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Initiation Players Sporting New Hockey Sweaters

Morrisburg and District Minor Hockey Initiation level Players Taylor Tippens, Casey McNairn, Mark Beckstead, and Parker Hart show off their new hockey jerseys as the accept the donation on behalf of their team mates. On hand from the association were Debbie Heldens and John Hanson with Tim Hortons' Morrisburg franchise owner Robert St Denis.

Chieftain Photo by Rebecca Comfort

Legality of Golf Course Club House questioned at South Dundas Council

by Lori Roberts
Chieftain Staff Reporter

At the final meeting of South Dundas Council this year, Tim Cassell an Iroquois resident and representative for concerned citizens of Iroquois once again questioned Council about the sale of the Iroquois Golf Course Club House property.

When asked for an update on the situation Mayor Whitteker told Mr. Cassell that the property buyers have until December 31, 2002 to finalize the sales agreement. They must sell 80% of the units to finalize the deal. Council will decide at this time whether another extension will be given or if the deal will be nullified.

Mr. Cassell then restated that he and the families he represents are not against the sale of the property, but are against a condominium being built. "This building does not belong in our area" said Mr. Cassell, "This is an area for single family dwellings."

Mr. Cassell then questioned the conflict of interest issue between the Council and Bill Horner former CAO and Mr. Eldon Horner who is one of the purchasers and also is the Township solicitor. Council felt the agreement was made being two business, not a father and son personal deal. Mr. Cassell reiterated that to the taxpayers a deal made between the Council and two of it's employees does appear to be a conflict of interest. Council disagreed still maintaining their position that the deal was made between two corporations and therefore there is no conflict of interest.

The next question put to council by Mr. Cassell was "were the developers registered with the New Home Warranty Program before the began preselling the Condominiums." Mayor Whitteker stated that he was not sure of exact dates but knew they had joined the program. Andy Brown CAO told Mr. Cassell that the Township could enter into an agreement before the registration took place. "This is just an agreement to purchase with conditions, it is up to the purchaser to register with the New Home Warranty Program. There is nothing illegal about council selling this piece of property," stated Mr Brown. Mr. Cassell then asked "Have any of you read the presell agreement." He then asked about the public meetings held by the purchasers. "At the August 16th meeting, and the two information meetings would the pamphlets handed out and the presentations given not be considered marketing" asked Mr. Cassell. Councillor Barkley answered with an emphatic "No." Councillor Barkley went of to ask "Was anything sold? This was an information session not a thing was sold." Mr. Cassell then stated that he hadn't seen any council members a the meeting. Councillor Robert "Rowdy" Gillard informed Mr. Cassell that he was at the meeting. Mr. Cassell repeated that he hadn't seen Councillor Gillard at the meeting to which Councillor Gillard replied "Are you calling me a liar. I didn't see you at the meeting." Mr. Cassell in turn accused Councillor Gillard of calling him a liar. Mayor quickly admonished the two and told Mr. Cassell not to use such language around Council table. Councillor Martel than suggested that Council should have their solicitors look into the legality of the matter and get back to Mr. Cassell.

Mr. Cassell then went on to question council about the true cost of building condominiums on this piece of property. "After the condominiums are built what is it going to cost to run hydro to the site? Sidewalks will have to be installed along with guardrails. What about retraining the Iroquois Fire Department in high rise fire rescues? How much is this going to cost the taxpayer?" Councillor Gillard then stated "Why should we have to do all this work now? We don't know if this deal is even going ahead, it may be all shot to hell by December 31st." Mr. Cassell reiterated that he just wants to know the true cost. Mayor Whitteker then told Mr. Cassell that "I think this is a win, win situation. Iroquois Golf Club gets a new clubhouse, twenty-five families get new homes and South Dundas Township gains tax money." Mr. Cassell then questioned council about development ever lowering taxes. "Has any land development ever reduced taxes" he asked. Councillor Barkley answered with "Any politician is crazy to reduce taxes. Use the money for improvement." To which Mayor Whitteker added "Tax money cleans the road, builds bridges and improves roads. If there is no tax revenue you wouldn't have a rink in Morrisburg, Iroquois Fire Department wouldn't have a new building, there would be no improvements." Councillor Martel then added that "Residential taxes to not reduce taxes to others."

Mayor Whitteker then gave Mr. Cassell two minutes to wrap up at which time Mr. Cassell questioned why his meeting request was denied. "I have to take time off work to come to council meetings." Councillor Martel then suggested that Mr. Cassell

Please turn to page 9

Upper Canada EQAO reading results improved

by Lori Roberts
Chieftain Staff Reporter

In May 2002, all grade three and grade six students in the Province of Ontario participated in five days of testing designed by the Education Quality and Accountability Office of Ontario to determine if students are achieving the reading, writing and mathematic expectations as set by the Ontario Curriculum policy. The EQAO provides data about student achievement in four ways; individual student reports, school reports, school board reports, and a provincial report.

Test results were recently released by the EQAO and show that students on the Upper Canada District School Board have greatly improved their reading and writing skills.

Over the past five years, the percentage of grade three UCDSB students who achieve the provincial standard has increased by eight percentage points in reading and writing. From 2001 to 2002 there has been an increase of five percentage points in reading compared to little change at the provincial level. The writing test results for the area board has increased by three percentage points while the provincial level has actually dropped three percentage points. The results from local schools in reading tests show that the provincial level of 70% or greater has been met by fifty nine percent of students at Benson P.S., forty three percent at Dixon's Corners P.S., fifty nine percent at Iroquois P.S. and fifty percent at Nationview P.S. In assessment testing for writing the provincial standard was met by seventy percent at Benson, fifty-seven percent at Dixon's Corners, sixty-nine percent at Iroquois P.S. and fifty percent at Nationview.

There has been an increase of sixteen percentage points in achievement in mathematics for grade three students over the past five years with a gain of three percentage points from 2001-2002. The report shows that the students are achieving reasonably well in each of the five different strands of mathematics. However, we need to focus additional training on strategies which develop student skills in problem analysis and problem solving. Local schools results show the percentage of students reaching the provincial standard of 70% or greater are Benson P.S. forty eight percent, Dixon's Corners sixty four percent, Iroquois P.S. fifty five percent and Nationview P.S. fifty percent.

The grade six test results also show a considerable improvement in reading and writing test results. From 2000-2002 the percentage of grade six Upper Canada School Board students who achieve the provincial standards has increased by ten percentage points in reading and six

Please turn to page 9

Tim Hortons supports Hockey

by Rebecca Comfort
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Tim Hortons opened in Morrisburg only a few short months ago and already they are doing their part in the community.

Morrisburg Minor Hockey is the lucky benefactors of the generosity of Denis and Robert St. Denis, owners of the Morrisburg franchise.

The St. Denis' decided to donate 80 team jerseys to the Morrisburg and District Minor Hockey Initiation Program. Now players from 4 to 7 years of age are sporting brand new sweaters. The money for the sweaters came straight from the Morrisburg location as part of their advertising budget.

Debbie Heldens Fundraising Chair of the Minor Hockey Association said she is "Happy to have Tim Hortons on board and glad to see a business giving back to the community." The donation is important because donations such as these "help to keep costs level, something that is often a difficult task."

President John Hanson of the MMHA was also on hand to express his gratitude for the generous donation, "A BIG thank you from the Minor Hockey Association for the support we have received from Bob and Denise."

In addition to the association thanks, the restaurant was filled with excited children, eager to thank the St. Denis' for their donation. The jerseys give the kids a real sense of team and they were excited about having a hockey jersey.



Spirit of Giving Lives at Seaway

Encouraged by the Students' Council, everyone at Seaway High School proved that it is better to give than to receive, as they collected non-perishable goods to donate to the South Dundas Christmas Exchange. All the 1996 items (700 from Mr. Edge's Class) were all trucked to Morrisburg on Monday Heidi MacDonald (Staff advisor), Steph Walsh, Callie Pittico, Jill Link and Jessica Weatherhead, Council reps collected good, used books on their "book tree" too.

