as the Morrisburg Midget B Lions hosted their toughest competition, the North Dundas Devils.

Despite a valiant effort and the support of the over 70 Seaway District High School students on the row, the Lions could not pull out the win.

"We just weren't getting the bounces around the net," said Coach Jeremy Morrow following the 3-1 loss. "It was very frustrating for the boys."

The Devils came out strong in the first and kept a great deal of pressure on Lions goaltender Rene Croteau.

North Dundas forwards Mike Ennis and Colin Fossit, broke into the Lions zone early in the opening frame, but Croteau was absolutely fantastic, picking an Ennis shot out of the top corner to keep the score tied at zero.

The Devils did get on the scoreboard first when Rob Desormeau, playing defense for the Devils, stopped a Morrisburg breakout and sent the puck to Mike Detchtow.

Detchtow used an Ennis-Fossit screen to beat Croteau who didn't see it and really didn't have a chance.

The Devils continued to pressure Morrisburg, but Croteau would give up no-more in the first period.

"We came out flat," said Lions co-coach and trainer Rob Casselman, explaining the Devils domination of Morrisburg in the first. "That gave them (Devils) the momentum."

"Rene played well," added coach Morrow, "he's the reason it was only 1-0 after the first."

North Dundas carried that momentum in the second period and at 10:34, Jeff West capitalized on a Desormeau pass to put the visitors up by two.

Nicknamed "Rat" by the Lions fans, the boys on the row began tossing out rat traps on the ice in defiance of Desormeau's assist.

The Lions played better hockey in the second frame, but Kevin McLeod, in net for North Dundas, refused to give up a goal.

John Casselman and Jason Crawford combined on a one-timer in the middle of the period, but McLeod stopped the Lions sharp-shooters.

With 1:37 left in the second, West sent Desormeau to the Lions net and the puck slipped through Croteau's legs to put the visitors up 3-0.

After a very brief intermission between the second and the third, and a quick talk from coach Morrow, Morrisburg came out strong.

Rob Murphy went end-to-end and just missed the net and minutes later Matt Dejong blasted a shot left of McLeod.

Halfway through the final frame, with the pressure on, Jamie Barkley carried the puck into the North Dundas zone and dropped a pass to Jeremy Adams.

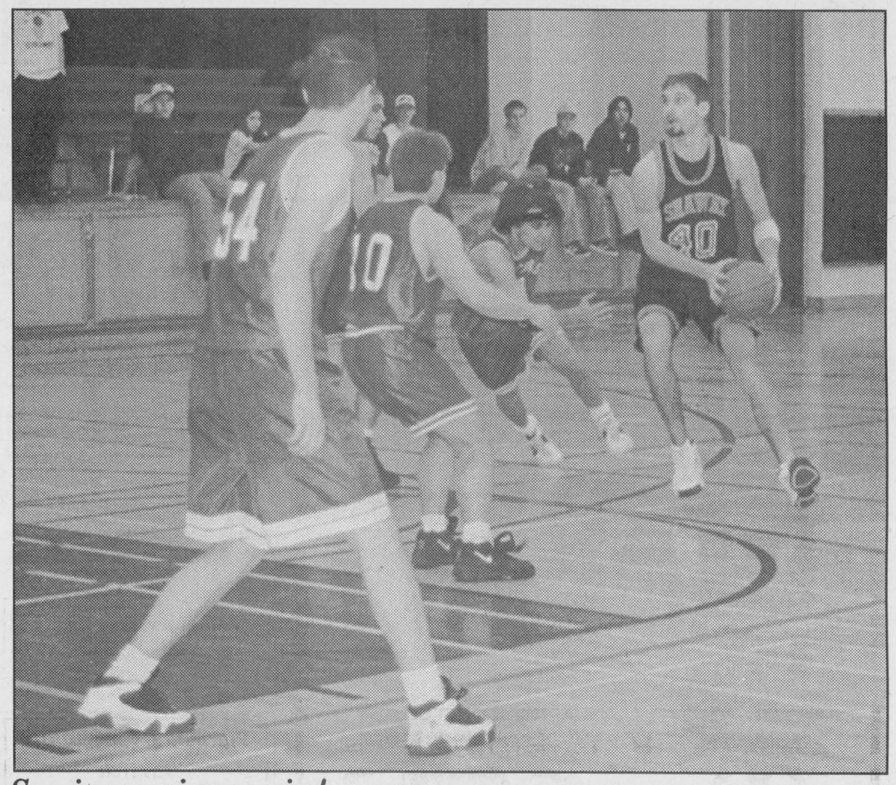
Adams, circling just inside the blue line, found Brad Boivin in the open and Boivin hammered the puck into the mesh behind McLeod to put the Lions on the board.

Unfortunately for the Lions, who had just regained the momentum, the game ended with over six minutes on the clock.

"We just ran out of time," said Casselman.

With a 10-3-2 record the Morrisburg Midget B Lions still hold down first place in their division.

This Sunday the team travels to Prescott for a game against the South Grenville Rangers and then the following Sunday, December 29th, Morrisburg will be in Alexandria for a match against the Glens.



Seniors win again!

The Seaway District High School senior boys basketball team defeated Char Lan 80-55 last week. Jeremy Bailey was amazing picking up 21 points in the game. Coach Corden was also impressed with Travis Thompson (16 points) and Guga DeAlmeida (13 points).

Chieftain photo by M..C. Bailey.

Seaway Senior Spartans Volleyball team is looking to take championship

by Michael Bailey
Chieftain Staff Reporter

With only one series out of the way, the Seaway Senior girls volleyball team is already looking at taking a shot at the Eastern Ontario Secondary School Athletic Association (EOSSAA) volleyball championship.

The senior team travelled to Char Lan last week and in the three game series against the Crusaders, only gave up one game.

Last year the senior girls captured the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry "A" championship and earned the right to represent Seaway at the EOSSAA tournament.

This year team members are hoping to do the same.

"We have a good team this year," said senior newcomer Jen Banford. "I think we'll repeat (the SD&G championship) and we should do well at EOSSAA."

Coming to the senior team from junior last year, Banford has noticed that the skill level and the competitiveness has increased, but still feels the team has a shot at the title and could go as far as the provincial championship if everything comes together.

Senior coach Diane Schultz was hoping for another good year, but was not as openly optimistic as Banford.

"We should do well once the team gels, but it's hard to get things going with a split in the season," said the coach.

If the Spartans hope to repeat their championship this year, then they'll have to do it without Suzanne Schraner, Tammy Henderson and Jamie Notman, who graduated last year.

"We have the talent," explained Ms. Shultz, "but it's hard to replace those three girls when it comes to team spirit."

With the Christmas holidays underway and exams coming in January, the senior team won't have a lot of time to practice but everyone on the team believes a repeat of the championship is possible.

