Canadian dollar forcing travellers further south. 2

Valentine's Day brings out the romance in everyone. 7

North Dundas Sr. Devils undefeated in SD&G volleyball action. B-1

Farmer's Week and Trade Fair kicks off Thursday. See our special pull-out section in this week's *Press*.

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Watch me grow

Public health nurse Janet Allingham (right) measures three-and-a-half month old Robert's head as Robert's mom, Penny MacGregor looks on with Yolanda Gibson and five-and-a-half week old Olivia at the Watch Me Grow clinic at Winchester District Memorial Hospital.

Press Photo — Culliton

Ministers appeal for local support

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — After last month's ice storm and the havoc it wreaked with homeowners, farmers and business owners alike, area clergy members are making a public request to residents to shop locally.

The 'shop at home' plea is not a new one, but it has been reinforced by the goodness of area merchants, stated Winchester Reverends Thurland Brown of the Wesleyan Church and Robert Assaly of the Anglican Church.

"At our last meeting of the ministerial association we talked about the effects of the storm," Brown said. "We realized that it is not over yet for many people, including area businesses."

Assaly added, "The effects of the storm are obvious but there are secondary effects, too, such as leaking roofs.There are also long-term economical consequences in the region in terms of people's financial situations."

They hope their message will help local residents to realize the sacrifices that many area businesses made during the storm by remaining open to provide supplies and food, often at reduced prices.

"One place gave me extra meat for what I paid because they had to get rid of it or it would go bad," Brown said. "A pharmacy made deliveries as far away as South Mountain because people couldn't get to Winchester to pick up their prescriptions during the storm."

Following the storm, Brown said, clergy members learned that many businesses were hurting. Not only did the storm force businesses to eventually close for several days, thus eliminating sales, but January is also a slow time as shoppers generally decrease their spending after the Christmas rush.

"The power was only off in Winchester for three or four days," Brown said, "but it's been on people's minds for over a month now, and shopping hasn't been a priority. People have taken a while to get back to their usual agendas with things like shopping and having their hair styled."

Assaly, who has a background in stock broking, explained that the economic effects of the storm will be felt for a long time to come. "The people suffering economically will be the farmers and those who suffered lost incomes because of not being able to go to work. They still have rent or mortgages to pay and car payments," he said.

"The loss of income to the area means a further loss of income to local businesses, although there are certain kinds of businesses that will thrive after the storm, such as those who carry generators and ice picks."

He explained that merchants with high-end products, such as jewellers, car dealerships and furniture places, will feel the pinch most.

"We encourage people not to export their dollars to the city but to spend their money locally," Assaly added. "They

• please see MINISTERS on page 2

Attendance down, dollars up for Easter Seals Snowarama

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

CHESTERVILLE — Even though this year's Snowarama had nearly half the number of participants as last year, it still managed to collect more money for the Easter Seal Society.

About 24 machines took to the trails on Feb. 8, down significantly from the 40 machines that took part last year. But the enthusiastic snowmobilers raised more than $6,400, including corporate donations, for the families of disabled children. The total is about $100 more than last year's event.

Jim Townson, who helped at the registration table, blames the low turnout on the various other snowmobile events in the area that occurred the same weekend, but said this year's Snowarama was still a success.

"The snowmobilers deserve a lot of credit for work they did getting the trails ready," he said. "There was a lot of grooming and clearing to do. It was very successful. This makes it over $20,000 raised over four years, and two of those years, we didn't even have any snow. That's pretty good when there's no snow and you can raise that much money."

He said several participants told him the 80-100 kilometre-long ride took them on some of the best snowmobile trails they've ever been on.

The ride took snowmobilers around a large circle, starting and ending at the Nelson LePrade Centre in Chesterville, and curving around Dunbar, Inkerman, Hallville and Winchester.

Townson says he has enjoyed helping out with the registration, and is looking forward to doing it again next year.

"It's a very interesting time," he said. "There's a lot of new faces, and there's a very strong core of regulars. The Easter Seal kids will be very thankful for the donation."

The money goes into a fund that helps families with disabled children pay for equipment, such as wheelchairs, braces and artificial limbs.

• please see SNOWARAMA on page

Refuse to tag: new program met with confusion

by Jeff Brownlee

METCALFE — It didn't take long for Osgoode Township residents to dump on the new tag-a-bag program.

After much debate and two delays, the user-pay waste management system was officially launched Feb. 2, amidst a sense of both confusion and aggravation on the part of citizens.

Untagged bags left at the curb by sanitation workers irked many residents and spawned numerous angry phone calls to township staff. Staff have investigated complaints of people dumping garbage in ditches and one resident even went as far as to leave Mayor Doug Thompson a present of three bags full of refuse, neatly placed in front of the town hall Feb. 9.

Staff searched the contents of those bags and identified their rightful owner, who was issued a warning from the bylaw enforcement department when he came to the township hall to claim his garbage.

"He just wanted to make a point and I think he did," said Thompson.

Kevin Grace, director of development and environmental services, admits the township was expecting some form of protest in the initial stages of the program that forces residents to buy and affix one dollar tags to each 50-pound bag of garbage.

"It was met with a lot of confusion," he said. "We had two delays and many residents were not aware of the start-up date."

During tag-a-bag's first week, at least half of the garbage bags at the curbside didn't have the bright green tags and were subsequently left by sanitation workers.

The total tonnage of garbage collected during the same period of time was also reduced by at least 50 per cent.

Mayor Thompson said a route in the Vernon area that averages 17 tonnes of garbage each week, only produced 1.5 tonnes of refuse.

"That is a lot less garbage," Grace admitted. "I don't know if it's in someone's backyard. Anything could be going on. But I imagine it's a result of the confusion."

Grace expects that as soon as the kinks are worked out of the program and residents become

• please see TAG on page 2

Hockey legend Orr pops the question



Romantic proposal

Hockey legend Bobby Orr poses with Linda De Serres and Andy Laverie. Orr proposed to De Serres on behalf of Laverie during a hockey game at Maple Leaf Gardens.

Courtesy Photo

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — Imagine accepting an engagement ring from great hockey legend Bobby Orr.

Orr proposed to Linda De Serres of RR 1, Brinston, but not for himself. He was doing it on behalf of Andy Laverie who had wanted to make the wedding proposal something special for his intended.

And special it was. Laverie, a car salesman with Mel Johnston Chev-Olds in Kemptville, had grabbed an opportunity for two tickets to dinner and a hockey game with Orr.

The trip had been won by a co-worker through a promotion at the company. Luckily for Laverie and De Serres the co-worker wasn't able to attend, so Laverie bought the tickets from him. The trip was a Christmas present for De Serres, who has been a fan of Orr for many years.

The pair travelled by train to Toronto on Dec. 30. On New Year's Eve they dined with Bobby Orr at Maple Leaf Gardens in the prestigious Hot Stove Lounge, and then watched the hockey game — Toronto Maple Leafs vs. Boston Bruins, Orr's former team.

"I saw Andy talking to Bobby during dinner and I wondered what they were talking about," De Serres recalled later. "He told me he was asking if we could get autographs later."

During the hockey game, Orr came into the private box where De Serres and Laverie were watching the game with Orr's wife and sister. Laverie went outside to talk to him.

"I assumed he was trying to sell Bobby a car or something," De Serres laughed. But when they came back in, she received the surprise of her life.

• please see ORR on page 2

Highway name up in air

by Jeff Brownlee

METCALFE — For years it was Highway 31. In January, the name changed to Regional Road 85. Now, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton is lobbying Osgoode Township to change the name of the north-south link to the nation's capital once again, this time to Bank Street.

Since the province downloaded ownership and responsibility of the major highway to municipalities in January, Gloucester has adopted the Bank Street label for its section of the artery that stretches from Hunt Club to Mitch Owens Drive.

The region is now hoping to have a unified name inside RMOC's boundary, which ends just south of Vernon, at the border of the new township of North Dundas.

But Mayor Doug Thompson doesn't like the idea. He said there are many considerations, including the effect on the township's property and numbering system that have to be analyzed.

"I don't think we need a Bank Street running through Osgoode Township," he said.

He prefers a solution similar to Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry's "County Road 31." Instead of County Road though, the two-lane highway would be named Regional Road 31.

And the Osgoode mayor may use this as ammunition in the governance debate.

"We're not a part of the city of Ottawa and we never will be."

Continued from the front page...



Rev. Thurland Brown, along with other clergy members in Winchester and the Township of North Dundas, has put out a plea to area residents to shop locally. He feels that residents should make a point of supporting the local merchants who showed support for the community during last month's ice storm by staying open, reducing prices, and offering extra services.

Ministers

so we have to shop locally and support the businesses that support us."

He explained that before Christmas several local merchants placed an advertisement in the Press advising people to shop locally. "One of the reasons given in the ad was that local businesses are the ones who support local charities and fundraisers. We saw that more so during the storm."

Tag

accustomed to tagging bags, the volume of garbage will reach expected levels — 300 tonnes per month, down from 400 before tag-a-bag was introduced.

While it's too early to calculate the total volume of recyclables collected, Grace said verbal reports he's received indicate that it's up dramatically. There's also been an increase in the demand for blue boxes.

"It will take us a few months to get a real good idea of recycling figures," he added.

The director of development and environmental services is currently working on a plan that would see one day each year set aside as a pickup day for "bulky" materials and two days each year for yard and leaf collection.

Snowarama

Craig Campbell, the Rotary Club Easter Seal Chair, says the sunny skies and spring-like weather made for a great day to be on the trails. He feels the local fund is a benefit to families in the area.

"It is a fairly unique charity with the local funds available," he said. "Most charities don't have that option."

This year's Easter Seal Tammy, Chelsea Lariviere, was joined by Scott MacLellan, who had the honor of being the foundation's Timmy two years ago. This 12-year-old Winchester resident was pleasantly surprised to find out he and Chelsea had met before.

"We know all the same people," Chelsea exclaimed. "We went to the same camp together, and he knows somebody who's on my hockey team."

The pair got a chance to join in some of the Snowarama fun with a short ride around the parking lot on a snowmobile.

"It was fun," Chelsea said. "I was on one before when I was little, but I don't remember."

Last year's Tammy, Kayleigh Boyd, couldn't join the fun because of a flu bug, but Betty VandenBosch, president of the Chesterville Rotary Club, was pleased to announce at last week's Rotary meeting that Boyd is able to walk on her own now without the help of braces.

VandenBosch describes the event as "a friendly ride around the trails to raise money for the disabled."

Participant Wayne Robinson raised $250 in pledges and led his group on the trails. This was his first year at Snowarama, and says it certainly won't be his last.

Robinson says the only thing he'll do different when he registers next year is try to get the pledge sheets earlier so he can raise more money.

And his reason for participating, though not personal, are certainly heartfelt.

"There's always the possibility that someone in your family could have a disabled kid," he said. "You never know when someone close to you is going to need the help."

Orr

"They came back in and Bobby asked me to stand up," she said. "He said 'Andy wants to marry you' and he opened up the ring box and I started to cry."

She continued, "It was very romantic and exciting. I didn't say anything, I just stood there crying. His wife finally said 'I didn't hear an answer yet'. So I said yes."

Not long after that, the Jumbotron above the ice rink flashed a congratulations to the pair on their engagement as the crowd cheered.

"Bobby is a really great guy and so are his wife and sister," she said.

The entire proposal took up most of the third period of the game, and Orr and his wife and sister left before the end of the game to escape the crowds.

A wedding date has been set for July 11 this year at the Hulbert Church with a reception in Hallville.

Canadian dollar forces snowbirds to find warmer climes further south

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — As we head into the middle of February the minds of Canadians turn south, dreaming of warmth and sunshine.

According to area travel agents, the state of the Canadian dollar is affecting just how far south snowbirds are going this winter. And Florida is not high on the list.

"The popular destinations are Mexico, Cuba and Dominican Republic," says Marilyn Sullivan of Winchester Travel. "Those places have all-inclusive resorts, which means people can buy here in Canadian funds, and then they don't have to worry about the dollar exchange while they're on holidays."

She adds, "There are few people going to Florida because there aren't really any all-inclusives there."

Connie Gruich of Thom Travel in Chesterville adds cruises to the list of destinations. "More people are going this year than ever before," she says. They're popular and luxurious, but prices are coming down. Plus, you get to see several islands on the trip, rather than flying to one island and staying there. It's like a floating hotel."

Another factor that makes those three southern destinations so charming is that flights for all three leave directly from Ottawa, which means convenience in both time and money.

"Travelling is awfully busy this year, but people are looking for the best value possible for their money," Sullivan says. "All-inclusive resorts offer champagne tastes on beer budgets."

However, if you're looking for the cheapest time to go south, you'll have to wait until next year. January is the most economical month to travel south for holidays, while February marks the beginning of the peak season. The peak season extends past March Break, which means larger crowds as well.

But, Gruich says, more people seem to be travelling this year. "Economics have kept the travel numbers down for the past couple of years," she explains.

However, Gruich adds, the teacher strike last fall and January's ice storm have kept many people from travelling, due to lost income.

Barkley named to disaster relief claims committee

CORNWALL — Charles Barkley was appointed to the Eastern Ontario Claims Committee at the SD&G Disaster Relief Committee meeting on Thursday. This group will work on criteria for claims.

In the report on Wednesday's Eastern Ontario Disaster Relief Committee meeting in Perth, members heard that the Canadian Red Cross has now joined the umbrella committee. One-and-a-half million dollars of $8.1 million donated dollars were spent on food and supplies during the emergency; one million is a hold-back for further relief; the remaining millions will be allocated to the three affected areas of eastern Ontario, southern Quebec and New Brunswick when needs have been finally assessed.