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston

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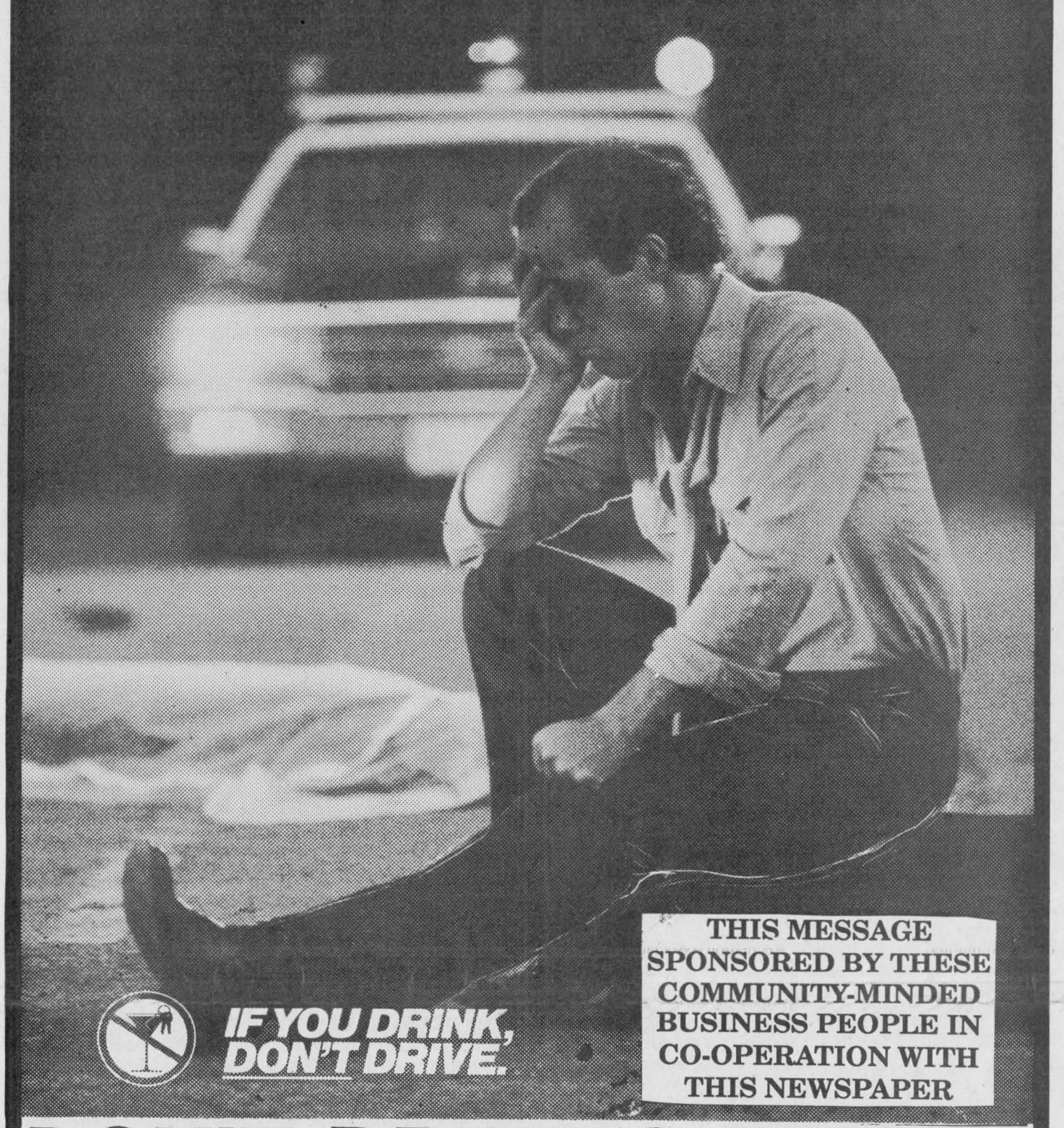

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And the Winner is...

Mark Bloomfield of Long Sault was the lucky winner of the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association's annual draw. He seemed pleased with his new 2003 MXZ Rev Sport 600. Jim's Performance Plus of Iroquois provided the sled and in the photo Jim and Debbie Strader (NVSA Fundraising Chair) congratulate the winner. Second prize, $500 worth of merchandise also supplied by Jim's was won by Andy Hummel of Winchester. *Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston*

Tag Draw winners announced

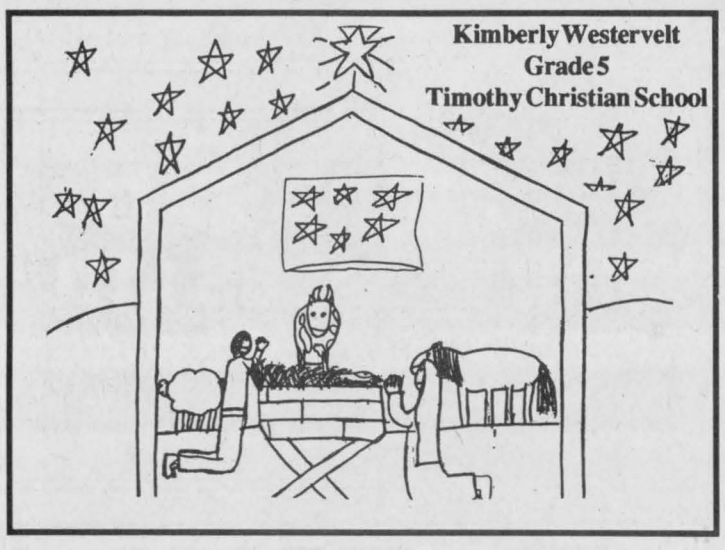
by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

As Santa made his way around the village with his helper last week he drew the winning names in each store involved in the Annual Tag Draw. A promotions by local business people to encourage shoppers to spend their Christmas money locally, the Tag Draw was popular again this year.

Winners included; Marilyn Dowson won at This and That Store in the plaza. Floyd Latulippe was the winner at Doug Byers Furniture and Applicanes.

Patricia Holder was the lucky winner at Rooney Feeds on Dundas Street, while Elsie Bron won the Beaupre Jewellers prize. Rejeanne Marie Vallee Fox had her name drawn at Mustard's Variety, Vernie Warren won the Thompson TimBR Mart prize, Linda Hunter was the LCBO winner. Nikki Stewart won the prize given by Vicki's Tanning and Hair Salon. Norma Smith won the S&F Foodland prize, Jack Shaver was the lucky winner at the Royal Bank, and Lee and Linda McCaslin won the Gilmer Pharmacy. Jean Murphy was the winner at The Chieftain. Drop by the store where your name was drawn and pick up your prize.

Thank you to everyone who entered the Tag Draw, your business is appreciated in Iroquois. Merry Christmas from the Business Community.



Edwardsburgh/Cardinal addresses fencing issues

By Theresa Roach
Chieftain Staff Reporter

The Township of Edwardsburgh-/Cardinal held the regular meeting of council on Monday, December 16 and received a deputation from local resident John Dugan.

Dugan was there to talk to council about property standards and fencing. He was on hand to address concerns about his neighbour who he says has been "moving his junk from one spot to another for the last two years."

He added that his neighbour was using his trucks and scrap metal as a fence and that he had talked to the man in the past, but he has refused to clean his yard up.

By-law Enforcement Officer for the township, Mike Spencer says he has been out at the site and has taken pictures and been through an on site inspection of the site with Dugan. Mayor Dave Dobbie said, "I think we should call Stephen Ault to see if there is anything we can do. Lets get a legal opinion on this."

He told Dugan that as soon as they get an answer from the lawyer they would get in touch with him.

In other council business, the hours of the LCBO and Beer Store Agency at Drummond's Gas Bar were approved. They will be selling alcoholic beverages during the following hours, Monday to Saturday from 7 am to 11 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 6 pm as well as on Victoria Day, Canada Day, Labour Day and Thanksgiving.

Mayor Dave Dobbie was recently elected as Warden of the United Counties of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville. He says that at his job at Upper Canada Village he has about 15 weeks of vacation time banked which he plans to use this year in his new role.

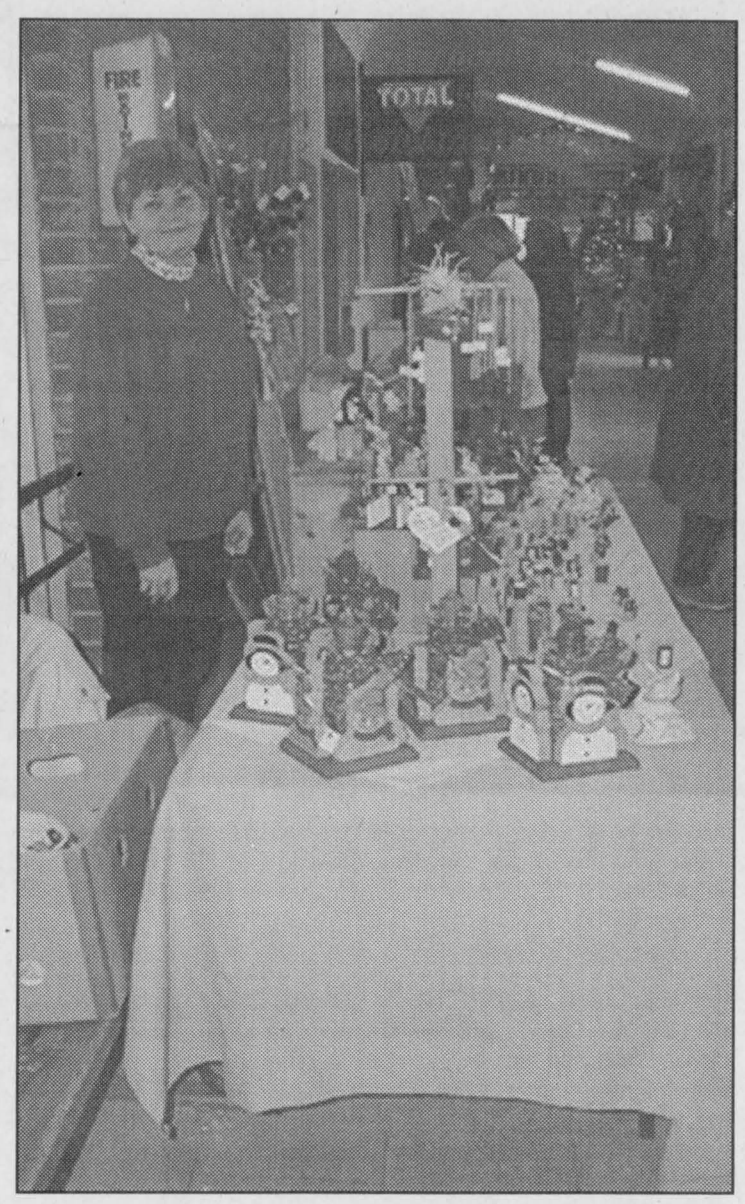
"I don't think I will have a problem doing both jobs. I already go to 4 to 5 county meetings a month, a few more meetings won't hurt. This is quite an opportunity and it's the highest office in municipal politics," said Mayor Dobbie.

"When you have been in municipal politics as long as I have there comes a time to make the jump. I have been the head of council for 10 and a half years. It will be quite an opportunity, but it will be busy," he said.

They received a donation of $3,000 from the South Edwardsburgh Recreation Association (SERA) to offset the cost of repairs needed at the Johnstown Community Centre.

The repairs it will help offset include, a new pump for the pool at $1,242, paint for the bleachers and washrooms at $360, gravel for the swing set area at $1,050, new lumber for the playground area at $350, new compressor for the fridge at $1,200, wax and stripper for the hall floor at $150, stove overhauled with new parts at $642, electrical work on pool washrooms and new lights on building at $850 and new tile for outside washroom at $138.

