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Chopping down the Christmas tree and dragging it home on a toboggan is half the fun of the traditional festivities. Here, Lindsay Moore of Mountain Township helps Basil the dog to drag the carefully selected tree home to be decorated. Press Photo — Culliton

O Tannenbaum: Choosing the perfect Christmas tree

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — There are few Christmas traditions so sacred as choosing and decorating the family Christmas tree.

Use of evergreens as a Christmas symbol started over 400 years ago in Germany and spread to most of northern Europe. First recorded use of an evergreen at Christmas in Canada was at Sorel, Quebec in 1781.

Many Canadian families make a yearly trek to a Christmas tree farm to choose and cut down a Christmas tree. In fact, about three million Canadian families have a natural Christmas tree in their homes each year. About one million of those families live in Ontario.

What type of tree to cut down and how to care for it are questions that arise each year.

The three most popular Christmas trees are balsam, spruce and scotch pine. Eric Johnston, of Johnston Brothers Christmas Tree Farm, described a balsam as fragrant with a deep green color. He said it also holds its needles longer than other trees.

"Everybody wants a balsam this year," he said. "We've seen a big trend toward balsams, but we are selling a lot of spruce, too."

A native Canadian tree, the needles of a balsam are short, flat and blunt. The white spruce, the only tree native to Ontario, has short, pointed needles that are green to blue-green. And the scotch pine is a popular Christmas tree with medium-length needles, green to blue-green in color, with excellent needle retention.

CHOOSING THE TREE

When choosing a tree for Christmas, there are some guidelines to follow, according to the Christmas Tree Farmers of Ontario.

First of all, determine where in your home you will display your tree. That should tell you how tall a tree you need and whether all four sides should be suitable for display.

Freshness is an important key when selecting your tree. The needles should be resilient. Take hold of a branch about six inches from the tip, between thumb and forefinger. Pull your hand toward you, allowing the branch to slip through your fingers. Needles should adhere to the branch and not fall off in your hand.

Bend a needle between your forefinger and thumb. The needle should form a "U" without breaking unless the tree is frozen.

The tree should have a fragrance and a good green color.

CARING FOR YOUR TREE

"If you take the tree home today and put it up tomorrow, that's okay," said Johnston. "But if you're leaving it outside for a few days, it's a good idea to cut about an inch off the stump of the tree to open up the pores."

• continued on next page

Paramedics ready to go in Osgoode

by Derek Puddicombe

OSGOODE – If Osgoode Township council approves a recommendation by its director of corporate services and fire chief, township residents can start feeling a lot safer.

Two part-time township firefighters, who are also full-time ambulance attendants working out of the Osgoode ambulance base, are certified level-two paramedics, the highest level of certification that can be obtained by a paramedic.

What makes Gerry Bennett's proposal unique is that the two firefighters may be the first in the province to have an advanced paramedic certification, said Norma Boyd, program manager for the base hospital program in Ottawa.

"I don't think there is any other firefighter in Ontario who is also an advanced paramedic," said Boyd.

Bruce Griffin, an 18-year veteran and Andrew Orchard, a six-year veteran of the Osgoode Township volunteer fire department have completed the necessary requirements and are ready to put their skills into action when on duty with the fire department.

Orchard has been applying his skills for two years as one of 46 advanced paramedics in the region. Griffin received his certification last June.

Orchard said the emergency service he and Griffin supply is an essential link between life and death of a patient.

• continued on next page

N. Dundas councillors to take turns as deputy

WINCHESTER — In an effort to involve almost everyone at the council table, North Dundas politicians have opted to take turns acting as Mayor Claude Cousineau's fill-in.

A meeting that was supposed to produce a deputy mayor Dec. 11, did elect the municipality's second voice at the county council table in addition to giving birth to a proposal that could see each of the eight councillors in the four wards share the duties of a second-in-command on a rotating basis.

Ward IV Councillor Roger Cole will travel to Cornwall monthly with Mayor Cousineau as the duo forms North Dundas' representatives on the SD&G 12-member council.

Cole edged three other competitors on the second ballot of the internal election held by the nine politicians.

• continued on next page

Councillors consider sites for windmill in Osgoode

by Derek Puddicombe

OSGOODE -- Locating a Dutch windmill in Osgoode Township, an option other municipalities have been debating, might be a possibility, says Moira Winch, the township's chief administration officer.

Councillors Carol Parker and George Wright discussed the possibility of bringing the almost life-sized windmill to Osgoode with Winch recently and after receiving council's approval she has started researching the project.

There has been discussion about locating the structure at Mooney's Bay and possibly in Gloucester as a tribute to the Dutch people.

"Osgoode has said it would be interested in bringing the windmill to the township," said Winch, who added that one possible location for the windmill might be along the Rideau River at W.A. Taylor Conservation Area.

The next move for Winch is to contact John Westeinde who has headed up the fundraising efforts to build the windmill in Ottawa-Carleton.

Parker said because Osgoode has such a large Dutch community locating the windmill in the township would be appropriate. It would also be a tourist attraction for not only the Dutch residents in eastern Ontario, but for visiting citizens from the Netherlands.

There are many appropriate locations for the windmill, said Parker, adding that another feature may be a large Dutch garden.

"It brings tourists to Ottawa farther out into the country," said Parker.

Be smart, be safe this holiday season

WINCHESTER — The Christmas season is upon us and while it's a time to celebrate, it's also a time to be fire safety conscious.

The Winchester Fire Department wants to remind everyone of a few tips that will ensure a safe and happy holiday season.

Dan Kelly, deputy fire chief says that homeowners with real Christmas trees should ensure that the tree has a constant supply of water to prevent it from drying out. Remember not to set the trees in close proximity to any heating appliance and inspect all festive lights before they are used. Kelly also advises reducing the number, if not eliminating the use of extension cords.

"They can be a huge fire hazard," says Kelly.

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Ken Reid (right) was the only local resident who participated in a gardening program this spring. Spearheaded by Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 108 and the Winchester 100 Club. Joining Reid are Jim McVey (far left) from the Winchester 100 Club and Marilyn Acres from the Legion. Press Photo — Brownlee

Reid relishes growing opportunity

WINCHESTER — It took close to four months, lots of hard work and learning by trial and error, but Ken Reid is now enjoying the fruits of his labor.

"I didn't know anything about gardening when I started," he said, pulling dozens of jars of pickles out of his cupboard. "But I sure learned in a hurry. It was a lot of fun and an offer I couldn't refuse."

Reid was the only local resident that participated in a program spearheaded by the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 108 and the Winchester 100 Club that supplied area residents the expertise and the land to grow their own gardens.

Over a half-acre of land near the curling rink was set aside for the community garden this spring. Growing advice was offered by many experts from the various organizations and even the Dundas County Food Bank was willing to supply seeds.

• continued on next page

Grand re-opening



The ribbon was ceremoniously cut to re-open the Inkerman Bridge on Wed., Dec. 10. On hand for the ribbon cutting were engineers, consultants, designers and contractors who worked on the bridge, as well as township delegates. Repairs were done to fix a gap which had formed in the middle of the bridge since the 1980s, until it reached as wide as eight inches in the centre. The repairs cost $250,000, and $215,000 of that was paid through an infrastructure works program through the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Program. Participants in the ceremony included (in no order) Jim Bancroft (Roads Superintendent), Claude Cousineau (North Dundas Mayor-elect), Lyle Van Allen, John Hope, Jim MacGillivary, DJ MacDonald (engineer), Steve Taylor (consultant), Ron Graham (project supervisor), Carl Vervoort (vice-president, Totten-Sims Hubicki, engineering and consultants), Mike Bray (Bray Contracting), David Lloyd (general manager, Bray Contracting), and Murray MacMillan (superintendent, Bray Contracting). Press Photo — Culliton

Continued from the front page...

Paramedics

"It can only benefit the patient," said Orchard, 32. "It gives a higher level of medical training to the patient and I'm confident it will save lives and possibly decrease the time a patient has to stay in the hospital."

What the certification means is that the two advanced level paramedics can provide immediate on-the-scene medical attention that can't be given by a certified level-one ambulance attendant.

This is going to assist the type and speed of treatment residents receive because the fire department responds to every 911 call in the township and in most cases they are the first on the scene. Bennett indicated in his report that when firefighters arrive at an accident or a medical call they are limited to the medical attention they can provide until the ambulance service arrives.

The average time for an ambulance to respond to a call in Osgoode Township is 12 minutes.

"They can provide the type of service that many ambulance personnel cannot provide," said Bennett. "It is well known that the first medical aid provided on the scene often makes the difference between life and death," he added.

However, like the introduction of any new program, and with the costs of providing an ambulance service being handed over to the region by the provincial government in January, there is a cost.

At least one advanced life support kit will be required at a cost of $4,239.54. It will be kept at the Metcalfe station and would have to be picked up by the paramedic when responding to an emergency. Bennett said the ideal scenario would be to have two kits and give the responsibility of maintaining the kits to Griffin and Orchard. He also suggested that perhaps the cost of one kit could be sponsored by a service club or by fundraising.

When working with the fire department and responding to a call that requires medical attention the two paramedics can operate under the licence of Dr. Justin Maloney. They can start an intravenous and also begin defibrillation procedures if a patient is in cardiac arrest. They can also accompany a patient during an ambulance transfer to hospital if the responding ambulance does not have an advanced paramedic on board.

"They have completed and passed six months of training," said Boyd. "The doctor tests them and won't pass them if he's not happy. They know what they are doing."

Christmas trees

The tree should be kept in water at all times, Johnston said. "The problem is that it will dry out, and then it can't absorb any more water.

That plugs the pores, which is why you should trim an inch off the bottom."

He added, "If you keep the tree sufficiently watered, it should last until the new year. Scotch pine and balsams hold their needles the best."

Use a tree stand that holds plenty of water. Also, place the tree away from fireplaces, radiators, television sets and other sources of heat. Turn off the tree lights when you leave the house and before you go to bed at night.

Never use lighted candles on a Christmas tree.

BENEFICIAL TREES

Christmas trees are grown in seedbeds from seed, according to Christmas Tree Growers Association of Ontario. Typically after three years they are transplanted into fields. It then takes a minimum of six years, depending on the variety, for a tree to become ready for harvest.

One acre of Christmas trees produces enough oxygen to support 18 people. In the process, carbon dioxide is taken out of the atmosphere, counteracting the production of carbon dioxide, resulting from human use of fossil fuels.

RECYCLING

After use, a Christmas tree is 100 per cent bio-degradable. Most municipalities have tree chipping programs to speed the process. Christmas trees no longer go to landfill sites. Its branches and needles make a good mulch in the garden, especially for plants like rhododendrons which like an acid soil.

Placed in the garden or backyard, the Christmas tree will provide winter shelter for small birds.

Another good idea, according to Christmas Tree Growers Association of Ontario, is to decorate the tree again — this time with special treats for the birds. Orange slices will attract birds, as will peanut butter spread on tree seed cones. If you set your tree outside for the birds, remember to carefully remove all tinsel, as birds will try to eat the shiny stuff and it will make them sick.

New Christmas tree seedlings are planted to replace the harvested trees each year. To ensure a crop is ready for market annually, there are 10 more trees at different stages of growth for each tree harvested.

Deputy

Initially, Cole was vying for the position of deputy mayor, but concerns of a few politicians led to the duty-sharing proposal.

"We brought it up for discussion because of the massive council," Cousineau said. "We thought it would be much better if the duties (of a deputy mayor) were split among interested politicians."

Ward III Councillor Bob Riddell said that spreading the political responsibilities among the politicians enables them to become more involved.

"We decided this for the main reason that everyone will have a better idea of what's going on," he added.

As it stands now, interested politicians will act as deputy mayor in four-and-a-half month slots.

North Dundas council will make a final decision on the issue at the council's inaugural meeting Jan. 5, at 7 pm in Winchester.

New downloading figures "good news"

The latest round of number crunching on the financial effects of provincial downloading of services to municipalities, has Cousineau smiling.

"It's still early to tell, but it looks better than we originally expected," he said. "I'm banking on a revenue-neutral effect."

Early this year in its "Mega-Week" melee, the Harris government announced sweeping changes to the way both the provincial and municipal governments conduct business. Municipalities will now assume responsibility of many new areas including non-profit housing, welfare and policing.

Some areas like the Ottawa-Carleton region, are now finding that downloading won't be revenue-neutral for taxpayers in its boundaries. Each of the region's 11 municipalities are expected to hike taxes to offset the cost the new services.

Reid

Reid couldn't believe the results of his harvest. He grew a wide array of vegetables including tomatoes, beets, sweet corn and cabbage. He froze tomatoes and made numerous types of preserves, 48 quarts to be exact, with the rest of the vegetables.