Mac Condie of Rozon Insurance was present to answer concerns about insurance claims, appraisers and adjusters, the latter to be hired at a later date by the umbrella committee.

The members heard that over 12,000 damage estimate forms have been distributed and roughly 1,000 have already been received. The proposed date of return, Feb. 24, will be extended to allow for estimates of damages that may not be apparent until spring. The new municipal roll numbers will be used to classify forms.

Fundraising chairman Leslie O'Shaughnessy outlined the approach for appeals in eastern Ontario. Large corporations and/or organizations are the aim of the umbrella committee. Among those responding for the Sun., Feb. 8 Power Aid Concert were Nortel with $175,000, and the Ottawa Senators, Ottawa Arch Diocese and Tim Horton's each with $25,000.

Locally, individuals and organizations are asked to send donations to the SD&G Disaster Relief Fund. Pointing out that with provincial matching, a loonie grows to five dollars, $20 to $100, O'Shaughnessy stressed that the Disaster Relief Committees are the only groups eligible for such matching.

The address is: SD&G Disaster Fund, 20 Pitt Street, Cornwall, Ontario, K6J 3P2.

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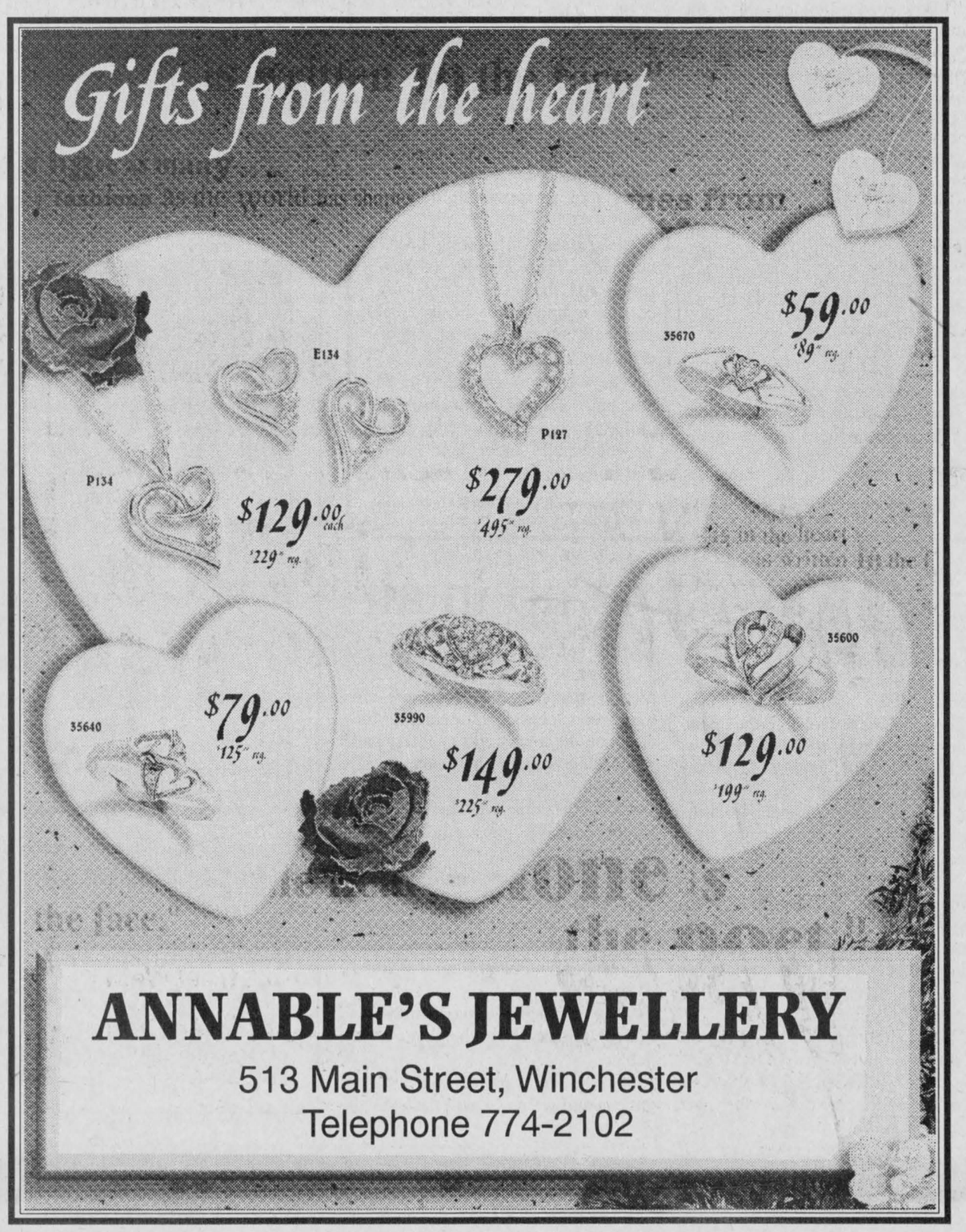

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Snow cheque

Chelsea Lariviere, this year's Easter Seal Society Tammy, poses with Eldon Moss, of the TD Bank holding a donation of $1,200 to this year's Snowarama. Press Photo -- Bierworth



Snowarama

From left, standing, Ray and Lise Godard, of the Nation Valley Snowmobile Association; Craig Campbell, the Rotary Club Easter Seal Chair; Betty VandenBosch, president of the Chesterville Rotary Club; sitting, Chelsea Lariviere, this year's Easter Seal Tammy, and Scott MacLellan, who was the Easter Seal Timmy two years ago.
Press Photo – Bierworth

Savings tagged

by Jeff Brownlee

METCALFE — How much will you save as a result of Osgoode's tag-a-bag program?

The answer to that question just may be found on the residential tax bill.

Council is considering a proposal that would see specific household savings outlined on all 1998 statements.

This is good news for both residents and township administration. Originally, the municipality thought it would have to manually calculate the amount of each ratepayers' savings and write it on the tax bill — a process that would take one person approximately 100 hours to complete.

But Osgoode has discovered that the calculation can be added into the software program and printed on the next tax bill for a fee of just $400.

If approved, each interim statement will include the phrase" "1998 waste collection costs are not included in this tax bill. The tax saving, calculated using 1997 actual costs for this property is...".

Council will discuss the issue at its Feb. 17 meeting.



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Police blotter

Cheque frauds

WINCHESTER — Over the past weeks a number of incidents involving 'bad' cheques have been reported to the police.

When store owners take a cheque from a customer there are a number of things that should be considered which will aid in an investigation if needed: make sure that the cheque is tendered on the same day as dated — not a post-dated cheque; information to identify the person who tendered the cheque — what identification did they use and how was it verified?; name of the employee who accepted the cheque; date the employee accepted the cheque; was the cheque used to pay for goods, cashed for money or combination of the two?

A number of factors may also affect what action can be taken by police after an incident is reported. Additional information relating to cheque frauds may be obtained by calling your local OPP detachment.

Theft

MATILDA — On Feb. 8 police received a report of theft from a private residence located along Flagg Road in Matilda Twp. Between Feb. 4 and 8 a red and black homelite chainsaw with a 16-inch blade and a black and orange skill chainsaw, with a 14-inch blade were taken from the backyard at the residence.

Fatal snowmobile crash

NORTH STORMONT TWP. — On Feb. 7 at approximately 9:15 pm Upper Canada OPP began an investigation into a fatal snowmobile accident which had taken place in the township of North Stormont, north of Berwick.

John MacMillan, 26, of County Road 43, Winchester Township, had been operating a 1988 Polaris snowmobile westbound on a trail adjacent to concession 6-7 road in what was formerly Finch Twp. when the vehicle left the road, striking a utility pole guardwire which resulted in the ejection of the driver.

MacMillan received fatal injuries as a result of the accident.

Break and enter

OSNABRUCK TWP. — On Feb. 7, OPP began an investigation into a break and enter which had occurred at a private residence located on Eamond Road in Osnabruck Twp. Overnight on Feb. 6-7 an entry had been made into the residence and a number of household items were taken. The value of stolen property is estimated at $4,000.

On Feb. 8 police were called to a break and enter which had taken place at a private residence located along County Road 12 in Osnabruck Twp. During the evening a forced entry had been made into the residence between 3:30 pm and 12:30 am. The extent of the theft has not yet been reported.



Enjoying the ice

Students at Winchester Public School took advantage of the great weather last Friday, February 6 to enjoy some skating on their new outdoor rink. The rink was started before Christmas, but because of unsuitable weather conditions and students on an extended break for part of January because of the ice storm, there wasn't a lot of opportunity to use the rink until this month.

Press Photo — Fetterly

Metcalfe WI goes online

METCALFE — This month, the WI meets the WWW.

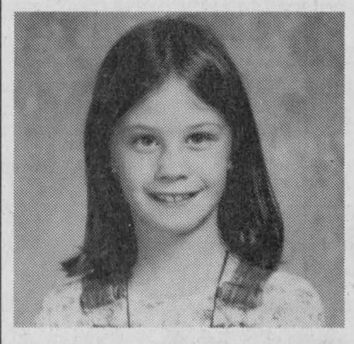
That is, the Metcalfe Women's Institute will host its February meeting on the information highwayInternet.

Despite the cancellation of the WI's January meeting due to the ice storm, the WI is moving forward with its plans for the February meeting. An open meeting will be held to introduce members to the wonders of the Internet.

Basically, if the only web you are familiar with is the one in the corner of the attic, this meeting is for you.

Jane Cooper will be instructing this informative meeting on Thurs., Feb. 12 at 7 pm in the fire station in Metcalfe. The meeting is open to all interested persons. For more information contact Jane Cooper at 821-0146.

Who says Friday the 13th is unlucky?



Happy 9th Birthday to a sweet girl
Sarah Miskiman

Township considers septic inspectors

by Jeff Brownlee

METCALFE — Osgoode Township may soon stop flushing money down the drain — as far as septic tanks are concerned.

The municipality is considering taking over its own septic tank inspections which could put as much as an extra $60,000 into public coffers on an annual basis.

The move towards the new responsibility is a direct result of provincial downloading that aims to put more control in municipalities' hands. Under the new legislation, townships have the choice of keeping the existing service provider, sub-contract it out to another municipality or take direct control.

Septic tank inspections in Osgoode are currently handled by the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, an organization willing to train township employees — free of charge — as certified inspectors.

If council passes the recommendation at its Feb. 17 meeting, Osgoode's septic suppressers could be in operation by early spring.

With all inspections conducted with existing staff, a large chunk of the $60,000 in revenue will be generated from inspection fees. While these are currently set at $250, Osgoode's projected income is based on a rate of $300 per inspection.

Last year, the RVCA conducted over 155 inspections in the township, which under the proposed rate, translates to $46,500.

Mayor Doug Thompson believes that this is an excellent opportunity for the township.

Free consultation

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Church Directory

DISCOVERY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Your teenagers are our priority.
Meeting at the Winchester Public School
Sunday
9:30 am - Worship Service
11:00 am - Sunday School
Tuesday
6:30 pm - Pioneer Club for Grades 1 and 2 at the Winchester Public School
Thursday
7:30 pm - Youth Enthusiastic at Winchester Public School
For more information 774-0721 or Box 264, Winchester, Ont., K0C 2K0
774-0721
Pastor Rev. Andre Lauzon
Friendly, Caring, Accepting
43tfc

WINCHESTER UNITED PASTORAL CHARGE
Minister: Rev. Carol Poley-Delisle, B.A., B.Th., M.Div., B.C.L., L.L.B.
Office: 774-2512
Manse: 774-1546
Sunday
WINCHESTER UNITED CHURCH
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
40tfc

PARKWAY ROAD PENTECOSTAL CHURCH
10 minutes north of Winchester, corner of Highway 31 and Parkway Road, Greely
Sunday
9:45 am - Sunday School
10:45 am - Sunday Service
6:30 pm - Pre-Service Worship
7:00 pm - Evening Service
EVERYONE WELCOME
Church Office: 821-1056
PASTOR: Wayne D. Fulton
23tfc

HARMONY COMMUNITY CHURCH
Evangelical Missionary Church
Hwy. 31 & Ormond Rd.
774-5170
Pastor: Rev. Bruce North
Friday, Feb. 13
6:15 pm - Valentine Dinner at the Country Kitchen
Sunday, Feb. 15
10:30 am - Morning Worship
Super Church for ages 1-12
Wednesday
7:30 pm - Bible Study
Difference Makers together!
46c

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Chesterville
448-3262
5:30 pm - Saturday
9:00 am & 11:00 am - Sunday
41tfc

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Winchester
Knox Presbyterian Church
Mountain
Interim Minister, Marion Johnston
Tel.: H.-613-652-2301
A warm welcome awaits everyone
Knox Presbyterian Church
Mountain
9:30 am - Divine Worship
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Winchester
11:00 am - Divine Worship, nursery care and program for children
40tfc

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Williamsburg, Ont.
Rev. George J. Rowaan
448-2351
Sunday, Feb. 15
9:30 am - Morning Service: "*Head, Heart and Hormones*", EZRA 10: 1-17; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16
Sunday School for all children ages 3-12
7:30 pm - Evening Service: "*In His Steps*", Luke 4:1-12
Pastor Rowaan at both services
Child care available
PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
46c

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF WINCHESTER, CHESTERVILLE, CRYSLER AND SOUTH MOUNTAIN
Sunday, Feb. 15
9:15 am - Chesterville
11:15 am - South Mountain
7:00 pm - Winchester
Rev. Robert Assaly: 774-2236
46c

WINCHESTER WESLEYAN CHURCH
Bringing New Hope To Discouraged Hearts
Sunday, Feb.15
9:30 am - Prayer Team
10:30 am - Worship Service
7:00 pm - Join us each Sunday night in February for a Billy Graham film presentation
THIS WEEK: "*Repeat Performance*"
Call for details on midweek prayer groups and children's programs
Pastor Thurland Brown
537 Main St., Winchester 774-3137
46c

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH
Affiliated with the United Reformed Churches in North America
Based on the Infallible Word of God and the Three Forms of Unity (Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dort)
Sunday, Feb. 15
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
46c

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.