"The SERA organization helps put new things in the park and we appreciate all the good work they do. It's great you guys are keeping the centres up," said Mayor Dave Dobbie.



One Crafty Lady

Hazel Johnston-Grant was selling her marvellous wares at the Cardinal Mall earlier this month. Shoppers could choose from a vast array of unique items handcrafted by this lady to make their Christmas experience even more festive.

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston



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Hostage scenario keeps OPP Officers senses very sharp

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

focus

Neighbours along Zeron Road were wondering earlier this fall what was happening at the Lazy Seven Farm, home to Tim and Wendy Murphy and their family. Early on a sunny, but chilly October Wednesday morning, Police vehicles began to pull into the Murphy's laneway and proceeded to set up a command center in their yard. OPP cruisers, pickup trucks, vans, suburbans and a command center trailer were in place in short order and a variety of police units were getting set to move into place...a tense crisis situation appeared to be in progress as armed officers were seen, those in camouflaged army fatigues, various police officers were deployed and all the while a kind of an ordered chaos took over the scene.

A crisis with the potential to culminate in rather grim circumstances, the fields near the Trans Canada Pipeline SubStation were alive with police activity. All this in the cause of learning, keeping on top of things, a mock hostage taking exercise to maintain that edge so necessary for police to maintain in order to be effective in real-life situations.

The scenario was that of a disgruntled employee of the Trans Canada Pipeline who had not recently been seen, had lost his job, relieved from his position due to problems with liquor on the job.

He had on this morning been sighted by a supervisor inside the Pipeline Substation compound. Armed and upset, he had entered the Yard, taken and was holding a hostage. He knew his way around. The OPP had set up spike belts and road blocks in case he had any helpers intransit or was able to get out before he was contaiend and disarmed.

Inside the command center negotiators were in constant communication with the suspect as OPP Emergency Response teams quickly and efficiently moved into position.

The atmosphere was one of tense reality, although a certain calm was evident as each officer went about their business with knowledgeable confidence, but, this could have easily been the real thing.

There was a serious air about the entire situation, this is business and how the scenario plays out could be the difference between success and devastation in a real hostage taking. "We need to treat this as a real situation because you never know when something similar can occur, something that is not an exercise," notes Lathangue.

Not often does a reporter, or anyone for that matter get such a close-up, in your face look at all aspects of a hostage taking, this was a unique experience. SD&G Senior Constable Al Lummiss was our liaison with those involved in the scenario. An in-depth routine is strictly adhered to as everyone knows his/her job and as an army of police set up their command post, a member of the OPP ERT (Emergency Response Team) was in constant communication with those members deployed inside the Pipeline Substation yard. As we approached the command centre, camouflaged officers were stealthily making their way through a fence gate moving towards the pipeline yard keeping current on what is happening across the field is vital and headphones were evident as officers made notes from whatever is heard.

Inside the command center trailer, Inspector John Lathangue listened intently during a briefing as the negotiators, the ERT, TRU (Tactical Response Unit) and members of the criminal investigation team as well as a rep from the Pipeline and recorders kept one another up to speed on the situation.

The mobile command centre demonstrates the effectiveness of the police in such situations. Working towards a peaceful solution to the hostage taking, officers refer to detailed maps and diagrams of the Pipeline Yard, various structures therein, showing building locations, entry positions and possible sites for a suspect to hide. Team leaders are in constant communications with their units as the action takes place across a couple fields between the center and the Pipeline Yard. Notes are kept so that later they can be reviewed and lessons learned from the entire scenario.

Everyone knows their job and there is no hesitation, as everyone goes about their task with a methodic confidence.

In charge of the TRU team, Sergeant Brian Cross explains how the unit is deployed immediately when a crisis situation is known to be happening. These units have upwards of a dozen officers per unit. There is no TRU stationed locally, there are some 15 officers in SD&G who are trained for such duties. Playing a defensive role in these situations, they attempt to contain the suspect(s) in a confined area. It is the TRU who take the offensive role in these situations. It is stressed that there are some misconceptions concerning the TRU officers, due to the portrayal of SWAT teams on American TV shows. While TRU officers are trained to meet with resistance in hostage situations, there is no bashing of doors and mad rushes of guns firing and bullets flying. "We react if action is taken, what we do is based on what the hostage taker does," said Cross as he speaks to the reporters, "Most times we don't have to fire a shot or have to switch to an aggressive mode. First and foremost we look for a peaceful solution. In most cases assailants in these crime situations will surrender

Please turn to page 5



Command center action heats up *Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston*

Spirit of Giving Lives on

'Tis the season and yet there are stories daily being told about those who seem to have forgotten the spirit of Christmas. There are those who would put the Grinch to shame as they go about attempting to destroy the spirit of the season. They will NOT succeed!

As the South Dundas Christmas Exchange quietly went about their business, that of ensuring that many who would have had a rather dismall season will not be hungry and will have presents to open on Christmas morning...the spirit grew ever stronger and the spirit shone like a beacon.

The sea of boxes at the Morrisburg Legion on Wednesday was a wondrous sight to behold. Young people had been in the building all morning filling grocery boxes with enough donated non-perishable items to provide a family with a filling Christmas dinner and more. Boxes of tastey things stood tall and some things even flopped over the cardboard edges of the container used to transport them. Long tables of these cardboard treasures were ready for pickup as we arrived to carry in the numerous gifts donated in Iroquois under the Angel Tree at the Bank of Montreal.

While only a few days ago we were worried that there were numerous names left on the tree and wondered who would there be out there to take them and purchase a gift to replace the angels, we worried needlessly, for by Monday before lunch, every angel was gone and the floor underneath the tree was piled with festive bags filled to the brim with goodies. The generosity of the people in our community knows no bounds. There was not one angel left and all those youngsters on the South Dundas Christmas Exchange list, hoping to get something from Santa this year would definitely not be disappointed.

When we walked into the Legion Hall, it was overwhelming to simply stand and stare: the support that comes from the area is awesome to say the least. Boxes and bags bulged with toys, more sat heavy with stuffed animals, (These were all donated by one gentleman from St. Lawrence Corporation in Iroquois) and broad smiles erupted on the faces of those volunteers who each year make sure everything got to the correct people. "This is certainly what the season is all about," noted one of the ladies busily engaged in sorting.

Essential items like soap and toothpaste were being sorted by other terrific volunteers who give so much. There is no doubt the spirit is alive and well in South Dundas. Others back up to the door immediately we move our car and they too begin carrying bags and parcels and piling them in the Hall.

Plastic bags filled with home-knit mittens will surely find welcome homes as the temperature drops. Some kind person has been extremely busy, the bags of clean pine wood ends in a variety fo shapes and sizes will occupy some young minds for quite a while (A terrifc idea!) and allow some real creativity to be fostered and grow. The array of gifts boggles the mind and tears well in the corners of the eyes as people take a brief moment to just stand and look around the Hall, who would have ever dreamed that such a wonderful thing could even be thought of, let alone happen each Christmas, it bodes well for each of us who gets involved. The fact that one of the most important ingredients, the people who donate the gifts and food items are truly unsung heros makes it all the better, all the more truly Christmas.

Add to this the fact that many of the volunteers are young people who give of their time and also provide gifts, who fundraise, who collect for the food boxes and who enthusiastically join in the true spirit of the season and you have one of the best places on earth to call home, for the spirit of the season definitely lives here.

As the toy tables begin to fill up one can hardly fathom how so many youngsters will awaken on December 25 and race to to the tree to thankfully find a gift or giifts from Santa. The parents of these children must really know what Christmas means, for as a parent, I know how it would break my heart if I was unable to provide a gift for my children and the feeling of knowing that someone out there, someone I would never know, never be able to thank had extended their hand in friendship at a time when things have me on the downside. It would surely provide encouragement and in a year when I could afford to reciprocate I would do so with more enthusiasm than ever known previously. It would be a wonderful emotion filled day, Christmas, much like the day so long ago when our Saviour was born in a stable and provided with gifts from strangers he might never know.

S.L.J.



A very Merry Christmas to all

Just Plain Livin'

with Sandra Lee

As you read this effort, we at Swampview will have celebrated our first Christmas for 2002. The university kid and his girlfriend have flown to beautiful British Columbia to spend this week with her folks who moved there last fall. They will be heading back to our part of the woods to spend some of the final week of the festive vacation with us. They will leave for school again around the 2nd of January, weather permitting. Son number two has to travel to Haliburton from Peterborough to work on his research project for school on January 4. He will take his snowmobile gear this time since he did not have it for his first couple of trips on the snow vehicle that he uses to collect his data. It was mighty fresh and he learned he needs the warm suit and boots! He is enjoying this hands-on project that benefits his marks total and his knowledge base.

Christmas celebrated prior to the actual day was a unique experience for us, but things worked out well and everyone was free to go wherever they wanted on the 25th without rushing or hurting any feelings. Funny how the season which is supposed to bring us together with loved ones and friends often tugs us apart since both families want to have both parties of a relationship with them on Christmas Day, and after having raced and rushed about on many 25th of Decembers trying to be several places at once, to be with a great number of people in a variety of locations, instead of relaxing and resting and enjoying the day, this year may well have taught us a valuable lesson. I had on more than one occasion suggested, especially when the boys were younger that it would be best to stay home, afterall they always wanted to play with their toys and the other folks could have easier come to see us at home. It never happened, we drove from Oshawa, spend dinner with one family and supper with the other, and then moaned and groaned about too much food and too much travelling. Hopefully we can arrange things so the sons will not have decisions to make at Christmas time. We will celebrate some time other than Christmas Day and thus allow the boys to go wherever and spend time enjoying the holiday.

Driving to Morrisburg late last week, we heard a truck horn approaching us and wondered if we might know the driver. You know how they honk and blink their lights if they know you or recognize your vehicle as you come up to them. As he drove closer to our vehicle, we saw that we did not know him, but he was dressed in a Santa suit and was waving at everyone along the roadway. No doubt he was also Ho! Ho! Hoing! all the way to his destination.YES!!

