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Transport troubles

A transport truck slid into a ditch and rolled onto its right side on County Rd. 31 beside Cass Bridge in the early hours of Feb. 18. The driver was treated at the Winchester hospital for minor injuries and released. The truck was headed southbound on the ice-covered highway and was loaded with Nestle's 20 ounce, rabbit-shaped bottles of chocolate syrup.

Press Photo — Bierworth

Director faces big challenges

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

CORNWALL — The new director of education for the Upper Canada District School Board is both thrilled and apprehensive as he enters into his new job.

"It's a big job but I'm looking forward to it," said Gino Giannandrea. "There are a lot of good people working with the school board and I think we can make it happen."

The board members are currently setting its major directives to establish where they want to take the board, the new director said. "I will then administer my job to implement their wishes," he said.

Board chairperson June Timmons said that the decision of a new director of education was a difficult one. "It was an exhausting, lengthy process," she said. "But now that the decision has been made we are very pleased."

The main objective, he told the Press, is to provide a high quality of education for the board's students. "We have to not only make sure it is high quality education but we have to make sure that it is perceived that way by everyone: parents, students, the business community and universities," Giannandrea pointed out.

But the challenge is the massive size of the new board which combined four school boards upon amalgamation: SD&G, Prescott-Russell, Leeds-Grenville and Lanark boards.

"It's very big," Giannandrea said. "And not only in size, but in density of population. It's the biggest board in terms of both size and population mix in the province. There are 40,000 students and 4,000 employees."

• please see DIRECTOR on page 2

North Dundas hires accountant for tax help

WINCHESTER — The process of figuring out the interim levy for the Township of North Dundas is a confusing one, according to township treasurer Bonnie Dingwall.

New taxes and legislative changes that came with amalgamation have confused the matter. The four wards that make up the township are rated at different values this year, which is creating problems for the administration of North Dundas.

Chesterville was rated at 1984 market value, Winchester village and Mountain Township were at 1988 values and Winchester Township was rated at full market value.

The township's expenses from the ice storm amounted to about half a million dollars which was added to the regular expenses for the year. Trying to work the disaster funds that are already spent into the budget has been difficult. And there is no projection on the cost of spring clean-up.

In determining the interim levy, administration will have to figure out how much each person should pay as the interim levy is to be half of the total taxes collected in 1997.

The fact that there is no more mill rate, leaving property to be taxed on a straight percentage of value basis has confused matters more. And there are special ratios for property classifications.

The township will seek the advice of an accountant for guidance in figuring the process out.

Help is on the way: 911 coming soon

CORNWALL — Starting on April 22, residents in SD&G will be able to dial 911 in an emergency situation.

This municipal service places calls over a dedicated network which bypasses the public telephone system.

The 911 number connects the caller to a central emergency reporting bureau. County Council has decided Bell Neutral Answer Service in Ottawa will answer the initial 911 call.

At BNAS, professionally trained operators determine the nature of the emergency and route the calls to the appropriate dispatch agency for police, fire or ambulance. The BNAS staff is fully bilingual, and access to simultaneous translation for over 100 languages via AT&T Language Line Service is provided.

• please see 911 on page 2

Osgoode bids on ambulance service contract

by Jeff Brownlee

METCALFE — Osgoode Township is chasing ambulances.

Provincial downloading of the emergency service to upper-tier municipalities and the expiration of its five-year contract with the current supplier, has convinced the township to bid on providing the service to its 16,000 residents at least for the next 21 months.

The deadline for proposals to the Ministry of Health's ambulance services division is Feb. 26. It's expected Osgoode will submit one of at least five other bids, the best of which will be awarded the new contract by a five-member selection committee for a targeted April start-up date.

Under the former system, the province financed most of the bill for the service. But that changed Jan. 1, 1998 with the transfer of both administrative and financial responsibility to counties and regions.

The chance to have some control over how tax dollars are spent to finance this service is the driving force behind the township's proposal, according to Osgoode CAO Moira Winch.

"If we're paying for it, we would like to have a hand in it," she adds.

Mayor Doug Thompson agrees.

"The province wants to get out of the ambulance business," he says. "We want to be masters of our own destiny."

• please see OSGOODE on page 2

Part One: Iroquois on the air

Seaway students storm the school airwaves



Sunnie Canton of Brinston reads the news on The Storm, Seaway District High School's internal radio station that is student run as part of a communications/broadcasting course. The station is awaiting CRTC approval in order to hit the airwaves in Iroquois and Morrisburg. Press Photo — Culliton

Ontario high schools seem to be switching gears, not away from academic studies, but towards more hands-on, technical studies and communications arts. In the Seaway Valley this tendency is evident at three area secondary schools — North Dundas District High School, Osgoode Township High School and Seaway District High School.

For the next three weeks, the Press will examine the unique communications and technical programs offered at each high school, and the benefits to the students as they learn in such creative surroundings. Part One: Iroquois on the air.

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

IROQUOIS — "Good afternoon, Seaway. Here is the CISD weekly news report for Friday, February 27."

That's what the students of Seaway District High School will be hearing this Friday afternoon on the school's very own radio station, The Storm. The student-run station is only broadcast within the high school at the moment, but the school is awaiting CRTC approval to hit the airwaves in Iroquois and Morrisburg.

The radio station is one component of a communications department at Seaway that combines learning in radio and television with media English.

The course is not your ordinary academic class. For one thing, there is no structured classroom with students sitting in rows of desks, eyes on teacher.

No, the classroom is ordinarily a confusion of bodies milling around, creating videos, writing scripts, and sometimes just goofing off.

"We try to let the students do what they have to," says teacher Jim Millard. "There are times when a project partner doesn't show up for school so the other partner is unable to go ahead with the project. But other times you see them really

• please see RADIO on page 2

Continued from the front page...

Director

He added, "In three days this week I put over 1,000 km on my car. That's 12 hours of driving time alone."

And the monstrous school board was fought from the beginning, Giannandrea said.

"Our position with the government was that this was not the right move," he explained. "We told the government that it won't save any money and it's just not equitable. It's not in anybody's best interest. But we will make it work."

He added that a more economical move would have been to combine the four boards into two new boards, with Lanark and Leeds-Grenville as one board, and SD&G and Prescott-Russell making up the second.

"This is all the government's doing," he said. "We fought it but nobody would listen. And that was not just one board protesting — it was all four.

"But keep in mind," he added, "the current board is not fighting anymore. They're just getting on with business."

Timmons added, "For the director the size of the board provides an incredible challenge to be familiar and seen in all parts of the board."

The other challenge is communications within the massive board. "For instance," Timmons said, "there are currently four policy books from the previous boards. It will be a challenge to blend them all together or come up with a new policy."

She added, "The storm is a good example of the difficulties of such a big board. For me, the power was off for about 12 hours. Yet in the rural areas it was up to two weeks. It impacted differently on all the different areas of the board. It's difficult to come up with a policy that will cover the emergency needs for all of the different areas.

"There will be other issues like that because schools offer different programs. It's such a wide range of communities."

The next issue to deal with will be the location of the new board.

"There's a lot of work to do," Timmons said. "We have begun looking for a location for the school board. We've heard one presentation from Brockville and we expect to hear a presentation from Cornwall in March. We're receiving it all with an open mind, and we hope we can make a decision by spring."

One of the top issues for the board relocation, Timmons said, is funding. "The ministry has not yet released the funding," she said. "So we're trying to plan and organize without knowing what kind of funds we have. We can begin the research, but we will have to wait to go further until we know about the money."

The amount of funding the board receives will determine the course of action the it is able to take, Timmons said. "In the past we could get government grants and then raise taxes locally to make up the difference," she pointed out. "But that's not an option now. We have to live within the parameters of the funding."

Radio

Several years ago, the school received a TERF grant — Technical Education Renewal Fund — from the government. The teacher who was in charge of the communications department at that time got his application for the grant in early, and it paid off, Millard says.

"We got the whole $200,000 that was available. It was fast, and we were lucky," he says.

With the money, the school went to Ross Video in Iroquois for help, where Millard worked at the time. Millard and John Ross, the owner of the business, designed a studio, specified equipment that was needed, built walls in the communications department, and then hooked up the equipment.

Now a television control room contains a wall of television monitors, switchers, VTRs and records, a sound board — all the professional equipment needed. The radio station is digitalized, with state-of-the-art equipment.

Three classes of 20 students converge on the communications department and its equipment every day. And it's clear that they find the class fun, and tend to pour themselves into their projects, sometimes surprising their instructor with their creativity.

"We are entering a video contest through YTV in March," Millard says. "They want the students to generate ideas for a 30 second promo for drinking and driving to lead up to the prom. It needs to be creative, and these students have been."

One such video shows Barbie and Ken dolls in the Barbie mobile speeding up a highway, throwing beer bottles out the windows. But behind the scenes, Barbie and Ken are in the car on a green floor, in front of a green screen. A magazine picture of a highway is superimposed onto the screen.

Ryan McQuigge, 18, is a grade 12 student in the course. He hopes to attend Algonquin College in Ottawa to study television broadcasting, in hopes of being a cameraman, when he finishes his OACs.

"I always wanted to work in television," he says. "I love video and switching. I like behind the scenes work."

Duane VanderMeulen, 17, took an opportunity to be a co-op student of Millard's. The Seaway student has already taken the courses within the school, but now he is able to help teach other students.

"I want to go to Algonquin next year for television broadcasting," VanderMeulen says. "Not many schools have this kind of opportunity. I hope that it helps me get into college. I like sports, and I would like to work behind the scenes, and maybe do a bit in front of the camera, too."

Lisa Levett, 17, of Iroquois took the technical part of the course last year and is now a peer tutor for the course. She loves doing work on the school's radio.

"Students take morning or noon hour shifts, and we have to follow a broadcasting format as we would at a real radio station," she explains. would normally be heard on a school's public address system, including sports, course information and guidance office information, are played on the radio and last about five minutes. It is entirely read by students.