Avid walker undergoes heart valve operation

by Catherine Thompson

MORRISBURG — "Bicycling and exercise probably saved my life," says Doug Brewster about a crisis he survived in 1992 from an undetected heart problem.

Brewster was born with a defective aortic valve, but didn't realize the problem until April 1992, when the loss of sight in one eye proved to be a wake-up call. He visited an opthamologist who immediately sent him to a cardiologist, Dr. John Stimic at the Ottawa Civic Hospital.

Stimic conducted an angiogram and detected a heart murmur or slushing sound from a defect in the main aortic valve. As Brewster explains, "I was born with two valves, not three."

"He told me then and there to sit down and do nothing until we phone you to come in. He said 'your main aortic valve is shutting down.'"

Brewster was placed at the top of a waiting list, and on June 20 had a mechanical valve rather than a tissue valve, which would likely need to be replaced in eight to 10 years.

And because it was a mechanical valve, he was also placed on a blood thinner "Coumadin" and one baby aspirin a day.

Although Brewster had had this defect from birth, he had no idea until the loss of eyesight indicated heart trouble.

"The most frightening thing about that was a year and a half prior to this, I had a full check-up done at the Heart Institute because I wanted to get into some activities, and it didn't show up," Brewster said.

Although the test showed no problem, his lack of recovery after exertion 'was a clue.'

"I could do an exercise, but my recovery time took me much longer than normal."

Since 1990, he wanted to nap during the day to the point where naps were becoming sleeps.

"I just thought it was something normal, you're getting to age 55. You're retired, and deserve a nap," Brewster told himself. He was later told that the fatigue indicated a lack of oxygen to the heart muscle.

His daughter also observed her dad would complain of indigestion during or after a bike ride, although he hadn't eaten.

Brewster claims he didn't have any more qualms before his operation than the normal apprehension before any medical procedure.

"My surgeon, Dr. R. G. Mastors, spent about 45 minutes explaining the odds to me, and how many people had had this operation. Based on the person's health going into the operation, they've had about 100 per cent success rate," Brewster explains.

And Brewster's healthy lifestyle was a major factor in his favor. Before retiring, Brewster would bicycle daily to and from his work as an RCMP officer in Ottawa.

In winter, he walked to work because he disliked taking the bus and paying for city parking. Sometimes Pauline and the dog would meet him after work, and they would all walk the eight miles home.

He and Pauline used to take bike trips in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. And during the 1980's, the couple bicycled from Ottawa to Halifax in 14 days.

"All this exercise gave me a good starting point, that's what the doctors said," Brewster says.

He can't praise highly enough the care he received at the Heart Institute. Three weeks after the operation, Dr. Masters phoned Brewster at home just to see how he was getting along.

Brewster is very pleased with Dr. Paul Coolican's follow-up care. After a monthly blood check, the office calls the next day either to advise him to stay on the present medication, or to vary the amount. And from the start, his dose has remained more or less constant.

"You couldn't get any better service than what you're getting here, at least for me," Brewster says.

Once a year, Brewster returns to the Valve Clinic at the Heart Institute for a check-up, which is coordinated with monitoring at the Morrisburg clinic.

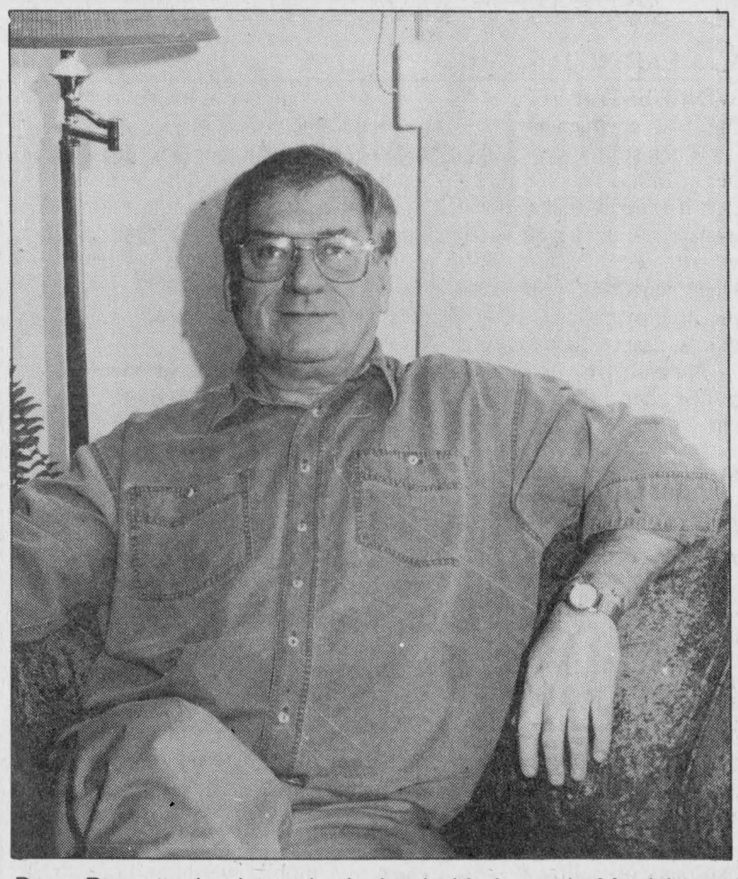
Since he had no blocked arteries, and didn't require a bypass operation, Brewster was not restricted later as to diet or exercise. "I can lift things, shovel snow, do anything," he says.

And he and Pauline continue their healthful exercise. They walk from an hour and a half to three hours a day, depending on conditions.

Every second day, Brewster exercises for an hour on the training bicycle. During the summer, he golfs five days a week.

"But I was lucky. This eye problem was a real good warning sign, because if I hadn't had that, my main valve would probably have just shut down," he says.

Now, six years later after an operation deemed to be 100 per cent successful, Brewster says, "I feel perfect."



Doug Brewster is pictured relaxing in his home in Morrisburg. The active retiree spends much time walking, bicycling and golfing.



Hydro donation

Local Ontario Hydro linemen Glenn Dawson, Harry Castle, Rob Steele and Peter Vankessel represented Winchester area hydro workers at the Corel Centre's Power Aid Live concert held last Sunday. They donated $500 on behalf of local Ontario Hydro employees. Pictured, left, Glenn Dawson, J.J. Clarke of CJOH-TV, Lowell Green of CFRA and Harry Castle. Courtesy Photo

Snowmobile thieves sought by Crime Stoppers

MOUNTAIN — This week, Crime Stoppers is asking for your help in solving two separate thefts that occurred on Jan. 29 in the township of Mountain.

Sometime between 8 am and 9:15 pm, a 1998 purple/aqua colored "Classic 600 Triple" snowmobile was stolen from the "Trailblazers" club house located on VanCamp Road. This snow machine was equipped with an electric starter, trailer hitch and belly pan. The machine has since been recovered in Osgoode Township, but had been completely stripped of its parts.

The suspect is described as being a male of average height having a young-sounding voice with no accent. He was wearing over-shoes, a black helmet and black balaclava.

A second snowmobile was also stolen earlier that day from a Clark Road residence. It is a 1992 Artic Cat JAG4 Black Snow.

If you have any information leading to these or any other crimes, call Crime Stoppers. If your information leads to an arrest, you are entitled to a cash reward. Payments of these rewards are set up in ways that protect anonymity.

The phone number is 937-TIPS (937-8477) or 1-800-265-8477 for long distance calls.

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(Greg and Loretta Van Dellen)

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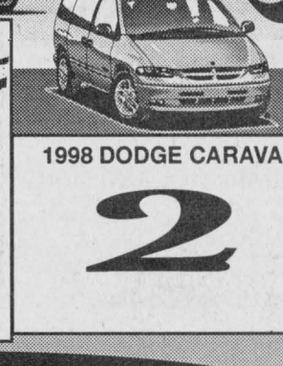
3



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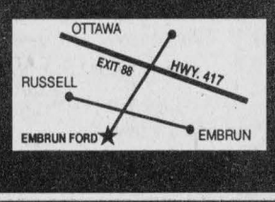

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Editorial/Opinion

WINCHESTER PRESS

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EDITORIAL

Shadow of doubt

The execution of Karla Faye Tucker in Texas last week brought the issue of capital punishment back into discussion for Canadians.

The issue was not so much whether or not she should have been put to death, since she seemed to have been reformed and repentant.

The issue was whether we need to re-incorporate the death penalty in Canada.

When we look at the example of Paul Bernardo and Karla Homolka, the desire for more punishment for people who commit such horrific acts raises our passions and emotions.

However, justice and vengeance are two different things, which lead into an entirely different debate.

Deterrence doesn't seem to be a factor in the need to reinstate capital punishment, as Texas has had the highest number of executions (145) in the United States since 1976. In 1997 alone, 37 people were put to death, which shows that the rate of executions (and therefore murders) is rising.

What Canadians have to remember is that the chance of human error and bias in sentencing anyone to death makes for a dangerous combination.

For every Paul Bernardo, there is the chance of a Guy Paul Morin.

Thankfully, Morin was still alive years after his conviction when he was finally exonerated by DNA. Retribution is still forthcoming, and he deserves every penny he can get from the government.

We cannot give Morin back the years of his life that he lost while in prison and in court, but we can give him life. It was never taken away completely.

On the chance that Karla Faye Tucker was incorrectly found guilty of murder, what retribution could be made to her and her family?

Indeed, the Canadian system needs an overhaul. There are many imbalances in the system. A deal such as the one that Karla Homolka managed to make should not be allowed to happen.

However, there is a flip side to the story, especially after DNA evidence released Morin from guilt.

If DNA evidence can exonerate Morin, why can it not decide guilt beyond a shadow of a doubt? DNA evidence would eliminate the margin of error in convicting murderers and shorten murder trials, thus opening the debate once again for the need/desire for capital punishment in Canada.

L.C.

This week in...

1948

Feb. 26, was the date for the 100 Club's Annual Night of Fun and Carnival at the local arena. In addition to the usual costume classes and race events, there will be an exhibition of fancy skating by members of the Minto Skating Club, Ottawa. Arrangements were made to have several stars of the silver blades perform here on the above date were completed by the chairman of the 100 Club Entertainment Committee, Centurian Walter C. MacDonald.

In the final game of the regular schedule of the C.O.V. League, the Stormont Blue Devils from Finch defeated Winchester 10-3. Winchester marksmen were Doug Hitsman, Geo Gibbons and Bert Locke.

Fire Chief Gilbert Raistrick reports that there was a good list of entries for the several events for at the Dog Derby, being sponsored by the Winchester Fire Brigade, Feb. 14. The competition started at 1:30 pm on Centre Street. Through the generosity of local businessmen, over $25 was donated for prizes.

It is reported that one could actually stuff up with food and still starve the body. According to nutrition experts, it was quality, not quantity which count. That was particularly worth remembering for those doing heavy work, such as logging or farming, which burn up a lot of energy. Some foods are just so much stuffing, authorities said. Therefore, more than tantalizing taste should be the guide to good eating. Also, Canadians were reminded that food should be prepared properly and served cleanly, to ensure maximum health.

1958

Northern Lights, are they are called in this area, put on quite a show. In addition, the most colorful, brightest show this district has ever seen, caused quite a bit of disturbance in communications, particularly west of Toronto. Locally, reports flooded in to police about the strange red and green lights in the sky, and cruisers were forced to track down imaginative objects as a result. TV viewers reported unusual reception with freak channels coming in from points more thane 1000 miles away. The cause was attributed to electrical disturbances on the sun.

Winchester and district citizens were still digging out after the season's biggest snowstorm on the weekend. Preceded by a week-long fall of snow, Old Man Winter really let loose, transforming weather conditions into near blizzard proportions. Many highways were temporarily blocked and practically all secondary roads were closed tight by huge drifts of snow as a result of the 10-inch fall and high winds. Snow removal crews were hampered in their efforts by the hard packed snow and extreme cold. The thermometer dipped to 12 below. No serious traffic accidents were reported, although dozens of workers and students, particularly in the rural sections, were tied up, unable to get out.

The community centre at Metcalfe was bulging at the seams as a record crowd turned out for the annual carnival. There were costumes galore, and the judges, Mrs. Roy McKeown, Mrs. Lawrence Gaudie and Peter Deacon had some tough decisions to make. Bill Armstrong, chairman of the community centre board, had everything well organized and was ably assisted by Wilbert Duncan, Alfred Carson, Cecil Reaney and Jim Miller.

1968

When Mr. Groundhog ventured out in search of his shadow on Ault Island he was doubly re-assured that spring was not far off. In the first place, he did not see his shadow, but possibly the cunning little fellow had been fooled before and needed a bit more convincing. The sight of "Pussy Willows" bursting out was all he needed , and he undoubtedly waltzed gaily back to pass along the good news to his family.