It was a fun learning experience for Reid.

"I had never made any kind of pickles before in my life," he said. "But I borrowed recipes and tasted as I went along. It was a lot of fun and my freezer is full."

PROGRAM EXPANDED

While this year's inaugural test run only had one success story, organizers are hoping to expand the program next spring to include less-fortunate families.

The Dundas County Food Bank hopes that some families will take advantage of the free land and seeds to fill their cupboards and freezers for the winter, easing the burden on its demand during the winter months.

This year, local goodwill services have witnessed a dramatic increase in demand. The House of Lazarus has been "chaotic" the past couple of weeks, meeting the demand for food during its busiest time of year.

"We have been busy, but we've also had a number of donations," said Lazarus co-ordinator, Shirley Nichol-Scott. "Whenever I've asked, the public has come through."

She's hoping that supply continues to meet the demand during the month of January.

Demand for local food baskets remains about the same as last year, she added. The Christmas baskets will be distributed to local less-fortunate families this week, bringing an end to a major networking endeavor that includes the House of Lazarus, the Dundas County Food Bank, the Kemptville Salvation Army and local Lions Clubs.

Fire safety

Another item on the priority list this holiday season is smoke detector inspection.

"While many parents are buying batteries for their kids' toys, it's also a good idea to put new batteries in the smoke detectors," adds Kelly.

He advises vacuuming dust from the units as well.

During a recent inspection of two area homes, all the batteries were dead in each smoke detector.

They won't work, if they don't have batteries, admits Kelly.

By law, each household must have one smoke detector for each level.



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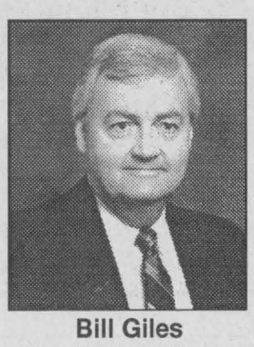
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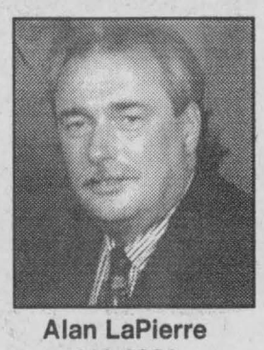
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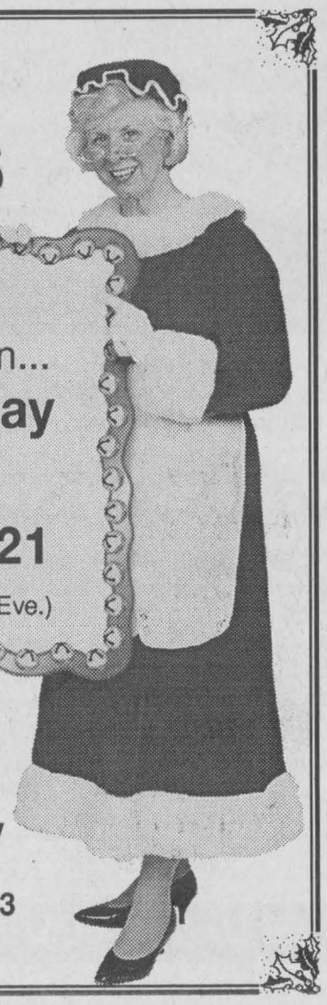

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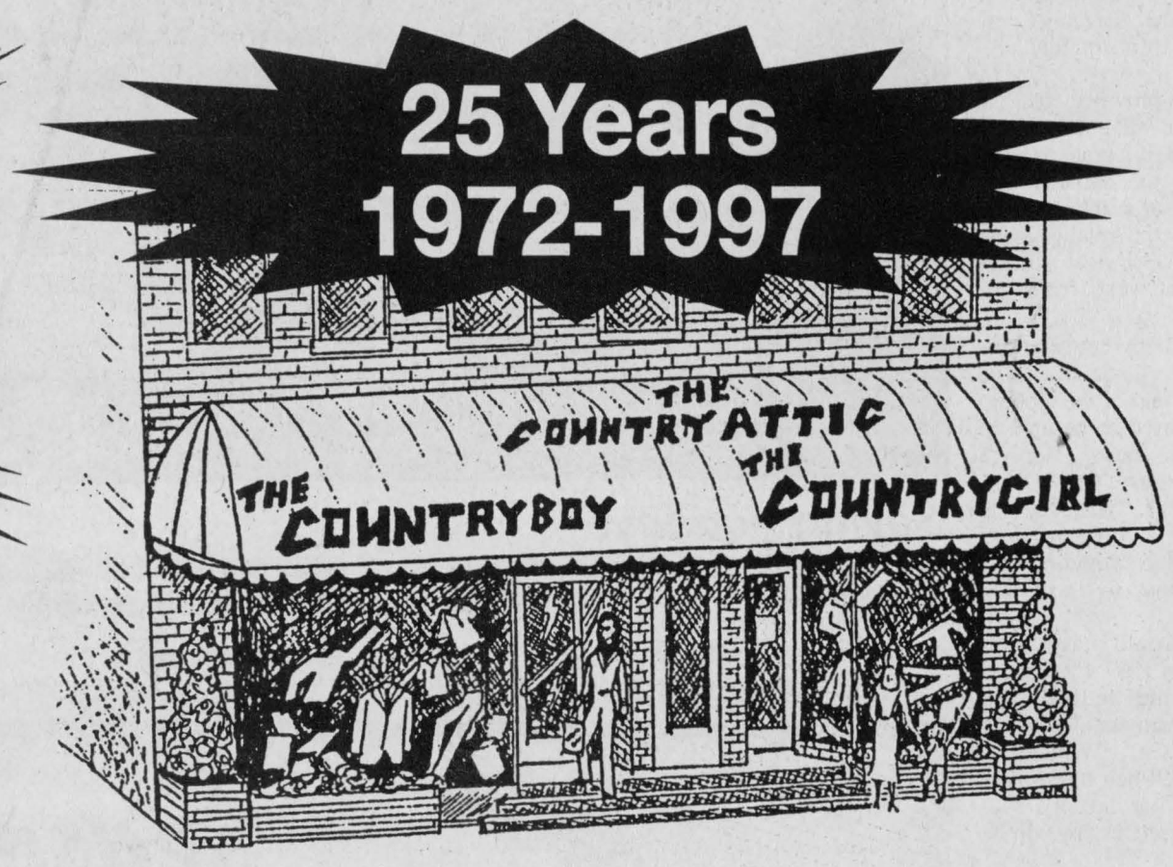

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Police blotter

Liquor store hit

IROQUOIS — Three men are in custody after a $24,000 smash and grab at the Iroquois liquor store.

As a result of assistance from volunteers of the Iroquois Community Patrol, police arrested Desmond Johnson, 37, of Ottawa, Martyn Roach, 25, of Carp and Jason Coert, 26, of Kingston and charged them with various crimes.

Johnson will appear in provincial court in Morrisburg Dec. 16 to face charges of possession of stolen property, break and enter, assault with a weapon, mischief, and obstructing police.

Coert was charged with two counts of possession of stolen property, break and enter, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, obstructing police, breach of probation and driving while disqualified. He will appear in provincial court Jan. 6.

Roach was charged with possession of stolen property and break and enter. He will also appear in court to face these charges Jan. 6.

The investigation also led to the recovery of liquor taken in the heist and recovery of a stolen van from the Ottawa-Carleton area.

Cars vandalized

ST. ANDREWS — Four vehicles were broken into Dec. 12 while they were parked at a local establishment in the village. Entry was gained by smashing a side window of the vehicles and in one case, the locking mechanism on the door was punched. Items taken from the cars include: IBM computer system, various clothing, jewelry, groceries, Christmas gifts, sealed liquor and beer, purse with personal items inside and power tools.

Man slapped with drug charges

MATILDA — Darrin Randy Heustis, 30, was charged with possession of a narcotic for the purpose of trafficking Dec. 14 as a result of a police investigation. Heustis will appear in provincial court Jan. 6.

Antiques lifted

WINCHESTER — Sometime between the end of November and Dec. 8, a large quantity of antique furniture was stolen from a Kyle Road residence.

No items have yet been recovered

Tools taken in theft

MOUNTAIN — A break and enter at a Kerr's Ridge Road residence Dec. 12, netted culprit(s) a cache of tools. Police are still investigating.

Police searching for hot torches

MATILDA — Police are investigating a break, enter and theft at a Zeron Road residence resulting in the theft of a number of tools, a cutting torch and two oxy-acetylene tanks. The garage sustained approximately $200 damage in the incident.

Out of sight, out of mind

LONG SAULT — With many scurrying to do last minute Christmas shopping, the Upper Canada detachment wishes to remind everyone to keep purchased gifts secured in the trunk of vehicles or kept out of sight in trucks. Items left in plain view are an invitation to thieves to gain access and spoil this festive time of year. Please use common sense and remember — out of sight, out of mind!

$5,000 in stolen goods recovered

MOUNTAIN — Police recovered an estimated $5,000 worth of stolen goods in a van here, that was reported stolen from the North Gower area earlier this month.

The goods were later identified as property taken from residences in Oxford-on-Rideau Township and the Richmond area.

RIDE update

LONG SAULT — Over 502 vehicles were stopped in eight different RIDE spot check programs here last week. Four drinking and driving charges were laid, along with two 90-day licence suspensions, three 12-hour suspensions, two other criminal code charges in addition to five other charges under the Highway Traffic Act.

Obstructing police charges laid

WILLIAMSBURG — A routine traffic stop Dec. 9 along Hwy. 401 led to a Brampton man being charged with obstructing police and breach of recognizance.

Marvin Ricardo Bryan, 19, appeared in court Dec. 15 in Cornwall.

Minivan snatched

WINCHESTER — A late-model Chrysler minivan was lifted from the downtown area Dec. 13. During the afternoon, culprit(s) stole the 1996 Plymouth Voyageur. It has not yet been recovered.

Winchester gets grant for upgrade of utilities

WINCHESTER —The village is cashing in on the federal Grits' extension of the infrastructure program.

The feds, the province and the municipality have all put in equal shares of the $253,372 grant to build an extension of the sanitary and sewer watermain in addition to the reconstruction of the roadway and the upgrading of electrical utilities on Gypsy Lane west from St. Lawrence Street.

This joint project between the township and the village should be completed by the end of the month.

"We're so pleased to be able to proceed with these service upgrades," said Larry Gray, Winchester village reeve. "Thanks to the Canada-Ontario Infrastructure Works program for providing this much-needed boost to our local economy."

"This work would have been impossible to do in 1997 without the partnership of the federal and provincial governments," added Claude Cousineau, Winchester Township reeve. "When the project is finished, our major industry, soybean growing and processing will be better served."

Willamsburg Township also got a $44,628 financial boost to increase road pavement width on County Road 2 to accommodate a bike path. Work should be completed in May.

"With the popularity of bicycling in recent years, we needed to improve our infrastructure to respond to the increased number of cyclists and provide them with better and safer biking conditions," said Johnny Whitteker, Williamsburg reeve. "Thanks to the infrastructure program, this project has been brought forward by at least one year."

The $459 million invested through the recent extension of the program will bring the total investment in the province's infrastructure to $2.8 billion. The first phase of the program has already created more than 33,000 jobs and the new funding is expected to generate thousands more jobs in Ontario.



Saying goodbye

Bonnie Castle and Jan Robinson of the Winchester Non-Profit Residence Corporation honored George Haines for 12 years of service on the board of directors Dec. 15. Haines is the last original member to leave the board. In 1998, the new board of directors will consist of Estella Rose, Bill Appleby, Betty Cooke, Frank Arnold, Fred Robar, Percy Armstrong, Annette Turner, Wyman Barton and David Sloane.

Press Photo — Brownlee

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*Subject to available space.









Christmas cheer

Much to the delight of onlookers, the annual Mountain Township Santa Claus Parade made its way through the streets of South Mountain on Sat., Dec. 13. Following the parade, children had the opportunity to meet with Santa one more time before the big day. Pictured, clockwise from top left: an igloo presented by Cass Bridge Cheese House, Deesign Makers, Fawcett Communications and Scott Barkley makes its way along the parade route; children wave to parade-goers from their float; an entry from Beaver Ridge Farm; and Parmalat Canada presented Cinderella.
Press Photos — Fetterly

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Editorial/Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Senate reform and the alphabet

The answer to the Canadian Senate's woes are as simple as ABC — abolish, ban and create a new, elected body.

Senator Andrew Thompson's poor attendance record — 12 times since 1990 — is a prime example of everything that is wrong with the most outdated, patronage-filled political institution in the country.