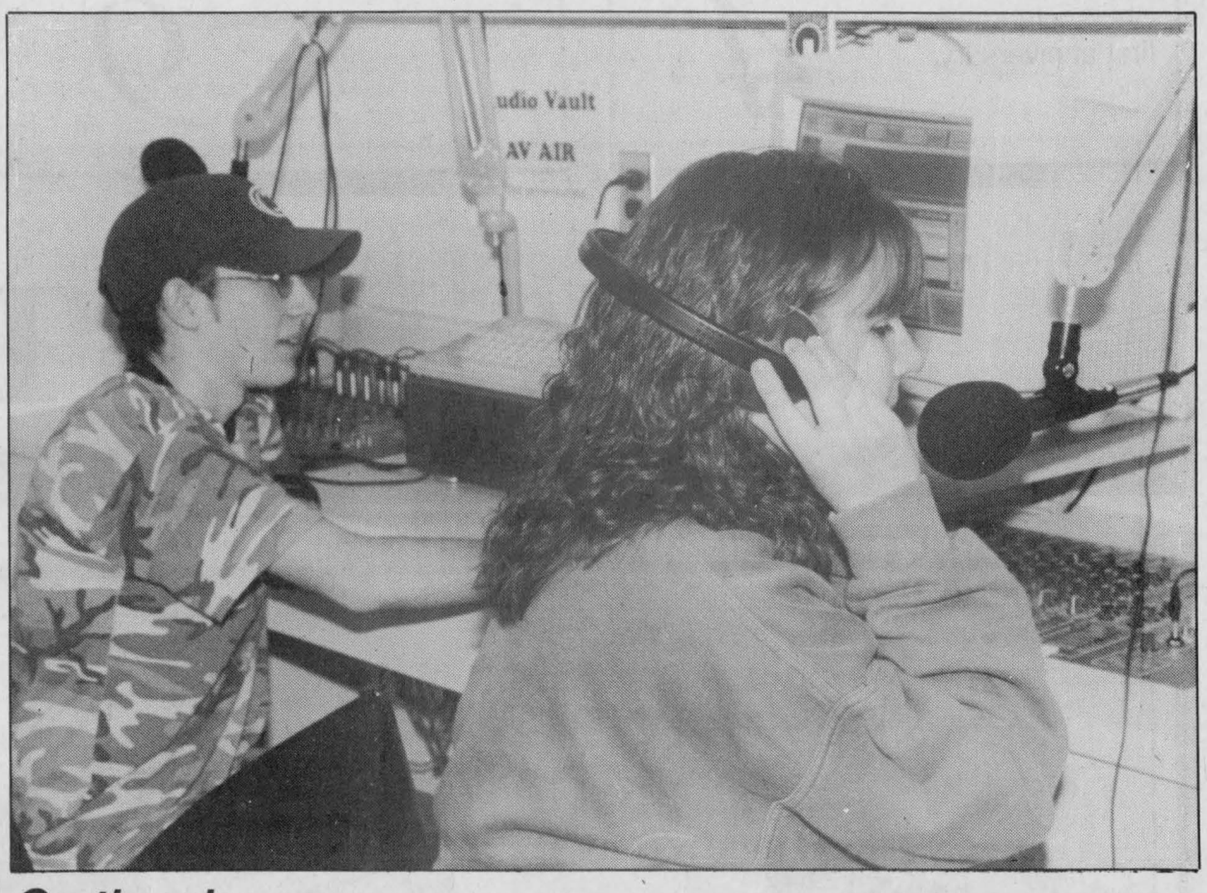
"The frequency for The Storm will be at 107.7 FM," Millard says. "We know that the frequency is available. We just have to wait for CRTC approval, and we have to negotiate with Bell Canada to get on their tower. We also need to find a sponsor. It's all ready — we just need a licence."

Millard, who went to Queen's after working at Ross Video to get his Bachelor of Education, was lucky enough to get a job at Seaway doing what he loves best five years ago.

In terms of the communications course, Millard feels that it's just another way for students to learn.

"There is definitely room for improvement in students' literacy skills. They don't seem to get the writing and speaking skills that they should," he says. "So we use English in a technical course. They're learning, but they're not realizing that they're learning, which is the best way.

"They're learning by doing, and their own peers are their audience."



On the air

Lisa Levett of Iroquois, right, and Simon Garlough of Williamsburg record the school announcements to be played on The Storm, Seaway District High School's internal radio station. The station is part of a communications broadcasting course at Seaway.
Press Photo – Culliton

911

The TTY and TDD service is also provided for hearing or speech impaired callers.

Another feature of the 911 service is the automatic number identification and location identification, which enables emergency services to locate a caller who may be incoherent or unable to talk during a crisis.

The OPP Communications Centre in Kanata will dispatch all OPP calls for SD&G, and the North Glengarry Police will dispatch all calls for the former town of Alexandria.

The Centralized Ambulance Communications Centre in Ottawa will dispatch all calls for ambulance service in SD&G.

Fire dispatch will be contracted by municipal councils Canpage in Cornwall. Alexandria Telephone Answering Service and Osgoode Fire Communications serve the various municipalities across SD&G.

In 1993, Bell Canada filed an application with its regulator, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), that will enable all Ontario customers to have access to 911 service.

The plan called for all residents served by Bell to have access to 911 service for a small monthly fee that would be included on telephone bills and would cover the costs of developing, deploying and maintaining the dedicated network providing access to 911 service.

In March of 1992, the United Counties began implementing Countywide Civic Addressing. The first civic address signs were posted in the spring of 1993 and the majority were posted by fall of 1993.

By December 31, 1996, address range maps and street indexes were completed for each municipality using Bell Canada mapping specifications.

The United Counties issued a letter of intent in January of 1997, confirming the municipalities' decision to implement the 911 service.

At the same time, the 911 technical committee was formed with members representing the various emergency services (fire, police and ambulance) and their dispatch agencies, municipal councils, Bell Canada and the Roxborough Telephone Company.

The SD&G Publicity Committee would like to remind residents of the United Counties that the 911 service is a universal number reserved for reporting and requesting assistance in emergency situations only. Non emergency calls should be directed to a separately listed seven-digit number. The cost of the 911 service will show up on your monthly phone bill as a cost of 32 cents.

Osgoode

While the township won't discuss financial implications nor the details of the proposal until it submitted later this week, Winch assures if the township is awarded the contract, it will be the taxpayers who benefit.

"This is an opportunity for us," she adds. "We could do it in a cost-effective, efficient manner."

No other municipality in the region provides the emergency service. Rural-Metro Ambulance Service has 22 ambulances and 44 attendants in the region, including four that work out of the village of Osgoode.

Andrew Orchard, president of the Ottawa-Carleton Paramedic Association, admits that this process is adding to an already confusing, stressful time for attendants in the region. Osgoode's four full-time staff received layoff notices effective April 1. But Orchard's confident all will remain employed, somewhere, when the new or current contractor takes over in two months.

"Morale is low and we need more staff," he says. "We have no idea who is going to manage the service. We're always the last to hear what's going on."

Still, the attendants' ultimate goal is to provide the best possible care for the taxpayers, he adds.

Winch agrees. And she feels that this can be accomplished in the administrative realm of the township.

"It shouldn't be privatized," she says. "In the public sector, health care isn't driven by profit, it's driven by service."

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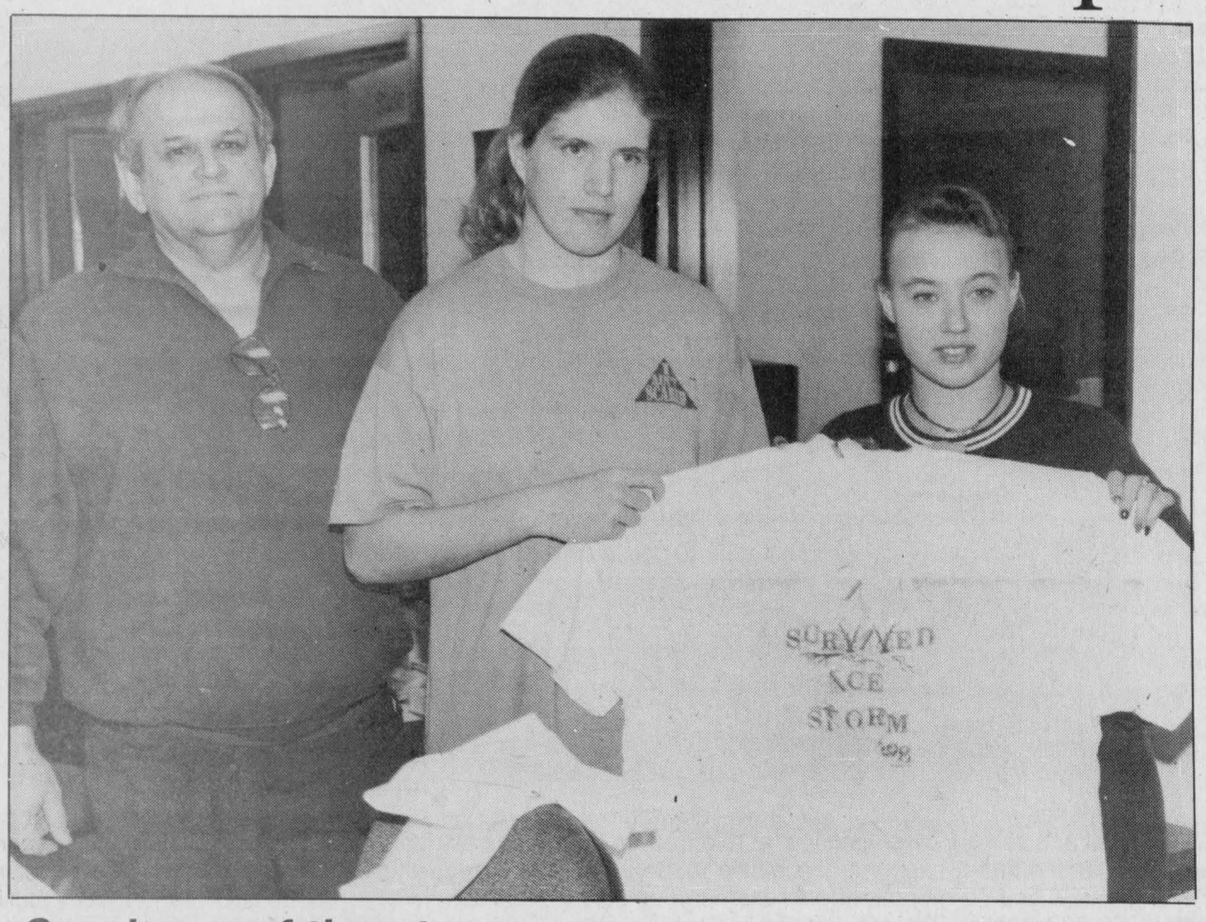
Survival T-shirts sell up a storm



Survivors of the storm

Students at Osgoode Township High School are making "I survived Ice Storm 1998" t-shirts and donating the proceeds to the Ice Storm Relief Aid. Above, teacher Alex Kiskis watches as Tiffany Edwards and Patricia Herweyer hold up a t-shirt hot off the press. Press Photo — Culliton

METCALFE — The students of Osgoode Township High School are doing their part to donate to the ice storm relief fund for Ottawa-Carleton by making ice storm survival t-shirts.

The design on the shirts was donated by former school employee Elizabeth Rodie who now lives in Ottawa. During January's ice storm and its aftermath, Rodie visited her daughter who lives in the Metcalfe area and was shocked by the devastation to the region.

Rodie used her artistic inclinations to design a shirt for her grandchildren, and then donated the design to be used by OTHS.

"The shirts have a really classy design," said school employee Brenda Rainey. "It's not cartoonish. It really displays Elizabeth Rodie's artistic talent."

Students in the tech department of the school are working with state of the art computerized equipment to fill orders for the shirts, led by teachers Alex Kiskis and Vitus So.

Orders can be made through the school office, and the shirts can be viewed at Metcalfe Variety and the Royal Bank branch in Metcalfe.