In answer to many complaints concerning dogs running at large in the village streets, the Winchester council agreed that some action must be taken. Hoping for a diplomatic solution, the clerk was advised to write to dog owners, particularly those who seem to have little control of their pets, and advise that if some action is not taken, then the council will have no alternative but to resort to much sterner measures.

A new member joined the teaching staff at North Dundas District High School after the Christmas recess. Joel Steele of Ottawa, formerly of Winchester Springs, was a public school teacher in Ottawa for a number of years. Steele taught Geography and English. He replaced Bruce Bowker, who resigned from the NDDHS staff in December.

1978

People operating "moonlight" taxi businesses here are being ushered out of business by a new service that comes complete with Village Council authorization. Monday night councillors gave third reading to a new taxi bylaw which was requested "as protection" by Smiths Falls resident Barton Warren. Although the bylaw didn't stipulate taxi rates, it was expected that council would adopt the fares suggested by Warren. Initially, he would have one car and would be operating out of Don's Gas Bar on Main Street. A single call — for two people to the same location — would cost $1.50.


WINCHESTER PRESS

45 Job Opportunities

Manor On Schedule

Flu Bug Has Not Hit Here

First To Greet New Year

Appoint Committee To Study Ombudsman Operations

Tough Decisions In 1978

Each additional person would cost 25 cents.

In the future council could start dumping snow from village streets on private property rather than face the expense of trucking it away. Councillor Robert Carkner, chairman of the Works Committee, said it would save the municipality "time and money" if snow was blown over the sidewalks in some area of town rather than trucked away. "I pose this as a possible solution to great expense," Carkner told council. He said the Works Department had already been notified to stop trucking the snow if there were several more big snowstorms.

1988

After a year's absence the Winchester carnival queen pageant was back with eight girls competing for $1200 in cash and awards. The contestants modelled turn of the century dresses as well as "shocking" modern creations designed by Patricia Hamilton. The competition highlighted the 1988 Winchester Winter Carnival opening night.

In an effort to crack down on teenage drinking in Winchester, council made it tougher on minors to get into dances where alcohol was served. Council passed a resolution saying that minors were not to be admitted to functions at the Winchester and District Community Centre unless they were accompanied by parents.



Advice from Cupid's advocate

But seriously...

by Lori Culliton

Okay, guys, there are three days until V Day — Valentine's Day. Although you may know it as the day that the price of roses skyrockets into orbit, only to fall back down again a few days later.

I can already guess your problems: you have no idea what to buy for your sweetheart, you don't have time to shop and you can't afford much anyway.

Never fear: Cupid's Advocate is here to help. I have a 12-step program to get you through the day without panicking and eating an entire heart-shaped box of chocolates by Feb. 13 which, incidentally, happens to fall on Friday, making it Friday the 13th, which should not cause you to be nervous at all, so stay calm.

First of all, what you buy for your sweetheart depends on whether you are a Traditional Romantic, a Practical Romantic or a Clueless Romantic.

For the Traditional Romantic roses, chocolates and jewellery are the route to go. And do not listen to any woman who says that she does not want any of the above. Believe me, at least one of the three will be a sure hit (it's really up to you to figure out which one, depending on your individual circumstances), and your best bet is to go for all three. That way you're sure of getting it right at least once!

For the Clueless Romantic, my advice is similar to the above, except it's a little more specific: long-stemmed red roses, rich chocolate truffels and expensive jewellery are definitely the ideal way to go.

(What the heck girls — if he's a Clueless, you might as well take complete advantage!)

Now, if you fall into the category of Practical Romantic I have this word of advice for you: cooking utensils or a mop are not the route to take to get to a woman's heart. Don't even try it, buddy.

Instead, writing poetry or a cooking a romantic dinner (by yourself) are endearing ways to get your sweetie's attention. Or — and I'm going out on a limb here — clean the house

For the most part, however, Valentine's Day is a time to express your love for your sweetheart. That can be done without exceeding the national debt on roses.

Let me tell you this — if you're a smart romantic, you already know all this stuff, including the fact that carnations are a helluva lot cheaper than roses!

You also know that Valentine's Day is only an excuse to shower love on your sweetie, and you don't buy into it. Instead, you know enough to do Valentine-type things... well, not every day of the year, perhaps, but at least every other week or so.

Now ladies, don't think that I've forgotten you. This is the nineties, we have all demanded equality, and Valentine's Day is no exception.

These days, it is more than acceptable for a woman to send roses to a man. Or carnations for that matter. I'm not saying that he'll necessarily appreciate it, and I'm definitely not suggesting that you send the flowers to him at work.

And don't even try to tell me that a man wouldn't want chocolates or candy on Valentine's Day or any other day of the year.

We do have one up on the guys here, girls. We know what we like in the line of romance, so we know how to give it out, too.

However, it's a safe bet that he probably won't want jewellery. But it's easy to give him something that he will appreciate and that he will remember you for throughout the rest of the year. It's simple.

Watch the game with him.

Hockey, basketball, the Daytona 500, whatever is on. The Olympics counts if it's a hockey game, but not if it's figure skating.

Ultimately, though, it's not about gifts. It's about romance and being together and showing your love for each other, even if it means giving up the afternoon or evening to cheer on a bunch of hockey players.

Flowers best express feelings for romantics

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

WINCHESTER — Ah, Valentine's Day. The time when a lot of men scramble helplessly through jewellery stores, lingerie stores, and flower shops searching for that perfect gift for their significant other.

But this special day doesn't have to be stressful, and a few stores in Winchester believe they can help find a unique and romantic gift for any budget.

Marg VanBruinessen, of Durant's Flowers, finds that popular gifts for Valentine's Day are roses, carnations, houseplants and spring flowers.

"It's a busy day," she says. "Many people like seeing signs of spring around this time of year. It breaks those winter blues a bit."

And giving floral Valentines are not restricted to men. VanBruinessen says an equal number of men and women buy flower arrangements as Valentine gifts.

"Girls buy flowers for guys too, I see that all the time," she says. "But the girls tend to buy a single rose or carnation for the guy, while the guys tend to buy cut flowers or mixed arrangements for the girls."

And even with the large selection of flowers and plants, VanBruinessen finds many people don't have to look around too long.

"Some people come in and know exactly what they want," she says. "Others come in and maybe see an arrangement they like, so they buy that."

Popular flower colors for Valentine's Day, she says, are pink and red for carnations and roses, or several colors mixed in an arrangement.

Having flowers delivered to the home or workplace is a popular idea at this time of year too, she says.

"Wherever cupid can find his or her Valentine," she says.

To store the flowers after they die, VanBruinessen says they only need to be hung upside down to dry, or pressed and waxed.

Sandra, of Muriel's Flowers, is also preparing for the busy day.

"Valentine's Day and the day before is pretty busy," she says. "And it's mostly just a one-day event, while other holidays span over a week or more."

Sandra prepares Valentine arrangements beforehand as much as possible to make it easier to handle the rush, and isn't surprised at what she says are the most popular flowers for this time of year.

"Roses are definitely the most popular on Valentine's Day," she says. "Carnations come in second. Both make lovely gifts. Mixed arrangements have become more popular too."

And she says even though most of her Valentine's Day customers are men, she feels it would be a good idea for women to buy flowers for men too.

"I think most men would appreciate a rose or a single flower, not an arrangement though," she says. "I think it's sweet if when a couple goes out to dinner, they each have a rose for the other.

"And most men know they want roses," she says. "The biggest seller is roses wrapped in paper."

And arrangements in a vase held by a soft teddy bear is also a popular item, she says. Sandra tries to find a different bear to feature every year.

She agrees that delivering flowers at the workplace is an increasingly popular idea, but suggests that any deliveries should be booked in advance.

One of the biggest complaints about flowers is that they die quickly, though carnations, Sandra says, last the longest. But with proper care, meaning following instructions on the card and being careful not to leave the flowers in a cold car, roses can live as long as carnations.

If flowers aren't what you're looking for (or if you got your beloved flowers at Christmas time), perhaps jewellery might be a nice touch.

Gary Annable, of Annable's Jewellers, says the best-selling pieces at Valentine's Day are rings, gold chains, heart-shaped pendants and lockets. It's also a popular time for engagement rings.

He says the customers who come to him for help in finding their Valentine gifts are mostly men and they usually wait until immediately before Valentine's Day.

"I talk to them to find out what their significant other might need, or collect, or really like. If they want something a little different, I show them the dolls, plates, and cards," he says. "Maybe there's something that can accent a color in a room, or maybe their girlfriend or wife has just received jewellery for Christmas and needs a jewellery box. Also, in a small community like this, you get to know husbands and wives, and you get an idea of what the woman might want."



Sandra, of Muriel's flowers, prepares a Valentine's Day arrangement.
Press Photo — Bierworth



Marg VanBruinessen, of Durant's Flowers, said giving flowers on Valentine's Day is a great gift idea for women or men.

Down the street at Fawcett's Jewellers, fond memories of Valentine's Day keeps Shirley Fawcett swooning over romantic gifts.

"I got my engagement ring 47 years ago on Valentine's Day," says Fawcett, who describes herself as a hopeless romantic. "I really think it's the perfect time to give one."

Other romantic gifts, she says, are earrings, heart-shaped ornaments, music boxes, figurines, and picture frames complete with a picture of either the couple or the giver.

As far as helping men find the ideal gift, Fawcett says there are a few who have no idea what to buy, but when someone does know what they want, nothing else will do.

While most women don't seem to come in looking for gifts for men, Fawcett suggests watches, rings, pens, billfolds, and depending on the age of the receiver, wind chimes might also be a good gift idea.

For other unique gift ideas, Kim Backes, who has been running Chatter's, formerly Corner Books and Crafts, by the Dundas Veterinary Services for about two weeks, suggests books, novels, cookbooks and candles.

"I would suggest the candles, because they're romantic and personal," she says.

At each of these stores, owners were reluctant to mention an average price customers spend on Valentine's Day gifts, but agree that a romantic gift can be found for almost any budget.

Osgoode tree damage $75,000

by Jeff Brownlee

METCALFE — Money definitely doesn't grow on trees. Just ask Osgoode Township.

Cleaning up the mess of downed branches and broken limbs on municipal property left by the worst natural disaster in Canadian history will cost as much as the average house.

Tom Lee, director of parks and recreation, estimates the township could easily spend as much as $137,000 to cut, chip and saw its way out of the chaos left at Osgoode's 24 parks and other parcels of municipal land.

Rideau Township has appraised its tree damage at $75,000.

"It's scary," Lee said, in reference to the tree devastation in the municipality. Joella Park in the village of Osgoode is the worst hit, but virtually all areas sustained some damage.

And the clean-up effort is becoming an issue of public safety. Some areas with hanging limbs, sites identified as popular children play spaces and public walkways have been identified as locations of "present danger" requiring immediate attention. Victoria, Eldo, Craig and Peace parks areas are on this list as are Greely West, Herb Johnston and Walkway.

Other regions, including bushes and forests, won't see any work until spring, at which time Lee hopes to organize community clean-up days.

The township hopes to finance this endeavor with compensation from the provincial disaster relief fund. It also hopes to receive money to replace severely damaged trees, an insurmountable cost not figured into the current bill. Industry speculation has costs for new trees rising 20 per cent over last year's levels. Lee said that after the flood of the Red River Valley in Manitoba last year, Winnipeg received 90 per cent funding for the same efforts.

WORKFARE AN OPTION

Osgoode Mayor Doug Thompson vows that despite funding, the municipality will do what it must to ensure public safety. He believes that the clean-up bill can be reduced if this is turned into a workfare exercise.

"I think it makes perfect sense," said Thompson. "It's a labor-intensive effort."

If the township doesn't qualify for any relief money for this project, the township will have to explore other options, Lee said.

Letters To The Editor

Hospital celebrates 50th anniversary

The Editor:

I am writing in the hope of reaching those readers who have a personal connection to the early history of Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

To help mark this proud achievement, Hotel Dieu is planning a special and historic reunion for all those associated with the original maternity hospital, which operated from 1948 to 1953. The reunion will be held on Saturday, June 20, and is being planned especially for those who were born at the hospital, their parents and families, as well as those physicians, nurses and other staff who together played a central role in this special part of Hotel Dieu's history.

On behalf of the 50th anniversary organizing committee, I invite all maternity hospital "alumni" to contact us to let us know who and where you are so that we can extend to you a personal invitation and provide you with more information about this festive occasion.

Whether or not you are able to attend, we would still appreciate hearing from you. Please contact the Development and Public Relations office at Hotel Dieu Hospital at 905-687-3703 or by fax at 905-687-3720.

I would urge you to mark June 20 on your calendars and plan on taking a walk down memory lane.

Robert Edgar
Chair, 50th Anniversary Committee
Hotel Dieu Hospital, St. Catharines

OPINIONS

The Press welcomes letters on subjects of interest to the community. Letters must be signed and include the writer's telephone number. Letters may be edited for length, grammar and libellous statements.