Since Confederation, the so-called upper house has been a holding tank for close friends and loyal advisers of outgoing prime ministers to collect a ridiculous amount of money while doing virtually nothing.

When appointed to the senior legislative body, Senators occupy the post for life and as "Sunshine Thompson" has shown, can virtually get away with anything.

An attendance record of 25 per cent is all that is needed to collect remuneration of $84,806, a large portion of it tax free, a year.

And for what?

Under the current political system, Senators take up space on the Hill while rubber stamping decisions by the true policy makers, the House.

The Senate is more of a symbol than an effective legislative body. In theory, before any bill becomes law, it is supposed to review the decisions of the 301 MPs in the House. In reality, the appointed body doesn't have the legislative authority to do anything.

Senate reform is long overdue. In the economic climate of the '90s, when provincial governments are cutting grants, revamping education and health care, the federal upper house still wastes taxpayers' money.

As Canadians, we can't accept this.

It's time to abolish the existing Senate, ban the so-called truant politicians and lay the framework for an effective, elected and efficient upper house.

Each of the country's 10 provinces and two territories should have three representatives. This way, every province has equal power at the Senate table and not one is "distinct" over the other.

All 36 politicians must be elected. Yes, that means running a campaign and garnering support of the people they will represent.

And through the basic principle of democracy is the only way that the Senate can have any authority at all.

There was a time, not long ago, that Senate reform was an integral element in constitutional discussions. But the failure of Meech Lake, the Charlottetown Accord, the recent referendum and the almost devolution of the country, overshadowed that recommendation.

It didn't take Canadians long to remember just how much of a farce the upper house is once the escapades of one bad apple were highlighted.

Hopefully this will give the needed spark to get politicians to act on something that should have been done many years ago. After all, governments of the '90s base law making on public opinion polls.

And they should get the message loud and clear — Overhauling the Senate is as simple as ABC.

J.B.

This week in...

1957

What could have been a Christmas highway tragedy turned out to be a bad scare for 15 Colonial Coach passengers, thanks to a thick concrete guard railing along Cass Bridge. The lives of the 15 people aboard the bus literally hung in the balance when the big coach tore through 40 feet of concrete railing on the bridge that crosses the Nation River. The accident occurred during a driving rain storm. No one was injured.

Winchester's clergy had a difficult task on Christmas Eve in picking the two winners of the best Christmas decorated home in Winchester. After assessing all points and features of the many Winchester homes, the Howard Willard Main Street residence was awarded first place and the home of Keith Summers was a close second. Both homes were beautifully decorated with brightly colored lights and designs of Santa Claus, reindeer, shepherds, wise men and stars.

1967

As predicted, Santa Claus arrived right on schedule on his annual visit to Winchester and expressed complete satisfaction with the fine reception afforded him as he paraded through town and, because of the many acts of kindness shown him, he promised to be overly generous with the Winchester children come Dec. 25. Unfortunately some of the floats were unable to participate due to the busy schedule common at this time of year.

1977

New county legislation in SD&G forced owners of lodging houses with five or more boarders to conform to the new standards or get out of business. Safety and cleanliness were enforced immediately after the bylaw took hold, but lodge owners had until 1980 to implement new space requirements. Poor conditions at a lodge near Morrisburg sparked controversy several weeks earlier when the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Valley Health Unit ordered several major repairs. It was reported that 22 elderly residents lived in unsanitary conditions and that a fire exit door had been leaking for a lengthy time.

The Metcalfe Jets' third win of the season signalled Winchester Midget A's second loss in eight tries. Jets took the narrow 2-1 decision on a second-period goal by Steve Wade and solid goal-tending by Mike Preston.

Winchester Hawks continued their winless streak dropping a convincing 8-4 decision to the fast-skating, hard-shooting Spencerville Bruins. Hawks trailed 3-1 after 20 minutes of play but narrowed it to 5-4 during the middle frame to look — for a short time — as if they might make an impressive comeback. A goal by Gary Moore, his third of the night, with just 24 seconds left in period two sunk the Hawks to a 6-4 situation and left them flat for period three.

1987

For the third time, the SD&G Board of Education rejected a total smoking ban for area schools. That had Winchester doctor Raymond Dawes upset. He believed that the school board was side-stepping an issue more deadly to students in Eastern Ontario than AIDS or drugs. One year before, the school board voted against banning smoking saying existing guidelines were sufficient. Five months earlier, the board had agreed to allow each school to devise its own smoking guidelines on school property.

Farmers indicated that the Grenville Dundas waste management master plan should exclude not only prime agricultural land but lower classes of soil as well. About 20 farmers attended the Dundas Federation of Agriculture's waste management public meeting. The master plan was to be designed to accommodate the waste from five Dundas and Grenville townships as well as the City of Brockville. The plan included options of landfill sites for every municipality, several sites, or a central site.

Contaminated water problems which plagued residents in Metcalfe for more than a decade could finally see an end in sight. A $60,000 study was to determine whether a communal well system was appropriate for the village. It was not clear whether sufficient water existed in the area to support a communal well system. Problems with drinking water had been linked to septic pollution in residents' wells.

Corey MacIntyre scored a pair of third-period goals for the much-relieved Winchester Hawks in Navan. He and linemates Kirk Barkley and Scott Barnes scored two goals each to lead the St. Lawrence Division Hawks to an 8-6 Eastern Ontario Junior B Hockey League interlocking victory over the Metro Division Navan Grads. The victory snapped a four game losing string Winchester had going and moved their record to seven wins, nine losses and a tie, good enough for fourth place in the St. Lawrence Division.

Former Canadian Junior champion Mark MacDonald and his Kingston rink needed just eight ends to win the $800 first prize in the sixth annual Winchester Curling Club Men's Cash Bonspiel. MacDonald, who skipped a Canadian junior championship team, a Colts' champion and a winning



university rink during the 1970s before taking a break from the sport to train and drive harness race horses actually won the "A" final in the first end. He grabbed a quick 3-0 lead on the Wiggans' Rideau Club foursome. Wiggans missed his shot and MacDonald came out of the first end



Clear the track, here comes Shack

You ever play the oxymoron game? It's fun. My dictionary defines 'oxymoron' as: "a combination of contradictory or incongruous words". There are a lot of natural oxymorons in the language, such as 'bittersweet' and 'deafening silence'.

But it's fun to make up your own oxymorons, such as 'airline food', 'government promise' and 'civil servant'.

How about police reports that list stolen goods that were 'found missing'? Zombies described as 'the living dead'? A computer manual entitled 'Advanced BASIC'?

Those aren't bad — but I've got one that's better. It's better because it's brand new and perhaps even coming to a town near you. It's...

An Eddie Shack book.

I should explain to youngsters in the audience that Eddie Shack is an ancient Canadian. He goes all the way back to the time when Canada had a game called hockey played by men who got paid not much more than the average working stiff down at the meat packing plant. There were only six elite teams then, and Eddie Shack played for two of them: the New York Rangers and, more famously, the Toronto Maple Leafs.

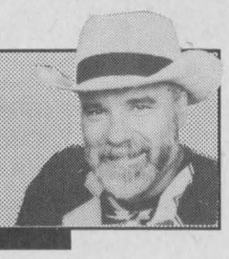
As a player, Shack was, um, enthusiastic. He wasn't a great stickhandler, or skater, or scorer. But you always knew when Shack was on the ice. He tended to run into things. Mostly opposing players.

The knock on Shack was that he was a buffoon. A big, goofy, lolloping clown with a huge bugle of a nose, a loud braying laugh and, well, not much in the way of gray matter holding his jug ears apart.

They said that Shack was dumb as a goalpost. So dumb he couldn't even write his own name.

It wasn't true. Actually, Shack himself was responsible for the rumor. When he first became popular as a hockey player he quickly tired of signing his name for endless streams of autograph hounds, so he had a rubber stamp of his signature made up. Eddie figured the rubber stamp would save him time. All it did was bring him grief. Pretty soon the word got around that Shack could neither read nor write. Even players on rival teams took to taunting Shack for his stupidity.

Basic Black
by Arthur Black



As usual, the rest of the world was underestimating The Shackster. Once, in a game against the Boston Bruins, Shack was weathering a vicious ribbing about his supposed illiteracy from the Bruins bench. Late in the third period, Shack intercepted a pass, powered in from the blue line and blasted a shot between the Bruins goalie's legs.

Shack skated straight over to the Bruins bench, stopped in a shower of ice chips and chanted: "Goal. Spelled G.O.A.L."

Not that Eddie would ever be mistaken for a Shakespearian scholar. When he showed up at our local bookstore to sign copies of 'his' new book (actually, it's an 'as-told- to' written by Ross Brewitt), Shack held up a copy and deadpanned "I haven't read it, but a lot of people who have, say it's quite funny".

Our paths had crossed before. I remember sitting beside Eddie at a lobster banquet in Prince Edward Island years ago. That's the image of the guy I'll always remember. A big lug in a cowboy stetson beside me, tucking into his lobster as enthusiastically as he used to body check incoming forwards. And lobster juice and butter running down his big, thick fingers onto the huge Stanley Cup rings he wears.

A lot of people forget that Shack played on four Stanley Cup teams during his NHL career. Just like they forget that he's made a very comfortable life for himself since his retirement, doing commercials for razors and beer and garbage bags and motels. He has also owned a chain of donut shops, a bar called Hillbilly Shack's and an entire golf course on the outskirts of Toronto.

And now he's on the book tour circuit. Along with Margaret Atwood and Peter Gzowski, Carol Shields and Nino Ricci.

Dumb? Oh, yeah. To coin an oxymoron: dumb like a fox.

Man killed in head-on crash

MANOTICK — During the period of Dec. 8-14 the Manotick OPP detachment investigated 86 general occurrences and 11 motor vehicle collisions.

On Dec. 8 at approximately 9:40 pm, Antonio Anicet, 39, of Gloucester, died in a motor vehicle crash on Regional Road 8, three kilometres west of the Hwy. 416 interchange on Rideau Township. According to police, Anicet was travelling westbound in a 1985 Plymouth. For some unknown reason, Anicet crossed the centre line and struck an eastbound tractor trailer unit operated by William Grace, 45, of Pakenham. Two young girls who were passengers in the Anicet vehicle were seriously injured and were transported to CHEO.

A Hwy. 31 home was broken into on Dec. 8. A television, cordless phone and a Lawnboy lawn mower were stolen from the property. This break-in occurred sometime in the morning.

Police were called to a Donnelly Drive home to investigate an insecure residence on the afternoon of Dec. 10. When the officer arrived at the house, the lock on the front gate was broken and the front door had been forced open. It appeared as if a vehicle had been backed up to the house. It is unknown what, if anything, was stolen.

On Dec. 12 between 1:30 pm and 3 pm, someone broke into a Fairmile Road home. Computer components, a size 40 black leather jacket and an antique gold locket were among the items stolen. Anyone with information concerning this break and enter is asked to contact Const. Julie Munro at 692-2525.

The following day it was reported that one of the churches on Donnelly Drive was broken into. Nothing was stolen.

Two Ottawa-area men were arrested for possession of stolen property over $5,000 on Dec. 8. At approximately 1 pm, Const. Jamie Foley was on routine patrol when he stopped a Plymouth van on the 9th Line Rd. This vehicle had been stolen from Ottawa earlier in the day. Both men, aged 30 and 24, will appear in court on Jan. 8.

Police investigated the theft of two vehicles last week. On Dec. 10, a 1989 maroon van was taken from the parking lot at the North Gower Community Centre. It was left unattended from 8:30 pm until 10 pm. It was recovered on Dec. 14 in Mountain Township.

A 1991 Ford van was left running outside a Manotick food outlet on Dec. 14 at 6 pm. When the owner returned a few moments later, the van was gone. Later that evening, at approximately 10 pm, the vehicle was involved in a collision in West Carleton. Motorists are reminded that when a vehicle is left unattended with the engine running, it is an invitation to someone to steal it. It only takes a second to hop into the car and take off.

Overnight on Dec. 8 a Kenwood car stereo, speakers and a Rockford amplifier were stolen from a vehicle parked in the laneway of a Pettapiece home. On Dec. 12, just before 8 pm, four Rideau Township youths were caught stealing a box of cat litter from the back of a station wagon parked at the Manotick Curling Club. The boys were released to their parents and no charges were laid.

Officers investigated three separate incidents involving damage to mail boxes in the North Gower area last week. In one case, someone reported that snowmobilers were smashing mail boxes near Proven Line Road.

Overnight on Dec. 8 a motor home parked at a Metcalfe residence was damaged. A side window was smashed.

Sometime between 11 am and 8 pm on Dec. 13 a car radio antenna and windshield wipers were damaged on a car parked at the Manotick Mews. Anyone who may have witnessed this is asked to contact the Manotick OPP at 692-2525.