Senior Girls Volleyball team

Defending SD&G Champs

Jen Morrow
Julie Gurnhill
Tracey Irven
Shanna Dawley
Sarah Trude
Nadine Easter
Maria Leonardo
Jen Banford
Meghan Gilmer

Morrisburg Minor Hockey round up

Novice

The Morrisburg Novice White Lions have been having an amazing season so far. With the first half of the season behind them the Lions have been on a 13 game winning streak.

On the 12th of December the Lions downed North Dundas 4-0 in Winchester.

Goals came from Grant McMillan, Mitchell Julien, Dave Jones and Daniel Toonders. Assists went to Scott Porter, Sheldon Beckstead, goaltender Shayne Strader and Andrew Adlington.

Hosting the North Dundas Devils on the 15th of December the Lions won 4-1.

Goals for Morrisburg were scored by Adam Schnurr, Grant McMillan, Sheldon Beckstead and Connor O'Brien. Assists went to O'Brien, Scott Porter, Michael Downson, Liam Remillard, and Ryan Morrow.

Atom C

The Atom C Lions won two games last week with victories over Spencerville and Westport.

The Lions defeated Spencerville 7-0 and Westport 4-1.

Nicholas McGill was credited with the shut-out.

St. Lawrence Division

	Gp	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Kemptville	24	22	00	02	178	60	46
Char Lan	24	16	06	02	129	84	35
Alexandria	24	11	09	04	103	117	28
Winchester	24	08	13	03	123	138	21
Morrisburg	**24**	**07**	**15**	**02**	**117**	**161**	**18**

Rideau Division

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Gananoque	24	15	08	01	143	87	33
Athens	24	14	07	03	120	91	33
Westport	23	08	14	01	103	134	18
S. Grenville	24	04	20	00	76	143	10
Brockville	25	02	23	00	68	166	05

Morrisburg Lions Games

December 26
Boxing Day Tournament - Renfrew

December 27 vs.
Char Lan 8:15 pm

January 3 vs.
Kemptville 8:15 pm

Long Sault Vipers home games

December 28
ALL STAR GAME 8:15

January 4 vs.
Rockland 8:15 pm

January 11 vs.
Russell 8:15 pm

Seaway leads basketball stats

by Michael Bailey
Chieftain Staff Reporter

The Spartans boys basketball teams could possibly be having the their best season ever! With half of the season behind them, Spartan teams are a perfect 3-0 in "A" school competition.

"I can't remember a year where we had three sweeps in a row to start," said Coach Francis following his teams domination of Char Lan last Wednesday afternoon.

The Junior team had another lock-and-load day defeating the Char Lan Crusaders 94-45.

"No one can touch our starting five and everyone on the team was on the scoreboard," exclaimed Francis!

Dwayne Vandermeer, Brandon Cassell, Ben and John MacPherson and Jason Byvelds have been outstanding all season long. Add to that starting five, the interchangeable Brad Boivin, who has been sidelined with a broken ankle, but is expected back in game form any day now, and you have a team that is virtually unbeatable.

Midgets

Dave Vandermeer, Richard Groniger and Mike McCann, once again led the midget Spartans to their third consecutive victory. This is the first year in the last three that the midgets have went 3-0 in regular season action.

Seniors

Once again the senior Spartans were victorious and are looking for another Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Championship.

Nathan Kiar figured prominently in the Seaway win last Wednesday as did Derrick Casselman and John Derouchie.

New year

The Spartans are now finished the first half of the season and will be looking to carry their perfect record into the New Year.

Coach Francis admitted that the split in the middle of the season (for Christmas holidays) is often difficult to deal with, but doesn't expect his teams to lose any ground.

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Iroquois and District
Community Calendar

A public service provided by the businesses listed here in co-operation with this paper.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec. 24, 7 p.m., Knox Presbyterian Church, Iroquois. All are welcome.

St. Andrews & St. James Presbyterian Church, Cardinal, Annual Christmas Eve Service, led by the Choir, **Dec. 24th at 7 p.m.**

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Cardinal, will kick off a year of celebrations in honour of the **125th year in the village,** with a **New Year Levee. Ecumenical service at noon, Levee in Parish Hall, 1 p.m.**

Jan. 12: Isobel Eastman, retired kindergarten teacher turned author, will talk about her books, "Out of the Mouths of Babes", and "When We Were Just Born", to the **Valley Writers' Guild, 2 p.m., St. John's United Church, Prescott St., Kemptville.** Visitors pay $4 at the door. **For more info call Joy at (613) 658-5245.**

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Van man

On behalf of the Upper Canada Playhouse board, vice-president Connie Cinnamon presents John Branchaud with the keys to a 1996 Lumina. Branchaud, the lucky winner of a fund raising raffle for the playhouse, says the his old car was recently in an accident, so the new van, valued at $23,000 came in handily. About $10,000 was raised for the playhouse, after expenses.

Chieftain photo by S. McKibbon

Christmas tag draw winners

There may be those who wonder if their eyes were playing tricks on them Friday last, rest assured they were not...

Jolly old Saint Nicholas himself was in the area last Friday.

The reason for his early stopover was not only to spread joy and happiness throughout the land, but also, so that he could make the Christmas Tag Draws in the local business establishments.

The winners he chose from each store's box included: at Gilmer's Pharmacy-Kay Bailey, at Little Rikkis-Connie Felker, at Seaway Treasures-Marie Simpson of Cardinal, at S&F Foodtown-Cay Brown, at Mustards-Roger Coulter, at The Chieftain-Floyd Gibson, at Doug Byers- Howard Keeler, at Rooney Feeds-Carley Lawlor, at Thompsons' Lumber-Nikki Easter, At Jim's Performance Plus- Nathan McDonell, at Harber's Flame Centre-Lisa Froom and at Leigh Morgan Fashions-Wendy Leslie.

We offer our congratulations to all who won, this should make your Christmas a little brighter.



Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS LAST CHANCE!!

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We at REDBIRD Wish You and Your Family
A Very MERRY CHRISTMAS and A Prosperous 1997

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Harmony Community Church
(Missionary Church of Canada)

Hwy. 31 & Ormond Rd.
774-5170

10:30 am Celebration Service
10:30 am Outdoor Sunday School
7:30 pm Evening Service
Wed. 7:30 pm Bible Study

HOLIDAY RATE BREAK

UPPER CANADA MOTOR SALES LTD.



3.9%* NO LIMIT GM VALUE FINANCING up to 48 MONTHS

ON EVERY NEW CAR AND TRUCK IN STOCK

*3.9% APR Financing o.a.c. Example: $10000 = 48 payments of $225.26. COB $816.37. Total to be repaid $10816.37. Other terms and rates available. Finance offer applies to in-stock cars and light and medium duty trucks. Limited time offer.

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*LIMITED TIME OFFER

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Closed Wednesday, December 25
Closed Thursday, December 26
Open Friday, December 27
Open Monday, December 30
Open Tuesday, December 31, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closed Wednesday, January 1/97
Open Thursday, January 2

SALES HOURS
Closed Wednesday, December 25
Closed Thursday, December 26
Open Friday, December 27, Saturday, December 28, Monday, December 30
Open Tuesday, December 31, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Closed Wednesday, January 1/97
Open Thursday, January 2

SALESMEN
Barry McMillan
Darryl McDonnell
Kirk McMillan
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CHEVROLET Geo Oldsmobile
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CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT

Edwardsburgh

to .7 per cent increase in their school board taxes next year, said Brenda Humphry, the superintendent of business. The bridge, coupled with the loss of Phillips Cables in Brockville, means a $250,000 loss off the top for trustees when they write this year's budget.