Then a day or so later I am returning from Morrisburg one afternoon and there is Mr. and Mrs. Claus coming across a lawn towards their truck. This is such a marvellous season, and so many get involved in the fun associated with it.

The big guy suffers still with the leg pain and we missed the Christmas celebration the Math/-Science Department put together at UCV this past week. We also broke with tradition this year, since he cannot stand long and sit even less, most of his time is spent lying on the livingroom floor, attempting to find some relief. We have for many years spent the last Friday evening after the last day of school prior to Christmas Break with staff members enjoying good company and some Christmas cheer. This year we just could not be there and whether we were missed or not, we missed the time spent with these folks.

An appointment has been set up for a CATSCAN in the city in early February although the time seems far off, as the pain lingers and grows more intense at times, an anti-inflammatory helps some as do pain killers, but he finds it difficult to go about his regular routine. He is happy to be off school for a few weeks, although he is tired of the floor! Perhaps lying flat for more hours a day and not having to sit for the drive to Prescott and back home will help things feel better. Once the scan shows what is really going on inside the leg hopefully they will be able to repair things and he can get on with his life. Helping him get dressed and watching as he grimaces with each movement of the leg tears me apart.

The tree was brought into the house late last week and we waited until the college kid came home to decorate it so we could do the family thing. It is a rather unique coniferous, but once the decorations were installed upon it and the lights brightened the entire space it was not too bad at all, it is only a symbol afterall.

Please turn to page 5

the bottom line

AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AT UPPER CANADA PLAYHOUSE DONNIE BOWES heads westward for the holiday season at home, he has plans to take a few weeks off and settle back, put his feet up and take a well deserved rest. After a most successful season we join the community is wishing everyone connected with the UCP a Very Merry Christmas as we look to the spring start-up season in April, 2003.

* * * *

MPP JOHN CLEARY PRESENTED QUEEN'S JUBILEE MEDALS ON FRIDAY to commemmorate the 50th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. Canadian citizens are being recognized for their contribution of service to their communities. The following were recognized: Diane Harkin, Natavarial Shah, Mary VanRyswyk, George Anderson, Bradley Ruttley, Henry Lalonde, James Bancroft, Francis Guindon, Peter Morgan, Howard Justus, Etienne Saint-Aubin, William Sheldrick, Sandra Souldice, Robert Dulmage, Sean Adams, Sultan Jessa, Stephen Gill, Gilles Bourgon, George Assaly and Ian Brodie.

WDMH IS NO LONGER ON "OUTBREAK STATUS" FOR THE NORWALK virus. Hospital officials are pleased to announce that effective Friday, Dec. 20 WDMH is resuming normal operations and the doors are now open to visitors. Visitors are asked to use good judgement about coming to the hospital. Anyone who has experienced gastroenteritis remains contageous for 48 hours after symptoms end...beware who you infect!

* * * *

THE UPPER CANADA DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD ELECTED DAVID MacDonald as their new Chair for a one-year term, he represents the City of Cornwall. Defeating Incumbant Joan Hodge in a secret ballot for the position, he told everyone he looks forward to working on their behalf. Mildred Craig was elected Vice-Chair.

* * * *

WE AT THE CHIEFTAIN WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL A VERY MERRY Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the joy of the holiday season be with you now and all year long.

CONTINUED

Livin'

continued from editorial page

When the gifts were placed underneath, it looked okay and it got the job done.

Some folks got funds for Christmas and so we will take some time and shop later for those items not found packaged under the tree.

The college kid called and explained how he was stopped at a R.I.D.E. program stop and when he was found not to have been drinking and driving he was given a pair of tickets to the 67s game at the Civic Centre. He asked to invite his bro' but he was not in the mood for a trip to the city, seems the drive home was enough for him.

Getting together to savour the season was great as family is important and the university kid likes to see everyone at least once when he is home. He had Christmas cards from Trent this year which he distributed to family and friends, nice keepsakes from this era of his life.

The excitement that pervades the ranch on Christmas morning was evident on Sunday just as if it were the actual Day. The stocking had been hung by the fireplace (well the couch back) with care in hoped that St. Nicholas would drop by and by gum, he did just that! You are never too old to believe...

It is always at this time of year, more than any other that we miss the one brother who has been taken to a better place. Our hearts and thoughts are with him as we recall other celebrations of the season when he too joined the feasting. Our love went with him and as he looks down upon us, he is sure to smile at the carrying on, the Ford stories and the like...there is an empty space where "Fast Eddie" should be, but he is forever in our hearts and minds and Christmas brings this truth to light like no other time.

The wee nephew back the way is so much more mature than his brief two+ years with us. He is thoroughly enjoying Christmas and taking us all along for the ride, it is marvellous.

Shopping in a local mall the other weekend we were confronted by a sales associate who noted she is not allowed to wish anyone a Merry Christmas, but rather, "Happy Holidays" so as not to offend anyone and their beliefs. What about the rest of us who for so many years said, "Merry Christmas?"We are so afraid of hurting someone's feelings, offending someone's rights, what about our rights? I like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year and I will do just that!!

Hope Santa is good to you tomorrow night, stay safe and enjoy whatever the season brings to you and yours. Church service in the snow is always a favourite for us, and perhaps the snowflakes will drift downward as we leave church this year again.

The wisdom this week comes from John Wesley who said, "Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."

And to all a good night!!

Focus

Continued from Editorial page

without incident. We are prepared for aggressive behaviour, but we have had a very good success rate without incidence of violence, in fact I can't even think of an incident that involved violence."

Word comes down from the negotiating team (Michele Brochu) that the suspect has taken his hostage into his car and is on the move. The TRU officers get set, everyone is on a higher level of alertness now. The negotiating team on this day includes Secondary Stephanie Patterson (SD-&G responsible for the leg work) and primary Steve Flynn. Everything is taped for future use. Using criminal information, details on the suspect and quiet, patience, their job is to keep the suspect calm, establish a rapport with him/her while learning as much as possible about the situation where the suspect is and enable the other police units time to assess the crisis and move accordingly. "The more information we can get on the person, the better, since this allows us to establish a rapport with the person on the other end of the phone." She explains that negotiations go through various phases as they encourage the suspect to give it up. The negotiarors often set up their equipment in private hoems, not always in a traielr like today. They bring all their equipment with them. The procss can take hours, or days. If a prolonged process a relief negotiator is brought in to keep alert minds working with the suspect so a peaceful solution can be reached.

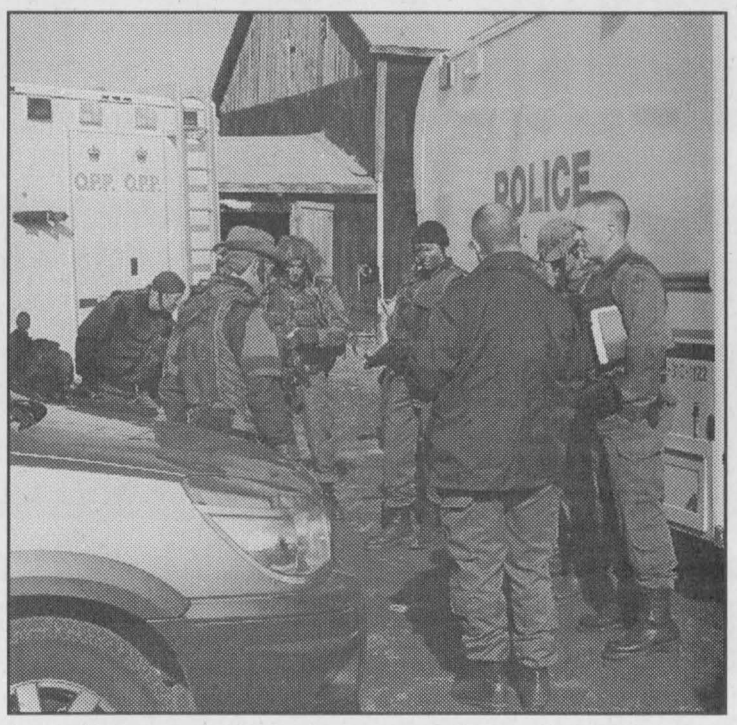
Along with the units on site the K-9 unit (dog) is usually called to in as well. On this day a real emergency has taken the dog and his trainer officer off in another direction. Their presence is a vital component of the team under such circumstances.

Listening and watching as each unit pulls in, prepares, gets briefed and heads out to perform their part of the operation, it gives a real sense of security to see each unit pick up and add their special talent and skills to the situation. They all seem to know what is expected of them and after learning what is happening, what they need to do, they form up and move out to get the job done, each becoming a part of the puzzle that will see the situations defused without anyone getting hurt.

A pile of patience is needed as officers prepare and then wait until they get the word to move. They speak in hushed tones, each trying to maintain the calm control displayed by their fellow officers. When the word comes and they move into position, they are all too well aware that they are putting their lives on the line...and they want to take control of the situation without gunfire and without anyone getting hurt.

Small ear phones and mouth pieces are noticed on each officer as they keep in constant contact with their superior and fellow officers. It is vital that each man/woman knows what the others involved are doing, and where they are at all times.