On Dec. 8 a Manotick bank official turned in a counterfeit $100 bill. It was passed in Rideau Township. Area merchants should be aware of the money they accept. If you have any doubts about the authenticity of the currency, call the police.

A Manotick resident called police on Dec. 11 at 1:30 pm to report three children playing on the ice of the Rideau River, near Tighe Street. When Const. Jason Smith arrived on scene, the children were gone.

The Festive RIDE Campaign is well underway. Since Nov. 28, members of the Manotick detachment have checked 3,649 vehicles, issued three 12-hour suspensions, two 90-day suspensions, and have charged two people with drinking and driving offences.

During the afternoon RIDE programs, a number of motorists have asked why police are conducting the spot checks so early in the day. To answer that question, police said that on Dec. 12, Const. Julie Munro was conducting a RIDE program on Bridge Street in Manotick. At 2:46 pm, she stopped a man who had been drinking. As a result, his driver's licence was suspended for 12 hours. Some individuals will drink and drive at any time.

Const. Janice Harris is investigating a car crash that occurred on Dec. 12 at approximately 6 pm on Stage Coach Road. Alcohol was a factor.



Tuned in for Christmas

Organist extraordinaire, Sharon Adams entertained a bus full of Montrealers Dec. 5 on the one-of-a-kind Fawcett original organ at the Mountain Township studio. Adams played many festive favorites in addition to Elton John's, "Candle In The Wind".

Press Photo — Brownlee

Mayor wants open policy

by Derek Puddicombe

METCALFE – Osgoode Township mayor Doug Thompson wants municipal government to be more accessible and open to residents.

One of Thompson's first directions as mayor was to commission a large welcome sign that will hang inside the foyer in township hall.

In another move that Thompson said was to show the mayor's position was not a favored one he had the reserved parking sign for the mayor taken down.

In his inaugural address to council and residents he said he will be opening his office every second Saturday from 10 am to noon to anybody who wants to talk to him about concerns or ideas they might have about the township.

"My philosophy is simple." said Thompson. "I want anyone who visits these council chambers or calls our township offices to feel comfortable and to feel welcome."

He added there are many challenges facing the new council including municipal restructuring and taking on services traditionally funded by the provincial government.

"We, as your elected board of directors, must ensure your money is spent wisely," he said. "We must ensure that we pass onto our children a municipality that is a even better place in which to live than the municipality that was passed to our generation."



Happy 85th Birthday Eva Johnstone

Love from your daughter Margey, grandchildren and great grandchildren



NDDHS NOTES

by Sam Cullen

As one walks through the hallowed halls of North Dundas, the feeling of Christmas floats through the school.

Peer helpers are getting ready for carolling, people are sending their friends "Christmas-o-grams", students are beginning to festively decorate their lockers, and OAC students are rehearsing for their annual Christmas concert.

Our students' efforts have resulted in a successful canned food drive. Thanks to all students who brought in donations. Our final draw for free entrance to the next school dance will be held on Friday (Dec. 19).

There's also the rush to give tests, in order to avoid trying to test students during the post-Christmas-holiday memory lapse that can never be avoided. Unfortunately for this plan, students always seem to be in a daze for the week before Christmas, too.

After school holiday shopping and the general excitement of having two weeks off school always seem to interfere with the in-class attention span of our students.

So, I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season. I also hope that I don't catch too severe of a case of the pre-Christmas-break blues.

Outdoor rink opens at Winchester Public

WINCHESTER — As Winchester Public School continues to make the school yard a beautiful thing for the entire community, an ice rink has been built on the school property for the enjoyment of all.

In an ongoing effort to make the WPS school yard more inviting to the community, staff and students have joined efforts to build an ice rink.

"It's a joint venture," said principal George Hollingdrake. "The ice rink will be used by both the public and the school."

But, he added, "The rink will be used for skating only, and not for hockey."

The school is adamant about the no hockey rule because, Hollingdrake explained, skating is much easier to supervise than a hockey game, which can easily become violent.

Several staff and students, along with parent volunteers, spent Saturday and Sunday mornings (Dec. 13 & 14) building the foundation for the ice rink. Ice will be added in January.

On Oct. 23 staff and students spent an afternoon planting 22 deciduous trees around the school yard as part of a greening program to beautify the school and make it more inviting to the public.

The project is expected to continue in the spring, with ideas of a bird and butterfly garden for the school yard, a gazebo and shrubbery.

Ottawa-Carleton trustees sworn in

NEPEAN — The new Ottawa-Carleton District School Board trustees were sworn in yesterday at the Carleton Board of Education boardroom.

Items topping the agenda of a caucus meeting included the election of chair and vice-chair, appointments of director of education and chief financial officer.

The 12 trustees elected in last November's municipal elections will assume responsibility for creating and providing policy and direction for the new Ottawa-Carleton District School Board Jan. 1.

The new board will be responsible for providing English public education to all students in the entire Ottawa-Carleton region. There will be approximately 78,000 students in day school programs.

Williamsburg student draws winning poster

CORNWALL — A Grade 4 student from Williamsburg drew the winning picture in the Healthy Lunch Challenge poster contest sponsored by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

Katrina Vandenberg, who attends Marlene Luchies' class at the Timothy Christian School in Williamsburg won a pizza lunch for her entire class, provided by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit.

The Healthy Lunch Challenge poster contest is an event held with all Grade 4 classes wishing to participate in the five eastern counties. By organizing this activity, the EOHU's goal is to improve students' and their family's knowledge about healthy food in a fun and interesting way.

A self-proclaimed pizza lover, Vandenberg already has a knowledge of nutrition. "I like to draw cartoon pictures about vegetables and fruits," she said. "My favorite vegetable is carrots. My favorite fruit is raspberries."

The winning posters in the five counties all had these criteria in common: imagination, healthy choices, and the inclusion of at least one food choice from each of the four food groups of Canada's Food Guide to Healthy Eating.

"Our aim is to improve people's choice in food," said Johanna Jennings of the EOHU. "If the children eat nutritiously now, they consciously influence their parents into providing them with better choices which makes them healthier, for longer. Everybody wins."

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These specials valid until closing Wednesday, Dec. 31.
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Thompson attempts to garbage tag-a-bag

by Derek Puddicombe

METCALFE – Doug Thompson's first motion as Osgoode Township's new mayor was defeated 3-2 at council's Dec. 2 inaugural meeting.

As promised during the municipal election campaign Thompson promised to reopen the controversial tag-a-bag issue if he was elected mayor. He was and did reopen the case, but three councillors didn't put their stamp of approval on revisiting the issue because they want to give it a chance to work.

New councillor Carol Parker voted against the motion because she said there was no new evidence to support a re-examination and that she wanted to see if the program worked to eliminate waste from the landfill site.

"I hope the program will work and if it's not working perhaps we can examine alternatives," said Parker, who added she would like council to be given frequent progress reports on the user-pay program.

Councillor Dwayne Acres agreed with Parker and said he's prepared to give the waste reduction proposal a chance, but would also like to be able to compare how the garbage portion of the residential tax bill is affected by the number of tags sold.

Councillor Dale Harley told Thompson that abandoning the program at this stage would have serious financial ramifications and that getting rid of it would result in a four per cent tax hike.

"Putting it in place residents could see a six to seven per cent tax decrease," said Harley. "It's critical to keep it if Mr. Thompson wants to keep his promise of lowering taxes."

Councillor George Wright was the only councillor to support Thompson's motion. He agreed that there is probably no chance in canceling the program completely, but found no reason why a new council can't examine the issue.

A few objectors to the implementation of the program wanted to know how much of their tax bill was going towards paying for garbage collection.

Kevin Grace, the director of environmental services for the township, said that on the next tax bill residents will see how much of their tax dollars go towards paying for garbage collection.

There is already talk among residents of how to beat the system. Each one dollar tag equals a 50-pound bag and some residents are considering waiting until they have 50 pounds worth of garbage before they set it out at the curb. There is also a concern that garbage will be dumped in roadside ditches in order to avoid paying the user fee.

Leslie Benson, director of public works for Sidney Township, a population of 12,000 near Belleville, introduced a tag-a-bag program in 1994 and had similar resident opposition.

Different from the program Osgoode is proposing, Sidney supplied one free tag a week to its residents for two years and charged $1.50 for additional tags until recently charging $2 for every tag.

However, Thompson said he doesn't feel defeated yet. Since the motion was defeated, opposition to the program has grown and about 700 residents have signed a petition against the new user fee, said Thompson.



Picture perfect

Leora Starkey is picturing her new business venture in Winchester as a success. Silver Springs Studios, located at 504 St. Lawrence Street, offers everything from portrait to wedding photography. Starkey, who studied Fine Arts photography at the University of Ottawa, is open for business Wed. - Sat, 9 am - 5 pm, or by appointment. Silver Springs can be reached at 774-4073 or 852-0984.

Press Photo — Brownlee

Residents voice concerns on keeping rural identity

by Derek Puddicombe

METCALFE -- Mike Hind was born in London, England, has lived in Toronto, but loves Osgoode Township.

Hind, 60, has lived in Metcalfe for 21 years, the longest time he's spent anywhere, and where he has raised and sent his four children to school.

He likes that he's close to his neighbors and enjoys the peacefulness of country life, but is concerned about the continuing talks about restructuring the municipal boundaries in Ottawa-Carleton.

Those are some of the reasons why he, and about 200 other residents, attended phase two of the citizens' panel mission at the Greely Community Centre on Dec. 10.

The citizens' panel was established last summer at the request of the region's 11 mayors to seek public opinion about the form of governance residents want.

Hind is primarily concerned with what might happen to Osgoode Township's boundaries in the future if the region is under the political tutelage of a single government. It's important to Hind that the rural voice is heard and the concerns of rural residents are on record with the citizens panel.

"It's a good process and a good way of getting the people's ideas out in the open," said Hind, adding if the boundaries have to change he could live with Osgoode and Rideau joining political forces and possibly the part of Gloucester south of the greenbelt.

Vernon resident Roy Mills is ultimately concerned that Osgoode will be swallowed up by the urbans if a one-tier government is imposed. He's also concerned that the choice for residents will be to be "shot or hung."

But he has a solution.

"I'll move that extra three miles to get out of the region," said Mills.

He also fears that the rural voice is not strong enough and that it isn't taken seriously by the regional or urban governments. This could lead to, said Mills, the country becoming the dumping ground for the undesirable industries the urbans don't won't.

The bottom line for Mills is that Osgoode and the other three rural municipalities should get out of the region. What triggered the lightbulb for Mills was the evidence at the Greely meeting.

Maps of the region hanging at the community centre showed the majority of people who attended the meeting from Osgoode not only live in the township, but work, participate in recreational activities, shop, volunteer and go to school there.

"We've been told a lot of falsehoods over the years," said Mills, explaining that the regional portion of the tax bill doesn't seem fair if residents aren't using urban facilities as much as they have been told they are using them.

But as far as the Citizen's Panel is concerned Mills said the process seemed to be fair, but there should have been more members of the Citizen's panel present at the meeting.

Wade wins $300 second prize

VERNON — A Metcalfe man was the second prize winner of a draw to support "Operation Go Home".

Brian Wade of Metcalfe won $300 when his name was drawn on Nov. 22 at Vernon Recreation Centre. The first prize of $500 was won by Barbara Cote of Kanata, and the $200 third prize was won by Don Elmhirst of Havelock.

The draw was held by County of Carleton Loyal Orange Lodge.



Detachment introduces commander

LONG SAULT — The Upper Canada Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police introduced the new detachment commander to the media last Thursday in Long Sault.

Inspector Michael Hopkins was promoted to the rank of detachment commander in July of this year.

Hopkins joined the OPP in November 1972 as a radio dispatcher in Sudbury. In May 1974 he joined as a uniform member and was posted to Longlac detachment. He transferred to Midland detachment in June 1979.

The inspector was promoted to the rank of sergeant in January 1984 and assigned to Blind River detachment where he continued to serve until January 1986 when he transferred to Casselman detachment.

In April 1989 Hopkins was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant and assigned as detachment commander at the Cochrane detachment until October 1995 when he transferred to Kanata detachment in the same capacity.

Hopkins now overlooks 65 uniform and 10 civilian members at Upper Canada detachment. This detachment polices Stormont and Dundas counties.

In January 1996, the former Long Sault, Morrisburg and Winchester detachments clustered as part of the OPP re-organization implementation and became Upper Canada detachment. The three offices remained, with Long Sault becoming the administrative centre.

Hopkins took over command from the now retired and past detachment commander, staff sergeant John Mesich. Hopkins and his wife, Jessie, have two children, Kris, 20, and Karen, 18.