The board has been building reserves in the event the township couldn't collect the money from the bridge authority. Ratepayers won't be hit with an increase to make up the retroactive money that's due.

While the township is planning to go back to both the county and the school board to cover a share of the legal bills, the board says they'll have to talk about it.

The fight with the bridge authority to collect the taxes started before the structure was built.

The agreement the authority had with the New York State government before construction started meant no property taxes would be paid. Because they haven't had to write cheques for governments on the U.S. side of the border, they-'ve refused to address them to Canada.

The dispute got to the point that the township considered blocking the Canadian access to the bridge. They couldn't. It's federal land.

"Residents can be assured we've been frugal," said Dobbie. "We-'ve built up a little bit with reserves to cover it for our residents. I'd suggest councils of the future do the same thing. If the federal government can't collect the money, how can we?"

Exchange

Angel Tree at the Bank of Montreal in Iroquois, were accounted for.

In fact, the number of gifts was actually higher than the number of angels! Congratulations Iroquois-Matilda!

The South Dundas Christmas Exchange is organized by local residents and is made possible through the generosity of dozens of volunteers who help raise money, collect food, gifts and help in anyway necessary.

Thanks to everyone who took the time this year to help and make the season brighter for those who are less fortunate.

Williamsburg

began, "It's definitely going to be a very merry Christmas."

"The reindeer are ready and Rudolph will be leading the way again this year," Santa commented.

According to Mr. Claus the Canadian Air Force will be at his North Pole location Tuesday afternoon and as soon as it's dark two F-16 fighters will begin to clear a path in the Northern skies for Santa's team.

"This year we'll be starting on the East Coast, HO,HO,HO," explained Santa who started his Canadian run on the West Coast last year. "We like to change the route every so often and if you'd like to see how we're doing, you tune in to your local television station a little after six pm."

"There's been a lot of good little boys and girls in South Dundas so I've allotted a little extra time this year," he continued.

Santa did admit that covering the world in one night does make his Christmas a little hectic, but he has all year to rest and with a little Christmas magic, everything goes off without a hitch.

Before he left, he wanted me to remind everyone to leave some milk and cookies because those snacks really help him keep up his strength.

Matilda

midnight.

The canteen will be open for both dances.

Saturday will see the "Dr. Tom Maxwell Car/Snowmobile Rally" roar off. Registration will be from 11 til 1 at a cost of $3/person. Jim Wicks and Westburg Union will entertain during the afternoon from 3 to 6 and supper may be purchased from 4 to 6pm. The Brinston United Church ladies will prepare the meal and Recreation members appreciate their generosity. Jim and his group will play for a dance from 9 to 1 ($5/person). Gary Shaver can fill you in if there are questions (652-1819) concerning the Rally.

Sunday is Family Day. Sleigh rides and a wiener roast at the farm of Ron Smail (East of Brinston), will see three teams of horses heading to the bush and out again. Recreation asks that you do not arrive at the Smail farm until 1pm. Rides will begin at 1:30 and continue until 3:30, bundle warmly and come on out and enjoy!!

Later that same evening, a Hymn Sing will get underway at the Hall at 7pm followed by an Ecumenical service sponsored by the Matilda Helping Hands Seniors. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

It is of note for the youngsters that from January 6 to the 11th, a Mackie Look-A-Like Contest will run. Build a Snowman that you think resembles Mackie in your front yard, call the clerk's office or Nancy Blokland (652-2096) and someone will rush out and judge him before he can melt away.

There is no House Decoration contest this year, but the award for the Citizen of the Year could be a go, if any entrants are nominated. If you know someone who deserves this recognition, call the Clerk's Office at 652-3304 and give their name to the Clerk.

Plan to attend as many of the events as possible, the people make the Winter Carnival in Matilda, one of the best in Eastern Ontario.

Amalgamation

is coming, amalgamation. The questions come up on things like what actual savings can be had? Who will pay for what? Who will deliver the services? To what extent will service suffer? Will voluntarism suffer a demise when larger areas are joined together? Will an equalization formula determine how much and who will pay for certain items? How can we in this part of the province move ahead if we are left behind before amalgamation happens? If we do not make the decisions will the province step in and do it for us?

These and more questions will have to be answered soon...

Hartford awarded

The Ontario Residential Care Association (ORCA) has awarded *The Hartford*, a retirement home in Morrisburg, a standards certificate following an intensive evaluation of the operations.

The award, which recognizes excellence in the delivery of personal care and services across Ontario, is part of a broad ORCA consumer information program intended to assist in understanding the best residential care and retirement home options available.

ORCA is a voluntary organization of owners and operators of retirement homes and has for the past 18 years, been an active lobby group for establishing province-wide quality standards. The evaluation criteria was developed, and is regularly monitored by association representatives while the actual inspections are performed by professional, third-party evaluators hired by the Association.

"We established our evaluation program in response to consumer and government requests for a system that would differentiate quality retirement homes from inferior products. In order to join and maintain membership with ORCA, each property must undergo a comprehensive evaluation," said Paula Jourdain, ORCA President.

The results of the evaluation will also be used in the publishing of an annual ORCA consumer information booklet that features helpful data for people selecting a quality retirement or residential care home.

The Hartford has been an active ORCA member since 1994.

Last Minute Gift Ideas

Card Sets
Single and double card decks with wide range of designs
From 3.25

Executive Zipper Portfolios
With multiple storage pockets for the Dad on the go
From 19.98

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For that businessman on your list
From 9.98

CD Storage Cases
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Cribbage Board
For games lovers - cribbage board with Three colour track - wooden. Pegs included
From 8.95

Calculators
Many different models in stock printing & non-printing
From 6.98

Calligraphy Sets
Perfect for that artist in the family
From 19.50

Pen/Pencil Sets
Full range of Pen & Pencil Sets *from Sheaffer and Parker*
From 21.00

Globes
For that person trying to find themselves
From 19.95

Holiday Cups
Assortment of mugs to select from
From 6.99

Executive Portfolio
Portfolio with full function, duel power calculator. Pockets for your documents. Letter size pad included
Only 34.95

Porcelain Dolls
Our Vanessa Doll Collection comes complete with collector's club membership
39.99

Multi-Media Disk Tray
Accents by Fellows You can store up to 80 3 1/2" Disks or 12 CD-Roms or 60 5 1/4" Disks, or combinations of each.
11.30

Ceramic Figurines
Wide selection of animal figurines in many poses.
From 6.49

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Several styles and sizes to choose from
From 27.98

Prismacolour Pencil Set
The favourite of professional artists for over 50 years. Blendable colour that never fades
From 15.00

CHRISTMAS SUPER SPECIAL
KODAK GOLD 100 COLOUR FILM
Perfect for those indoor holiday shots
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Different styles and colours to choose from
From 52.00

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Please bring in your Pictures & Stories to create a Special Souvenir Edition of the 140th & 40th Anniversaries of Iroquois

Pictures of agricultural practices, construction projects along waterways, floods, forestry, homesteading, and urban & rural scenes from Yesterday and Today are appreciated.