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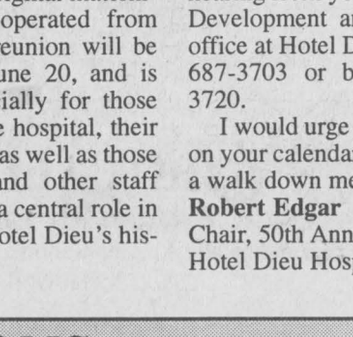

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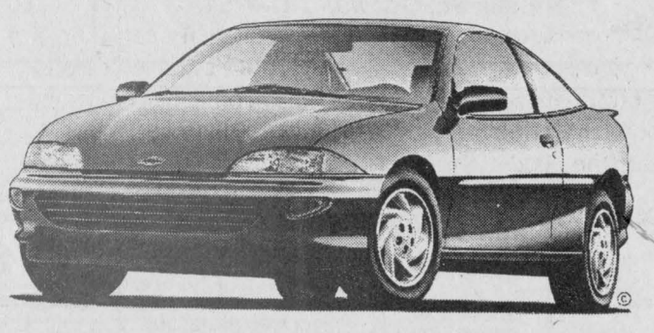

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Metcalfe Winter Carnival

February 12-15

Thursday, February 12

8 pm **Euchre Tournament,** Metcalfe Community Centre, sponsored by Loyal Orange Lodge (Contact Mark Alexander, 826-2540)

Friday, February 13

7-10 pm **Teeny Bopper Dance,** Metcalfe Community Centre (Contact Walter Nibogie, 821-1756)

8:15 pm **Jr. 'B' Hockey Game** - Larry Robinson Arena

Saturday, February 14

7:30-10:30 am **Pancake Breakfast,** Metcalfe Community Centre (Contact Ronda Hicks, 821-0330)

7 am-6 pm **Minor Hockey Tournament,** Larry Robinson Arena (Contact Paula Simpson)

7-9 pm **Carnival on Ice,** Larry Robinson Arena (Contact Steve Corlyon, 821-3227)

8 pm-1 am **Buffet and Dance**, Metcalfe Community Centre, sponsored by Metcalfe Co-operative Nursery School (Contact Joan Killin, 821-3939)

Sunday, February 15

Old Timers Hockey, Larry Robinson Arena

1 pm **Carnival Parade,** Glen Street to arena (Doug Thompson, 821-2000)

2-5 pm **Jr. 'B' Hockey Game:** Metcalfe vs Buckingham, Metcalfe Arena (Contact Bill Buckland, 821-3336)

4:30-7 pm **Carnival Supper and Sing-Along,** Metcalfe Community Centre



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Storm survivors examine alternative sources of power

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

RUSSELL – Ray McNamara and his wife, Lois, never thought about how dependent they were on hydro. That is, until Ice Storm 1998 left them in a cold, dark house for 15 days.

The couple survived the storm with minimal heat from their large fireplace, cooking on their elder son's gas camp stove and bringing home town water from Russell.

Now that their ordeal is over, the McNamaras are preparing themselves in case of another extended outage. They are buying a propane insert for their fireplace.

"We wanted the best of both worlds, something that looks good and can also heat the house," Lois McNamara said. "We also wanted to go with what we already have. I mean, why tear out a perfectly good fireplace to install a gas stove?"

There are several ways to keep everything in your house running smoothly when the power goes out. And many of them won't put the average homeowner into debt.

Stephen MacDonald is the fix-it man at Home Hardware, outside of Winchester. He said one of the most popular items during the ice storm was the kerosene heater. The oil is bought in bulk.

The heaters are portable, convenient and can heat an entire house. The drawback is the carbon monoxide fumes it emanates. Having an open window nearby will provide the necessary air circulation without counteracting the heating quality of the heater.

Wood stoves are also a popular alternative, he said, and average cost is around $400. It's installing the chimney that's expensive, he said.

GENERATORS

The most popular size of generator on the market right now, MacDonald said, is the 5,000 watts, or five kilowatts, which costs about $1,200 andruns basic household appliances, such as a sump pump, water pump, fridge and freezer.

A lot of small-engine maintenance goes with a generator, he said, and users must take standard precautions around them.

"When you start running things on anything other than electricity, you become a power manager as opposed to a consumer," he said. "You have to factor the cost too."

He said most alternative heating appliances are not meant for constant use and should be turned off overnight. Freezers only need to be run one hour each day to keep food frozen.

MacDonald said it is possible to maintain today's standards of living with electricity, but not without a high price tag.

HEATING ALTERNATIVES

Troy Acres, of Acres Flame Designs in Winchester, said the company has been a lot busier than normal since the storm, with people asking for advice on alternative ways to heat the house that don't require electricity.

"If you don't have a stove, go with gas or wood," he said. "It's a lot easier to install and maintain. If you already have a pellet stove, we can rig it to run off the car battery, or you can get a battery backup for it."

The battery backups range from $200 to $700, and Acres advises people not to try to run their pellet stoves on a generator, because a surge or drop in power can blow the control board on the stove.

A pellet stove can start at $2,400, including installation; a wood stove starts between $750 and $800; a gas stove can start around $1,600; and an oil stove sells for $900 and up.

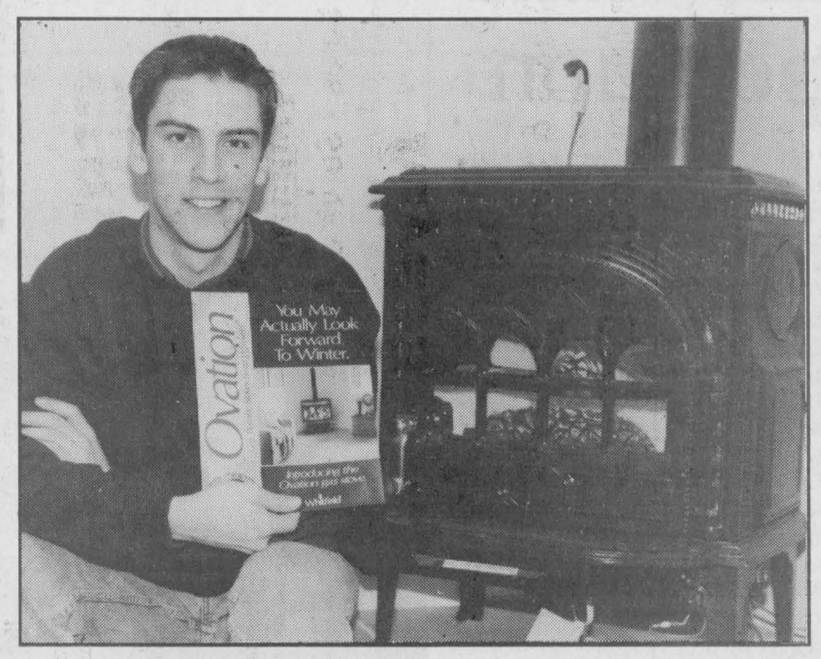
Any gas appliance is safe if it is installed and cared for properly, Acres said, and most people have access to natural gas, which is cheaper than propane.

"The chimneys are generally worth more than the appliance itself," said Acres.

Oil stoves, he said, tend to be more popular in cottages and seasonal homes, although the aesthetics part is the same as wood or gas.

"People prefer to see the flame," he said. "Stoves range in size and heat. Obviously the bigger the stove, the more heat it gives, and the more it costs. The wood stoves have to be on a hard floor, but we can sometimes reduce the clearance it needs. A gas stove can be set on carpet. With the gas units, there's a strict testing standard that has to be met when it's installed. Make sure you know the ins and outs of the deal. After-sale service is also very important."

Another factor to consider when buying a wood stove is home insurance. Sandra Cheney, manager of



Troy Acres sits beside a gas stove. Press Photo – Bierworth

Brister Insurance in Winchester, said premiums can go up anywhere from $35 to $100, depending on the company. But home insurance isn't affected when a gas or oil stove is installed, because the risk of fire isn't as high.

Kimberley MacMullin, of Metcalfe Wind Electric, says the family's windmill, which supplies the house with homemade power, didn't suffer any damage from the ice storm. MacMullin and her husband, George Wright, have been receiving 20 to 40 calls per day since the storm, asking for advice on cutting the dependence on hydro.

MacMullin advises getting an inverter, which is run on deep-cycle batteries and kicks in automatically when the power goes out. She said the inverter requires no upkeep or maintenance, doesn't emit an odor and costs under $2,000 for one that will keep the sump pump and an oil or gas furnace running. Of course, this is only a backup method as the batteries can cost from $60 to $100, and on average would use about six batteries over three days.

The inverter, which MacMullin describes as being the size of about two loaves of bread, can use either golf cart or marine batteries. A car battery wouldn't work.

When asked if she feels people overreacted to the disaster, given the chance that something like that would never happen again, MacMullin disagrees.

"No, actually, I think they've been underreacting for decades," she said. "I just can't see being hooked up to Hydro. Look how quickly and easily their system came down. And a lot of the wires they have up now are just temporary anyway. I think this whole thing just makes people think more, which is good."

The system MacMullin has at her home would cost about $10,000 to $12,000 to buy and install, not including the cost to heat the house.

For that, she recommends a wood or gas stove because of the drain electrical furnaces have on power. Heating a house with their system, she said, would actually double the cost of buying it.

The McNamaras saw the ice storm as a wake-up call for people who had considered buying an alternative heating unit before, but hadn't bothered to start shopping for one.

As far as their dependence on Hydro is concerned, the McNamaras have opened their minds to other alternatives.

"We've all become so reliant on Hydro. I mean, who actually carries a battery-powered radio any more?" Ray said. "And now too, we find out the truth, that they're not really prepared to handle an emergency."

Their advice to anyone shopping for a new heat source is to shop around.

"There's a substantial difference in prices between companies," Ray said.

Girl Guides join hams for display in Brockville

BROCKVILLE — The Girl Guides of Canada wish to invite everyone in the community to the fifth annual "Guides on the air" (GOTA) Sat., Feb. 21 from 10 am to 4 pm and Sun., Feb. 22 from 11:30 am to 3 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, Court House Square, in Brockville.

At this event, people young and old can learn about the many facets of Girl Guides and the Amateur Radio Association, and how these two organizations join together each year.

Visitors can enjoy refreshments, crafts for the kids, and peruse information on display tables while learning about the changes in communication with hands-on activities.

There is ample parking around the church, with wheelchair accessibility.

GOTA began in 1985 to celebrate 75 years of Guiding in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia. GOTA in Brockville and area is co-sponsored by the 1,000 Islands Amateur Radio Association and the Girl Guide Trefoil Guild. GOTA has grown each year with more countries taking part and most Canadian call areas now have an operator sponsoring the GGC suffix, for example, VE4GGC. There are many amateur radio operators, winter camps, clubs, schools, fire halls, Red Cross, churches and military bases involved in GOTA. This year, in our area, the Brockville Museum is also assisting with the display.

GOTA is always held the closest weekend to Feb. 22, which is Thinking Day and falls during the week when Girl Guides of Canada celebrate the birthdays of founders Lord and Lady Baden-Powell. It is a time when members make a special effort to extend their hands in friendship to as many other members of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts as possible. It is a special thrill for them to be able to communicate with our Guiding members around the world.

If you would like to know more about this program, contact Bonnie Burke at (613) 342-5253 or (613) 342-4397.

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Millar family waits for vital operation

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

SHANLY — In a touching story of family bonding, the Millar family from Shanly is playing a waiting game as they prepare for a life-and-death event.

Eight-year-old Shawn Millar, son of Elwyn and Linda, was scheduled to undergo a kidney transplant on Tues., Feb. 17 at Sick Kids hospital in Toronto. His father, Elwyn, is the kidney donor.

However, the family received information on Monday that a scheduling problem has delayed the operation until late March.

Shawn was born with Alport Syndrome, a hereditary, degenerative kidney disease that strikes about one in 5,000 people. His older sister, Kathy (14), suffers from the same disease.

While the opportunity for Elwyn Millar to donate his own kidney to save his son's life is monumental, so is the financial strain on the family. Having just come through January's devastating ice storm, along with other farmers in eastern Ontario, expenses on their farm had already taken a toll on the family.

Now, as the senior and junior members of the Millar family prepare to be hospitalized, Millar faces the reality of leaving the family farm behind, chores and all.

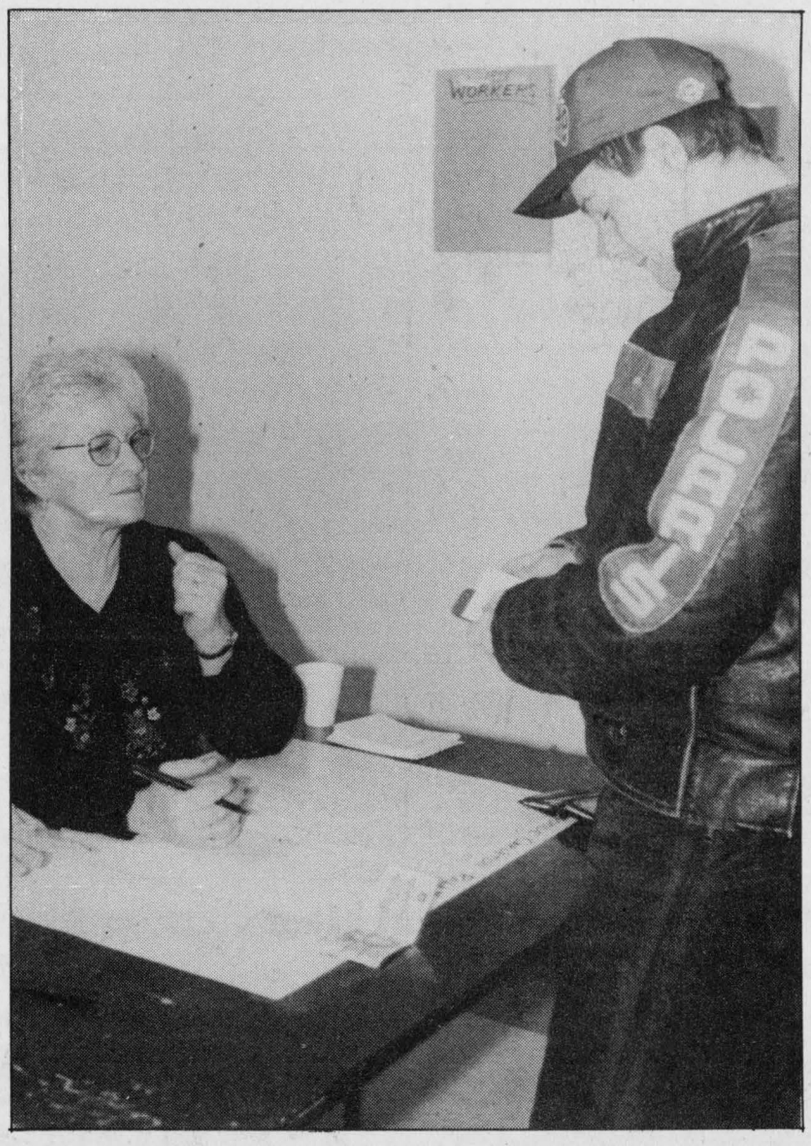
Reverend John Phannenhour, pastor at the Inkerman Wesleyan Church, has set up a fund for donations to help the Millars pull through. A benefit concert has also been planned, with all proceeds going to the Shawn Millar Fund.