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Mountain Musings

by Shirley Mills

The Hallville annual winter carnival and pancake breakfast is coming up this weekend. It is held at the Hallville rink on Sun., March 1, with the breakfast running from 9 am to 1 pm and the carnival following (from 1 to 3 pm.) And don't forget that as well as the children's races and games, there will be sleigh rides. Fun for the whole family.

I guess we are only a little bit paranoid. The suggestion that there might be some "freezing rain" in a recent weather forecast, meant we only checked the candles and batteries for the flashlights but didn't fill the bathtub with water. We were fortunate that although our power dotted in and out for the morning last week, that was all. We have a microwave oven which goes off at the slightest burp in the power and we would just get it reset when off it would go again. We finally left it off. We did wonder if a Hydro worker somewhere was working off his frustration by waiting just long enough for clocks to be reset and joyfully pushing the button again. Probably not.

Disaster claim forms available

CORNWALL — The SD&G Disaster Relief Committee ensured that the official claim forms for small business help were available in the six municipal offices on Monday. Small business owners are urged to fill out forms and mail them to the address given on the reverse of the form for "Small Business Relief" in Ottawa.

Claims are limited to the buying and renting of generators, pruning trees for safety, the essential operation of a tourism business, cleaning up or replacing damaged inventory, repair of essential equipment and clean-up of ice storm damage so that business can reopen.

The Ministry of Economic Development Trade and Tourism which administers this small business program (less than 100 employees) has promised rapid turn-around on these claims.

Homeowners, farmers and other claimants not covered by this program should continue to submit damage estimate forms. The committee is increasing office personnel to process your estimate form. The SD&G Disaster Relief Committee requests the patience of residents.

The local disaster relief committee and the umbrella group of eastern Ontario are still awaiting provincial decision on lost wages and revenue.

Much will depend on the amount of fundraising and donations in SD&G. The Red Cross has given $2 million of nationwide donations to eastern Ontario. That money qualifies for the matching four-to-one formula by Ontario.

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School board moving to Kemptville

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

KEMPTVILLE — The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario will be officially located in Kemptville, the most central point in the widely spread, newly amalgamated board, by September.

"The number one reason for choosing Kemptville is that it will allow staff members of all the boards that were combined to make the new board to vie for jobs," said board chairperson Nancy Kirby.

"If we located to Smiths Falls it would be a long commute for people who live at the other side of the board boundary. The same would happen if we relocated to Cornwall," she explained.

Having the board office in Kemptville, she said, will be most equal for all employees. The maximum commuting time for any employee, she said, would be one hour, 15 minutes.

The new board, which spans the same area as the newly formed Upper Canada District School Board, stretches east to Hawkesbury, north to Pakenham, southwest to Smiths Falls and Perth, and south to Gananoque and Lancaster.

"For now, we've been holding our board meetings in different locations throughout the board," Kirby said. "But we've found that it is too difficult to have different systems and departments in different locations."

The decision about locating in Kemptville was unanimous the board's inaugural meeting in early December. "Kemptville has a super education and support staff," she said.

The cost of setting the board office in Kemptville is not yet known, Kirby said. "We hope that we can offset the cost by renting out space in our former board offices in Cornwall and Smiths Falls," she said. "Or else we may have to look at selling the facilities."

She added, "Kemptville was the most appropriate of all the sites we looked at. And the board has land so it can build a facility or else look at renting space.

"We purchased 25 acres of land in Kemptville in the middle of 1997 with the hopes of building a new high school," Kirby explained. "There's more than ample room for both a high school and a board office. But we're still looking around."

Thrift store donates $8,000 during first year

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — The Winchester 100 Club celebrated the first anniversary of its thrift store by giving away money. That is, donations to the charities it supports through store sales.

The store opened on Feb. 13, 1997. In the store's first 12 months of operation, past president Jim McVey said, the 100 Club has given away $8,000.

Last Wednesday, the 100 Club rounded off that number with cheque presentations to the Winchester District Memorial Hospital Foundation and the WDMH Auxiliary. The Ottawa Heart Institute and CHEO also received cheques for $200 each.

The hospital foundation was presented with $2,200. That brings the total donations to the foundation by the thrift store to $4,400. The hospital auxiliary received $1,400 last Wednesday, with total donations received from the 100 Club Thrift Store reaching $2,800.

"I had hoped the store would make $10,000 in its first year, but we didn't quite make it," McVey told the *Press*. Sales amounted to roughly $9,800.

However, the store exceeded original projections of $5,000 to $8,000 in sales. Nearing the end of the year, McVey said, he realized that a goal of $10,000 was not out of reach, and they almost made it. The remainder of the money was used to pay rent for the store and electricity costs.

"We hope to do as well or better next year, because there is some competition in the area now with consignment stores in the village and a strong demand for good used merchandise," he said. He cited competition that included a for-profit firm in Ottawa that makes phone calls for donations and picks up used articles from citizens' homes.

The store is in need of good, used clothing and toys. Donations can be dropped off at the store on Main Street in the basement at Clara's Dressmaking Shop. The store hours are Thursdays from 10 am until 3 pm and Saturday from 9:30 am until noon.

The store boasts a good staff of 60 volunteers, McVey said.

"We have found that we are able to meet two needs in the community," McVey said. "One, as an outlet for people to drop off their old clothing, and secondly to offer good, used clothing to benefit members of the community."



Winchester's 100 Club Thrift Store celebrated its first anniversary by presenting more money to the charities that it supports. Donations made in the store's first 12 months of operation amounted to $8,000 in total. Pictured, left, Bevis Graham, past president of 100 Club, presents a cheque for $2,200 to Dr. Duane Justice, a member of the Winchester District Memorial Hospital Foundation. At right, past president Ed Boyd presents Marion Carkner, representative of the WDMH Auxiliary, with a cheque for $1,400. Donations were also made to the Ottawa Heart Institute and CHEO.

Press Photo — Culliton

Seven ice storm projects funded

CORNWALL — The Honourable Don Boudria, Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, on behalf of the Honourable Pierre S. Pettigrew, Minister of Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), announced funding of $2.7 million for seven ice storm relief projects in the Cornwall area. These funds have been made available through HRDC's $50 million Storm Assistance Fund.

"The January ice storm was one of the worst natural disasters ever to hit our region," said Boudria. "These projects will help farmers and other residents repair the damage. I'm proud that we can work with local organizations to assist the storm victims and provide experience to unemployed people at the same time."

The government of Canada is working in partnership with numerous organizations. The projects will bring together the Eastern Maple Sugar Bush Association, New Beginnings for Youth, South Nation Conservation, Raisin Region Conservation Authority, Alfred College of the University of Guelph, Prescott-Russell Federation of Agriculture, Union des cultivateurs franco-ontariens, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Seaway Valley Tourism Association, City of Cornwall, United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Disaster Relief Committee, Townships of North and South Stormont, the townships of North and South Glengarry, and Human Resources Development Canada.

The projects will provide 146 Ontario residents with valuable job experience and will help others cope with the effects of the ice storm.

Under the Storm Assistance Fund (SAF), the Government of Canada set aside up to $50 million for emergency assistance in the provinces seriously affected by the ice storm. Under Part II of the Employment Insurance Act, up to $40 million of these funds will be allocated for special measures such as job creation partnerships and targeted wage subsidies.

An additional $5 million will be used to hire young Canadians under the Governments of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy (Youth Internship, Youth Service Canada).

Another $5 million will provide assistance to those affected areas in order to allow individuals who do not meet SAF eligibility requirements under Employment Insurance Act Part II or youth programming to help in the reconstruction process.

These special measures will enable communities to hire eligible persons immediately so that they can contribute to the reconstruction, repair and clean-up activities in stricken areas.

The Government of Canada is responding in many different ways to the ice storm disaster. More than 20 federal departments and agencies are involved with emergency relief, compensation, clean up, rebuilding, job creation and other forms of assistance.

New Beginnings for Youth has created 20 short-term jobs, and has been given $200,000 by the HRDC to help clear fallen branches, trim trees, rebuild fences and do other repair work.

On a $324,426 donation from the HRDC, the South Nation Conservation will be cleaning up waterways, drains, parks and public land. Six crews, with 24 employees in all, will cut and remove debris.

Only one full-time job was created by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The MNR received a donation of $41,238 from the HRDC.

This project sponsor will be providing an on-site advisory service for private woodlot owners whereby a resource technician will provide advice to woodlot owners to manage their properties.



Back, left to right: Juli Kerr, Tracy Barkley, Lorna Kerr. Front: Joanna Kerr, Bruce Kerr, Joanne Moran.

Seniors give to storm fund

by Jean Casselman

WILLIAMSBURG — On Tues., Feb. 17 23 members of the Williamsburg Township Seniors Group enjoyed a potluck dinner at the Park Lane Seniors' Support Centre.

The meal was followed by their business monthly dinner. President Ed Thompson opened the meeting with O Canada and Hilda Garlough played the accompaniment.

Following the roll call the reports were heard. The correspondence included a thank you from the Williamsburg Community Association and an appeal from the SD&G Disaster Committee for assistance. A donation of $50 was made to this appeal.

Upon the retirement of Ed Thompson, Olin Smith will be the new president. The auditors appointed are Joyce Patterson and Muriel Miller.

Following adjournment members enjoyed playing cards.

NOTICE TO CLIENTS

We would like to inform our clients that Bruce will be away March 8 to 28 to accompany his daughter Juli to Miami for specialized treatment. The office will continue to be open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday to Friday. Joanna, Joanne and Tracy will be pleased to assist with any investment needs.

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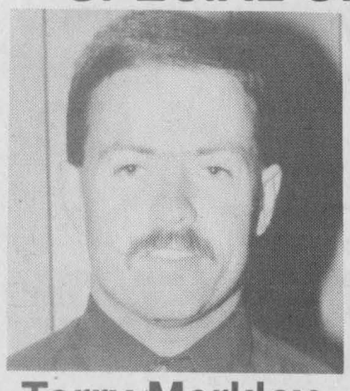

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Right side up

Brent's Towing and Recovery in Morrisburg helped tow a transport truck out of a ditch where it had slid off the road and rolled onto its side. The highway was blocked for several hours as three cables trucks and five air cushions lifted the truck right side up. The accident happened near Cass Bridge along County Rd. 31 at 2 am on Feb. 18.

Press Photos — Bierworth

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

WINCHESTER — An early morning run took a turn for the worse for a Brampton truck driver as his tractor trailer slid off the icy highway by Cass Bridge at about 2 am on Feb. 18.

County Rd. 31 was blocked off the following day from about 3 am until noon as a Morrisburg towing crew worked tirelessly to pull the truck out of the ditch on the west side of the road.

The 1995 Kenworth tractor trailer had been travelling southbound when the accident occurred, and it rolled onto its right side. The driver, 37-year-old Rahul Grewal, was taken to Winchester Hospital, where he was treated for minor injuries and released. Damage to the truck is being listed by the OPP as severe.