We will accept slides and prints in colour or Black & White *Please identify the locations, event or people in the pictures

Please put your name, address and phone number on each item you submit if you wish them returned.

Please send your photos and stories to:
Anniversary Committee, Box 249, Iroquois, ON K0E 1K0
For more information call 652-4422 or fax 652-4636

Township of Matilda
652-4403
NOTICE BOARD

Applications are now being accepted for a
MATILDA WINTER CARNIVAL QUEEN
to be chosen on January 11, 1997
at the Matilda Community Hall.
All applications must be submitted by Dec. 31/96 to the Clerk's Office 652-4403 or Dennis Cooper 652-4630
Must be between the ages of 15 (before Dec. 31/96) and 18, and a resident of Matilda Township.
Prize donations accepted, and sponsorship of contestants are accepted.
****
Anyone, young or old, interested in participating in
AMATEUR NIGHT
to be held on Tuesday, January 14, 1997
Please notify Nancy Blokland 652-2096 prior to Jan. 3/97
KARAOKE EXPRESS IS AVAILABLE
****
NEW!!!
MACKIE LOOK-A-LIKE CONTEST
Hey Kids, build a snowman to look like Mackie
Judging will be held Jan. 6 - 11/97
so once you've done Mackie contact
Clerk's Office 652-4403 or Nancy Blokland 652-2096
Winner will receive a GT Snowracer.
****
"CITIZEN OF THE YEAR"
Anyone knowing of a person who should be nominated as Citizen of the Year for 1996 in Matilda Township please contact the Clerk's Office in Brinston at 652-4403.
To be presented at Matilda Winter Carnival Queen Pageant Night, January 11, 1997
****
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!
Volunteers are greatly needed by the
MATILDA RECREATION COMMITTEE!!!
Anyone interested in being a volunteer, or in becoming a member, please contact the Clerk's Office 652-4403, Dennis Cooper (Chairperson) at 652-4630 or any Recreation member.

For Sale

COUNTRY WATER SYSTEMS
Pumps - Conditioners - Filters
GARRY MURPHY SALES & SERVICE LTD.
Brinston, Ontario 652-4802
S26-tfnc

Plenty of used merchandise in our New-To-Annex. Dinettes, T.V.'s, washers & dryers, bunk beds & sofa sets, microwaves & lots more
MADMAC'S FURNITURE & APPLIANCES
2069 Dundas St.
"Beautiful Downtown Cardinal"
657-3037
M6-tfnc

VEHICLE FOR SALE, new or used and NO established credit. On a pension, limited income, bankrupt or starting a new business, yes we can help. No banks or finance Co.'s. Established over 12 years ago, we are the professionals. **Car-o-line Auto's, 613-448-2488.**
J17-tfnc

1990, 28.5 ft. Express Cruiser. Single 460 CID engine, low hours. White/blue trim, full canvass, fully equipped. Ready to go. $50,000. Call evenings 613-925-5823.
My8-tfnx

1984 VF1000 Honda Interceptor. Powerful classic superbike, red, white and blue in colour, new exhaust and Cobra F1 mufflers, good condition. Only $2,000! as is. For enquiries call Chris or leave a message at (613) 925-5823.
A28-tfnx

APPLES
Apple Cider * Apple Products
Gift Baskets
Christmas Special on Red Delicious
SMYTH'S APPLE ORCHARD
Dundela -- 652-2477
County Rd. 18 between Williamsburg and Dixon's Corners
N16-tfnc

Lawn Tractor...Why buy used...New White 12 hp. with 38" deck for only $73.06 a month with $365. down, only at **Weagant Farm Supplies,** Winchester, **1-613-774-2887.**
A24-tfnc

Purebred German shepherds, $200 each. Dewormed. Ready to go; born November 8th. Three females left, silver and tan. Call any time 657-1279.
D23-1tp

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS!
NOW IN-STOCK...
Vanessa Porcelain Dolls...
Only $39.99!
Santa & Angel Collections
And more to come...
THE IROQUOIS CHIEFTAIN
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N6-tfnx

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EVERYTHING IN STORE!!
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40% OFF Christmas Items
Effective Dec. 27th - Jan. 4th
THE NOOK -- 652-4891
D23-1tc

Two pairs of new ladies leather dress snowboots, size 8. Call 652-2335.
D23-1tp

Panasonic Camcorder, with built-in colour TV screen $700. Call 652-4391.
N20-tfnc

STOCKING STUFFER!
Hockey Stats Book for Playing "Pro-Line"
159 pages of facts, stats and trends -- $9.95
Call 543-3392
D18-2tc

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THE TURN OF THE CENTURY
**Crafts by Local Artists*
**Expanding Craft and Needlework Supplies*
**Yarns, etc.*
*Rental space available for crafters
Morrisburg Plaza -- 543-4399
N27-5tc

Wanted

EVERY WEDNESDAY, healthy, holstein bull calves. Top price for good young calves between 95 - 110 lbs. Deliver to Delft Blue Veal Farm, Lightning Street, Williamsburg from 12 to 4 p.m. For prices of the week phone Walt at 543-2796 Monday nights after 8 p.m.
D27-tfnc

Sales & Service

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Call 652-4455 for registration and information
M13-tfnc

For Rent

Cardinal: 1 & 2 bedroom apartments. $390/1 bedroom; $420/2 bedrooms. Fridge, stove and parking included. One month FREE with 1 year lease. Only 1st month's rent required. Call 657-1632 or 657-3448.
O30-9tp

In Cardinal, 2 bedroom apartment, stove and fridge included. Hydro extra. Third month free. Available immediately. $420 per month. 657-1632.
A14-tfnc

Townhouse for rent. Available Feb. 1/97. Two + 1 bedrooms, lots of space, 2 car parking. $625/month plus utilities. References required. For info and viewing call 652-2373.
D4-tfnc

Furnished room for rent. $450 per month, utilities included. First month only. Call 543-2932.
D11-tfnc

Notices

HARBERS FLAME CENTRE
"HOLIDAY HOURS"
We will be **Closing**
Monday, December 23rd at 12:00 noon
We will **re-open**
Tuesday, January 7th
Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday
Joy and Brian -- 535-2301
D18-2tc

THOMPSON HOMECENTRE
Dundas St., Iroquois
"STORE HOURS"
Dec. 24th -- Closing at 4:00 p.m.
Dec. 25th -- CLOSED all day
Dec. 26th -- CLOSED all day
Dec. 31 -- CLOSED all day (inventory)
Jan. 1st -- CLOSED all day
652-2500
D23-2tc