"We're asking the community to help with work on the farm, or to make a contribution to the fund to help the Millars come through this," Phannenhour said. "They will have to hire a relief milker and extra farm help, which is an added expense for the family."

The goal of the fund is $5,000, which is the amount Phannenhour figures the family would incur over the time that Millar and Shawn will be in hospital.

Donations to the Shawn Millar Fund can be made at any Royal Bank branch under transit number 7902; account number 501-453-5.

The benefit concert, featuring local talent, will be held on Sat., Feb. 21 at 7 pm at the Inkerman Wesleyan Church.



Roarin' rally

Chad Guy registered to enter the 15th annual Metcalfe Snowmobile Rally on Feb. 7. The 95 mile-long ride started and ended at the Lions Den, and cost participants $15, and $5 for an extra person. The cost included supper, and proceeds go to the Osgoode-Carleton Snowmobile Club. Three $100 prizes were awarded at the end of the event, along with several door prizes donated by area businesses.

Press Photo -- Bierworth

Manotick police officers respond to 13 false alarms

MANOTICK — The Manotick detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police responded to a total of 89 occurrences during the week of Feb. 2-8. Officers responded to 13 false alarms and seven motor vehicle accidents, of which none involved any injuries.

On Feb. 2 police received a report of a van broken into on Willsbrook Drive, North Gower. Sometime throughout the night someone smashed a window of a van parked in a driveway. A Toshiba lap top computer was stolen from the van.

On Feb. 2 police received a report of a theft of a Jeep Cherokee from a residence on Michelangelo Court, North Gower. The Jeep is black in color with Ontario licence plates 179ZMP.

On the afternoon of Feb. 2 police received a report of a vehicle in the ditch on Dwyer Hill Road. Police arrived at the scene and discovered that the male driver was intoxicated. The driver was arrested and charged with Care and Control of a vehicle with more than 80 mg of alcohol in his blood.

On Feb. 4 police received a report of a break and enter at a residence on Harnett Road, Rideau Township. Jewellery was stolen from the residence.

On the morning of Feb. 5 police received a report of a theft from a vehicle at a residence on Kelwing Drive. The vehicle was broken into sometime overnight and a cell phone and two briefcases were stolen.

On the evening of Feb. 6, constable Rick Dupuis observed a vehicle driving erratically on River Road, Osgoode Township. The vehicle was stopped and the male driver was arrested for impaired operation of a vehicle.

On the morning of Feb. 7 police received a report of a break and enter to a residence on Donnelly Drive, Rideau Township. Sometime between 6 pm and 10 pm unknown persons entered the garage of the residence where two red Honda generators were stolen.

On the evening of Feb. 8 police received a report of two snow machines stolen from the North Gower Community Centre. Stolen was a purple 1997 Polaris XLT with Ontario marker 811398 and a white/blue 1998 Polaris 700. The 1998 Polaris has been recovered.

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Help for bereaved families

CORNWALL — The Cornwall and area chapter of Bereaved Families of Ontario will hold its monthly support and share night on Feb. 12 at 144 Pitt Street, from 7 to 9 pm. Anybody who is grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome to attend. The topic for the night is "One year after, then what?", with guest speaker Joan Grainger. Refreshments will be served and the extensive lending library on grief will be open. For more information, call the office at 613-936-1455.

Ladies Aid plans strawberry social

by Moira MacLeod

WINCHESTER — The regular meeting of St. Paul's Presbyterian Ladies Aid was held on Feb. 2. The January meeting had been cancelled due to the ice storm.

Vice president Doris Baker presided in the absence of president Yoka Crowder.

Sixteen members answered the roll call with a brief experience about the ice storm.

Moira MacLeod led the devotions with a reading from Peter 1:2. Helen Kerr was pianist for the singing of "Shall We Gather at the River".

Acting secretary was Norma Duncan in the absence of Janet Clapp. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The annual report was read and approved for submission to the board of governors.

Betty Larmour gave the treasurer's report.

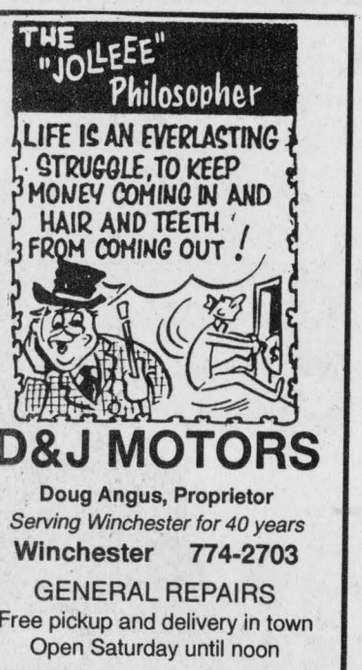
A discussion was held about the upcoming Strawberry Social to be held Feb. 14.

The World Day of Prayer is to be held in the Presbyterian Church on March 6 at 2 pm.

Lunch was served at the end of the meeting by Orma Stoodly and Doris Baker.



Happy 17th Birthday Anna
We still think you're pretty sweet
Love, Dad, Mom, Peter, Lilli



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Registration

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If so, it's time to register for Junior Kindergarten.



February 16 to 20, 1998
Telephone the appropriate school to make an appointment to register your child for September 1998.

February 23 to 27, 1998
Official registration of your child.
N.B. Please bring the baptismal certificate when registering.

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Tel.: 932-3455
50/50 French Immersion
Helene Periard

Sacred Heart
1424 Aubin Avenue
Tel.: 933-3337
Regular
Pat Valiquette

St. Anne's
607 Surgenor Street
Tel.: 933-4615
50/50 French Immersion
René Carrière

St. Columban's East
344 Adolphus Street
Tel.: 932-0611
50/50 French Immersion
Deborah Zabloski

St. Columban's West
323 Augustus Street
Tel.: 933-3113
50/50 French Immersion
Robert King

St. Paul's
721 Eleventh St. E.
Tel.: 938-1368
50/50 French Immersion
Margaret Benke

St. Peter's
1811 Second Street East
Tel.: 933-1007
Regular
Ray Barnes

Glengarry County

The Alexander
46 St. Paul Street
Alexandria
Tel.: 525-2842
Regular
Helena McCuaig

Iona Academy
R. R. No. 2
Williamstown
Tel.: 347-3518
50/50 French Immersion
Hubert McDonell

St. Joseph's
33 Lochiel Street East
Alexandria
Tel.: 525-4274
50/50 French Immersion
Ghislain Rioux

Stormont County

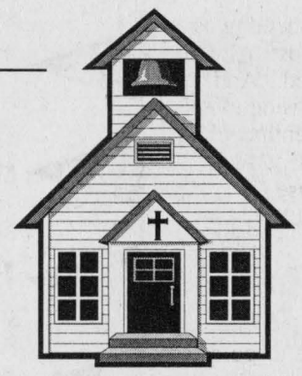
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Dickinson Drive
Ingleside
Tel.: 537-2556
50/50 French Immersion
Charlotte Rouleau

St. Andrew's
St. Andrews West
Tel.: 932-6592
Regular
Michael Bradley

Dundas County

St. Mary's
7 Main Street
Chesterville
Tel.: 448-2158
Regular
Michael van de Kamp

St. Mary's
Augusta Street
Morrisburg
Tel.: 543-2907
Regular
George Lagrue



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Your child must be 4 years of age before January 1st, 1999



Kindergarten - Full-time
Your child must be 5 years of age before January 1st, 1999

If you missed the registration period or for more information please contact Kevin Lydon at the Eastern Region at
(613) 933-1720

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Nancy Kirby
Chairperson of the Board

Charles Adams
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

Frank Musca
Director of Education



Drag racing

The first two snowmobiles take off at the Riverside Snowmobile Club's Drag races. About 200 snowmobilers and spectators came to the Upper Canada Air Strip Feb. 8 to join the event, which cost $15 per participant, and $5 for spectators. The 660 - foot races raised about $1,500 for Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario.

Press Photo -- Bierworth

Parents can watch baby grow

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — For new parents, there are countless questions to be asked about how much weight their baby is gaining or whether the child is eating enough. Often, there is not enough time in a visit to the doctor's office to ask all the questions.

For the first time at Winchester District Memorial Hospital, a program is available for parents to leisurely talk about their child's progress and ask all of the questions they want, as well as have their babies weighed and measured.

"Watch Me Grow" is a program offered in collaboration between the Eastern Ontario Health Unit and WDMH.

"This hospital is a logical place to have the clinic because people who have had their babies here feel more comfortable bringing them back for consultation," explained Janet Allingham, a public health nurse with the Health Unit.

She added, "We offer support for breastfeeding and information about local resources. It's also a nice camaraderie for fellow mothers who can relate to each other through the raising of their children."

Penny MacGregor has brought her son Robert, three-and-a-half months, to the clinic three times. She found out about the program when she called the Health Unit's health line (1-800-267-0852).

"The clinic is great," she told the Press. "I breast feed, so when I come here they are able to tell me if he's gaining enough weight."

She added, "It's a secure feeling, being able to come (to the clinic). A visit to the doctor is so fast that there is no time to sit and really chat about your concerns."

The drop-in program is available on Mondays 11 am until 2 pm. The clinic offers support, education and information about parenting issues, including breastfeeding, weaning, nutrition, behavior and immunization.

Dundas Players host coffee shop

WINCHESTER — In a move to lift people's spirits following Ice Storm '98 and to warm the hearts of people on Valentine's Day, the Dundas County Players are hosting "Cupid's Coffee House" on Sat., Feb. 14.

The occasion is also being used to raise funds for the players' upcoming presentation of "Honestly Now", a crime comedy scheduled for an April/May production.

"This isn't just for couples, it's for singles, too," said Liz Barton, president of Dundas County Players. "It's going to be a fun night, and we thought it was a good idea to lift spirits after the ice storm."

In a scene reminiscent of the coffee shop in the television show "Friends", Cupid's Coffee House will provide the atmosphere of a coffee house with a presentation of songs, poetry and even an open mike session, when audience members will be invited to recite their own poetry or love dedications, or even describe how they met their true love.

"We wanted to do something as a fundraiser that didn't cost a lot of money," Barton explained. "And we were looking for an occasion to celebrate. The fact that Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday was perfect."

Cupid's Coffee House is being presented in conjunction with Something's Brewing in Winchester.

She added that there is something for everybody at Cupid's Coffee House. "Love is a universal theme. For couples, it's a place to go after going out to dinner. For singles, it's something fun to do on Valentine's Day. We have some funny songs planned, and hopefully a scene from Romeo and Juliet. It's going to be a fun time."

The show is expected to last about 90 minutes, but the audience is welcome to stay after and enjoy the atmosphere. The coffee house will be located at the Arts Centre on Main Street, above the OPP station, on Feb. 14 beginning at 7:30 pm.

Send your Valentine Love & Kisses.



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Valentine's Day is Saturday, Feb. 14.
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1995 **Buick Regal Grand Sport 'Sedan'**
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Stock #97301-A $17,995.00

1995 **Eagle Vision 'Sedan'** SOLD
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Stock #97303-A $13,995.00

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Sun. 10-5; closed Monday

Specials in effect from Fri., Feb. 13 to Tues., Feb. 17
We reserve the right to limit quantities.

OBITUARIES

Morten Ole Hansen

On Thurs., Jan. 8, Morten Ole Hansen passed away peacefully at the Township of Osgoode Care Centre, Metcalfe. He was in his 99th year.

Mr. Hansen formerly resided at 480 Gladstone Street, Winchester from 1964 until 1995.

Born on June 22, 1899 at Aarkirkby, Denmark, Mr. Hansen was a windmill mechanic before coming to Canada.

He married the former Ida Josefsen on Dec. 1, 1922 in Denmark. He lived a long time in Saskatchewan where he worked as a woodturner/cabinet-maker. He was greatly appreciated for his winding staircases.

Mr. Hansen was predeceased by his parents, Otto Hansen and Anna Gaalaas and in 1979, by his wife, Ida.

He was the beloved father of Hjalmar 'Hank' (Betty) Hansen of Metcalfe and Carl (Sophie) Hansen of Winnipeg. He was the loving grandfather of David (Cathy), Christine (Kevin Oshan), Karen (Ted Gardner), Eric (Christine), Carl (Linda) and Kirk (Kathleen), and great-grandfather of Mitchell, Thomas and Derek (Kirk's family), Carey-Lyn (Carl's family) and Andrew and Janine (Eric's family).

A memorial service will be held at the Duncan Funeral Home, Chapel and Reception Centre at 2371 Hwy. 31 (between Scrivens Drive and Metcalfe Corner) on Sat., Feb. 14 at 11 am.