The freezing rain and slippery conditions are being blamed for the accident. No charges are expected to be laid.

Blockades were put up along County Rd. 31 at County Rd. 43 East and Dunbar Road.

Brent's Towing and Recovery in Morrisburg arrived at the scene at about 10 pm on Feb. 18, said owner Brent Sandelin, and began preparations to lift the truck out of the ditch.

Five large, orange air cushions, nicknamed 'Florida oranges' because of their southern originality, were placed underneath the right side of the truck, while cables were attached on the roof of the transport, extending to three trucks on the highway.

The air cushions used extend to eight feet high and 50 inches wide, and are only used a couple of times a year in situations where the vehicle is on a downward angle and must be lifted up.

"It's very hard to get people to understand how the air cushions work, because they only take about six pounds of air pressure per square inch," he said. "But with that, we were able to lift 75,000 pounds."

Sandelin said the first concern in a situation like that is the food loaded in the trailer.

"Our first priority is the food," he said. "And the food was ok, because the trailer didn't sustain a terrible amount of damage. After we got the trailer back to Morrisburg, another tractor came to take it away. It was loaded with Nestle Quick. The 20 ounce bunny bottles."

Sandelin said that while the job went well, there were some safety concerns involved.

"It went extremely well," he said. "But the problem was that we had a lot of people come and watch, and they didn't realize what a dangerous situation that was. The cables have a lot of pressure on them, and if one was to break, it would swing around and literally cut someone in half. Those things go through people, medal, anything in its way, and they don't stop. The air cushions, too, were under a lot of pressure and if they were to pop loose, they would fly all the way down to the park, and take everything in its way."

MTO employee Jeff Robertson organized the detour. He said something like this only happens a couple of times a year.

"It's a long detour," he said. "They called us at about midnight and we started planning the detour. It's just part of the job, I guess. The big job now, though, is the guide rail. One of the posts was busted in the accident. They'll just put in a temporary one for now. It probably won't be fixed until spring."

Brent Markell is a truck driver and mechanic from the Tilbar truck company in Cardinal, who was driving along the highway only minutes after the accident.

"I came by here about 2:20 am and saw the truck in the ditch and there was a snowplow sitting on the corner (of County Rd. 31 and Cass Bridge Road)," he said. "I didn't see the driver in the truck and the lights had been turned off on it. I didn't have a phone in my truck, so I radioed a friend on my CB, who called the cops."

Markell said the freezing rain had made the roads "extremely slippery" that night.

He suspects Grewal had been driving near the edge of the road, and was caught off guard when it got narrower just after Cass Bridge Road.

"The road was like a bottle," he said. "Just covered with ice. It would've been easy to go off like that."

After crisis help available

CORNWALL — Dealing with the aftermath of a crisis like the recent ice storm involves more than trimming trees, restocking the fridge and enjoying a hot shower. Some "storm survivors" and their families are also facing the psychological aftermath of the storm: post-traumatic shock syndrome or delayed onset stress.

"For some, the full impact of the storm's financial, personal and emotional effects hit almost immediately. For others the shock has yet to fully sink in. People deal with trauma in their own way and in their own time," said Dr. Robert Bourdeau of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit. "There's no timetable, no set schedule for dealing with such a life experience."

It's not usual, he said, for some people to show no signs of stress at all — right now. "Some people may well be dealing with the crisis in a relatively stress-free way. But for others, the stress may still be a few weeks or even months away."

Bourdeau said family members, friends and co-workers can provide needed support to anyone experiencing post-traumatic stress by first recognizing its signs. Provided by the Mental Health Association, the following signs of stress — even months after the ice storm — should not be ignored: depression, change in behavior, irritability, loss of perspective, overwhelming sense of despair, fear and anxiety.

According to Bourdeau, one of the most positive steps in dealing with this type of stress, regardless of when it strikes, is to remember you don't have to deal with it alone.

"Just talking about your anxieties, feelings or the changes you've experienced is crucial to rebuilding mental health," said Bourdeau. He also underlined the link between mental and physical health.

"Eating well, exercising, drinking plenty of water, getting back to routines or things that make you feel good about yourself can all help reduce the fallout of a stressful experience. And no one will disagree that Ice Storm 1998 was a stressful experience."

For more information about coping with stress please call the Health Line at 1-800-267-0852.

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Editorial/Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Don't shoot the messenger

Funny how human nature leads us to lash out at the deliverer of bad news, rather than at the source.

At the onset of the unwelcome news the inclination is to let out the disappointment, grief or other right away. And often, it's the messenger who gets "shot" instead of the real source of the message.

Such is the life that a newspaper editor leads. A news reporter is the messenger and the newspaper is the vehicle. But the source is actually the subject of the story or the person who was interviewed.

Yet newspaper editors receive the phone calls and threats after the printing of a story that irks a reader.

Don't shoot the messenger.

The same goes for letters to the editor, generally found opposite the editorial page.

The letters to the editor section of any newspaper is generally an open forum for readers to express their views, concerns, complaints etc. It is probably the one section of the paper that is not heavily edited (except for spelling, grammar, slander, obscenities...).

It's a chance for readers to offer their opinions. On any subject.

And unless a letter is unsigned or blasphemous, or there's a lack of space, it's printed.

Newspapers value letters to the editor, because it shows feedback from the community and it shows that the community is taking an interest in the issues and in the paper. And it shows that people are reading the work that is put into the newspaper.

When a letter appears in the paper, it is signed by the writer and usually includes the writer's town.

A newspaper does not make these letters up, nor does it endorse everything that it prints, and that includes editorials, columns and other submitted articles.

That's the beauty of the free press. Opinions, whether controversial or otherwise, can be printed and read and disputed or debated or even agreed upon.

So when a reader sees a letter to the editor they particularly do not agree with, they are welcome to have comments about the letter. They are not just welcome but encouraged to write a letter of their own to the editor and express their point of view.

However, a reader should not expect that, because he/she did not agree with said letter that they should demand that the editor print a retraction or do research into the subject before printing a particular letter. Blasting the editor solves nothing.

Take for example the issue of the teachers strike last fall. Newspapers ran balanced stories expressing both sides of the story. And they printed letters from both irate parents and concerned educators.

A newspaper's job is to show both sides of the story. If a letter is printed that doesn't show your side of the story, write a letter and let the public know your side.

Just don't shoot the messenger.

L.C.

This week in...

1948

A young cow, owned by Fred Holmes, gave birth to Siamese twin calves (still-born). The calves were joined at the breast and were normal in every respect. They were both females. As no veterinary surgeon was available when the cow showed signs of freshening, Holmes was assisted by a number of neighbors in helping the cow with the delivery. The cow was not injured.

Melvin Motors slipped into second place in the standing of the local Industrial Hockey League when they defeated the H. S. Lannin sextette 3-1 at the local arena. R. Wylie scored all the Melvin counters, while Pete Steinburg dented the twine for Lannins.

O.V. Stevenson, manager of the local branch of the Royal Bank, received word that he was to be transferred to Edmunston, NB, and that he was to be succeeded by H. O. Balkwill, manager of the Royal Bank at Manotick. Stevenson had served as manager of the local bank for four years, during which time he made many close friends.

1958

Ontario Provincial Police have disclosed that three New Brunswick men have been arrested in connection with the Jan. 21 robbery of a South Mountain bank in which a family was held hostage for almost five hours. An estimated $50,000 in bonds and other valuables was taken in the robbery.

The local committee for the 1958 International Plowing Match had finalized plans for a delegation of 40 people to go to the annual meeting of the Ontario Plowmen's Association, held in Toronto on Feb. 24 and 25. Favors for the event in the form of United Counties cheese and apples were planned.

The young people of St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Williamsburg organized themselves into a Luther League. Ronald Whitteker was elected president, Louise Richmire as vice-president, Erma Whitteker as secretary and Russell Casselman as treasurer.

1968

Prominent speaker Bruce MacNabb was to address the Winchester Chamber of Commerce at the February meeting, which was to take place at the Country Kitchen Restaurant on Feb. 28 at 7 pm. It was expected that all who were interested in town planning would make a special effort to attend, since MacNabb was a specialist in this field.

On Feb. 9, NDDHS students took part in the 10th Annual Model General Assembly at Carleton University. Two delegations were sent, one representing Cuba, and the other Canada. Topics discussed included "Peace in the Mid-East," and "Vietnam." NDDHS press reporter Sue Boyd said, "A great deal of understanding and appreciation of the United Nations was learned by all participants."

Extreme winter temperatures had not delayed work on the Hwy. 43 development, where Mel Forbes of Hallville had completed the clearing of the 120-foot right of way, commencing at Hwy. 31 and proceeding west. Gordon Mulligan had moved in the heavy equipment and work commenced on tearing up asphalt on the 7.2 mile strip of highway. This was a heavily travelled strip of road and the renovations were to be welcomed by the many motorists who would gladly suffer the slight inconvenience caused by the re-building process.

Playoffs in the St. Lawrence Junior "B" Hockey League were to start, with the first games scheduled for Feb. 23. League President Basil Dawley confirmed the fact that the semi-final series was to be a best of five, and the finals best of seven. Although exact standing was not available at press time, it was a safe bet to say that teams competing in the playoffs were to be Maxville, Metcalfe, Cardinal and Prescott.

Alton Riddell was surprised one morning to find a large butterfly on the upstairs window of her home. She had it placed in a jar where she fed it plant leaves. The butterfly was black in color, with a touch of green and gold on its wings.

1978

The Winchester Winter Carnival was one of the biggest and best ever held said recreation director Frank Morgan. He stressed that the family participation was evident in festivities. "It was just tremendous," he said. "There were more crowds than any other time, and the weather was really good." He said more than 500 people attended the United and Presbyterian church suppers, and although attendance was down slightly over the year before, it was still one of the most popular events.

Metcalfe Recreation Association, with financial assistance through a Wintario grant, recently donated a new, modern ice-making machine to the Community Centre Board.

1988

Winchester Township residents were banding together to fight a draft plan that had identified 12 areas in the township with potential as a regional landfill site. Residents concerned about the impact of a long-term waste management study involving 13 municipalities in Dundas and Grenville Counties were to meet to protest the township's participation in the $168,000 study. A brief of their concerns was to be presented to township council at a special meeting.


WINCHESTER PRESS
46 Job Opportunities
Manor On Schedule
Flu Bug Has Not Hit Here
First To Greet New Year
mainline
Appoint Committee To Study Ombudsman Operations
This Week
School Board
Tough Decisions In 1978

A $150,000 facelift to Winchester Public School was to eliminate a potential fire hazard and cut heating costs, said the school's principal, Jim Shaw. The construction of a new stairwell in the southwest corner of the school and the addition of fire doors would allow the old section of the school built in 1927 to meet fire regulations. Shaw said it was more economically feasible to upgrade the existing building than build a new one. He said the old building was also built to serve as a bomb shelter with walls up to two feet thick and the costs of tearing it down would be too high.