In Memoriams

WYLIE - In loving memory of my dear mother, Dora, who passed away December 27, 1990.
Though your smiles are gone forever,
And your hands we cannot touch;
We have the many memories,
Of the one we loved so much.
We'll love and miss you always Mom,
Love daughter Deltra, son-in-law Stan and grandchildren
D23-1tp

WYLIE - In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother, Dora Wylie, who passed away December 27, 1990.
It's not the tears that are shed at the time,
That tell the hearts are broken;
It's the lonesome tears in the after years,
When a loved one's name is spoken;
To the world you may be forgotten,
To others a part of the past;
But to us who loved and lost you,
Your memory will ever last.
Sadly missed and always remembered with love, Eileen, Clancy, and families
D23-1tp

Thanks for your support throughout the year.
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10%-15%-20% OFF
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Wed., Dec. 18 to Dec. 31, 1996

Rick's Gas Bar
Pronto Food Marts
Open Till 9 P.M. 7 Days A Week
Holiday Hours
Closed Dec. 25; Dec. 26, 9-9; Jan. 1, 9-9
Merry Christmas Happy New Year
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Family Pak. Pork Chops **2.49** Lb.	Lean Ground Beef **1.99** Lb.

Please Call and Place Your Order Early for Buns, Bread and Pies
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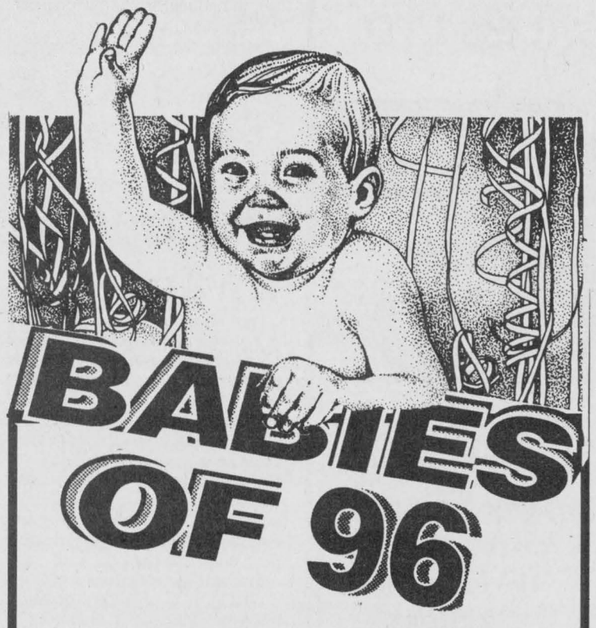
Scorpion Sports Bar
5th Annual Boxing Day
Progressive Euchre Tournament
Thursday, December 26
at 2 p.m.
Entry Fee - $5/person
Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd**
FREE Door Prize *for a pair of*
Ottawa Senators vs San Jose Sharks tickets on Feb. 8/97
Hot Chili and Bun...$1.50
SCORPION SPORTS BAR
Village Square Mall, Cardinal
657-3987



A Special "Baby's of 1996" Feature will run in THE CHIEFTAIN
the first issue of the new year...
Wednesday, January 8th, 1997
DEADLINE FOR PICTURES TO BE SUBMITTED...
FRIDAY, JANUARY 3rd, 1997
Please include:
*a good black & white or colour photo
*the baby's name
*date of birth & parent's names
Cost of this feature is $12.00 (plus G.S.T.)
SUBMIT YOUR BABY'S PICTURE NOW!
THE CHIEFTAIN
Just off the plaza square
Iroquois, Ontario
652-4395

OBITUARIES

M. Jean Bush

After a brief illness, on December 17, 1996, Margaret Jean Bush (nee Allison), a housewife, at her home in Morrisburg with her daughters by her side.

Born on October 8, 1917 in Chesterville, Ontario, Jean was 79 years of age at the time.

Predeceased by her parents, William Percival and Estella May (nee Rose) Allison; and a brother, Trevor Allison, as well as her beloved husband, Maxwell Charles Bush who passed away in 1976.

She is survived by a son, Charles W. Bush and his wife, Maureen; daughters, Judy (Mrs. Peter Nichol) and Joanne (Mrs. Brett Lamberty) a sister, Mrs. Rose Clouthier, four grandchildren and one great-grandson, all of California.

A member of both the Iroquois United and Morrisburg Lakeshore Drive United Church, Morrisburg, Jean was a very special lady whose quiet demure and easy manner fostered numerous friendships for her through the years.

There was a private graveside service at Maple Ridge Cemetery, Chesterville. The family appreciated the donations to Winchester and District Memorial Hospital Memorial Fund and or the VON Dundas Chapter in her memory. Arrangements were under the care and guidance of the Fairbairn Funeral Home Ltd., Morrisburg.

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required immediately
TWO (2) INFORMATION SERVICES SYSTEMS SPECIALISTS

Minimum Requirements and Skills:
- Degree or diploma in microcomputer/information technology or equivalent experience.
- Thorough knowledge of microcomputer hardware and DOS/WINDOWS operating systems.
- Technical skills and related working experience in networking microcomputers using NOVELL, Windows for Workgroups and Windows NT.
- Novell or Microsoft certification a definite asset.
- Strong organizational, communication and interpersonal skills.
- Proven problem solving skills with exposure to end user support
- Access to vehicle and possess a valid driver's licence for travel within the Board's jurisdictional area.

General Duties:
- Install, maintain, upgrade and troubleshoot microcomputers and computer networks.
- Provide technical support for classroom and administrative PCs.
- Support site administrators of school networks in tasks related to software installation, file maintenance and overall operation.
- Appraise technical needs of school users to ensure optimum use of equipment.
- Participate in the evaluation and integration of technology in schools.
- Deal with vendors on hardware repair issues and outsourced technical services.
- Act as resource to the Board's computer Helpdesk call logging and tracking system.

Evaluation:
- Candidates may expect to have their skills evaluated.

Hours of Work: 35 hours per week

Rate of Pay: Group A(b) $531.39 - $596.04

Written applications will be received up to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 7th, 1997, by:
The Human Resources Department
S.D.&G. Public School Board
902 Second Street West
Cornwall ON K6H 5S6