Hopkins has already entered into his new challenge in developing strong community ties and is a supporter of community policing, which the OPP has adopted as the method of the future.

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1998 Dodge 1500 4x4 Quad Cab SLT

Limited slip, fog lamps, 8 cyl., auto., power windows & locks

$377.00 + taxes per month

*24-month lease term, $3,000 down or trade equivalent, mileage restriction applies, 1st payment and security

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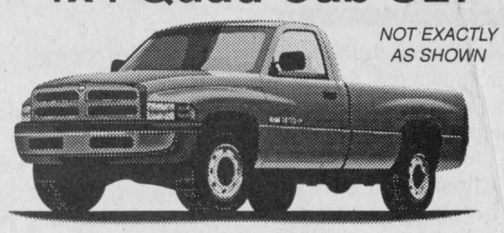

1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee LTD

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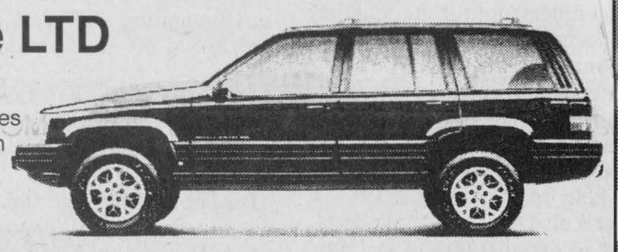


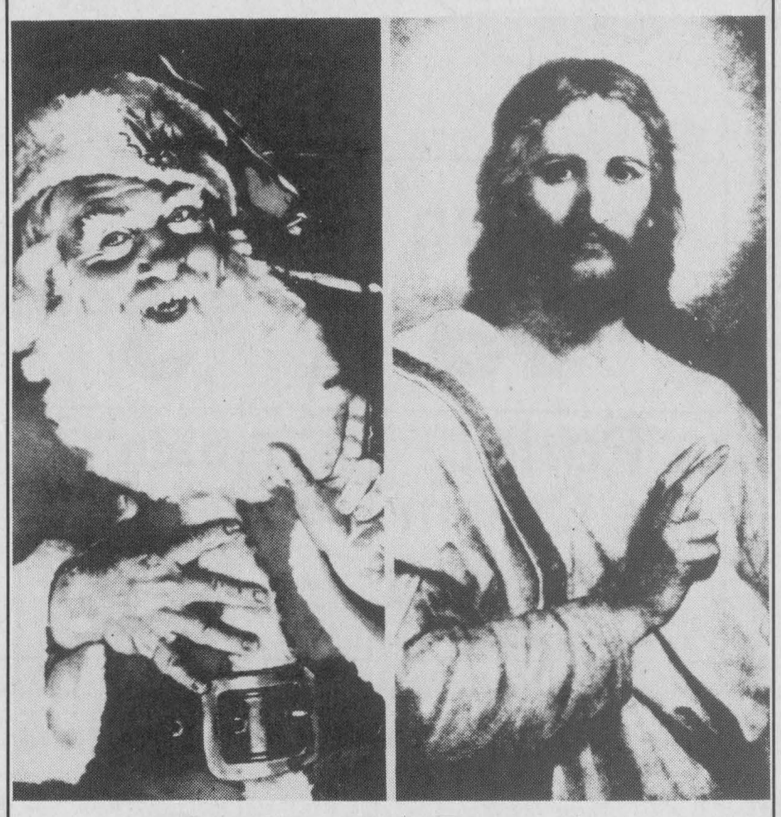
Embrun Dodge Chrysler

700 NOTRE-DAME

613-443-0314

Whose birthday is it, anyway?

The local Ministerial believes the important news at Christmas is not who comes down the chimney, but who came down from heaven. We invite you to come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.



Christmas Posada and Carol Service

The Winchester Ministerial invites the community to a **Christmas Posada (parade) and Carol Service, Dec. 21.** The Posada leaves Winchester Wesleyan Church at **6:30 pm.** Bring a candle, a flashlight or a lantern, a musical instrument, a friend and your best singing voice. Carol Service at the United Church at 7:30 pm.

Do you ski or snowboard?
Osgoode Township Youth Committee
first trip of season is
Sunday, January 11
to Ski Fortune, Gatineau
Price $15
If interested call Julie at
821-1601
before Jan. 1st.

Babies of 1997



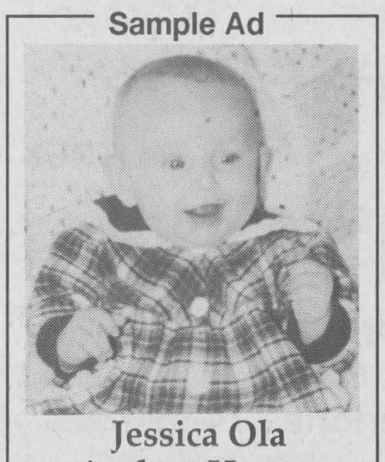
We will feature the babies born this year.

Photos will appear in our New Year's edition, Wed., Dec. 31, 1997.

Winchester Press
774-2524

(Babies born in December 1996 also welcomed.)

Sample Ad



Jessica Ola Audrey Harper
July 2, 1997
Daughter of Marlene & Alan

Send or bring in this form along with $15 (plus GST) to the Winchester Press, Box 399, Winchester, Ont., K0C 2K0.

Your baby's name _____

Date of birth _____

Your message _____

Don't forget to include a black and white or color photo of your baby. Wallet size photo preferred.

Deadline: Dec. 29, 5 pm

Santa's long-awaited return thrills Metcalfe





He hadn't visited in years, but Santa's return to Metcalfe on Saturday (Dec. 13) was one to be remembered. Both parade watchers and participants were delighted to be a part of the committee to welcome the jolly elf back to Metcalfe. After the parade, parents and children headed for the community centre where they built gingerbread houses. Press Photos -- Culliton





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HP 6L
6 ppm - Black.....$579

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P133/P150..$1,347
P166MMX...$1,397
P200MMX...$1,547
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- 100 Watt Speakers
- ACER 33.6 Kbps Modem
- 24X Internal CD-ROM

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P166MMX...$1,597
P200MMX...$1,747
P233MMX...$1,897
PII-233.....$2,197

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P166MMX...$1,099
P200MMX...$1,247
+ WIN95=$75
To 16 Mb=$45/32Mb=$83
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PII-233.....$1,597

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Open 9-9 starting Dec. 11; Sat. 9-5; Sunday 12-4 in December.

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Starting Dec. 11 - 9-9,
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613-774-0076

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

A special thanks to those of you who played Cloverdale Links and encouraged others. The back nine will be open for play by July 1, 1998.

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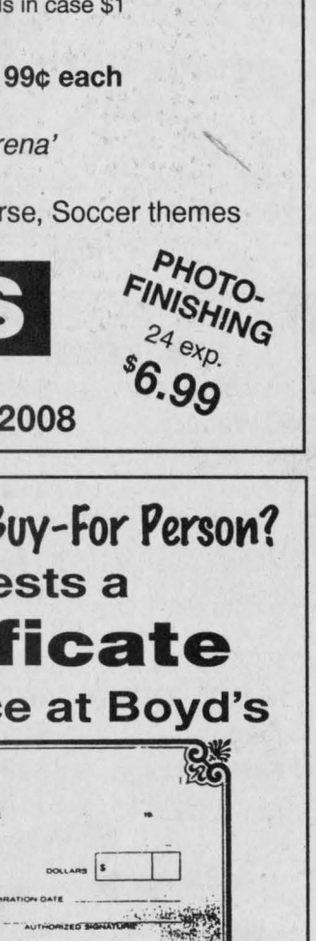
for lessons and/or green fees are available for Christmas gifts

Call 774-0076 and we will deliver to the Winchester area for your convenience.





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Shimano F/X Combo *OR* **Mitchell 240 Combo** **$38.95**

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Lots of Stocking Stuffers

Books, Stickers, Bead Kits, Puppy in My Pocket, Polly Pocket, Ponies, Smurfs, Crayola Puzzles, Stuffed Animals, Spiderman, Spawn, Farm Sets, 10 pack pencils in case $1

Model Kits

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New name rebirth for funeral home

MORRISBURG — After several months in business, Fairbairn Funeral Home and BJ Parker Holdings Ltd. will institute name changes to lessen confusion.

Parker Funeral Home Ltd. is the new name of the funeral home owned by Bonnie Parker.

"We are currently beginning our ninth month in business but with the name change, it is like a new birth," Parker stated.

Former owner Mr. Fairbairn has not been associated with the business since the purchase by Parker on April 10, she indicated.

Parker has incorporated the willow tree into her newly designed logo. The willow, a symbol of weeping and sadness about death, was the traditional symbol. It is also considered to be one Christian symbol for the Gospel of Christ. Just as a willow can withstand the loss of many branches and live, so the gospel flourishes, even in the face of adversity.

"Coming to Morrisburg area as a stranger, the community has been very supportive," Parker said. "Now I look upon these townspeople as my friends."

Raised on a farm near Teeswater in Southwestern Ontario, she said she always had a heart for rural and community living.

"Being a funeral director in Lambeth, near London, I have enjoyed the many aspects of my career," Parker stated. "Believing strongly in small business, this has been a dream-come-true move to Morrisburg."

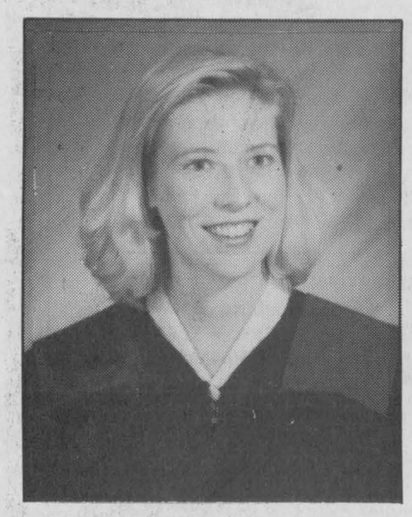
She added, "While so many people are dissatisfied with their jobs, myself and my team members, who are dedicated men of the community, look forward to each new day as it brings exciting challenges to help and care for people. People in funeral service are at their happiest when they believe they are making an important difference in others' lives."

She continued, "We believe the funeral is more than an observance of the passage of life. It is a celebration of life. We believe that everyone is entitled to choose their own way of celebrating that life."



Art show

An art and craft show was held at Nor-Dun Seniors Centre in Winchester on the weekend. Chesterville's Joan Hopkins of Colourwheel Studio and her students staged a show and sale of their work, including paintings, photography, crafts, pottery and other artwork. Pictured, Hopkins and Linda St-Onge of Mountain examine some of the prints on display. Press Photo — Culliton



Hazel Burns, RN

Hazel Burns (Booth) graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing in May, 1997.

Hazel is currently employed at the Ottawa General Hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Ladies Aid turns over $2,000

by Moira MacLeod

WINCHESTER — The Ladies Aid of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church met on Dec. 5 for the regular meeting and Christmas potluck supper.

President Yoka Crowder welcomed members and their guests. She opened the dinner with a prayer and seasonal readings.

An abbreviated meeting was held after dinner. It was decided to give shut-in parishioners a small gift and card at Christmas. A donation is to be given to the Sunday school for Christmas candy.

Norma Duncan gave a report on gifts and cards sent during the month. Betty Larmour gave the treasurer's report after which it was agreed to give $2,000 to the board of managers.

Yoka Crowder has one more year to serve as president. Doris Baker is first vice-president; Betty Larmour is treasurer; Norma Duncan is social convenor; and Margaret Johnstone is the catering convenor.

At the close of the meeting, members and guests moved into the sanctuary for a Christmas service led by Janet Clapp. The True Gifts of Christmas was her topic.

Helen Kerr was the pianist for the musical portion of the evening.

Postal strike hampers Playhouse

MORRISBURG — As with all charities this year, the Upper Canada Playhouse has suffered from the postal strike during its fall membership campaign.

"We rely heavily for winter operating money on membership dollars raised over the fall, but we have suffered a 60 per cent loss of income because of the strike," said Lionel Tessier, second vice-president of the board of Upper Canada Playhouse.

He added, "This is a bad time of year to get people to dig into their wallets, as everyone has the extra expenses of Christmas, but we ask that our current members and supporters do not forget us. The summer will soon be here and your dollars play a large part in producing quality theatre."

If you wish to renew your membership or become a member, please send your cheque to Upper Canada Playhouse, Box 852, Morrisburg, K0C 1X0, or phone 613-543-3713.

FWIO directs meet in Cornwall

by Vivian Fawcett

CORNWALL — Marg Harris, provincial president of Federated Women's Institute of Ontario opened the first-ever open annual meeting of the Board of Directors of Ontario. What an historic day in the 100th anniversary year of the founding of the Women's Institute.