A woman complained to the Winchester Press that a neighbor's dogs had been terrorizing her family. Ruth Jones, 65, said that one of the six dogs chained up across the road from her home, two miles south of Metcalfe on the 9th Line, occasionally broke loose and chased members of her family. "My grandson was chased right up to the back door, and that's not the first time," she said of 13-year-old Danny Jones. "It's not fun to have a dog chase you. Are you supposed to get chewed up before something is done?" The Manotick department of the OPP first investigated Jones' complaints on Dec. 24.



Helping to kick your butt... habit

Hack, cough, sputter, snort, cough, hack... Take your pick. These sounds can either come from a smoker who constantly plugs up his/her lungs with cigarette smoke (or cigar or pipe or other substances preferred by Olympic snowboarders).

Or they can emanate from a non-smoker who is subjected to any of the above listed habits, through second-hand smoke.

The first is a choice, the second is a hazard.

Now, now, don't take offence if you are a smoker, please. Just take note. I'm only here to help, and if my words of inane wisdom (or whatever) can inspire even one person to quit their nasty habit, then my work here is done. Incidentally, if you don't smoke but can think of any other nasty habit you might want to quit, so be it. I'm only here to help.

I know that you smokers have heard it all before. But with the number of young smokers rising, and the age of young smokers getting so low, I'm taking this chance to throw some more statistics at you and let you decide for yourself, not only the pollution you're causing yourself and the world, but the image you are setting for young people.

A friend's 11-year-old son tells his mother that, out of a class of 20 fifth graders, roughly five actively smoke. That rate goes higher as the grades do.

Then again, not only have I seen well-informed, very young people starting to smoke — I have seen very-well-informed, supposedly mature, intelligent and aware people over the age of 20 take up the filthy habit.

Please tell me — what can drive an educated, bright person who knows how to read newspapers, has seen the news on television and is well aware of the statistics and the many opportunities for disease... start to smoke?

The statistics are well-known and have been repeated time and time again. However, evidence that the smoking population does again seem to be growing will drive statisticians to keep sending these messages home, so to speak. At least until somebody actually sits up and takes notice.

But seriously...

by Lori Culliton

Taking a stance on the issue is personally hard on myself as one of the most important people in my life has smoked for about 60 years. No, I don't harp, but I hate to see what it has done and may do in the future.

Fact: second-hand tobacco smoke kills almost 4,000 Canadians a year by causing lung cancer, heart disease and emphysema.

Fact: bar and restaurant workers face a 50 per cent greater risk of lung cancer and endure levels of second-hand smoke four to six times greater than found in the home of a smoker, according to the Boston University School of Public Health. In fact The Journal of the American Medical Association reported that waitresses have the highest lung cancer rates among working women.

Fact: second-hand smoke is the third-ranked cause of lung cancer. Eighty per cent of people diagnosed with lung cancer die within two years, according to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Fact: second-hand smoke contains more carbon monoxide, a deadly poison that causes heart disease, than what smokers inhale themselves, according to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Fact: smoking exposure causes about 1,500 Canadian children to be hospitalized for pneumonia each year according to a study published by the University of Massachusetts Medical Centre.

Fact: death rates for lung cancer, which are directly related to smoking, are increasing sharply to the point where more Canadian women die from lung cancer than breast cancer.

Scary fact: researchers reported in the British Medical Journal that tobacco smoke is a much greater risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome than previously suspected. Keeping newborns away from tobacco smoke could reduce the death from SIDS by nearly two-thirds.

March 1 is looming and I am here to encourage any smokers (of any substance) to consider taking up an Ottawa initiative to quit smoking.

Consider this: if nicotine gum hasn't worked, the patch failed and your willpower is nil, a free car, a trip to Florida or $1,000 in cash might just do the job.

"I'm Quitting on March 1st 1998" sounds like a great way to kick your butt habit. The rewards go far beyond money, trips and free cars, but hey — whatever works.

For more information call 613-724-4256.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WDMH patient protests hospital cuts

The Editor:
(Editor's note: This letter was sent to the office of MPP Noble Villeneuve).

If you want to start a "no sense" revolution the first thing to do is label it a "common sense" revolution and appoint a young "no sense" type to run it.

This kind of reasoning has been around for centuries. George Washington was one of the biggest liars that the 18th century produced.

He wanted to be known as "Honest George" so he started the statement, "Yes, father, I cut down that cherry tree" when questioned to prove that he was completely honest.

It is about time that the "common sense" revolution in Ontario be stopped in some areas because it already has done so much damage to many facets, especially hospital and home care, that it will cost enormous amounts of money to put it back into a reasonable system.

To help put a stop to what is now happening I am going to apply some of the dire Irish curses that were taught to me by my Irish ancestors. The first one is: "May you itch forever without the benefit of scratching."

Think about that for a moment, folks. That is quite mean. I'm sure the rest of the Ontario people who do not agree with what is happening will gladly help me by applying even meaner Irish curses to those responsible and their "no sense" helpers.

Come on, folks, let's have a glad period in our history. You're allowed to join the glad period, Noble. I thought for a long time that you had common sense but you have been too quiet recently.

Start making some noise and stop the closure of the third floor in Winchester District Memorial Hospital on April first, today.

Rae Myers
Third floor, WDMH

Searching for biological daughter

The Editor:
I am a birth mother in search of my biological daughter. I want an opportunity to encourage adoptive parents to be more considerate of biological parents.

In my opinion, in most cases a certain level of communication between adoptive parents and adopted children determines how long biological parents wait to be reunited. Eighteen-year-olds who have been reunited with biological parents are usually the ones who were placed with parents who encouraged them to do so.

On April 20, 1979 in Woodstock, Ontario, I had no other alternative but to place my daughter for adoption. When I came home from the hospital I was forced to shut-up for the next 18 years and I have lived in emotional pain ever since. Since April 20, her 18th birthday, I have been slipping into that state of mind that I was in 18 years ago.

I don't want to go there!

Please, adoptive parents: biological parents need to heal!

Take into consideration that adopted children need to talk openly and need to express their feelings about wanting to search. Adoptive parents need to realize that it's not about coming back to take them away. It's about healing and having a loving relationship that is an extension of the love they already have.

I have an adopted brother who will always be my brother, even when he locates his biological parents.

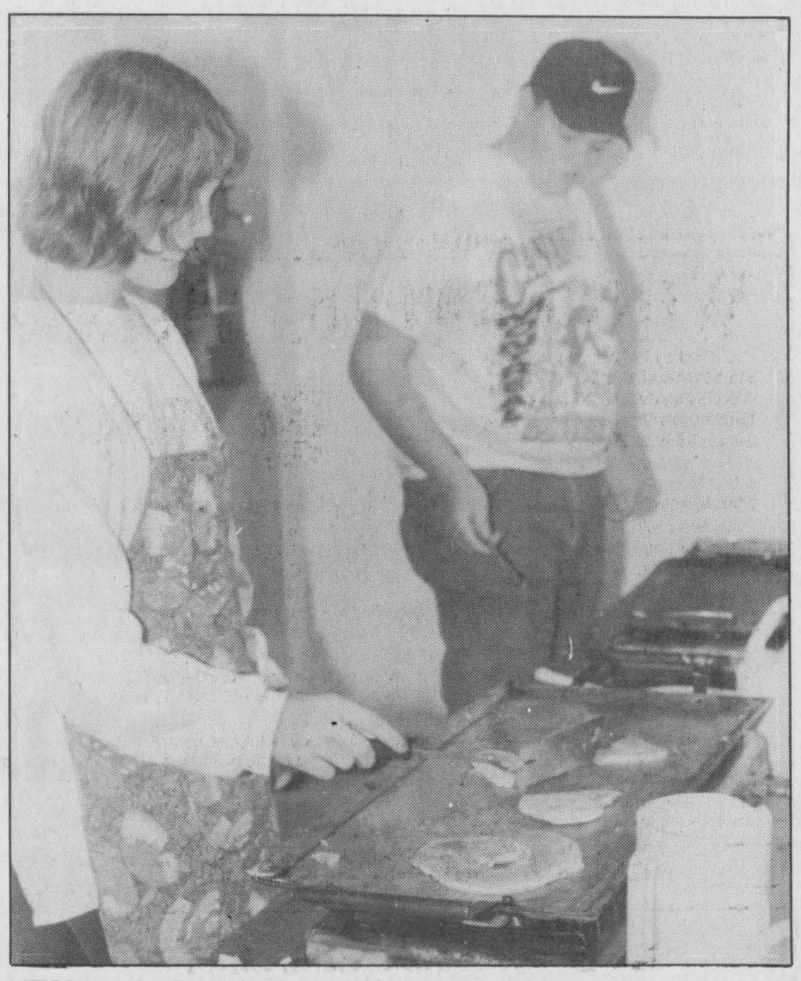
Many children, including my brother, have been placed with parents who didn't communicate with their children. These are the children who seem to wait until mid-20s or much later to search.

Please adoptive parents, don't leave biological parents in misery for another number of years past the 18th birthday. Live up to the legal and moral responsibilities and encourage your child to register (at Toronto Adoption Disclosure at 1-416-327-4730) to allow others to love them too.

In my opinion, when more adoptive parents communicate with their children, more 18-year-olds will be searching for biological parents. When this happens, we will be able to point out to government that there is no reason adoption records couldn't be opened.

Communication is the key.

Barb Drake
Georgetown, PEI



Flippin' out

Andrea Velthuis and Matt Lavergne flip pancakes at the pancake breakfast held at the Vernon Recreation Centre on Feb. 22. Over 200 people came to the breakfast, which also featured sausages and pure maple syrup. The event raised money for the Vernon Trust Fund, which is set up to help the town with functions.

Press Photo – Bierworth

Tagwi curling team deserved better

The Editor:
I would like to comment on last week's article regarding high school curling. The article explained that in the girls division North Dundas advanced because no other teams entered. What the article failed to explain when it reported that North Dundas advanced as "A" representatives in the boys division was that it was not done on the ice but in the boardrooms.

Tagwi High School defeated both Cornwall and North Dundas but because they were short one curler, they filled out their team with one student from the lower school, a grade eight student. The coach from Tagwi checked with the EOSSAA convenor beforehand to verify that this was allowed. The EOSSAA convenor confirmed that everything was okay.

After these teams were defeated they protested and were able to advance because the convenor was in error.

Even though Tagwi did everything above board and it was the EOSSAA convenor who erred, it was the students who suffered. Tagwi is appealing the decision but they do not expect the ruling to be overturned.

I would like to congratulate the Tagwi curlers because they curled exceptionally well and deserved better.

Bill Dellaire
Winchester

Thanks to media for ice storm reports

The Editor:
Newspapers have always played a crucial role in helping the Eastern Ontario Health Unit promote healthy messages. The recent ice storm, however, helped underscore the importance of that role.

Never before in Ontario history has the population so relied on the media for its very safety and well-being. From bulletins on hypothermia to details about the dangers of carbon monoxide fumes, the media have helped keep readers updated and informed on a variety of health and safety issues.