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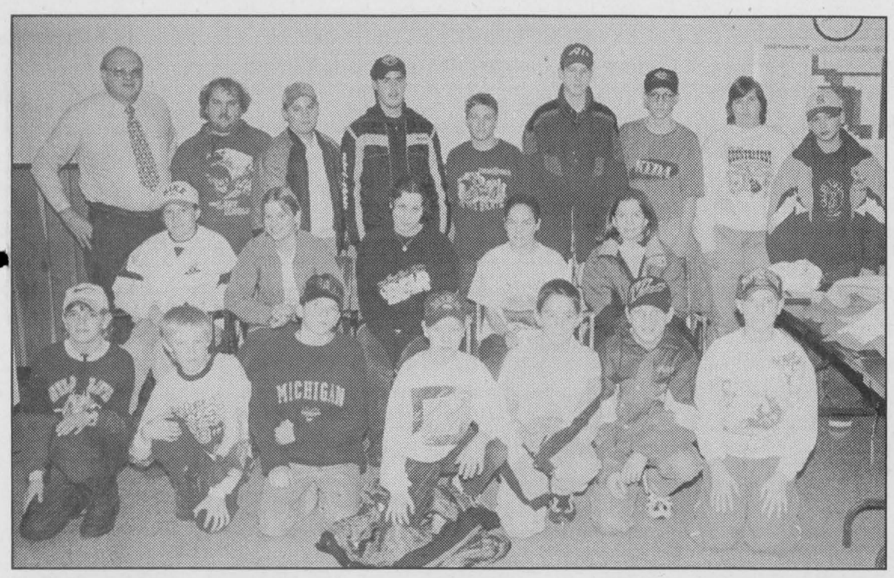
Le directeur de l'éducation JAMES W. DILAMARTER, Director of Education
La présidente de la SLF, MICHELINE OUELLETTE, Chairperson of FLS



Snowmobilers' Drivers' Course

These young people worked hard to learn more about their snowmobiles as they earned their driver's licences. Stressing safety, knowledge and caution, this course should be mandatory for all drivers. A great refresher course for older folks, it teaches the young to be aware when driving their snowmobiles. They are not toys, but powerful machines, and everyone who rides should know first aid, what to do in emergencies and the such. *Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston*

Snowmobile course a valuable asset for everyone involved

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Snowmobiling is a winter fun recreation which represents freedom to many people in Ontario allowing them to go where the law permits. The snowmobile is a modern expertly engineered machine designed for use in the snow. It has opened up a whole new vistas of beautiful scenery for individuals who want to explore this province and enjoy the great outdoors at the same time. It has made winter transportation easy for people in remote areas. Perhaps the best thing for those of us in or close to urban areas, it has provided endless hours of great outdoor recreational enjoyment for many who would normally withdraw from sports activities in the wintertime. It has become one of the most popular winter pursuits for countless families who ride the trails and delight in long weekends with friends and relatives.

Designed to be a safe vehicle when used as intended, on the snow, the snowmobile seems to be such a simple machine to operate there is a tendency for inexperienced operators or those younger operators to be overconfident in their ability to control a snowmobile.

It will not always respond the way you expect it to, deep snow, icy surfaces and drifts can make a snowmobile difficult to control, until you learn the proper techniques.

An attitude of safety consciousness in operating your snowmobile is vital. You must recognize the limitations both you and your machine are under.

When you are young, confidence often abounds and your abilities surpass all others in your own mind. It is important then that younger drivers learn from an expert. The Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs sponsor courses for youngsters 12 years and older who do not possess a valid drivers' licence. When the students pass the course, they receive a snowmobile drivers' licence which entitles them to snowmobile off their own property. They can travel on recognized club trails with the club's permission and an OFSC permit. If written permission is given you may ride on that property. If during your travels you must cross a roadway, you will still need to have a person with a valid drivers' licence take your machine across for you, at a 90 degree angle. You cannot drive on any roadway until you reach the age of 16.

There are numerous rules to obey after you have your snowmobile drivers' licence; including what to carry, how to dress, speed limits to obey and what to do in an emergency situation. Knowing about the machine you drive is important as well and the course that some twenty-one youngsters took part in at Craig Packaging a couple of Saturdays ago, so that they are prepared when they hit the trails this winter.

Items like first aid and hypothermia were stressed as safety is foremost in the minds of teachers, but not students. The youngsters learned how to check their oil, gas and plugs in their snowmobiles. Knowing what to do if the machine breaks down is important since many deaths occur because drivers break down and try to walk to help...because snowmobiling allows drivers to go to remote areas, miles from help, thus increasing the risk of injury or death, knowledge can only save lives.

Martin Habraken taught the course as ladies and gentlemen both learned how to enjoy their snowmobiling experience safely and knowledgeable in the sport. Taking the course were, Bradley Keeler, Matthew Baker, Ben Byvelds, Brad Wylie, Ryan Lewis, Peter Empey, Brad Thompson, Amber-Lee De Vries, Marci Tibben, Melissa Johnston, Kaitlyn Shaver, Elvis Tyo, Adele Johnston, Jason Cole, Tommy Suffel, Stewart Coughler, Andre Charlebois, Tim DeJong, Nona Miller and Riachard Mosher.

The spirit of Christmas is alive

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to an old man the pleasures of his youth...How many old recollections, and how many dormant sympathies does Christmas-time awaken!"-Dickens, The Pickwick Papers.

Christmas as we know it today is founded for the most part on the memories, traditions and customs passed down from generation to generation and culture to culture. And despite present-day commercialism associated with the season, the decorated evergreen tree, plum pudding, holly and ivy, yule log, mistletoe, Santa Claus, the turkey dinner, carol singing, gaily wrapped presents, the nativity story, midnight church still have their tale to tell and probably many, if not all, have special meaning for each of us.

All traditions did not come from the past. Television has also contributed to Christmas tradition in the minds of the young. At least in some homes, Rudolph, Frosty, Charlie Brown's Christmas, The Littlest Angel and the Drummer Boy to name a few are musts for youngsters to watch each year. The older folk may feel that their season is not complete without that Christmas Eve story...A Christmas Carol with Allister Sims.

One problem that surfaces when we speak about the Christmas season, is that the media and department stores insist on starting Christmas the first of November each year, so that by December 25, a lot of the fun and anticipation has passed. Even a favourite carol, like Silent Night is difficult to appreciate when it blares from a supermarket sound system in early November.

If, in fact the commercialism of the season weighs upon you as well, you may want to introduce your family to the stories behind the real traditions of the season and snag some homegrown customs along the way. In one house we know, for example, decorating the Candy House is something that started as a one-time event some years ago and has grown into a real tradition for the family; it will no doubt carry on into the future generations as well.

The idea is that the Saturday before Christmas is set aside for the construction stage and one and all plus some friends gather around the table in the kitchen to help. Candy is saved from Hallowe'en for this purpose. The finished job is put in a place of honour in the dining room complete with a small interior light that shines through the coloured cellophane windows.

Another family we know would not consider it Christmas if all the children in the group and now even grandchildren were not all together for the reading of the nativity story on Christmas Eve.

Strangely enough, the birth of the Christ Child is not the oldest association with the season that we call Christmas. Long before the birth of Christ, the Romans celebrated the Feats of Saturnalia during the latter part of December. They did honour to the god Saturn with feasting and games, gave presents to the poor and forgave old grudges and at the same time, celebrated the departure of the old year and the arrival of the new. During Saturnalia it was "peace among men", when even the popular blood sports of the Forum were forsaken for more peaceful pursuits.

Other parts of Europe marked the time with similar celebrations...in Scandinavia, it was called Yule; in France, Noel; while in Italy, it was referred to as Natale...the Natale at that time meaning the birth of the new year, not the Christ Child.