The meeting was held at the Ramada Inn at Cornwall on Wed., Nov. 19. Approximately 30 WI members from the eastern area attended the meeting.

Safe and Healthy Communities is the focus leading up to the year 2000. This covers a wide range of projects and speakers.

Federated Women's Institute of Canada completed their project of knitted squares to Zambia as of June's convention, but if anyone still wishes to knit, they may still do so. A new project is forthcoming, 4,700 blankets, 40 tabards (vests), 170 dolls and 110 blankets completed from 217,000 squares at this date.

"Bob the Beaver" project was also completed at convention time. There was $37,700 collected, less than $3 per member than hoped for. There are 1,600 history books for Home and Country available from FWIO office.

Audio and visual video of the whole convention, including Roberta Bondar's message, is available. The FWIO tartan is selling well and available from head office also. A sample of tartan has also gone to the time capsule.

Three WI members were running for president elect. Christine Reaburn of Renfrew North, Eastern Area was elected on the third ballot.

A banquet followed by a fashion show by MacPhee Workshop Fashion Shows, modelled by local WI members, brought the first open annual board meeting of FWIO to a close.

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Many more Christmas Specials, in-stock ready for Delivery
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HWY. 31 AT ST. LAWRENCE ST. SOUTH, WINCHESTER 774-1760

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Prod. of USA Cranberries $1.99 "New Crop" 12 oz. pkg.	Prod. of Canada Carrots or Onions 99¢ 5 lb.	Prod. of USA Lemons or Limes 6/99¢ "Christmas Baking"
Betty Bread White 89¢ loaf Brown 99¢ loaf	Christmas Trees For Sale "Lots in Stock" $20.00 ea.	Neilson's Whipping Cream or Sour Cream 99¢ 250 ml

Prices in effect Wed., Dec. 17-Tues., Dec. 24, 1997



Muriel's Flowers in Winchester is celebrating 40 years in business this month. Originally opened by Muriel Rennison on Dec. 10, 1957, her daughter-in-law Sandra Vasey now runs the business.

Florist celebrates 40 blooming years

WINCHESTER — Forty years after the doors to Muriel's Flowers opened in Winchester, the business is still flourishing.

Muriel Rennison opened the flower shop on Dec. 10, 1957 at 478 Caleb Street in Winchester. Today, her daughter-in-law Sandra Vasey runs the shop at the very same location. She took over the store for Rennison in 1975 due to Rennison's failing health.

"Muriel opened the flower shop in Winchester simply because the need was there," Vasey said. "Muriel's Flowers was the first flower shop in Dundas County. Until it opened, if flowers were needed to express thoughts of sympathy, to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries or as get well bouquets, the flower arrangements were bused in to Winchester from Ottawa."

Rennison changed this inconvenience, Vasey said, by providing flowers for all occasions, as well as a delivery service. Although other flower shops have opened up in the area throughout the years, Vasey continues to deliver to an area spanning over 900 square miles.

Fresh flowers and plants are still the main selling product for the store, but Muriel's Flowers also has silk-like flower arrangements and plants, crafts and other gift ideas.

"After 40 years you can still phone for same-day delivery," Vasey stated. "And if you're calling long distance, we have a toll-free number to help you place your order."

As a member of FTD and Teleflora wire services, the flower store has received flower orders worldwide.

"In 1957 Muriel's Flowers guaranteed quality, service and customer satisfaction," Vasey said. "Forty years later, you can still expect the same."

OBITUARIES

Jean Kittle

B. Jean Kittle, a lifelong resident of Chesterville, died on Sun., Dec. 14 at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness. She was 67.

Mrs. Kittle was born in Winchester Township on Sept. 20, 1930 to the late Charles Bell Short and Kathleen Servage. She was also predeceased by her husband, Gerald Edwin Kittle.

Mrs. Kittle will be lovingly remembered by her daughter Lois (Jeffrey) Linttell of L'Orignal, Ontario, and her son Neil (Susan) Kittle of Winchester. She will also be missed by her grandchildren, Diana and Jared Linttell and Meagan and Dana Kittle.

Mrs. Kittle is also survived by her brother Gordon (Cheryl) Short of Cornwall and her companion Donald Shane of Crysler.

Funeral services were held at Trinity United Church in Chesterville on Tues., Dec. 16. Reverend Bert deBruijn officiated. Interment was at Maple Ridge Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Todd Short, Troy Short, Robert Short, Sheldon Shane, Brian Shane and Stephen Shane.

Margaret Alice Sherman

Margaret Alice (Hitsman) Sherman of Montreal, Quebec died on Dec. 9, 1997 at Jewish General Hospital in Montreal after a short illness. She was 82.

A former registered nurse, Mrs. Sherman was born in Winchester on May 7, 1915 to John Sandfield (Sandy) Hitsman and Florence Pearl Hitsman.

She will be sadly missed by her husband, Michael Sherman whom she married in 1969.

Mrs. Sherman is survived by her sister, Norma Casselman of Morrisburg and her brother Douglas (Doris) Hitsman of Chesterville, as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by William (Billy) Hitsman, Robert (Bob) Hitsman and Eleanor Helmer.

Mrs. Sherman received her education in Winchester and at Brockville General Hospital, where she received her RN certificate. She was a member of the United Church.

Funeral services were held at Daniels Funeral Home in Chesterville on Dec. 11. Reverend Roy Harwood officiated. Interment was at Maple Ridge Cemetery.

Pallbearers were David Casselman, Chris Casselman, Richard Hess and Michael Guy.

On November 29 at the Greely Legion, a benefit dance was held for the "Jason McDonald Trust Fund". The McDonald family would like to take this opportunity to thank all the organizers, the volunteers and the people of our community who made it an overwhelming success.

The continuing support and prayers from our family, our friends and the entire community have already made a positive difference in Jason's recovery.

Words cannot express our true appreciation and feelings.

Our heartfelt thanks

~Jason, Keith, Sharon & Heather~

WCW to deliver 'good cheer' plates

by Doris Ennis

WINCHESTER — Thirty-five members of Winchester UCW were welcomed to a potluck supper on Dec. 8 by president Orma Earl.

After the meal the president thanked the five volunteer males who were to earn their supper by washing the dishes, a thoughtful gesture to the women who spend so much time in the church kitchen.

Unit 4 was responsible for the evening and led a meditation which gave a fresh and creative approach to the Christmas story by telling it from Joseph's viewpoint. Vera Moorhouse was the narrator and Norma Wylie portrayed Joseph. This was concluded with a Christmas worship period which included prayers, scripture, short readings and carols. Colleen Howard was pianist for this service.

A short business meeting followed, chaired by retiring president Orma Earl. She expressed her gratitude for the co-operation she had received from all during her term of office.

It was announced that "good cheer" plates would be packed and delivered on Sat., Dec. 20 at 1 pm. Earl also mentioned receiving a letter of thanks from Presbyterial UCW president Erna Witherspoon for the worship service prepared for their last meeting by Winchester's Lillian Moore and June Armstrong.

In memoriam poinsettias will be placed in the church sanctuary on Dec. 21. There will be 37 poinsettias donated. Arrangements were made for the delivery to Lazarus House of the gifts of toiletries donated at this meeting.

A full slate of officers was announced for 1998, with the next meeting to be held on Jan. 12 at 7:30 pm in the Library Room.

The evening ended with the singing of "Go Now in Peace".



Byers – Barkley

Rob Byers and Dianne Barkley were united in marriage in front of their friends and family on September 13, 1997. A special thanks and much love to our wedding party and families for their help and support. The Byers happily reside in Pakenham.



Booth – Burns

Hazel and Greg Burns are excited to be celebrating Christmas of '97 as newlyweds. Married September 13, 1997 at St. Patrick's Church in Nepean, we wish to express a heartfelt thanks to all of our family and friends for the warm wishes and the outstanding celebration. What a wonderful time in our lives this has been.

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Manse: 774-1546
Sunday
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11:00 am - Worship Service and Sunday School
Tuesday
12:45-1:15 pm - Prayer Circle
WINCHESTER SPRINGS UNITED CHURCH
9:30 am - Worship Service and Sunday School
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6:30 pm - Pre-Service Worship
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PASTOR: Wayne D. Fulton
23tfc

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF WINCHESTER, CHESTERVILLE, CRYSLER AND SOUTH MOUNTAIN
Sunday, December 21
7:45 am - South Mountain
9:30 am - Winchester
11:15 am - Chesterville
Rev. Robert Assaly: 774-2236
38c

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Chesterville
448-3262
Christmas Eve
5:30 pm - Children's Mass
7:30 pm - Youth Mass
10:00 pm - Mass - Adult Choir
Christmas Day
10:00 am - Mass
38-39c

A TIME TO PRAY
Everyone is invited to attend this interdenominational prayer time every Tuesday from 12:45-1:15 pm at the Winchester United Church Hall.

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Knox Presbyterian Church
Mountain
Interim Minister, Marion Johnston
Tel.: H.-613-652-2301
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Knox Presbyterian Church
Mountain
9:30 am - Divine Worship
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Winchester
Sunday, Dec. 21
11:00 am - Divine Worship, nursery care and program for children
Wednesday, Dec. 24
7:30 pm - Christmas Eve Family Candlelite Service
38-39c

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Williamsburg, Ont.
Rev. George J. Rowaan
448-2351
Sunday, December 21
Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:30 am - Morning Service. Yes! Luke 1:26-56
Sunday School for all children ages 3-12
7:30 pm - Candlelight Service of Lesson and Carols "Savior We Seek"
Christmas Day, December 25
10:00 am - "Glory to the New Born King!" Sunday School. Christmas Program.
Pastor Rowaan at both services
Child care available
PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
38c

HARMONY COMMUNITY CHURCH
Evangelical Missionary Church
Hwy. 31 & Ormond Rd.
774-5170
Pastor: Rev. Bruce North
Friday, December 19
6:00 pm - Christmas Banquet
Sunday, December 21
10:30 am - Christmas Special Super Church for ages 1-12
Wednesday
7:30 pm - Bible Study
Difference Makers together!
38c

Winchester
WESLEYAN CHURCH
1897 - Keeping the Dream Alive - 1997
Pastor: Rev. Thurland Brown
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Office 774-3137
Sunday, December 21
10:30 am - Sunday School and Morning Worship
7:00 pm - Sunday Night Alive
"100 Years of Ministry - 1897-1997"
38c

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11:45 am - First Baptist Church, Court House Square, Brockville
2:30 pm - Hulbert United Church, Interim Minister: Rev. J. Roke, Phone: 613-924-1547; Clerk, Wilburt Feenstra, 613-498-1812
38c

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
South Mountain
Thursday, December 25
9:15 am - Christmas Service with Mitch McVeigh preaching
38-39c

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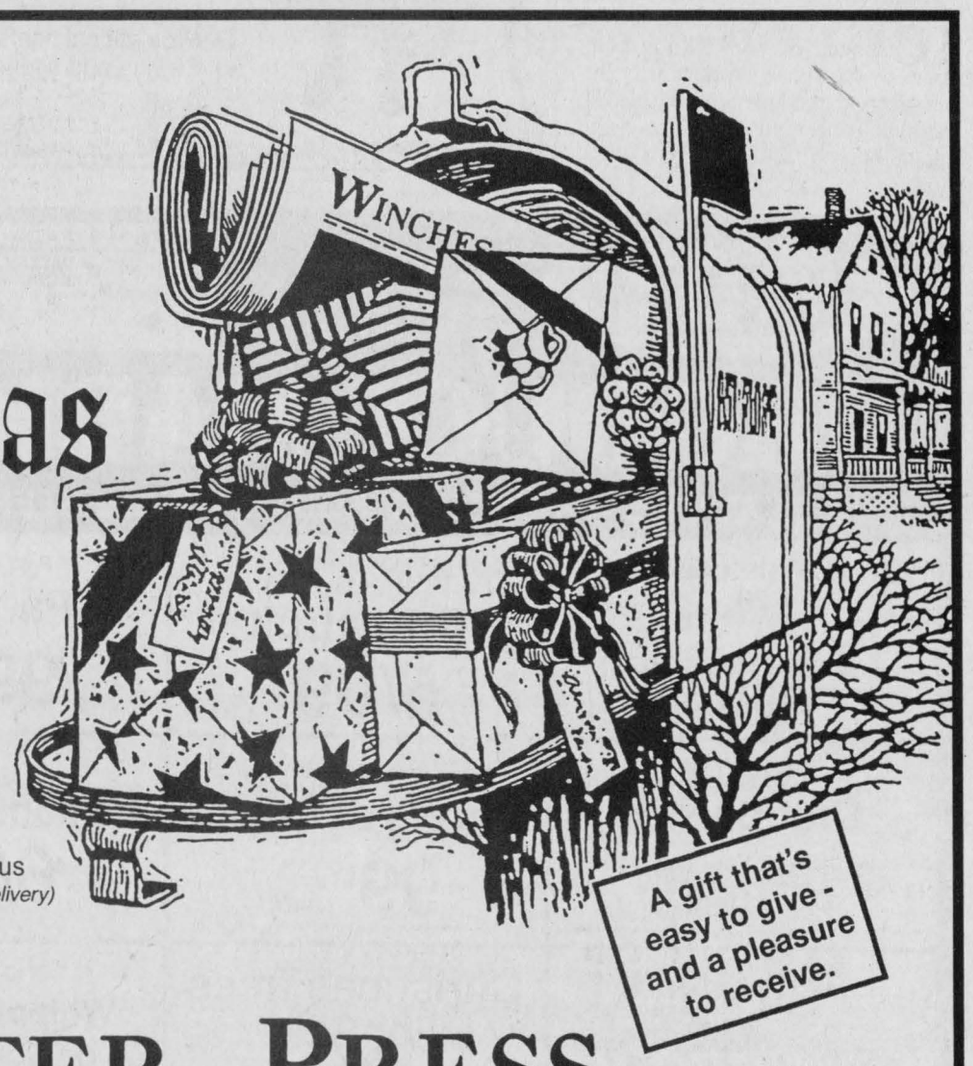

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Hardys named Farmer of the Year

WINCHESTER — The Dundas Federation of Agriculture has chosen Grahame and Kathy Hardy of Inkerman as this year's Dundas farmer of the year.