The actual number of lives saved as a result of your publication of these storm-related media releases may never be known, but this much is known: your readers, as well as the health unit, graeatly appreciate your continued dedication to public health and safety.

Dr. Robert Bourdeau
Medical Officer of Health

OPINION

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.

MPP salutes ice storm volunteers

The Editor:
As we make our way through the recovery I would like to personally pay tribute to the literally thousands of volunteers who so selflessly gave of their time and energy to assist the people of eastern Ontario during January's ice storm.

As the minister responsible for Public Safety in Ontario and a resident of eastern Ontario, I toured the emergency areas and saw first-hand the genuine difference made by volunteers.

Their efforts in difficult and often dangerous situations were commendable, particularly in view of the fact that many of these volunteers were themselves also victims of the storm.

I believe we can all take pride in recognizing that each community had volunteers who stood up courageously to make a difference. Working hand in hand with police, firefighters, military and other public safety personnel, they played an invaluable role in the ice storm relief efforts.

I salute those ice storm volunteers for outstanding service to their fellow citizens.

Robert W. Runciman, MPP
Leeds-Grenville
Solicitor General and
Minister of Correctional Services

War Museum controversy continues

The Editor:
The Museum of Civilization capitulated on the main issue in an announcement on Feb. 18 that the Holocaust Gallery would not be included in the expansion plans for the War Museum.

There are still some unanswered questions which veterans placed before the Senate Subcommittee, such as: the War Museum should have its own board separate from the Museum of Civilization; and the government should honor the financial commitment made by the Museum of Civilization ($7 million).

The advisory committee, headed by the Honorable Barnett Danson, should be able to operate independently of the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Civilization.

Note: this will be difficult under the present circumstances, as Danson is only one of 11 members of the main museum board; moreover, the advisory committee still includes the main players who caused the controversy, Adrienne Clarkson, Joseph Geurts, chief operating officer, and Dr. George MacDonald, president and CEO for the main museum board.

H. Clifford Chatterton,
OC, O.Ont., DCL, LLD
Chairman, National Council of Veteran Associations



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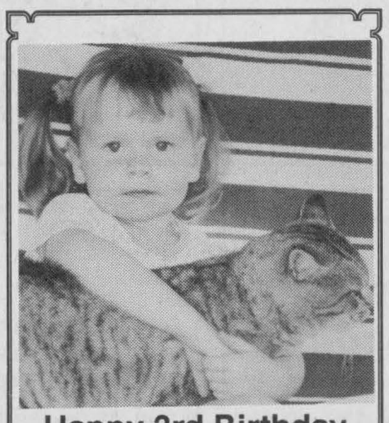

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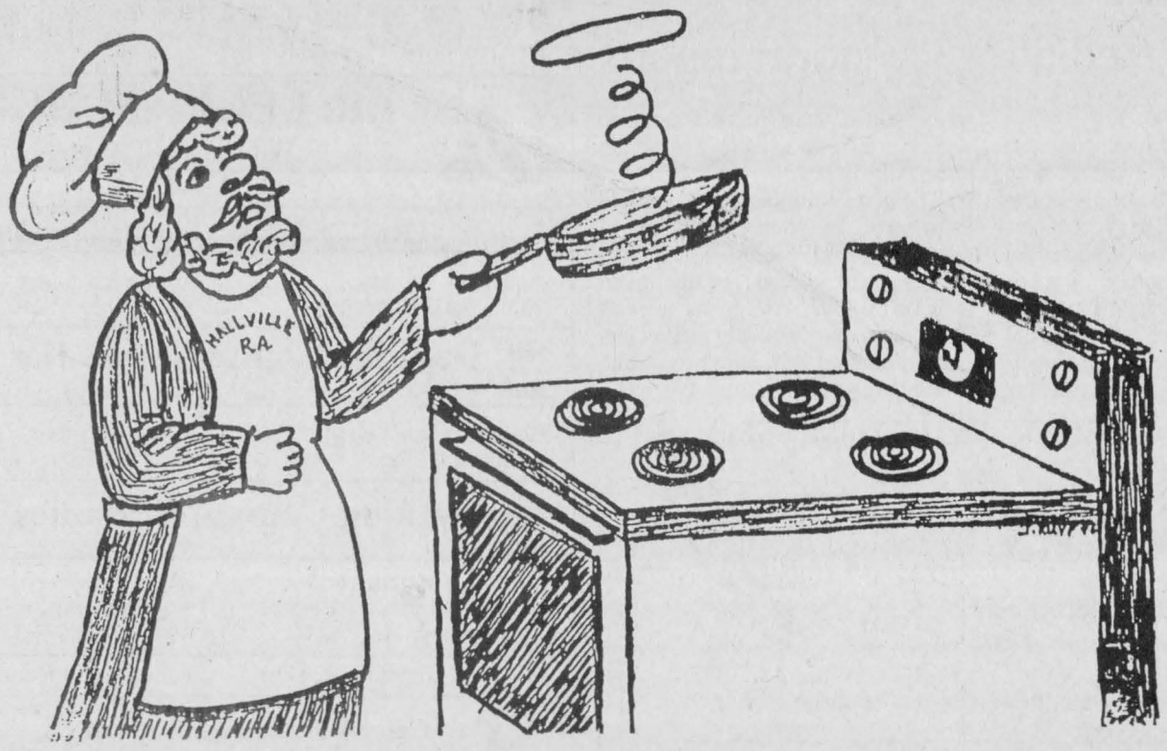

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Beaudry pumps energies into new gym

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

WINCHESTER — Many of us would love to get in shape, lose some weight, or pump up some muscles, but don't have the time to do it.

But the owner of a new gym in town hopes to change that.

The California Gym, at 691 St. Lawrence St., held its grand opening last Wednesday night, a milestone for owner Jason Beaudry, 18, who is in his first year of the two-year small business program at Algonquin College in Ottawa.

Beaudry feels the gym fills a need in the community and said so far the business has been successful.

"I've had a lot of people come in and check prices," he said of opening night. "It seems like fun. I saw a need for a gym in Winchester, because the closest gyms are in Kemptville and Embrun."

Beaudry came up with the idea for the gym last December and hasn't looked back since. He renovated a vacant farm equipment building on his family's property, and filled it with new exercise equipment and about six cardiovascular machines. Customers, he said, are impressed.

"I was offered some used equipment by a place that was closing down, but the cushions were all ripped and dirty, and people don't want to see that," he said. "So I got the new equipment and I keep the place clean. Several people have already signed up."

Beaudry spent eight years learning karate and has earned his black belt as well as a few recent awards at competitions. He takes Jui-Jitsu classes at night and has spent the past year and a half training at a gym.

Before opening the business, he talked to several personal trainers, and is planning to take a personal training course at the YMCA during the upcoming months.

"Everybody wants to be toned," he said. "Here, you have fun and it's a healthy environment."

He said the public encouragement has been good and he hopes to add suntan beds and expand further at a later date.

"We'll see how it goes," he said.

Daniel Auger was pleased with the quality of the gym when he tried it out on Feb. 19.

"It's a nice, clean gym," he said. "I'd recommend it for someone who lives nearby."

Another satisfied customer, Matthew Harrison, said he was impressed with what he saw too.

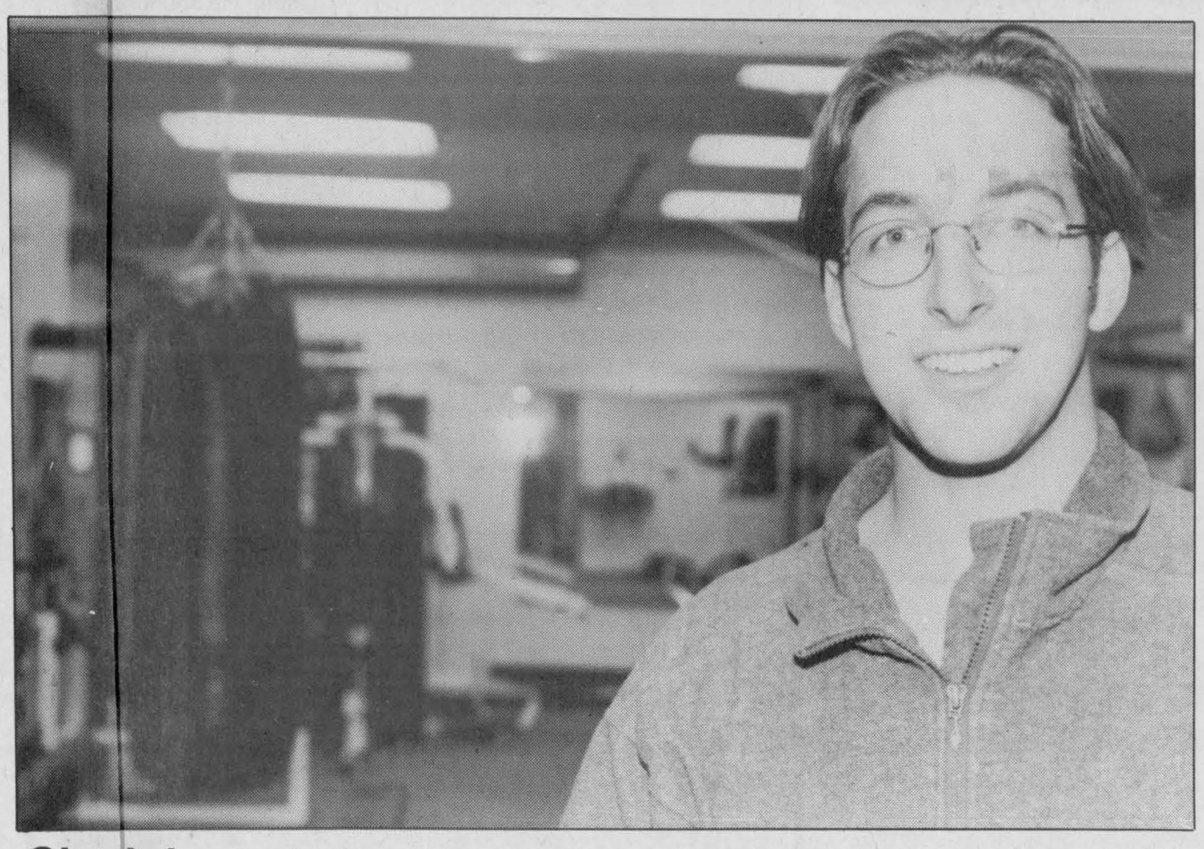
"I recommend the gym to everyone who wants to exercise," he said. "The atmosphere is really comfortable, there's a great variety of equipment and there's a lot of quality in this gym. And if you need help, Jason knows what he's doing and he's pretty helpful."

Beaudry will sit down with new clients to discuss different programs aimed at individual needs; a stage that can sometimes take up to an hour.

Introductory prices for the gym cost $250 per year, $175 for six months, or $5 per night.

The gym is open Monday through Friday from 6 to 11 pm and on weekends from about 10 am to 4 pm, though he is willing to open earlier if he gets enough requests from his customers.