History records that, in earliest times of Christianity, the birth of Jesus was not celebrated, and it wasn't until much later that the elders of the church decided to mark the event with celebrations.

Christmas is thought to have come to England about the sixth century with Saint Augustine and thus has been celebrated there for nearly fourteen hundred years, with the exception of a period in the sixteenth century when the Puritans tried to do away with it. Fortunately, they were not completely successful but it wasn't until the nineteenth century that Christmas made a"comeback" as a traditional, happy holiday and only then because of the efforts of two famous men...Charles Dickens and the husband of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert.

In writing about the transformed Scrooge on the final page of A Christmas Carol, Dickens might have been describing himself when he wrote: "He knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge." For it was Dicken's love of the Christmas season, expressed through his writings, that helped to bring back Christmas as a joyous time. It should be remembered that Dicken's writings were read avidly by the people of his day and they promptly adopted many of the customs described in his stories.

In the Pickwick Papers, he described the season in this way:

"Then again I sing 'till the roof doth ring,
And it echoes from wall to wall-
To the stout old wight, fair welcome tonight,
As the King of the Seasons all!"

Prince Albert brought with him to England many of the Christmas customs of his native Germany, and he is remembered especially for the decorated evergreen trees he put indoors and outside the Royal residences, another practice soon copied by the British people.

The use of evergreen as a holiday decoration also is much older than Christianity. It was an important part of pagan celebrations and used to honour the gods of nature who maintained life during the dark, cold winter. Holly was hung in the olden days for luck, while mistletoe was regarded as unlucky. The custom of kissing under the mistletoe comes to us from England.

The Juniper, once known as "trees of sanctuary" because they were believed to have sheltered the Holy Family in their flight from King Harrod, also was used by early Christians for decoration.

Present giving is one of the oldest holiday customs although, in recent years, much of the credit for the appearance of gifts under the tree on Christmas morning is given to that"Jolly Old Elf", Santa Claus. As we know him today, Santa first appeared in illustrated form in 1836, in the Harper's Weekly magazine, drawn by a 23-year old German-American named, Thomas Nast, who later became one of the greatest magazine illustrators of his day.

Santa is known by different names in different lands and arrives in a variety of ways. He walks, he rides on horseback, in a cart drawn by donkeys, on skates or in his airborn sleigh powered by eight tiny reindeer, supplemented in more recent years by Rudolph and his red nose.

The Santa legend goes back to good Saint Nicholas, patron saint of children and sailors. Nicholas was an actual person, born in Lycia in Asia Minor in the fourth century. A priest and bishop, he inherited a vast fortune from his parents and according to legend spent most of it on gifts for the needy.

In Holland, the giver of gifts is still known as Saint Nicholas and arrives on the eve of his festival, dressed in his bishop's robes and riding a horse. The children put out wooden shoes filled with hay and sugar for his horse and in the morning, the shoes are generally filled with chocolate and sometimes money. The Saint is accompanied by Black Peter, his Moorish servant, who carries a switch to beat bad children. For this reason, many children are very good the week before Saint Nicholas comes to visit.

The custom of sending Christmas cards is a relatively recent one and was born around 1840 with the introduction of the economical penny post in Great Britain. Until that time, it was too expensive to use the mails for anything but the most important business.

Surely one of the most important parts of the festive season is Christmas dinner. Again Dickens is at his best when describing food-laden tables and even manages to show that the poor of the time, as portrayed by the Cratchitts, tried to make that meal something special.

The centrepiece of North American tables has long been the turkey and this is one tradition that the new world has been able to send back to the old. We are told that Jesuit missionaries in the new world domesticated the wild turkey and took it back to France toward the end of the seventeenth century where, today, in many dialects, the word turkey still is "jesuite".

The desserts of plum pudding, mince pies and tarts come from England.

In days of old in England, pig was generally the main course on Christmas day and the boar's head was usually decorated with herbs and carried into the dining hall to announce that dinner was served.

Boxing Day is the Traditional holiday for giving gifts of money to those who have served us well over the year. This tradition comes from Roman times when the gift was called "Christmas Boxes". It was the custom to give little clay pots with a slit in the side just big enough to take a coin. The pots, known also as boxes, had to be broken to get the money out. Sometimes they were in the shape of a pig (piggy bank) because a pig was considered no use to man until it was killed.

In December, members of the Jewish faith observe Hanukkah (the Feats of Light), which represents religious liberty and celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over Antiochus of Syria 22 centuries ago.Antiochus IV, who came to power in 175 BC wanted the Jews to abandon God and to worship many gods. When the people refused, the king's soldiers invaded the temple, destroyed the holy books and desecrated the holy objects. A small group of Jews fled to the hills to escape the religious persecution. There they banded together to form a small army. It was under the leadership of Judah Maccabee that this army succeeded in driving back the Syrians in 165 BC. After three years of fighting, the Maccabees entered Jerusalem and cleaned the city and the Holy Temple. They rebuilt the altar and readied the menorah to be lit again. They lighted the jar of oil (the menorah) which they found in the temple. Only enough oil was found to burn for one day, but it burned miraculously for eight days.

Each year, Jews celebrate the eight days of Hanukkah...from December 9 to 16. Hanukkah means dedication, because the temple was rededicated to God and restored to what it had been...a holy place of worship. Every year at this time, Jewish families gather to light their own menorahs. (A candle holder with eight branches; one candle is lit every night for eight days to remind each of the miracle that happened in the temple.) It is customary at that time to exchange gifts.

There are many other customs and traditions celebrated at Christmas time, space does not allow an expose on each. Hopefully this will help you start to create your own for your family. Merry Christmas to each of you.

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Not Exactly As Shown

The Chieftain Arts & Entertainment Page

✔Seaway musical evening
✔Cardinal house winners
✔Writing contest

Merry Christmas



Seaway Band Concert

Parents and friends gathered to grab the spirit of the season at Seaway High the other night as the Junior and Senior Bands and the Choir played and sang seasonal music. Much to the delight of everyone present, the young musicians had toes tapping and bodies swaying to the tunes. This shot shows the Junior section playing a Christmas favourite. Their teacher, Miss Flaherty directed the concert....and Merry Christmas to you too!

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston

Ho-Ho-Ho..... come to our show

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

It is an annual event.

The Music Department at Seaway High invites the parents and friends of the band members to a seasonal music show each year.

The gym seemed to be more crowded than in recent years. Perhaps the fact that some 36 students turned out for the junior band this semester. Some of these folks have never played an instrument before and so it is amazing that they do as well as they do.

Joined by the choir, the two bands played some pretty fine music.

The choir started things off as they sang Gloria in Excelsis, without accompaniment. This was done extremely well, and set the tone for the evening. The junior band carried things farther as they played "A Little Christmas Overture" and had toes tapping and bodies swaying to the beat. When they ripped into Rock Around the Clock there were many in the audience who just could not keep still.

The choir took centre stage as it were again to sing Away in a Manger, and did an excellent job again. There are some pretty good singers here.