"The Hardy's willingness to share their experiences with others and their enthusiasm for agriculture make them worthy winners of the Eric Casselman Award as the 1997 Dundas Farmer of the Year," said Jim Wallbridge as he announced this year's recipients during the Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association's annual meeting last Thursday afternoon.

The Hardys own and operate a pedigreed seed farm under the name of Hardy Seeds Ltd. They have been in the seed business since 1976 and purchased the business from Grahame's father in 1990. They grow barley, spring wheat, soybeans and white beans on the 600-acre operation. They are continually trying new varieties of seed for Dundas County and the surrounding area. Visitors are always welcome to tour their facilities and plots.

Both Kathy and Grahame are graduates of Kemptville College. Grahame worked as a survey technician for five years before coming back to the farm in 1976 and Kathy worked in food services and dietetics. The couple has two sons, Geoff and Stephen.

Grahame and Kathy have been very active in the agricultural community. Grahame is a director of the Ottawa Valley Seed Growers Association and an Ontario director to the Canadian Secan Association. Both are Select seed growers and are members of the Canadian Seed Growers Association. Kathy is a past member of the Dundas Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Committee and has participated in the 10 Steps program.

As well the couple has been very active with the Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Kathy has been the association's secretary/treasurer for the past two years and Grahame was the Mountain Township director for four years. They both have been 4-H leaders and are active members in the St. Peters Anglican Church. They are also members of the Winchester Curling Club.

Farm update

DSCIA chooses executive, presents awards

WINCHESTER — Members of the Dundas Soil and Crop Improvement Association (DSCIA) chose their new executive for the upcoming year during the association's annual meeting held Thurs., Dec. 11 in Winchester.

John Lee DeVries is the new president, while Robert Byvelds is the vice-president and Jim Wallbridge is past-president. Kathy Hardy will remain as secretary/treasurer.

Township directors include: John Roosendaal, Mountain; Gordon Garlough (four-year term) and Arden Schneckenburger, Williamsburg; Garry Brugmans, Winchester and Steve Mellan, Matilda.

Directors-at-large are: Grahame Hardy, Tim Mohr, Gordon Smith and Charles Farlinger.

AWARD WINNERS

Inkerman-area farmers Kathy and Grahame Hardy are this year's recipients of the Eric Casselman Award, which is presented annually by the Dundas Federation of Agriculture to the Farmer of the Year.

Cliff Metcalfe of Inkerman is the 1997 winner of the Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Award of Merit.

Raymond and Brian Como of Winchester and Tom Sirvage of Chesterville received Soil Conservation Awards.



Conservation awards

Jim Wallbridge (centre) is pictured presenting soil conservation awards to Tom Sirvage (left) and Ray Como (right) during the DSCIA annual meeting held last week in Winchester.



Cliff Metcalfe (right) accepts the Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Award of Merit from John Devries of the DSCIA. Press Photo — Fetterly

Metcalfe given award for consulting service

WINCHESTER — Cliff Metcalfe of Inkerman is this year's recipient of the Eastern Ontario Soil and Crop Association Award of Merit.

Metcalfe, who has worked almost exclusively in the crop input supply or consulting sector for the past 22 years, was honored during the Dundas County Soil and Crop Improvement Association annual meeting held Thurs., Dec. 11 in Winchester.

Metcalfe's crop consulting business began as a result of government cutbacks with respect to supplying farmers with technical information, as well as requests from growers for an independent crop production advisory service. He formed a crop consulting partnership known as "Eastern Crop Doctor" in 1990 and when that partnership was dissolved in 1995, he continued independently.

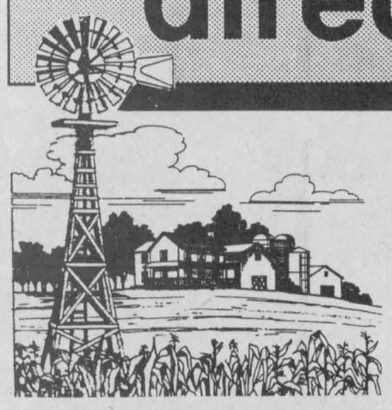
Metcalfe works with about 60 clients in Dundas, Russell and the southern part of Ottawa-Carleton. The main focus of his work is analysing soil samples; crop input recommendations; and monitoring fields for weeds, diseases and insects. He is also set up with a GPS system and can assist farmers with crop marketing.

As well, since 1990, Metcalfe has established a test plot along Hwy. 43 west of Winchester. At the site he performs trials for: soybeans yield/row width, soybean inoculant, soybean herbicides, conventional corn yields, no-till corn yields, corn herbicides, white bean inoculant and yields, spring wheat yields, spring wheat fungicides, Dupont corn/soybean herbicide screening, and corn and soybean demonstration and yield trials for Novartis, Hyland and First Line Seeds. He completes a report on his test plot findings at the end of the crop year.

Metcalfe received his Certified Crop Advisor status in 1997 and also cashcrops with his wife at their Inkerman-area farm. They produce corn, soybeans, wheat and white beans.

Metcalfe said he felt honored to be chosen as this year's recipient of the Award of Merit and thanked the Soil and Crop Association for the distinction.

Agri-business directory



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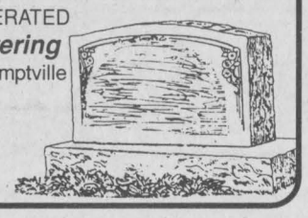

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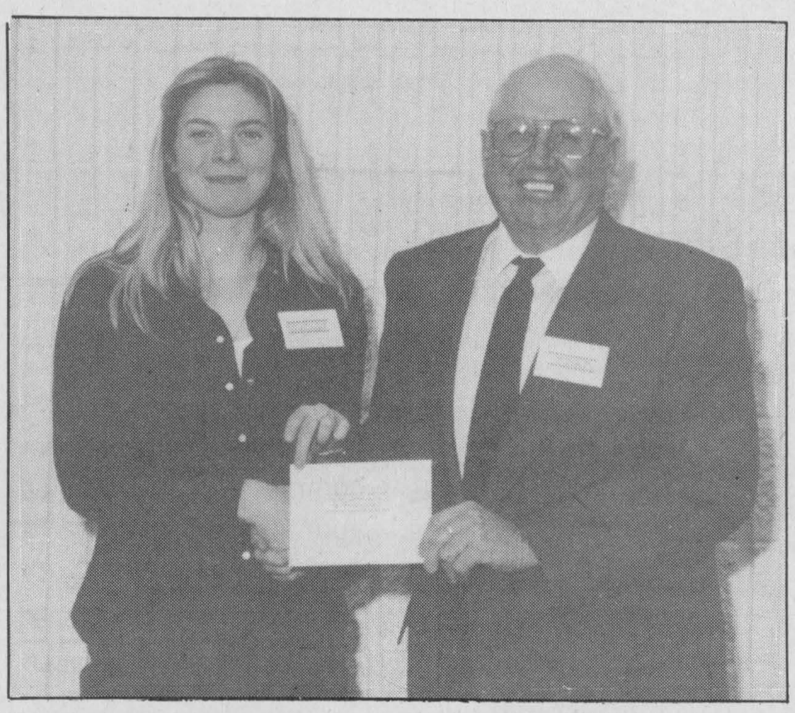
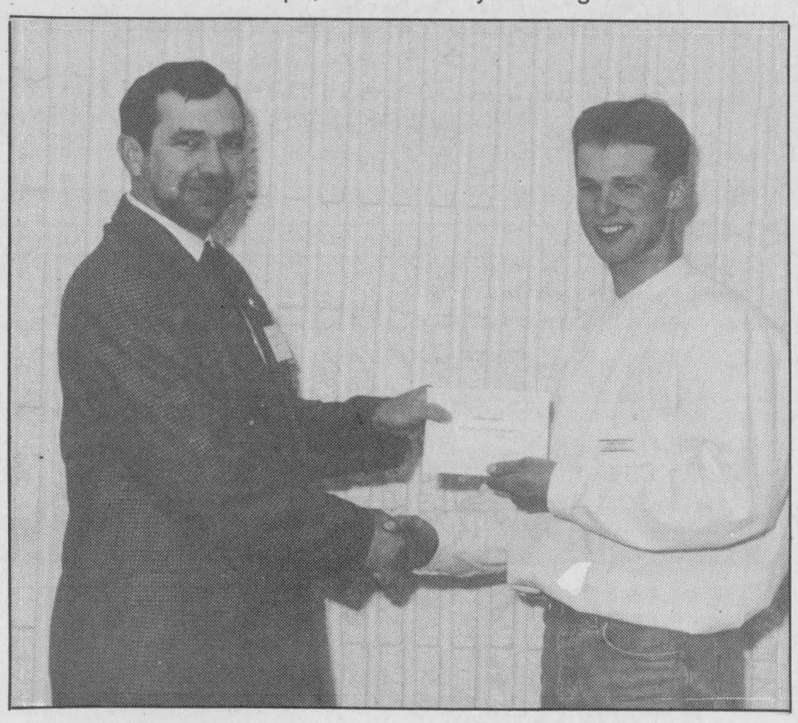


Bursary recipient

Karley Lovat-Fraser of Metcalfe was the recipient of the Ottawa-Carleton 1993 International Plowing Match Bursary at the University of Guelph - Kemptville College's annual awards ceremony held Nov. 20. The award is presented to a student from Ottawa-Carleton enrolled in Food Management or Agriculture courses with a satisfactory academic average. Lovat-Fraser, pictured accepting the award from Preston Ralph, is in her first year of agriculture.



Ottawa Citizen Award recipient

Mark Tibben of Brinston was the recipient of the Ottawa Citizen Award during the University of Guelph - Kemptville College annual awards ceremony held Nov. 20. The Ottawa Citizen Award is presented annually to a student who, on completion of semester I and II, works in the area of study prior to semester III. The award is based on academic excellence and qualities of citizenship shown during the junior year. Tibben is pictured accepting the award from Kemptville College instructor Paul Sharpe.

Carleton sheep club holds awards night

METCALFE — The East Carleton 4-H sheep club held its awards night on Wed., Dec. 3 at Metcalfe.

Members, parents and friends gathered to share an evening of fun, fellowship, good food and to recognize the achievements of the 4-Hers during the past year. Members of the club had a very successful day at the Regional 4-H Championship Show held in October. They exhibited grand champion market lamb and ewe lamb as well as grand, reserve grand and honorable mention showpersons.



Members of the East Carleton 4-H Sheep Club were recently honored for outstanding achievement. Pictured, left to right: Alison Cicalo, top first-year member; Natalie Fatica, most improved; Shanna James, top overall; and Christine Acres, overall outstanding achievement.

Christine Acres received the club leaders award for overall outstanding achievement and a certificate from the Ontario 4-H Council recognizing the completion of 34 4-H projects. Congratulations were extended to Christine on an outstanding 4-H career.

During the year the club held six meetings, attended judging night in Richmond, held an achievement day preparation clinic and participated in 4-H fundraising activities. Enthusiasm and hard work made for an enjoyable and educational 4-H project.

The members and leaders of the club thank all those who helped them over the past year as well as the Vernon 4-H club for hosting the Awards Night, the Metcalfe Agricultural Society for their support and the awards donors for their support.