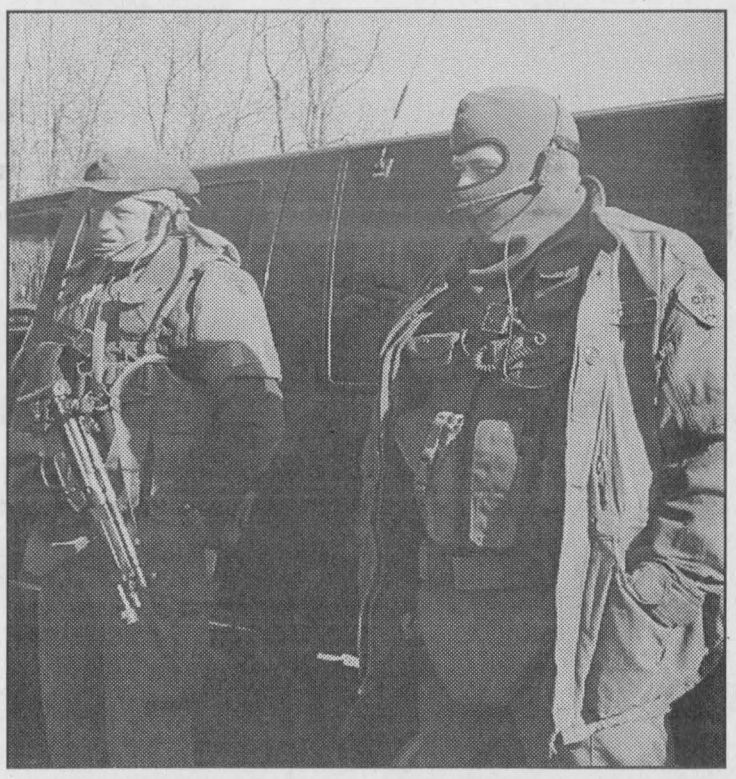
As we leave things are in motion and we later learn that the situation was diffused and the addage that "Alls well that ends well" rings true. These mock situations keep everyone fresh and current on what they are expceted to do in similiar situations, so when a real call comes in there is no hesitation, as officers spring into action.



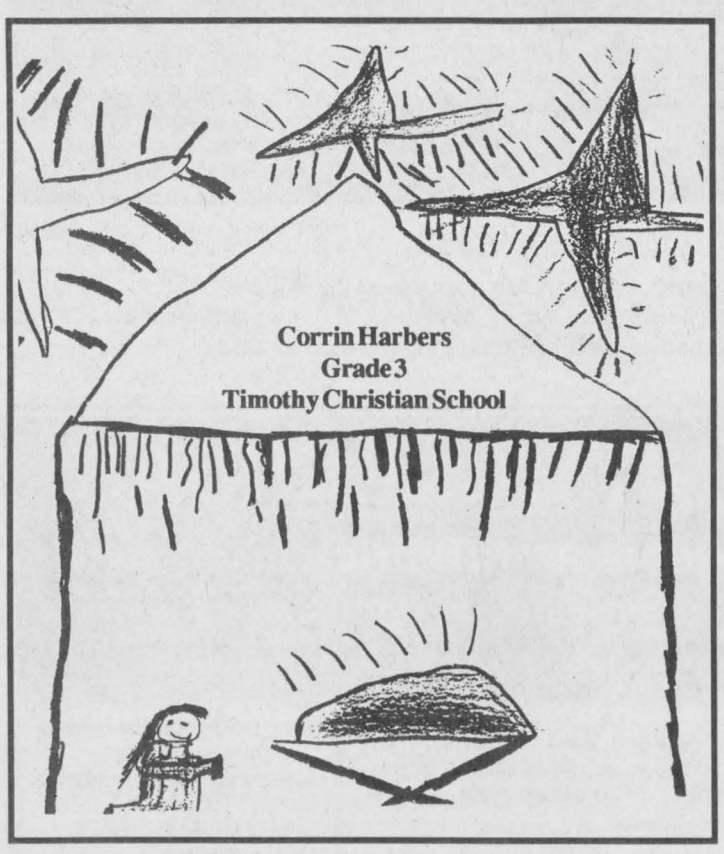
Special Teams Readied

TRU and ERT officers stand ready for instructions in hostage taking scenerio. These trained people know what to do in a variety of situations. Maintaining constant communications among each of them as those in charge, as well as others in field. With an enviable success rate in avoiding blood shed and resolving situations in a peaceful manner, they are effective units.

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston



Please Don't Drink and Drive



Corrin Harbers
Grade 3
Timothy Christian School

Dorothy McMillan's cause of death undetermined

As a result of findings into the circumstances surrounding Dorothy McMillan's accident reported on September 9, 2002, and after careful consideration, the OPP investigation into and consultation with the coroner's report, it has been concluded by the OPP that her injuries indicate a blunt injury to the back of the head consistent with a backwards fall was the cause of death.

Therefore a reclassification of the incident has been formally made by the OPP. No longer considered a sudden death resulting from a vehicular accident, rather, it is considered as an undetermined cause of death because the reason for her backwards fall is unknown. Her demise was not due to a heart attack or natural causes as was previously reported.

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Please do not hesitate to contact Tom Morrow if you have any questions/concerns.

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Williamsburg - St. Peter's
Sunday Worship & School
11:00 a.m.
Everyone Welcome

Anglican Church of Canada
Parish of Morrisburg/Iroquois
Sunday, December 29, 2002
8 a.m. - St. James'
9:15 a.m. - St. James'
11 a.m. - St. John's

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.

United Church of Canada
Matilda Pastoral Charge
Clergy: Yvonne Willis
Sunday, December 29, 2002
Brinston 10 am
Hulbert Valley 11 am

United Church of Canada
Iroquois Pastoral Charge
Rev. Dolly Dikens
Every Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

Roman Catholic Churches
Rev. Father Sebastian Arikat
543-2544
St. Mary's, Morrisburg
Saturday's - 7:30 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
St. Cecilia's, Iroquois
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Philadelphia Pentecostal Church
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Sunday School 10 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Evangelistic Service 7 p.m.

Community Christian Reformed Church
Dixon's Corners, Ontario
Phone: 652-2400
Pastor: Rev. Clarence Witten
10:00 a.m. - Sunday Worship
7:30 p.m. - Evening Service

Morrisburg Pentecostal Church
Pastor: Duncan Perry
Church 543-2681
Home 543-3450
Sunday 9:45 a.m.
Christian Education Hour 10:45
Worship the Word 7 p.m.
Praise Gathering Youth Aflame Fri. 7pm

The Presbyterian Church in Canada
St. Andrew's, St. James, Cardinal 9:30 a.m.
Knox Church, Iroquois 11 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 am
Rev. Geoffrey Howard, B.A., B.TH., M.Div.

Cardinal Free Methodist
Shanly Rd. - 2nd St., Cardinal
Valerie James
10 am - Worship
Celebrating 40 years of Caring for People

United Church of Canada
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Johnstown United - 9:30 am
St. Johns Cardinal - 11 am
(Sunday School - 10:30 am)
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Iroquois, Ontario
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Morning Worship - 11 am
Evening Service - 7 pm
Bible Study - Tuesday Nights
Watch TBN Channel 20

Harmony Community Church
Missionary Church of Canada
Hwy. 31 & Ormond Rd, Winchester
774-5170
10:30 am - Celebration Service
7:30 pm - Evening Service
Wed. 7:30 pm Bible Study

Community Family Church
Iroquois Civic Centre
Every Sunday at
10 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Pastor A.R. Leavitt
Bible Study Wed. at 7 p.m.

SPORTS

~ Minor Hockey Slows
~ Skaters Bring Home Medals
~ Junior B Lions Take Break

Figure Skating Club does well at competitions



CanSkate Winners

Morrisburg and District sent CanSkaters to compete in Athens and they did a terrific job. Showing their medals for great work are Logan Patterson, Morgan Baxter, Jessica Bass and Alisha VanHoof. Standing are Haley VanAllen, Kaila VanHoof, Bryanna Hickman, Kelsey Baxter and Morgan Spencer. *Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston*



Intermediate Winners

Pre-Preliminary skaters at the Intermediate level representiung Morrisburg and District at the Athens competition were Hayley Mills, Kelsey Hall, Jessica Thompson, Alex Leroux and Brooke Spencer. The medals they have around their necks are testimony to the wonderful day they experienced, well done ladies! *Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston*



Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston

Senior Skaters

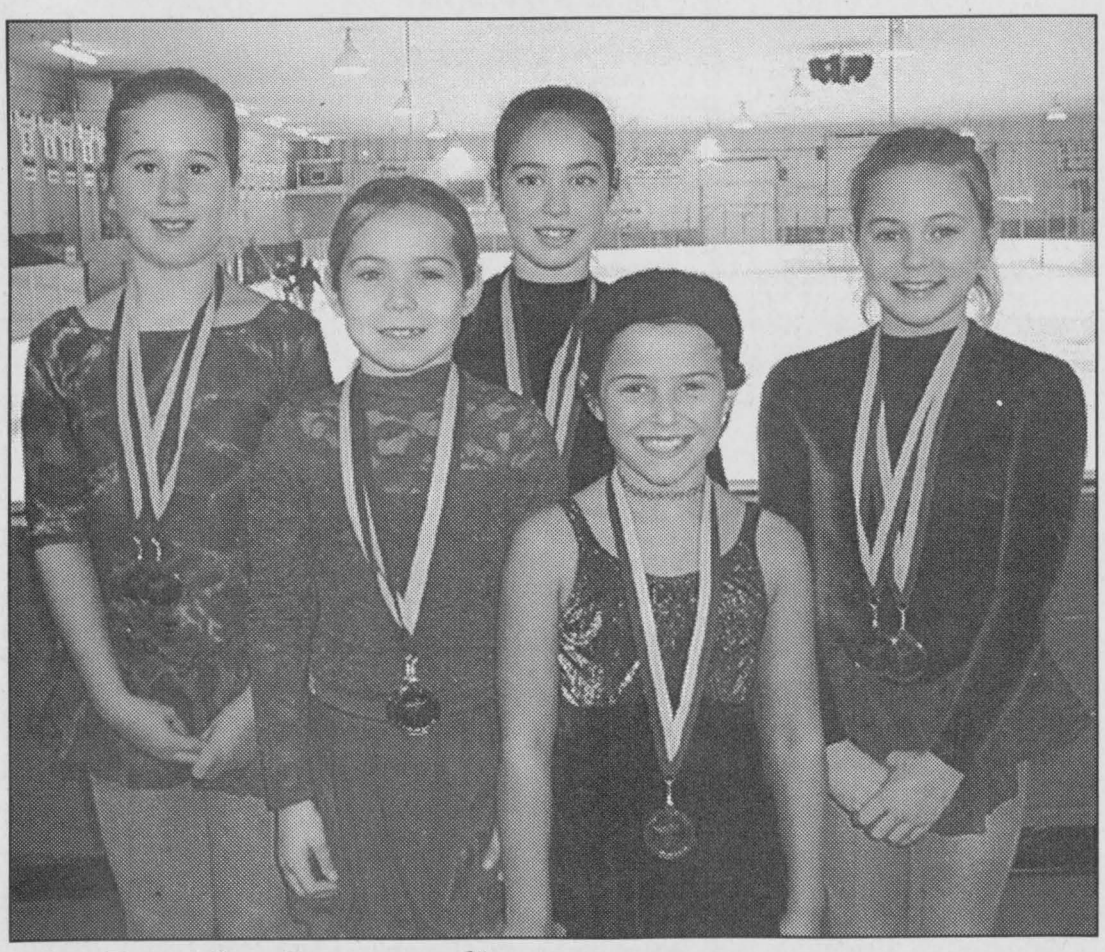
Medals everywhere, these Senior Skaters from the Morrisburg and District Figure Skating Club earned a pile as they hosted their Invitational Skate. Seated are Lindsay Gilmer, Kathleen German, Amy Veltkamp, Meghan Adams, Brianna Stewart and Hilary McQuaid. Standing are Kristen Phifer, Karen Stevens, Kaitlyn MacDonald, Courtney Thompson and Hayley Carr.