"It was always my goal to open a gym," Beaudry said. "Now I'm achieving my dream."



Shapin' up

Jason Baudry owns the new California Gym in Winchester. The gym held its grand opening on Feb. 18, features a variety of new equipment, including some cardiovascular machines, and can help people either shape up or lose weight.

Press Photo -- Bierworth

Police blotter

Charges laid at NDDHS

MAPLE RIDGE — As a result of an investigation conducted by members of the Upper Canada OPP which began on Feb. 17 relating to an assault complaint at a local high school, one person is charged. A 15-year-old Winchester male, who cannot be identified under the provisions of the Young Offenders Act, has been charged with assault and uttering threats contrary to the Criminal Code after an investigation into an assault on another 15-year-old student at North Dundas District High School. Court has been set for March 30.

On Feb. 20, one person was charged with a criminal offence in relation to an assault that occurred on that date at NDDHS. A 15-year-old Mountain Township female, who cannot be named under the provisions of the Young Offenders Act, was charged with assault contrary to the Criminal Code following the investigation into an assault on a 14-year-old student at the school. Court has been set for March 23.

Office equipment taken

CHESTERVILLE — On Feb. 17 OPP were called to a break and enter that had occurred to a business in Chesterville. Overnight a forced entry had been made into the Recycling Data Association office in the village and items of office equipment were taken. The break-in resulted in approximately $500 in damage to the building.

Break and enter

HAINSVILLE — On Feb. 19 OPP received a report of a break and enter in the Hainsville area. During the day an entry had been made into a private residence on South Branch Road. Several items of personal property were taken.

Theft at Boyd Chrysler

WINCHESTER — On Feb. 20 OPP began an investigation into a report of the theft of a vehicle from a car dealership in the village of Winchester. Overnight a 1991 Ford 150 pickup truck was taken from the lot at Boyd Chrysler in Winchester. No plates were on the vehicle at the time of the theft.

Osgoode puts price on recreation

METCALE – Osgoode Township is gearing up to put an itemized price tag on recreation.

The recreation department is planning to embark on a long-term, pricing policy project that will break down the expenses incurred to operate all the township's recreational facilities.

"We want to get an overall picture of what our real costs are," says Tom Lee director of parks and recreation.

The process will take the lump sum figure of the township's facilities and itemize the bills to get a concrete number on just how many tax dollars are used to operate buildings like the Osgoode Township Community Centre and the Larry Robinson Arena during the ice season.

On average, $19 of every $1,000 paid in municipal taxes goes to recreation.

The number crunching will produce an information package that both staff and residents can use as a reference point for the future.

"We want to make sure that both now and in the future, recreation is accessible to everyone in Osgoode Township," says Lee.

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Take control of your retirement income

WINCHESTER -- Canadians recognize that they are responsible for ensuring that they have enough financial resources at their disposal during retirement.

How can each individual manage their retirement resources? The answer is simple and it applies to those who have reached or are about to reach retirement.

With Canadians expected to live well into their 80s yet retiring in their early to mid 60s, retirement savings will have to stretch over a longer period of time. There are, however, ways to bridge this "retirement shortfall".

"In today's environment of low inflation and low interest rates, many traditional income-oriented investors need to add equity investments to their portfolios to increase total returns prior to retirement," commented Eric Grove, vice president of marketing, AGF Group of Funds. "However, many of these individuals may be deterred by potential short-term price volatility which could erode a portion of their savings."

There is a way to circumvent this dilemma and take part in the strong equity markets. A Systematic Withdrawal Plan (SWP) allows mutual fund investors to make regular withdrawals of a fixed dollar amount or a fixed percentage which is used as a source of income, or to supplement retirement income.

A commonly used strategy involves using a SWP combined with both an income-generating and equity growth components. Using a SWP, an investor is able to buy income-oriented mutual funds and reinvest any distributions from the fund back into the fund or into other securities held in the portfolio — including growth-oriented equity funds.

"Instead of having to rely on annual distributions as a form of income, you decide the level of income you need by redeeming mutual fund units as required to generate a regular income stream," said Grove.

"If an investor chooses an income level lower than the portfolio's long-term growth rate, not only do they allow for a consistent stream of income, but you may also receive the potential benefit of increased returns over the long term as the remainder of the investment continues to compound within the growth component of the portfolio."

Systematic withdrawal plan benefits

Investor tips on systematic withdrawal plans (SWP)

— A SWP allows you to make regular withdrawals of a fixed dollar amount of a fixed percentage on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis.

— A SWP allows you to decide the level of income you need by redeeming mutual fund units as required to generate a regular income stream.

— A SWP is ideal if you are at or near retirement and want to use accumulated savings to cover immediate living expenses as well as continue to participate in the long-term growth of equity markets.

Will you run out of money before you run out of time?

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Number of Years Until All Capital is Depleted

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7%	22	26	33	*	*	*	*
8%	18	20	24	31	*	*	*
9%	15	17	19	22	29	*	*
10%	13	14	16	18	21	27	*
12%	10	11	12	13	14	16	19
15%	8	8	9	9	10	11	12
20%	6	6	6	6	7	7	7

* Capital will never be depleted at this combination of return and withdrawal. Source: AGF Funds Inc.

Debunking the myths of financial planning

by Kevin Gabri

CORNWALL — Providing financial advice to Canadians for the past several years has put me in contact with hundreds of people who are concerned about their financial futures.

While the individual situations of my clients vary, I'm frequently surprised by the degree to which people share the same concerns.

Based on the most common questions asked, I've put together a list of what I feel are the top three "myths" about money management. It is my hope that by addressing them in this column, I might help to dispel some of the concerns and ease the intimidation that is often associated with the investment industry.

MYTH: Only the very wealthy need the services of an advisor.

This is perhaps the most dangerous of untruths because it undermines what should be a basic goal of every Canadian: to take responsibility for his or her own financial future.

Strange to think it was just a generation ago people felt planning for their retirement meant investing in Canada Savings Bonds and awaiting their Canada pension plan at age 65. That's no longer the case.

Today, governments are handcuffed by enormous deficits, inflation nibbles away at savings and the individual is struggling under the weight of an increasingly heavy tax burden. As the average Canadian struggles to meet the demands of daily life, there is less and less time to manage the ever more complex legal, financial and tax affairs which are important to one's fiscal health.

None of this seems likely to change.

The good news, however, is that there are average Canadians who are having success in meeting their financial goals, whether they be saving for a home, planning for the education of their children or grandchildren or preparing for retirement. What characterizes their success is a commitment to setting personal financial objectives and taking a disciplined approach to achieving their goals, in most cases with the aid of a professional advisor. For as little as $50 a month invested in mutual fund or similar savings vehicles, one can begin a program of financial growth management. Money in any amount deserves prudent care. Whether it's $1,000 or $100,000, by putting their money to work in productive and creative ways today, Canadians from all walks of life are ensuring financial security and prosperity tomorrow.

Myth: Financial planning is complicated and requires a great deal of investment knowledge.

This is potentially the most intimidating aspect of money management for most people and a frequent barrier. Complicated tax laws, the bewildering range of investment products, the ups and downs of the stock market, can all be factors which frighten people away from taking control of their financial destiny. That's a shame because in reality, even the most inexperienced investor can be inaugurated into the world of money management with just a little time spent reviewing the basics. A patient and thorough advisor will often be pleased to provide you with educational material and recommend reading to enhance your knowledge. What many people find is that the more they understand and are able to take control of their financial situation, the greater their level of comfort in these uncertain times and the more positive their feelings about the future.

Myth: Investing is risky

Any investment has an element of risk. The objective for the advisor and his or her client is to assess the level of risk each investor is prepared to take in making the selections for the investment portfolio. There is certainly a full range of products with varying levels of risk which would be suitable for very conservative or very aggressive investors, or anyone in between.

The other side of the equation is that many people fail to consider the risk involved in not investing their money or investing their money in only one vehicle, say GICs for example. With taxes and inflation taking a healthy bite from one's savings, money that's tucked away today may not be enough for tomorrow unless it is employed productively. For most people, this means participation in a variety of investment products — "diversification" as it's known in financial circles — is the best route to increasing growth while minimizing risk.

When you hold a well-rounded investment mix, you have a better chance of benefiting from capital gains, while protecting yourself from losses.

(The information in this report was obtained from sources believed to be reliable; however, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Nesbitt Burns Inc.)

Kevin Gabri is an investment advisor in the Cornwall office of Nesbitt Burns Inc.

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Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Richard Johnston or Howard Beaudette at (613) 932-5421.

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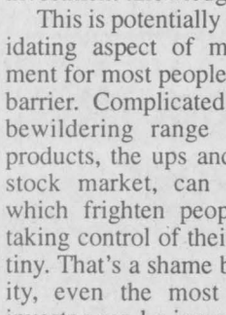

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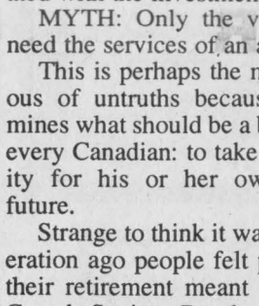

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Investing in an advisor

by Kevin Gabri

CORNWALL — Taxidermist. Lawyer. Personal trainer. Dentist. Mechanic. Very few people can claim to be an expert at more than one profession. Even those few who profess to be truly multi-talented will concede that they are specialists in one area or another. Whether you are seeking advice regarding faulty brake lines, dentures, or contract law, you should always look for a specialist in the field.

Ideally, your advisor is someone who is an expert in the fields of personal finance and investing. Research has shown that many advisors who pursue independent investment strategies frequently make poor investment decisions and succumb to impulse buying. Your advisor understands, and can explain to you the fundamentals that drive companies and ultimately influence "the market." The role of your advisor is to develop, monitor and adapt a comprehensive investment plan that reflects your personal financial profile and your investment goals. When selecting your advisor, follow the same procedures as you would if you were hiring an accountant or a lawyer.

The most important questions to ask yourself when meeting prospective advisors are: Do I trust this person? Am I comfortable with their personal style and investment philosophy? Do I respect their opinion? Have they the experience and the knowledge to accurately supervise my investments? These are concerns that only you will be able to resolve.

The best way to address these issues is to meet face-to-face with your prospective advisor. Most advisors use the first meeting to get to know their clients. This is your opportunity to get to know them. The questions that follow will help you develop a better understanding of your advisor's style.

What is your educational background and experience?

Ideally, you are looking for someone with a significant amount of experience. Try to find someone who has counselled clients during both the good times in the market and the bad. Advisors who have experienced market fluctuations understand their significance and know how to handle them. In some cases, the person's education will compensate for a lack of practical experience.

What types of products are you licensed to sell?

This is important to know right from the outset, as it will define the types of investments and the plan the advisor is likely to recommend. If you think that you may want to purchase stocks or options sometime, look for an advisor who is licensed to act on your behalf.

How often will you meet with me to review my financial plans? And how available are you to answer my questions?