A luncheon will follow in the Funeral Home's Reception Centre. Following the luncheon a Committal Service will take place at Capital Memorial Gardens.

Memoriams may be made to the Township of Osgoode Care Centre.

Felix Lamoureux

Felix Lamoureux of Crysler died on Feb. 4 at the Ottawa General Hospital. He was 80.

Formerly of Winchester, Mr. Lamoureux was born in Mountain Township on Dec. 12, 1917 to the late Eli Lamoureux and Millie St. Pierre.

A farmer, Mr. Lamoureux was the dear brother of Ada Rombough of Finch, Margaret LaPierre of Sudbury, Alice Lewis of Mountain and Wilfred (Pierrette) of Winchester. He will be fondly remembered by his many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by four brothers and two sisters.

Family and friends were received at Daniels Funeral Homes Inc., Winchester.

A mass was celebrated at St. Therese D'Avila Church in Marionville on Feb. 7. Reverend Kevin Beach officiated. An interment of ashes will take place in the spring at Marionville Parish Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Andrew Lamoureux, Perry Lamoureux, Ron Lewis, Arnold Lewis, Brian Rombough, Morris Korevaar. Honorary pallbearers were Mort Stobo and Carl Docksteader.

Clarence H. Levere

A resident of Morrisburg for the past 10 years, Clarence Howard Levere passed away suddenly at his home on Tues., Feb. 3. He was 81.

Born April 5, 1917 at Van Camp (Mountain Township), he was the son of Judson Levere and Sarah Madden (both deceased).

On April 24, 1943, he married L. Verl Byrd. They took up residence at RR 1, Brinston, where they owned and operated a dairy farm and later a beef farm.

Over the years, Mr. Levere did custom combining and baling, and worked in construction. He also worked on the St. Lawrence Seaway during the Seaway project.

In 1965 he established "Levere's Meat Market and Slaughter House" where he worked, with his wife, until he retired and moved to Morrisburg in 1987.

He enjoyed fox hunting and had a great passion for horses. One of his favorite pastimes was to hitch up the team or the driving mare and go for a buggy or a cutter ride.

Mr. Levere was a lifelong member of the Dufferin L.O.L. in Shanly. He received the Royal Blue degree and the Royal Arch Purple degree in 1948. He was elected to the office of Worshipful Master from 1963 to 1965. In March of this year he would have been a member for 50 years.

In addition to his wife, Verl, Mr. Levere is survived by two daughters, Carole Warren of Morrisburg, Joan (Lawrence) Larocque of RR 1, Morrisburg; and two sons, Doug (Bev) Levere of Orleans and Roger Levere of Toronto. He will be missed by his eight grandchildren, Cindy (Jim) Bennis, Leisa (Ernie) Beckstead, Todd Larocque (Tracey Daisley), Melanie Warren (Brad Tinkler), Jo-Anne (Wayne) Minish, Devin Levere, Sara Warren and Dustin Levere, as well as one great-grandchild, Marc Beckstead.

He is also survived by five siblings: Ruby VanCamp of Cardinal, Gordon Levere of Smiths Falls, Vera Folkard of Kemptville, Verna Levere of Cornwall and Jim (Edna) Levere of RR 1, Iroquois, as well as by sisters-in-law, brothers-in law, cousins and numerous nieces and nephews.

An infant son, Reginald, predeceased him in 1958.

Friends called at the Marsden-McLaughlin Funeral Home in Williamsburg on Wed., Feb. 4. An Orange Lodge service was held on the same day.

The funeral service was held on Thurs., Feb. 5 at Lakeshore Drive United Church in Morrisburg with Rev. Donald Smith officiating.

Pallbearers were grandsons Todd Larocque, Devin Levere, Dustin Levere, Jim Bennis, Ernie Beckstead, Wayne Minish and Brad Tinkler.

Sarsfield Patrick O'Connor

Sarsfield Patrick O'Connor of Morewood died suddenly at Winchester District Memorial Hospital on Fri., Feb. 6. He was 68.

He was the loving husband of Sheila Marie O'Connor, whom he married at St. Mary's Church in Chesterville on July 19, 1958.

Mr. O'Connor was born in Ireland on Sept. 11, 1929 to the late Dr. Michael Joseph and Joan O'Connor.

He will be sadly missed by his sons, John Patrick (Christine) O'Connor and Timothy Michael O'Connor, as well as his granddaughters Erin and Reilly.

He is also survived by brothers Eamon and John and sisters Maureen, Grace and Carmel.

He was a former marketing manager for the eastern Ontario region with the Ontario Milk Marketing Board.

He was a science graduate of the National University of Ireland.

Mr. O'Connor was a member of two churches: St. Mary's Church, Chesterville, and Russell Roman Catholic Church.

Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Church in Chesterville on Wed., Feb. 11. Reverend Father J. Appleman officiated. Interment took place at St. Andrew's West.

Pallbearers were Dr. G. Slowey, Dick Casselman, Dick Dumochelle, Wm. VanGurp, Kevin Vollrath and Steve Droppo.

Irene Patenaude

Irene Patenaude of Primrose Apartments, Morewood, died on Tues., Feb. 3 at Winchester District Memorial Hospital. She was 77.

A housewife, Mrs. Patenaude was born in Chesterville on May 16, 1920 to the late Arsene Gauthier and Delvina Briere.

She was predeceased by her husband Armand Antoine Patenaude on April 5, 1993.

Mrs. Patenaude was the loving mother of Hector (Marie-Claire) of RR 2, Chesterville, Fernand of Morewood, Richard (Deborah) of RR 2, Winchester, and Rita (Adrian Day) of Hamilton. She was the dear sister of Florence (Andre) Bedard of Oka, Quebec. She is fondly remembered by 13 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by sisters Alice Cayer and Rose Moss.

Mrs. Patenaude was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Chesterville.

Family and friends were received for visitation at the Daniels Funeral Homes, Inc., Chesterville.

A funeral mass was celebrated at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chesterville on Fri., Feb. 6. Father Stan Alanen officiated. Interment will take place in the spring at St. Mary's Parish Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Philip, Jacques, Paul, Andre and Roger Patenaude and Leo Lalonde, all grandsons.

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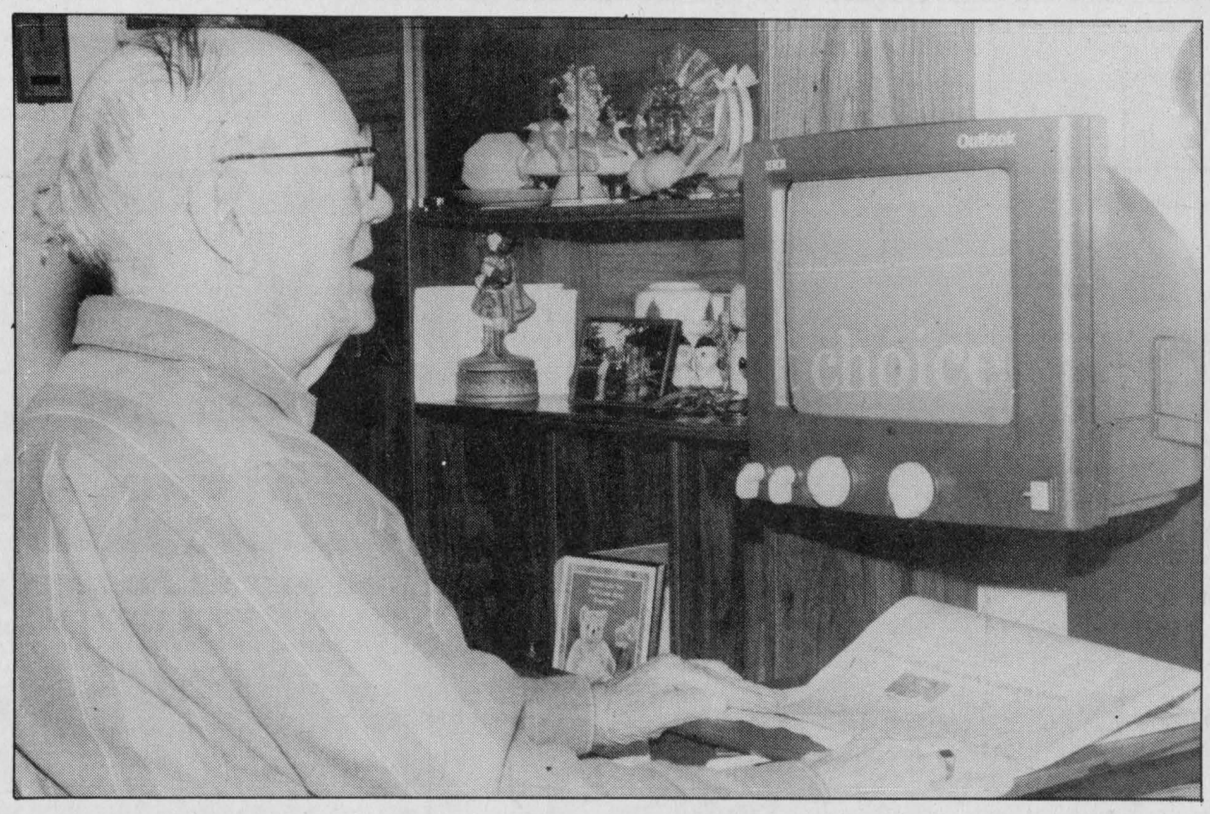

Visual aid

Winchester's Bill McRoberts uses a new CCTV Outlook magnifier to read the newspaper. Until he found out about the machine from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, he could only read the headlines.

Press Photo — Dillich

Crime Stoppers need your help to catch thieves

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — This week Crime Stoppers is asking for your help in solving a theft which occurred on Sept. 28, 1997.

The victim had attended a wedding reception at the South Mountain Agricultural Hall and sometime during the evening the individual's van was broken into.

Stolen property included two Pentax cameras, five Pentax and Micron lenses, two battery packs, one umbrella flash, one tripod, one portable flash, four rolls of new film and 10 exposed rolls.

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

If you have any information on this or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers and if your information leads to an arrest you are entitled to a cash reward. Reward payments are set up to protect anonymity.

Call Crime Stoppers at 937-8477 and for long distance calls, 1-800-265-8477.

Fashion show features local designs

MORRISBURG — More than 30 models will feature styles from area designers and shops at the Upper Canada Playhouse Fashion Show next weekend.

The fashions of Kim Link's Classique Bridals of Winchester, Biba of Morrisburg and six local designers will be featured. The designer wear includes Anna Bing's hand and machine knitwear, Judy Pallett's quilted clothing for children and adults, Marion Gleeson and Francesca Overend's woven wear, Caroline Dey's Outerwear and Margi Laurin's Fimo Jewellery.

At intermission, 26 hostesses and their guests will enjoy the homemade desserts supplied by each hostess and the table set with the hostess' own tableware. Finishing touches to the stage will be the handiwork of Teri Martel and Arlene Robblee.

The event is currently sold out, however individuals interested may call Lois Rosenquist at 543-2731 to get their name on a waiting list in case of a cancellation.

The Dessert and Fashion Show takes place on Sun., Feb. 15 at 2 pm at the Morrisburg Civic Centre.

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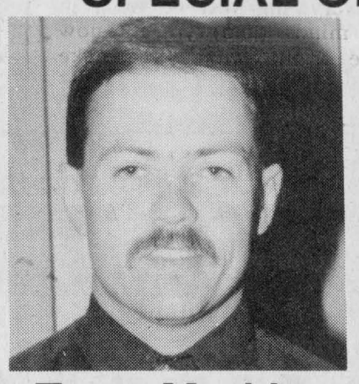
TERRY'S SPECIAL OF THE WEEK



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Want to know more about your property assessment?

Over the past 12 months, all properties in Ontario were assessed on a fair, consistent and up-to-date basis. The new Ontario Fair Assessment System requires that municipalities assist low-income senior and disabled homeowners and allows them to phase in any tax changes over a period of up to eight years. Your municipality will continue to be responsible for setting municipal property tax rates.

During February, more than 3.8 million Notices of Property Assessment were mailed to individual property owners.

If you have questions about your assessment, you can get the answers you need by calling the Assessment Information line at 1-800-827-1857, or by attending your local Community Assessment Information Session. Knowledgeable staff will be available to answer your questions and to explain how these new assessments are fair, consistent and up-to-date.

Check the list you received with your Notice of Property Assessment, call toll-free, or visit the website for information about sessions in your area and about changes to Ontario's property assessment system.

For more information:
Call the Assessment Information Line at 1-800-827-1857 or contact your Regional Assessment Office.
Or visit the website at www.gov.on.ca/FIN/english/propeng.htm

Pour de plus amples renseignements, appelez 1-800-827-1857 ou contactez votre Bureau d'évaluation foncière régional. Ou consultez le site Web à www.gov.on.ca/FIN/french/propfre.htm



Farm update

Cleaning up

Heavy ice build-up from last month's ice storm, coupled with recent snowfalls, have resulted in the collapse of roofs on a number of barns, sheds and other farm buildings around eastern Ontario. Calls to Ontario Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Rural Affairs offices have kept agricultural engineers busy with farm visits to assess the damage caused by the storm, believed to be the worst natural disaster in Canadian history. Pictured, workers remove thick layers of ice and snow from a barn roof at Berry's Egg Farm located just east of South Mountain. Press Photo — Fetterly

Farmers program begins tomorrow

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

KEMPTVILLE — The annual Winter Woodlot Conference kicks off the nine-day Farmers' Week and Trade Fair, tomorrow.