Senior Success in Athens Skate

Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston

Morrisburg and District Figure Skating Club winners at the Athens Skate competition display their winnings. Courtney Thompson, Lorrie Casselman, Hayley Carr, Brianna Stewart and Hilary McQuaid are justly proud of their efforts. Congrats everyone!!



Big Day for Intermediates

The Intermediate Skaters did well as Morrisburg and District Figure Skating Club hosted their Inivtational Skate. Earning the Top Points on the Day, and the Gilmer Pharmacy Trophy, these gals helepd the team: Hayley Mills, Jessica Thompson, Kelsey Hall, Alex Leroux and Brooke Spencer did a great job! *Chieftain Photo by S.L.Johnston*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Iroquois and District
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Curling News

with Steve Thompson

The Club extends its sympathy to Don Hutt, whose wife passed away recently.

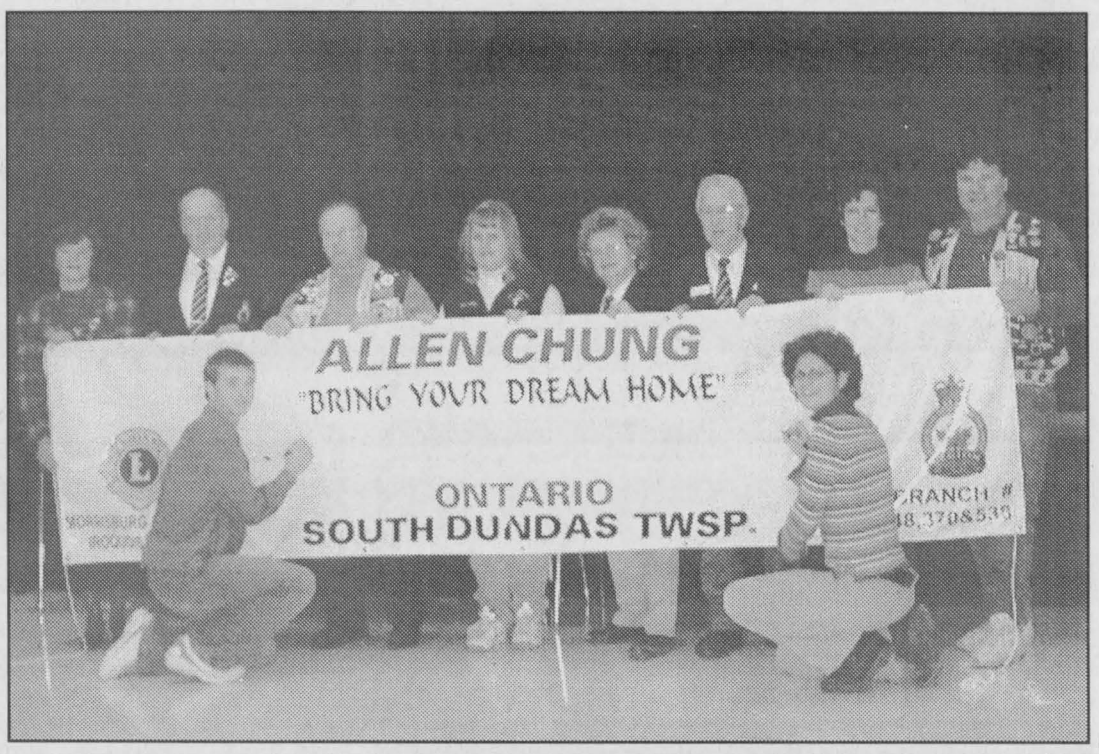
Except for the senior men, league play has ended for the Christmas holiday. Gord Wood will take advantage of a few quiet days to flood the ice and the two person Bonspiel will go ahead after Christmas as planned.

Most results of League Play are in. The Friday Night Mixed League finished a successful draw with the team of Doug Tupper, Barbara and Dave Black and Leanne Coady getting their names on their trophy. The Thursday Morning Mixed League has Barb Rabideau, Ted Herriman, Doug Brannan and Lydia Eamon as winners of the Bradford Trophy, while top honours in the Wednesday Night Ladies' League go to Amy McCooeye, Carol Dawley, Kristine Foley and Cindy Bennis. Reports of the Christmas party that followed are sketchy, but a good time appears to have been had by all, in spite of the fact that Anita Cooper nearly lost her voice and Paula Locke, while she enjoyed her cake and thanked her well-wishers, refused to divulge her age. Another story from Betty Locke and the curlers put League Play on hold until January 8, 2003. They also showed their appreciation for Anita's efforts in organizing the League and planning the festivities.

Two Senior mens teams invaded Prescott's rink for a bonspiel recently. Sid Morrell, Neil Williams, Gerry Thompson and Wally MacDonald played Brockville and Prescott quartets, while Bob Bedingfield, Don O'Brien, Jack Dikland and Charlie Farlinger played Brockville and Kingston foursomes.

Last Wednesday, the Senior Men hosted Prescott in a friendly match. The local heroes walked away victorious with six local teams defending our sheets. Neil Willaims, Arnold Centen, Dave Salsman and Doug Brannan took one team, John Lyon, Ted Herriman, Tony Toonders and Jack Cole another, and Eric Orgee, Dwight Gilmer, Bill Magee and Don Hutt played the third game for the first five ends. After some refreshments, Don O'Brien, Gerald Wynands, Arnold Barkley and Barry Esson along with Bob Bedingfield, Peter Zeran, Wally MacDonald and Wayne Pulfer with Jack Dikland, Clare Dunbar, Charlie farlinger and Stan Britten helped finish off the visitors. A few drinks later the tired curlers attacked a mound of sandwiches and a new soup recipe. No word yet on whether this soup will replace the traditional five-brand combination we have served in the past.

The Ottawa Citizen has been reporting on the Ontario Senior Men's and Women's Championships being held in Ottawa at the Granite Curling Club. We have no local teams involved, but the competition has been quite keen with some traditional powerhouses finding the going tough. Dave Van Dine, Randy Garland and Bob Fedosa have all tasted defeat. On the distaff side, Joyce Potter's Ottawa rink shares first place, while Diane Fvel's Navan foursome is struggling.



Community groups shows support for Allen Chung. Best of Luck!

Community support for skater

by Sandra Lee Johnston
Chieftain Staff Reporter

Allen Chung posted one of his best performances ever at the Eastern Ontario Section Skate in Bowmanville in November of this year. Finishing second overall in the Men's Junior category, he earned seconds in both his long and short programs. This should make him feel better about his decision to take a year of school and concentrate on his skating. Moving to Toronto where he felt quality coaching was more readily available, Allen proved his instincts correct as he skated very well.

During his preparation period for the next step on the skating ladder (Canadian Championships) for the young man he unfortunately pulled a groin muscle.

He skated through the injury and although he placed a disappointing eighth, he is getting set to skate in Saskatoon in January, the 6 through the 12. Coupled with letting the injury healing, the practises four times a week, Allen has to contend with financial worries. The Canadian Figure Skating Associatioin helps with accommodation costs for skaters, but transportation, meals and coaching fees are the responsibility of the individual skaters. Anyone willing to help him should contact his mother, Mei.

The community has rallied behind this lcoal ald who is representing the small rural area which is South Dundas. A banner has been created and everyone is invited to sign it showing Allen we are behind him. It will be at the Royal Bank in Iroquois. Drop by and put your name among the many already there.

LETTERS

Dear Editor,

The Romanow Commission Report released on November 28 is the last, best hope to revitalize and expand public medicare. Indeed, it represents our values as people.

Health care must be publically funded and violable to everyone and it must be one tier health care. As Roy Romanow has indicted in his report, the public health care system can deliver better health care at less cost than the private, non-profit sector.