The club is also looking forward to another exciting year in 1998 and welcomes new members. Anyone interested in joining the club next year can contact Jack James at 445-5252 or Lorraine Robinson at 821-3093.

Cultural exchanges for Canadian youth

CAMBRIDGE — Are you looking for that very special summer experience far away from Canada?

In that case, the non-profit youth exchange organization Youth for Understanding (YFU) may offer just what you are looking for.

You could, for example, be a part of a six-week summer programs for 1998 to countries such as New Zealand, Australia or Denmark.

The New Zealand experience includes three weeks with a host family (with education activities and excursions available) and a three-week "Kiwi Encounter" trip throughout both islands of New Zealand.

Any one of these summer experiences is a great opportunity to combine travel/education with a more in-depth experience of being a part of the actual everyday culture while staying with a host family. You will gain tolerance and understanding while exploring a new culture and making friends from all over the world.

If you would like to learn more about this program which also includes half and full year exchanges to a variety of other countries, call YFU's office at 1-800-TEENAGE.

Horticultural conference set for February

TORONTO — The 24th annual Ontario Horticultural Crops Conference is planned for Feb. 11-12, 1998 at the Regal Constellation Hotel in Toronto.

The theme for this year's conference is "Taste the value" which will emphasize the strengths of Ontario agriculture. The conference will highlight and emphasize some of the many opportunities available to Ontario horticulture industry.

A pre-conferencing workshop — "Creating winning displays" will be held on Feb. 10. It is sponsored by the Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association. For further information on the workshop contact Donna Cobbledick at 1-905-945-9057.

For more information on the conference or to order a copy of the proceedings contact Kevin Schooley at 613-258-8359 or e-mail: kschoole@OMAFRA.GOV.ON.CA

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Season too hectic

Vet discourages pets under the tree

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — The perfect Christmas present — a furry bundle of joy for the kids, or a cute little token of love for your girlfriend?

Think again, says Dr. Michelle Dutnall of Dundas Veterinarian Services in Winchester.

"First of all, whose idea is the pet?" she asks. "It should be the kids' idea and not just the parents deciding that a puppy would be cute at Christmas. Talk to the kids, and ask them if they really want a pet. And tell them about the responsibilities of having a pet, because if it's a dog or a cat, it's going to live about 10 to 15 years."

Once you've decided on a cat or dog or other pet, you need to research the breed that is best for your family, Dutnall says. Involve the kids, let them help to choose the pet, but don't take the animal home.

If it's a purebred animal that you want, your best bet is to go to a professional breeder, Dutnall says. But if you're merely looking for a pet, the Humane Society or a private home are your best bets.

"If you get a pet from a private home, you can see how the animal has been raised," she says. "You should avoid buying pets from pet stores because you can't be sure of where the animal has been before. You can get a better history from a private home where they've raised the puppy and you can see how it has lived."

"The best thing to do is take a polaroid shot of the puppy or kitten, and put that under the tree for Christmas day," Dutnall advises. "You can put the supplies for the pet under the tree, too, such as a water dish, toys, collar and leash."

The excitement and chaos of the holiday, the vet points out, is not an ideal time to bring a new pet into its new environment.

"It's not good to introduce a pet to its new home at such a busy time," she explains. "It needs a calm, normal setting so that it feels at ease as it adjusts."

Dutnall adds, "It's also not safe to put a dog in a box and wrap it up. I've seen that happen."

In addition to the holiday excitement that would cause a new puppy or kitten to be nervous and scared, the chocolates, turkey and Christmas decorations are also dangerous to pets.

"Keep cats away from the Christmas tree, because they'll eat the tinsel, and that could cut their bowel," Dutnall cautions. "And puppies will eat Christmas tree decorations, which will harm them. It's a good idea to just keep pets away from the tree altogether."

She adds, "Keep in mind that company visiting your home during the holidays might not know enough to not feed your pets, and chocolate and turkey and other holiday treats can be very bad for pets."

As well, poinsettia plants are dangerous to your pet, as they can cause skin and mouth irritation if the pet comes in contact with them.

Then there are cold weather warnings to heed as well, Dutnall adds. You should make sure that your dog or cat is not left outside for long periods of time, as it may develop frostbite on its ears. Also ensure the animal has access to water that isn't frozen, so that it doesn't dehydrate.

If you are thinking of adopting a pet, a foster agency can be found at Dundas Veterinarian Services on the bulletin board. Or visit the Humane Society in Brockville, Cornwall or Ottawa.



Not for Christmas

Christmas is the wrong time to bring home a new pet. It's best to wait until after the holiday excitement has calmed down, says Dr. Michelle Dutnall of Dundas Veterinary Services in Winchester. Dr. Dutnall advises parents to discuss the pet first with their children and put a picture of it under the Christmas tree.

13 entrepreneurs graduate

MOUNTAIN — The Stage West Restaurant in Mountain was the location of a graduation celebration for 13 local women who have completed business development training and launched their own businesses this year.

The women have completed a 42-week program which combines classroom training and business consulting designed to help them through their first year of self-employment. It was sponsored by Women and Rural Economic Development (WRED) and funded by the federal government's CanAdapt program and the SD&G Community Development Corporation.

The program was designed and led by rural businesswomen to help other women contribute to community development and stimulate the local economy.

The graduates included participants from Maxville to Brinston and Osgoode with businesses ranging from water fitness to custom embroidery, bedding plants to llama and alpaca knitwear.

Local graduates included Sheila Munro of Winchester who has started up a bedding plant business called "Pansies and Peppers"; and Mary Spratt of Mountain who has started a water fitness and swimming lesson business called "Mountain Swim 'N' Fit".

They all started the program with an idea which they turned into a business through the development of a business plan. The sixth such group to graduate in eastern Ontario, they have studied the financial, marketing and management basics of starting and running a successful business.

NEW YOUTH PROGRAM

As this program comes to a close, another self-employment training session is planned for the SD&G area starting in January. Called the ENTRY (Entrepreneurship Training for Rural Youth) program, it is open to rural and small town women between the ages of 18 and 30 who have a business idea and are willing to commit 30 hours each week over a 42-week period to get their business up and running in 1998.

The ENTRY program is funded by Human Resources Development Canada and provides participants with a training allowance while they attend. Applicants must be unemployed or underemployed but not receiving EI benefits. Community information sessions will be held in Chesterville, Avonmore and Alexandria the first week in January.

Interested individuals may call WRED at 1-800-465-7030 for more information.



Happy 16th Birthday Sarah
Love your family



Happy 60th Birthday
December 15
Betty McRoberts

Metcalfe WI gives freely

by Cheryl Bunda

METCALFE — The Metcalfe Women's Institute held its December meeting at Perkins Restaurant in Ottawa.

In keeping with the season of giving, a motion was passed to donate $100 and two boxes of oranges to the Winchester District Memorial Hospital; $500 to the Township of Osgoode Care Centre; and $500 to the Home Support program of Osgoode Township.

A course to learn how to make a quilted vest will be offered in February. Contact Heather McCall at 821-4054 for more information.

On Mon., Dec. 15 a draw was held for the homemade quilt at the town hall in Metcalfe. The lucky winner was Ann Walsh of 8th Line Rd., Metcalfe. The draw was made by Carol Halsteid, program coordinator of Home Support. A cheque for $500 was presented to Halsteid at this time.

Halsteid said, "It means so much to me to know that others in the community feel the Home Support program is so important."

Holiday Deadlines

Printing Tuesday, December 23, 1997
News and advertising deadline
5 pm, Friday, December 19, 1997

Printing Wednesday, December 31, 1997
News and advertising deadline
10 am, Tuesday, December 30, 1997

The office will be closed at 2 pm Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, Friday, December 26 and Thursday, January 1

WINCHESTER PRESS

Holiday Flowers & Smiles

Make the season more festive with flowers



Teleflora's Golden Angels Bouquet
$50 and up

Teleflora's Holiday Ornaments Bouquet
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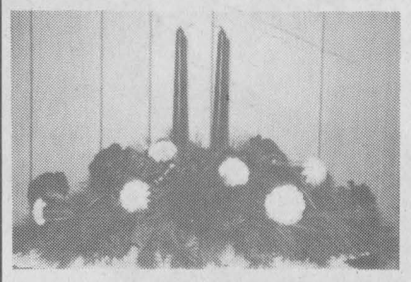

$40 and up

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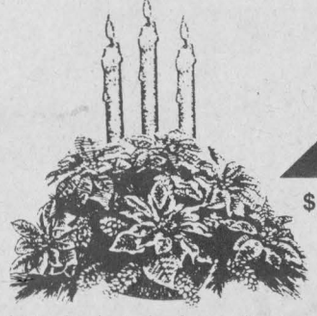

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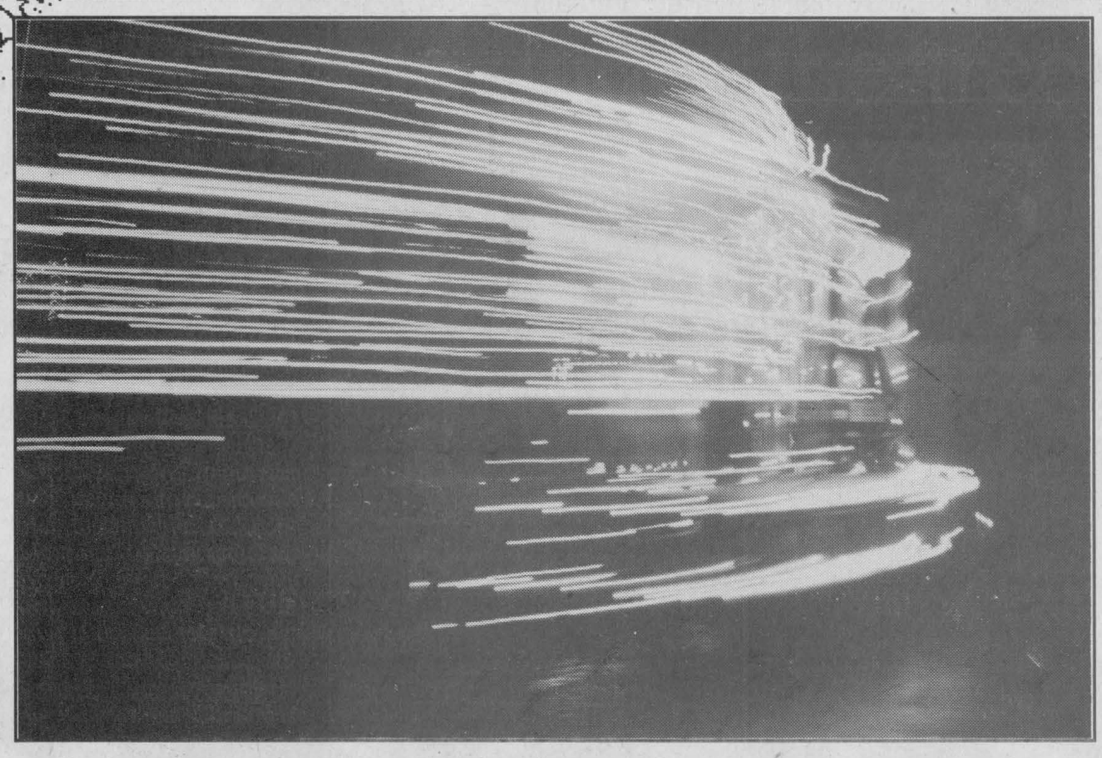


1st place: Astrid Bierworth, $100 winner



2nd place: Betty McRoberts, $50 winner

Winchester Parade of Lights Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our contest. Thank you to everyone who participated.

From sponsors BDO Dunwoody, Chas Abel Photo, Winchester Press

HOLIDAY BALL

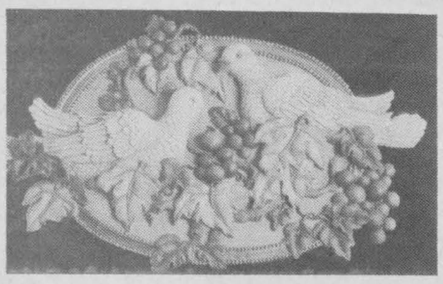
TV FLOOR MODEL CLEARANCE

Zenith 32" Was $1,349
Sale $1,095

JVC 35" Was $1,999.99
SOLD
Sale $1,649

Goldstar 27" Was $1,199
Sale $799

JVC 27" Was $799
SOLD
P.I.P. Ste. **Sale $649**



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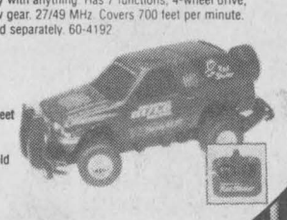

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