Jennifer Hunter sang Sleep Well Little Children solo, while Angie Thompson also sang alone later in the program. Angie sang, "I'll be Home for Christmas."Both were well presented.

The junior band played two more selections, Three Christmas carols and March Majestic before they vacated the instruments for the Seniors.

Swing the Mood is always popular and as they tore into Swingle Bells immediately after, they certainly had the audience along with them.

Nothing is any more pretty than played by the seniors, a seasonal Choir did a fine rendition of this perennial favourite. Music teacher, Kristine Flaherty arranged Silent Night and the Choir did her efforts proud. C'est Noel was followed by Fantasia and everyone imagined they were at Disney World. Not many volunteered to dance to YMCA as the Seniors played it, but the three young ladies who did had some wondering if they should have gone up to show how it is done! Great fun gals.

Singing Slyahumba, the Choir was then finished their part of the evening and as the audience was invited to sing along as many of everyone's favourite carols were played by the Seniors, a seasonal evening of Christmas fun and music came to an end.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!



Chieftain photo by S. McKibbon

Colorful Winners

The results of the Color Me Beautiful Christmas home decoration contest, sponsored by the Cardinal Business Association are in. The winners, Peter Grisdale and Shirley Grisdale (third prize) and Marianne MacDonald (first prize) are pictured in the front row. The second prize winners, Ted and Mary Lockhart were absent. In the remaining rows are those who received honorable mentions. (Back row)Dwayne Murray, Earl Fletcher, Marilyn Casselman, Doug Casselman, Carl Abrams, Ed Farmer, Nelda Farmer. (Middle row) Sheldon Gill, Ann Gill, Cindy MacIntyre, Frank MacIntyre. Prizes were gift certificates for shopping in Cardinal stores. First prize was $250, second prize a $150 and third was $75 Honorable mentions received $25.

Valley Writers Guild contest

The Valley Writers' Guild's 6th Annual Fiction Contest is now open to short stories, literary or genre, in English. Stories are limited to 2000 words and must be unpublished. Work should be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" paper, double-spaced, with name, address and telephone number on only one of two copies sent. Entries must be postmarked by February 7, 1997, with an entry fee of $5 per story. Limit of one entry to non-members. Members of VWG may send one story free and each subsequent entry (no limit) for $2 each. Cash prizes of $50/$30/$20 will be awarded, with five Honorable Mentions. All eight stories will be published in "The Grist Mill, Vol. 6", and the authors will each receive a copy.

Mail entries to: VWG 6th Annual Fiction Contest, c/o Mario Carini, RR4 Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0. For a brochure on the Valley Writers' Guild and information about becoming a member, write to: VWG, Box 32, Spencerville, ON K0E 1X0 or phone Joy Hewitt Mann at (613) 658-5245.

Inside an Hour

Okay so what are we supposed to do once the house is littered with spent wrapping paper, toys, mostly eaten munchies and guests holding their stomachs after having had too much Christmas turkey? Santa's reindeer have some ideas already lined up for the holidays. Of course they'll be disguised as people so they don't get mobbed by fans.

First they'll be heading over to Scorpion Sports Bar Dec. 26th for the Progressive Euchre Tournament at 2pm. With the entry fee only $5 per person, the Reindeer thought they might clean up rather nicely. Of course there's only cash prizes for first second and third, but Reindeer don't count very well.

After that they'll be heading in different directions.

Comet will be going curling in Morrisburg. The Morrisburg Curling Club is holding a curling clinic on Dec. 28th. From 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cupid, great outdoorsman that he is, is heading out to the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary, on the 28th to go snowshoeing. It's only going to cost him $3, but if he had been a member of Friends of the Sanctuary it only would have cost $1.50. It's free for elves and children four years old and younger.

Dancer, is going to check out Don Morrell and his Orchestra at the Iroquois Civic Centre, Dec. 31. The New Year's Gala starts here in town at 9 and ends at one. Tickets are $35 per couple so Dancer is going to use Santa's time machine to go to the party twice. She likes swing music a lot and she also likes that it will be a smoke free environment, so she'll be able to enjoy her light lunch--twice.

Rudolph, always a loner, is going out to Matilda to the New Year's Bash at the Matilda Hall in Dixon's Corners. *Running on Empty* will be playing and admission is only $17.50 per person. If you want to go to the party too, call Dennis Cooper at 652-4630, Nancy Blokland at 652-2096 or Gary Shaver at 652-1819 for tickets.

Donner has decided that for New Years Eve, he's going to the Cedar Glen Golf Course with Olive the other Reindeer. For $10 the couple can enjoy food, dancing and party favors. They did have to call ahead of course for tickets, at 535-2323.

Blitzen, is a big Elvis fan, so he'g going to go to the Upper Canada Playhouse Dec. 31 to see "Roc N Mic" Szymanski, impersonate the King as well as other music personalities. He says he's looking forward to mingling before the show, with cocktails. Afterwards there will be food, dancing and a full bar. Blitzen is going to be there, with Vixen so it cost the couple $30. As usual Vixen had to call for tickets so when there was a busy signal at 543-3991, she called 543-4187.

Dasher will head out to the Morrisburg Legion for a New Year's Party there. She's a big fan of Dayton and Eric, the musicians for the evening. Dasher got her tickets from Judy Laurin at Scotia Bank, but she could have purchased them at Bo's Barber Shop or at the Legion Bar. It cost her $15. If she was bringing someone it would have only cost her $25. There will be a light lunch and party favors.

Prancer will be in Cardinal at the Legion there, for a New Year's Eve Dance.

When they're all done with that they decided to all get into Santa's time machine and go to the Loyalist Hotel for the New Year's party there. Tickets are only $5.

And you thought the reindeer didn't do anything until Christmas.

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Bridge Winners

The winners of the December 18th bridge party were first, Hubert Lapierre, second Barb Gaiser, and third went to Garnet Empey. Join us each and every Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Iroquois Civic Centre. We hope to see you all there!

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543-3904 Office
Rev. Bill Byers
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7:30 Family Eucharist at St. Johns
9:10 Carol Singing at St. James
9:30 Choral Eucharist at St. James
December 25 Christmas Day
10 am Family Eucharist, Holy Trinity
Sunday, December 29
10 am Parish Service, St. John's
St. James Morrisburg/St. Johns Iroquois
Holy Trinity Riverside Heights

St. Cecilia's Church
Rev. Father Tim Shea
St. Cecilia's, Iroquois
Mass - 9:00 a.m.
St. Mary's Church
St. Mary's, Morrisburg
Mass - 11:00 a.m.
Saturday's 7:30 p.m.

United Church of Canada
Matilda Pastoral Charge
Minister: Georgia D. Copland, B.A., M.S.W., BTh. MDiv.
December 29
Hulbert-Valley - 9:30
Brinston - 11:00

Anglican Church of Canada
Parish of Edwardsburgh
Rector The Rev. Doug Hayman
St. James' Parish, Crystal Rock
9:00 a.m.
St. Paul's Church, Cardinal
11:00 a.m.

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