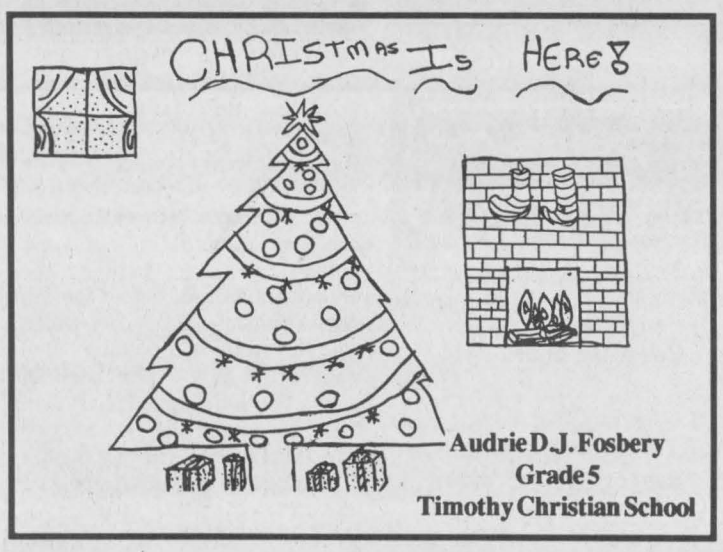
I urge the federal and provincial governments to show true leadership and to act on the recommendations of the Romanow Report now. The federal government must ensure that there is enough stable funding available to the provinces to enact the recommended programs such as access to diagnostic imaging, prescription drugs, home care, primary care reform ad services in rural communities. The premiers and their provincial governments must cooperate and be accountable for how these health care funds are spent.

Canadians are fed up with the continual federal-provincial bickering over medicare.

We as citizens must let our federal and provincial representatives know that we want them to fight for medicare. We want them to enact the recommendations of the Romanow Report.

Reforming and expanding publicity funded medicare will provide better care and at less cost overall. This is the Canadian way.

Yours truly,
Brian Lynch.



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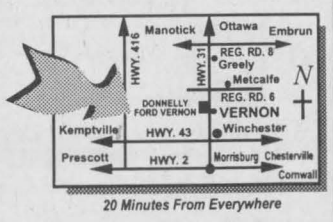

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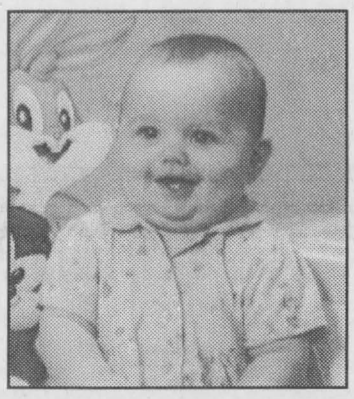

Kiera Lee Milburn
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Sister of Mike and David

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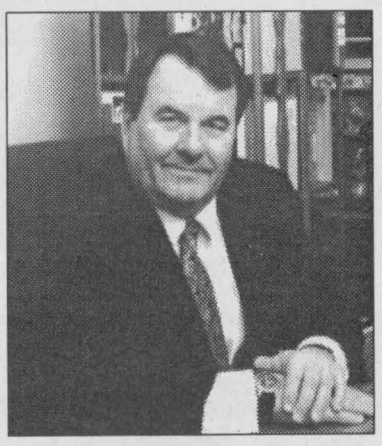
as Trial Counsel



Mr. Ferguson will provide civil litigation and legal services at each of our locations listed below. Mr. Ferguson is a Specialist, Certified by the Law Society, and has served as a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada, a Director of the Advocates' Society and has been a member of Council and the Executive of the Ontario Bar Association and the Canadian Bar Association. He has lectured on civil litigation, personal injury, disability, and fatality claims on frequent occasions, including twice on the subject of damages at the Law Society's "Special Lectures" held annually.

In 1997 he was the recipient of the Law Society's Bi-Centennial Award of Merit for his accomplishments. Mr. Ferguson has completed the Master of Laws programme at Osgoode Hall Law School in Alternate Dispute Resolution. Alternate Dispute Resolution is intended to avoid the expense, time and anxiety that accompanies traditional law suits. The Osgoode Hall Master of Laws programme emphasizes advanced negotiation, mediation and arbitration techniques to settle claims and disputes of all kinds.

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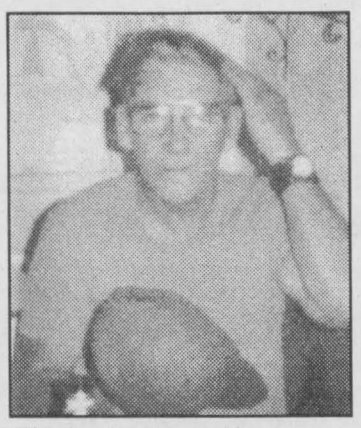
In Memoriam

RICHARDSON: In memory of a dear husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather, ***Herbert Richardson,*** who passed away on December 30, 2000.



This is what he would say.
I see the many Christmas trees down there below
With all the lights like stars shining in the snow.
The sight is so beautiful.
Please don't cry,
Wipe away the tears,
For I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ another year.
I hear all the Christmas songs people sing down there.
But the soound can't compare with the songs the Angels sing up here.
I know you miss me,
I see the pain in your hearts,
But I'm not far away,
We're really not apart.
Be happy for me always,
For you know I hold you near.
I sent you all a gift from Heaven above.
I sent you all a memory of my love.
For love is more precious than gold.
Please love and keep each other as I told you to do,
For I can't count all the love I have for all you.
So Merry Christmas and wipe away the tears.
Just remember I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ another year.
Verna, Glen, Marlin and Robert and all the family
D23-1tp

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Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS
ALL persons having claims against the Estate of **Edgar Renwick,** late of Apt. 20, 1 Frank Street, Iroquois, Ontario who died on the 11th day of November, 2002 are hereby notified to send particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before the 5th day of January, 2003 after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall than have notice and the undersigned will not be liable to any person whose claims they shall not then have notice.
DATED this 10th day of December, 2002.

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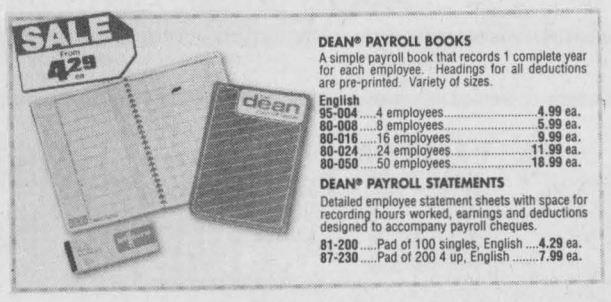









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Golf Course

should write his questions and concerns down and forward then to council so they would be prepared with answers. "This is a waste on time" he said.

The South Dundas Council members said there was really no more to discuss until the December 31, 2002 closing date on the agreement. If the land purchaser have sold 80% of the condominium units then the deal can go forward, if they haven't presold the required units then Council can choose to issue another extension or close the deal.

OBITUARIES

John Kroone

After a 10 year illness, John Kroone at the Wellington House Nursing Home in Prescott on December 14, 2002. Born on October 10, 1934 in Holland, John was an assembly worker at RCA in Prescott.

John had lived in Dixons Corners all but the last 5 years of his life. A member of the United Church in Canada.

Predeceased by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Kroone and by his beloved wife, Barbara Gilmour (October 5, 1982). He had married Barbara on October 10, 1959 in Brinston. Also predeceased by a son, Randy Kroone.

Mourning the loss are a son, Donald "Donnie" Kroone at Dixons Corners, brothers: Peter, Jack, Barend and Everett and sisters: Judy Grima and Ann Wright as well as many nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations to the Alzheimer Society were appreciated by the family. Friends called at the Marsden and McLaughlin Funeral Hone in Iroquois where service was conducted by Rev. Dolly Dikens on Tuesday, December 17. Interment was at Iroquois Point Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jim Locke, Jim Adams, Miles Lewis and Ed Froats.

Verna Robertson

Verna M. Robertson (nee Heagle) on December 12, 2002, late of Leamington. She was 84 years of age.

Predeceased by her husband, Charles (1997), she was the loving mother of Larry and Deborah Robertson of Harrow, Borden Robertson of Amherstburg and dear grandmother of Alec and Jason. Sister of Allen Heagle of Ingleside who mourns the loss, she was predeceased by a brother Floyd.

Friends called at the Gerald A. Smith Funeral Home in Harrow, where a service to celebrate her life was held on Monday, December 16, 2002 with Re. Cornelius Driedger officiating. Interment was at Colchester Memorial Cemetery.

Memorial donations to the Parkinson Society were appreciated by the family.

Upper Canada

percentage points in writing. To continue to improve in reading and writing the board will focus on teacher training and remedial strategies which have proven effective particularly with boys. The gender gap, although marginally improved in the grade three results, show that achievement of grade six girls is seventeen percentage points higher for reading and twenty-one percentage points higher for writing than that of boys. Assessment results for local schools in grade six reading tests show Benson P.S. sixty one percent, Dixon's Corners sixty one percent also, Iroquois P.S. seventy one percent and Nationview sixty seven percent, of students reaching the provincial standard. Locally results of the writing test showed Benson P.S. seventy percent, Dixon's Corners forty four percent, Iroquois P.S. sixty two percent and Nationview fifty four percent of students reaching the Provincial standard.

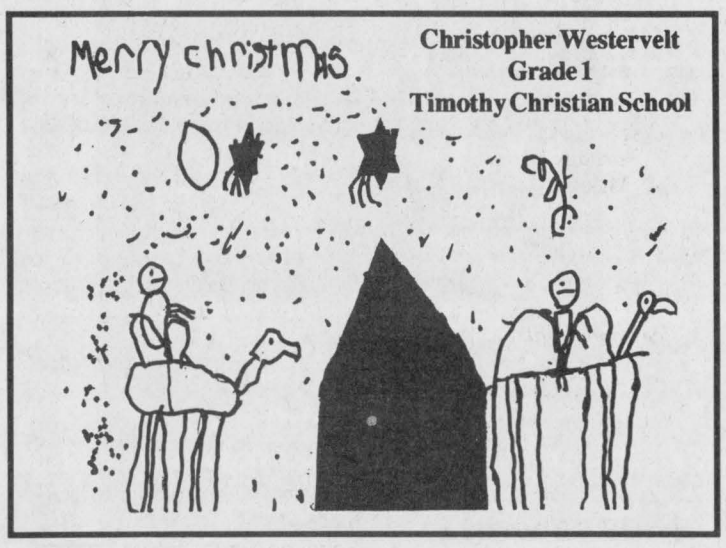
The grade six mathematics results show no change from last year. Students with the UCDSB achieve reasonably well in each of the five different strands of mathematics but need to work on problem analysis and solving, application of mathematical procedures and communications of mathematical thinking.