The event, which runs until Sat., Feb. 21 at the University of Guelph, Kemptville College features a program geared to all types of agricultural operations as well as a trade fair.

The agenda for tomorrow's Woodlot Conference has been revised to deal with the destruction caused to local trees by the recent ice storm. The day will feature a special section on the maple syrup industry and a report on damage to eastern Ontario forests.

Speakers for Money Matters Day on Friday will help farmers plan for the future and will feature a panel discussion in the afternoon.

Ecological Day on Saturday (Feb. 14) will look at the demand for organic produce. Workshops will be held throughout the afternoon.

Beef Night is Monday evening (Feb. 16) from 6:30 - 10 pm. Among other things, the session will deal with stretching feed inputs to beef herds.

Dairy Day takes up its traditional spot on Tuesday (Feb. 17). Topics include changes to the dairy markets, raising replacements, managing with high production, and adjusting the 1997-98 feeding program.

Accent on Living Day on Wed., Feb. 18, will teach participants how to improve their lifestyles.

Crops Day (Thurs., Feb. 19) will feature presentations on grain marketing, weed resistance, foliar fertilization and the total phosphorus management program. Concurrent sessions will be held in the afternoon.

Swine Day is slated for Friday (Feb. 20), with topics of swine housing, profitable feeding and pork production.

Sheep Day on Saturday (Feb. 21) will include a look at a computer program aimed at improving sheep management as well as pasture and forage alternatives for sheep, sheep nutrition, flock health and artificial rearing of lambs.

Also on Feb. 21, Horticulture Day will touch on horticulture production and marketing. Its program will be held at the F.J. Parish Building, while all other programs are slated for the W.B. George Centre.

Registration is at the door. Everyone's welcome.

MTAS uses marketing expert to set tone for this year's fair

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — Mountain Township Agricultural Society enlisted the aid of a marketing expert, during the society's annual meeting Jan. 24, to help members plan for this year's edition of the South Mountain Fair. Kevin Gallagher is a public relations, marketing and customer relations director with an environmental company and among other careers, was a marketing teacher at Algonquin College. As the meeting's guest speaker, he shared some ideas on how to promote the fair.

"I feel there's a real opportunity to draw city people out here... to educate them about agriculture," said Gallagher, who grew up in the Prescott area and now lives in Orleans.

Gallagher told members, they must find a way to translate for urban dwellers, what the South Mountain Fair has to offer. He suggested creating a theme to help do that.

"A market analysis will help determine who (the fair's) attracting... Once you've determined your audience, you can build your theme around that," he explained. As an example, he suggested targeting the young families market.

Once the audience is targeted and a theme is chosen, Gallagher advised ag society members to set up a publicity committee to promote the fair.

"(The committee) could develop media kits... Get posters up in urban centres."

Gallagher also advised the society to take advantage of public service broadcasts on television and radio.

"(Public service announcements) are free of charge and can reach a larger audience than flyers," he said

And while he liked the society's plan to advertise on radio and in local newspapers, he suggested running the ads on more than one radio station — to reach a larger number of listeners.

By choosing just one radio station, the society is limiting its audience and "You don't want to put all your eggs in one basket," Gallagher advised.

DIVERSIFY

The Demolition Derby on Friday night and the rodeo on Saturday are the fair's biggest crowd-getters. But Gallagher said, organizers shouldn't forget to include events to "fill in the holes."

Setting up specific attractions — such as an agricultural display area, kid's corner or trade fair — is a great way to attract a variety of people.

Committees would ensure the various attractions run smoothly, he added.

And as soon as the fair is over, Gallagher advised members to start planning for the following year.

"Everything will be fresh in your minds (and) you'll know where you want to make changes."

This year's South Mountain Fair will begin Fri., Aug. 14 and continue through until Sun., Aug. 16.

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Ice storm damage: A tree expert's view

by Craig Huff
Regional Forester
Region of Ottawa-Carleton

OTTAWA — With trees battered from the ice storm, a great temptation exists to go out and immediately repair the damage. However, unless you know what you are doing, I urge you not to take matters into your own hands.

There are situations requiring immediate attention, such as branches hanging over sidewalks, children's play areas, cars and roofs — and I suggest you call in a professional.

Following is some advice for homeowners hiring tree contractors:

— Ensure you have proper liability insurance in case of an accident;

— Ask if they belong to professional associations such as the International Society of Arboriculture, the Ontario Shade Tree Council, Landscape Ontario, or if they are registered professional foresters (RPFs) with the Ontario Professional Foresters Association;

— Get a written cost estimate with a detailed work description;

— Ask for references, and don't hesitate to call the references;

— Try to get more than one cost estimate and compare prices.

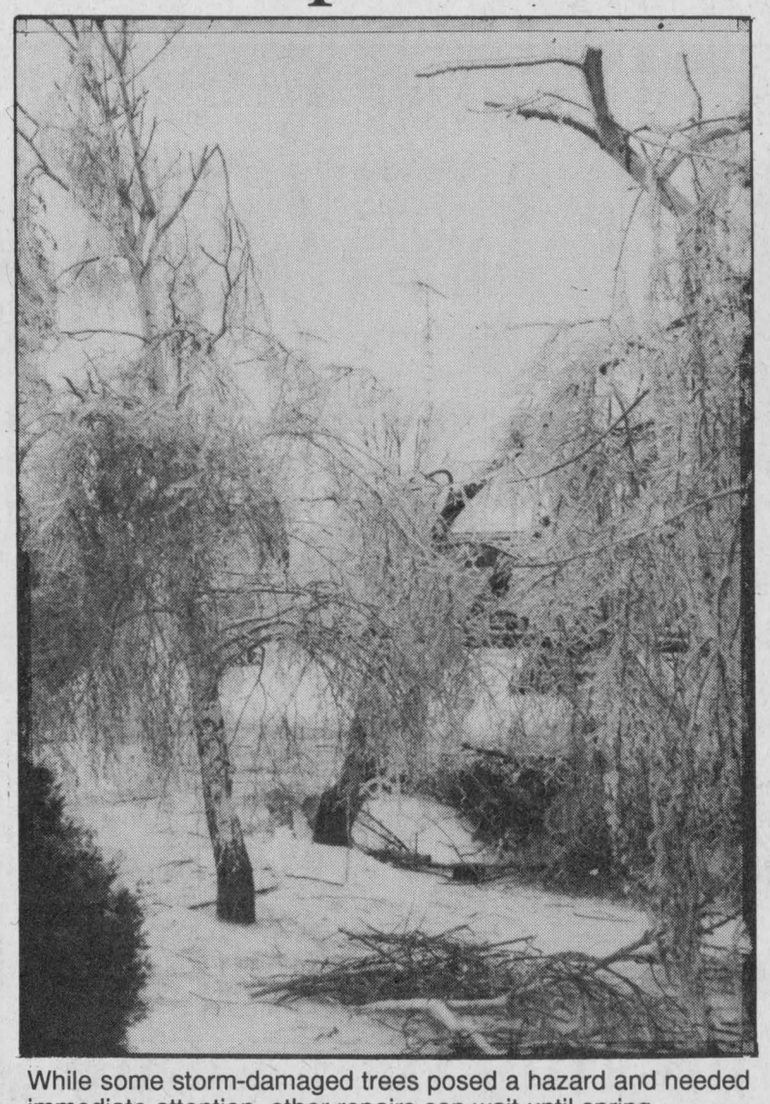
You can remove broken branches within reach yourself, but nothing higher. Work high up in trees requires climbing skills and should always be left to experienced tree professionals who have proper safety equipment and training.

Exposed wounds and broken branches do not have to be treated immediately, because neither disease infection or insect infestation occur during cold winter weather. And as for using pruning paint: it is only cosmetic and not necessary. A complete tree pruning may be required, but may be done at a later date — even as late as this spring — when qualified arborists and tree care professionals are not tied up with cleanup and emergency activities and are more likely to be available.

You should not use a chainsaw if you have not used one before. The risk of injury is too great. Even experienced users should read the owner's manual and strictly follow the operational and safety instructions.

For tips on work you can safely do yourself, you can get a free publication called Pruning Ornamentals (no. 483) from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. The brochure explains how to properly prune trees and shrubs. Another publication (no. 1505) is available from Agriculture Canada by calling 1-759-6665.

For more pruning tips, you can contact the International Society of Arboriculture at 1-888-463-2316 or 1-519-376-2388, the Ontario Shade Tree Council at 1-905-336-8552, Landscape Ontario at 1-905-875-1805 or the Ontario Professional Foresters Association at 1-905-764-2921.



While some storm-damaged trees posed a hazard and needed immediate attention, other repairs can wait until spring.
Press Photo — Van Bridger

Collapse of greenhouse almost puts plans on ice

VAN CAMP — A Mountain-area couple almost had their dreams put on hold, thanks to the ice storm.

Joyce and Roger Levere are planning to start a small business this spring — growing and selling seedling plants, flowers and trees. But their dreams were nearly shattered last week, when their newly completed 100 foot greenhouse collapsed under heavy ice and snow.

With the help of family and friends, the couple had just finished building their greenhouse before Christmas and were ordering seeds when the ice storm hit.

The greenhouse was coated with ice following the storm, but the Leveres didn't want to remove it for fear of damaging the plastic. All they could do was check their greenhouse daily, and hope it would stand. But the heavy snowfall on Jan 30 was too much for the greenhouse — It caved in the following day. The structure was not yet insured.

While the greenhouse's collapse has been a setback, the couple says it won't prevent them from starting their venture this spring.

Nice weather over the past week, allowed the Leveres to clear the ice and snow off the fallen plastic, and according to Roger, the project will go ahead as planned.

"We've cleaned up... We will repair or replace the plastic (and) any hoops which were destroyed or damaged (and) we're ordering seeds again...," he said.

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OMAFRA holds dairy workshops

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

WINCHESTER — The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is holding a series of workshops for farm families involved in the dairy industry.

An information session "Bylaws, regulations, planning, policies and the farm" will be held from 7 - 10 pm at the OMAFRA boardroom in Avonmore on Feb. 26.

Sponsored by the Stormont Federation of Agriculture, the purpose of this session is to provide a discussion of the requirements and restrictions having an effect on changes being made to a property. For further information, contact Kerry Carnegie at OMAFRA in Nepean at 1-800-293-7542 or Yves Lavictoire at 1-800-267-1726.

A workshop entitled, "Mastitis treatment decisions and solutions" is planned for Feb. 25 in Maxville, Feb. 27 in Fournier and March 27 in Arnprior. Cost for the day-long course is $40. Registration deadline is one week prior to the course date.

A two-day dairy heifer raising workshop, "Dealing with young offenders" will be held at the W.B. George Centre, Kemptville College on March 24 and 26 and at Alfred College (French) on March 25 and April 1. This workshop will allow producers to look at the costs of raising a dairy heifer and to understand the hidden costs of doing a poor job. The program will cover: age at first calving, growth charts, weight at first calving, body condition scoring, genetic potential and health costs.

Cost for the workshop, which runs from 10 am to 3 pm, is $40.

PESTICIDE COURSES

Grower pesticide courses will be held, locally, as follows: Exam only - Feb. 24, Winchester OMAFRA; March 5, Avonmore OMAFRA; Full course - Feb. 14, Alfred College (French); Feb. 24, Bells Corners United Church; March 10, Metcalfe United Church; March 10, Kemptville Agro Forestry Centre; March 28, Bells Corners United Church; March 28, Knights of Columbus Hall, Casselman (French); March 28, Avonmore OMAFRA.

The workshops are a co-operative effort by OMAFRA staff and the Needs Assessment Committees in eastern Ontario.

Enrollment is limited. Register by calling your local OMAFRA office.

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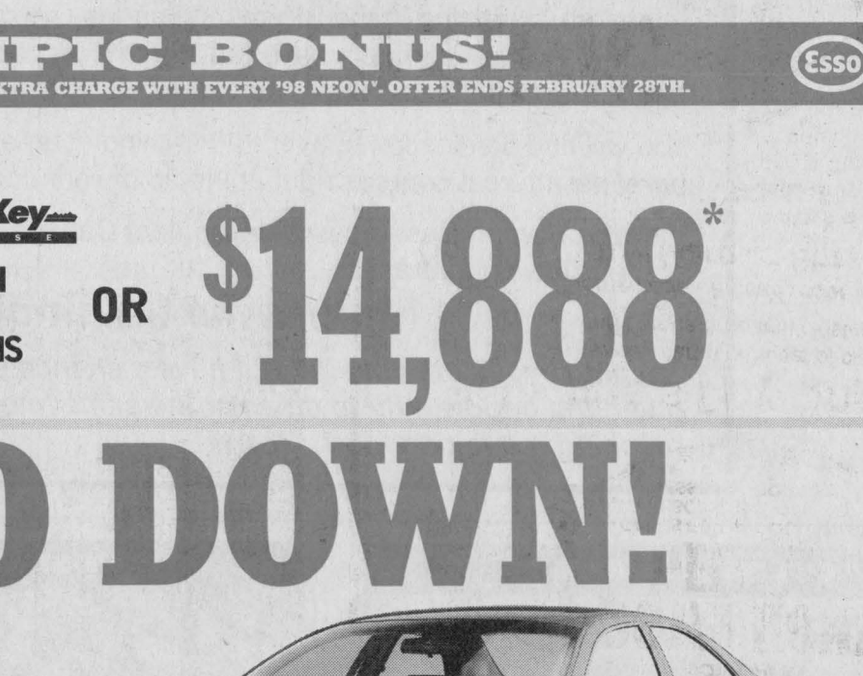
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