In grade six mathematics results from local schools the provincial standard was met by sixty one percent at Benson P.S., thirty nine at Dixon's Corners P.S., seventy percent at Iroquois P.S. and sixty seven percent at Nationview P.S.

The grade nine results for applied mathematics showed an improvement of four percentage points of Upper Canada students reaching the provincial standards, while academic math improved by 16 percentage points. The provincial results also showed a significant improvement of eight percentage points in applied mathematics, and 16 percentage points in academic mathematics.

Local high school results show students reaching the provincial standard of 70% or greater in applied math at Seaway H.S. twenty eight percent and South Grenville H.S thirty one percent, and in academic math the standard was achieve by at, Seaway H.S. seventy one percent and South Grenville H.S sixty eight percent.

The test results for the province, for the board and for the individual schools will be thoroughly studied so that teaching strategies and resource materials that are used in high achieving schools will be promoted throughout the province of Ontario.



Christopher Westervelt
Grade 1
Timothy Christian School

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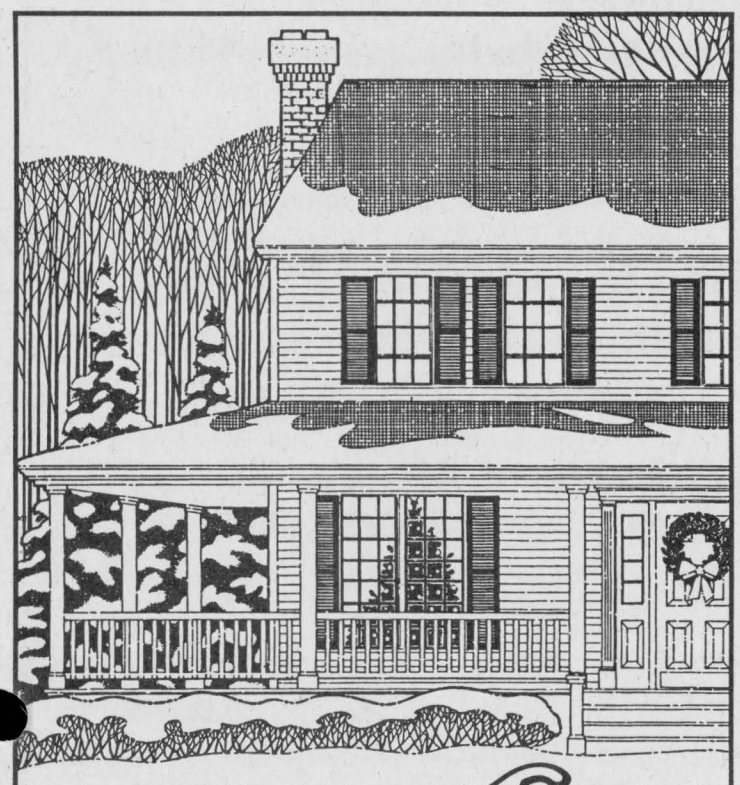
Hugh Garlough, CRS-S
Manager, Public Works



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY, 2003

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15th - Dinner followed by Karen Valley - WAR AMPS
ALZHEIMER SUPPORT GROUP for CAREGIVERS: last Monday of every month at 1:00 pm
BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP: last Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm

COFFEE BREAK	~ every Wednesday - 1/2 day of crafts, games, etc. plus lunch	$ 7.50
DINERS CLUBS	~ Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday of each week	$ 4.50
EXERCISE CLASS	~ Mondays at 10:00 am	$ 3.00
FOOT CARE	~ Wednesday, Jan. 15th, & 22nd	$ 12.00
HOME HELP	~ House cleaning assistance	$ 8.50/hr
MEALS on WHEELS	~ Monday, Wednesday, Friday of each week - extras can be ordered for other days	$ 3.75
MEN'S CLUB	~ Wednesday, Jan. 15th - 1/2 day of games, speakers, etc. plus lunch	$ 7.50
MOVIE	~ Friday, Jan. 3rd - Travel Log of Ontario Northland	$ 1.00
LINE DANCING	~ Fridays at 9:30 am	$ 2.50
RESPITE CARE	~ Sitters for convalescents are available upon request and assessment.	$ 6.00/hr
SING SONGS	~ Every Wednesday - 1:30 pm	-
VAN and CAR TRANSPORTATION	~ Reasonable rates for groups or individuals needing transportation for medical appointments or social events, in this area and to the cities.	various rates
INFORMATION	~ On many groups & organizations which can benefit you is also available. e.g. Lifeline, Heart & Stroke, CNIB, Alzheimer, etc.	N/C

IROQUOIS DINERS CLUB	MORRISBURG DINERS CLUB
Thursday, Jan. 9th - noon - *$4.50*	Tuesday, Jan. 21st - noon - *$4.50*

STAMPVILLE CENTRE
Hours of Operation - Mondays - noon to 3:00 pm and Thursdays - 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
Diner's Club - Thurs. Jan. 2nd & 16th - *$4.50*
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Food safety for the holiday season

Tasty turkey is the product of hard work, talent, and time, but experts say the best route to a magnificent holiday feast is to ensure the bird is cooked, served, and stored safely.

"Turkey dinners are so common in Canada at this time of year, and we don't want anyone's holidays to be spoiled by illness or unpleasant surprises" says Dr. Jean Kamanzi, Director, Food Chemistry and Microbiology of the Bureau of Food Safety and Consumer Protection at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). "From buying the bird, to preparing and storing the leftovers, it's a process that requires a lot of care." Kamanzi advises that the 'best before' date of a turkey is the best indication of a bird's freshness.

Frozen, wrapped turkeys can be kept in the freezer for up to one year without suffering a noticeable loss in quality, but a fresh turkey should be purchased no more than two days before cooking, and should be cold (4 degrees C or 40 degrees F) at purchase.

To avoid contaminating other groceries with potential bacteria, turkeys should be the last item selected before proceeding to the cash register, and should be placed in a separate plastic bag.

First-time hosts should be aware frozen turkeys require several days to thaw - approximately 24 hours for each 2.5 kg (5 pounds) - and should be thawed in the refrigerator on a large platter that will prevent leaking juices from contaminating other foods. Turkey can be defrosted in cold water, but it should be wrapped in leak-proof plastic and the water should be changed every 30 minutes. If turkey is being defrosted in a microwave, it should be cooked immediately after it is completely thawed.

Kamanzi warns hands, counters, and all utensils should be thoroughly cleaned before preparing the turkey, and should the bird be washed under cold running water, anything that comes into contact with the bird must be sanitized with a mild bleach solution. (The CFIA suggests 1 teaspoon (5ml) of bleach per 3 cups (750ml) of water.) Stuffing should not be packed into the turkey until it is ready to cook. But for maximum food safety, Kamanzi recommends cooking stuffing separately.

Turkey cooking times vary depending on the size of the bird. The oven should be set no lower than 350 degrees F (165 degrees C), and the CFIA recommends using a meat thermometer to ensure the turkey reaches an internal temperature of at least 185 degrees F (85 degrees C). Juices should run clear, and the meat should no longer be pink.

"Consumers should know that it is never safe to cook a turkey overnight," Kamanzi says. And if you are reheating pre-cooked turkey, the internal temperature of the turkey should be brought to at least 165 F (74 C).

If stuffing was cooked inside the bird, it should be removed as soon as possible after the turkey is cooked. Small platters are better to serve than large platters, because they can be frequently refilled while the rest of the food is kept warm in a 250 degrees F(120 degrees C) oven, ensuring it will be safe for leftovers.

Once everyone has had their fill, the leftovers should be promptly refrigerated in shallow containers that will allow the food to chill quickly. Meat should be removed from the bone, and all stuffing should be removed from the bird. Meat, stuffing, and gravy, should all be stored separately, and leftovers should be reheated at 74 degrees C (165 degrees F).

"Leftover gravy should be reheated to a full, rolling boil," Kamanzi says. "And as good as holiday leftovers taste, gravy and stuffing should be eaten within two days, and meat should be eaten within two to three days."



Bygott Chocolates *Chieftain Photo by S.L Johnston*

Amber and Julianne were helping their mom this Christmas season as they hosted her booth at St. Paul's Anglican Church earlier this month. The most decadent chocolates ever, Linda was busy at another craft show this same day. Homemade is sooo good!



Club Helps Hospice

The Euchre Club of Brinston has done an excellent job helping local charities with donations, to the WDMH, Matilda Recreation and towards the installation of a new carpet in the Hall where they play each week. Cards, a luncheon and some great company and all for only $2 each per week. This time Bev Sabourin and Alberta Albers represented the Club as they donated a $300 cheque to Reina DeJong of the Dundas County Hospice. Other players watched with pride. *Chieftain Photo by S.L. Johnston*

Coming Events

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HOLIDAY HOURS: Christmas Eve: 6am-3pm,
Christmas Day: CLOSED; Boxing Day: 8am-3pm,
New Year's Eve: 6am-10pm, New Year's Day: 9am-7:30pm
New Years Eve Buffet: 4PM-9PM
Prime Rib & Seafood...$18.95
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Above Specials include Soup or Salad or Juice, Jello, Pudding or Ice Cream Parfait and Tea or Coffee
NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER SPECIALS
TUESDAY, DEC. 31 5 P.M. - 11 P.M.
Prime Rib Dinner
Ladies' Cut $14.95
Men's Cut $15.95
Rainbow Trout $10.95
Served on a bed of rice with fresh garden vegetables and choice of potato
Baked Manicotti $10.95
with Garlic Bread
1/2 Rotisserie Chicken $11.95
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