Select an advisor who is willing to meet with you regularly, perhaps once every three months. In general, the amount of time your advisor spends servicing your account will be governed by the amount of money you invest and the types of investments you make. You need an advisor who is willing to take the time to explain your investments, in as much detail as you require. You also want someone who you can easily understand, so that you get all the information you need, without wasting your time.

What is the process you follow to build a financial plan? What is your role and the role of your assistant?

The longer advisors have been in the business, the more likely they are to have assistants who will handle some aspects of your business. There is nothing unusual about this practice, but it is a good idea to know before you start dealing with an advisor. Ultimately, however, your advisor is the one responsible for investment decisions and directing the long-term development of your portfolio. Assistants are frequently responsible for carrying out the daily administrative requirements of your account.

How are you paid for your services?

Advisors usually earn a commission for every investment they buy or sell. Certain investments pay advisors more commission dollars than others, usually because they require a higher level of service. For more details on mutual fund charges, consult the prospectus that pertains to the mutual fund you plan to purchase.

What do you need to know about me?

During the first meeting, advisors will be looking for as much information about you as you are looking for about them. Look for someone who listens carefully, asks specific questions, and understands what you are saying. The advisor is going to need to know your personal income and your long and short-term financial goals. They will also ask you questions to determine your level of investment knowledge and experience and learn how comfortable you are with different types of investments.

Choosing the right advisor can be as important as choosing the right doctor. Take your time making your selection; good research will always bring big rewards. One of the best places to start your search is by asking friends for recommendations. Encourage your friends to tell you their experiences, both good and bad. Their comments will help you, even if you select someone other than the advisor they recommend.

Other possible sources of information are your banker, your lawyer or your accountant. Many professionals have formed alliances with others in complementary professions, and therefore will be able to offer some suggestions. In the final analysis, it is up to you to make a selection that you are comfortable with and that you believe will advance your financial goals.

(The information contained in this report was obtained from sources believed to be reliable; however, we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of Nesbitt Burns Inc.

Kevin Gabri is an Investment advisor in the Cornwall office of Nesbitt Burns Inc.)

RRSP contribution: take it to the limit

WINCHESTER -- Many people lose out on the tremendous savings growth available through RRSPs because they don't maximize their contributions.

According to Statistics Canada, almost half of Canadian tax filers aged 25 to 64 don't contribute to an RRSP. And the majority of those who do contribute don't put away their annual limit.

Maximizing your RRSP does make a difference. For example, suppose you're eligible to contribute the maximum $13,500 but only have available a lump-sum investment of $8,500. With a loan, you could invest an additional $5,000. If you did that for 20 years ($100,000 total) at a nine per cent average annual compounding rate of return, you could end up with a nest egg worth almost $256,000 more — not to mention the tax savings you would have gained along the way.

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Trimark Investment Management Inc., Canada's second-largest mutual fund company, recently launched its RRSP loan program.

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If you don't already work with a financial advisor and would like to find one, check out Trimark's financial advisor locator at HYPERLINK: http://www.trimark.com.

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Farm update

Organizers enthusiastic

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

KEMPTVILLE —Organizers are pleased with the turnout for this year's Farmers' Week and Trade Fair held Feb. 12 - 21 at the W.B. George Centre.

"We were (originally) concerned if people had the energy or time to come out for such an event after (last month's) ice storm... But overall we were quite pleased with the turnout," said Sieglinde Matura, head of Continuing Education at University of Guelph's Kemptville College.

While the college handled the administrative support for Farmers' Week, programs for individual days were organized by the commodity groups.

The event's opening day — the winter woodlot conference attracted a huge crowd, with 375 in attendance.

Dairy Day was also a crowd pleaser, attracting more visitors than last year - about 175.

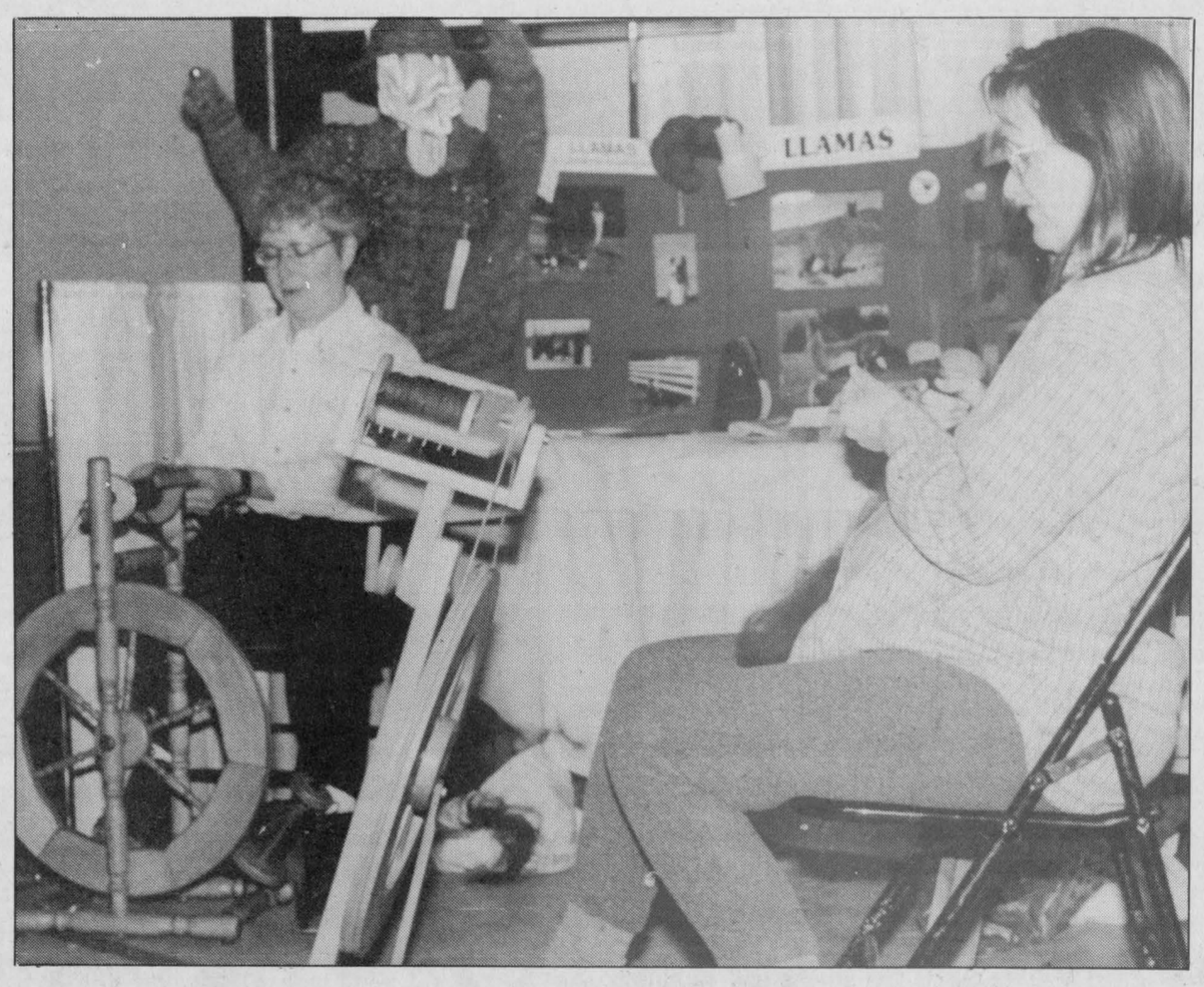
With 75 visitors, attendance on Sheep Day last Saturday exceeded expectations. And Beef Night (100), Crops Day (140), Ecological Day (85) and Swine Update (55) were also well attended, said Matura.

Attendance for Money Matters Day on Fri., Feb. 13 and Accent on Living on Wed., Feb. 18 was the only disappointment. While Accent of Living on Living Day had a good program lined up, poor weather kept visitors away, explained Matura.

Horticulture Day, planned for the final day of the event had to be cancelled due to program problems.

Organizers were also happy with the trade fair. "The place was full of exhibitors all week. It was a good trade show," said Matura.

Nice weather for most of the nine-day event also helped attendance, she added.



Farmers' Week display

Shirley Auprix of Osgoode and Barb Armstrong (background) of Crysler spin wool from llamas and alpacas during the Farmers' Week and Trade Fair held last week in Kemptville. Organizers were pleased with the number of exhibitors set up for the nine-day event. Press Photo — Fetterly

Farmers advised to study options

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

KEMPTVILLE — Williamsburg dairy farmer Gordon Garlough wants farmers to look closely at the advantages and disadvantages of participating in a Total Phosphorus Management (TPM) program.

"On the surface, (TPM) looks like a good deal but I feel, individually, farmers should take a look at if, and/or why, they want to take part in it," said Garlough, speaking at Crops Day last Thursday at the University of Guelph, Kemptville College.

Garlough said he feels that TPM programs might give municipalities and industries an "out" where phosphorus management responsibilities are concerned and shift the responsibility to agriculture.

A farmer in the South Nation River watershed, Garlough says the program's aim is to identify the source of and reduce phosphorus levels in the South Nation River.

Two sources of phosphorus have been identified by the Ministry of Environment. Point source includes discharge from sewage and industry sources and non-point sources include agriculture.

Under the program, point sources, such as municipalities and industry can opt to spend a specified amount of money up front which would be used in programs to reduce non-point source phosphorus. The funds could be used for such things as manure management or milkhouse runoff programs to give farmers incentive to reduce phosphorus.

But Garlough also said he is concerned that the program may be "laying blame" on farms as the major contributor of phosphorus contamination.

"Will the point source sector or farmers shoulder the blame if (the program) doesn't work out down the road... And what would be expected in the future of farmers taking part," he questioned.

He also said he is worried about municipalities' future responsibility once they pay the initial cost.

Garlough suggests municipalities or industries wanting to reduce phosphorus output could look at lime treatments or constructed wetlands as possible alternatives and "let farmers handle their own".

Marketing specialist predicts better prices

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

KEMPTVILLE — Growers with old crop corn may want to hold off selling it for a while longer.

"If you have old crop corn, hang in there. There could be a better price coming in March," Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs commodity marketing specialist Colin Reesor told farmers attending Crops Day last Thursday at the W.B. George Centre.

According to Reesor, we are now entering the time of year when the USDA predicts how much of a crop will be grown in the upcoming season. In times when old crop supplies are considered "adequate", old crop prices become dependent upon the outlook for new crop. The USDA's planting intentions report is expected at the end of March.

"It is only human nature to hold onto old crop if it appears that the new crop looks short for some reason. This holding becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy and prices strengthen... Lower stocks means higher prices," Reesor added.

And currently corn supplies are fairly tight — predicted at only 10 per cent carry over.

MARKETS CHANGING

While corn supplies haven't varied a lot over the short term, Reesor says the markets for that corn have changed.

There has been greater usage of corn for livestock feed and ethanol in North America. And that's a real plus since corn exports have been poor, he said.

"North America has had difficulty selling corn to the Asian market. With (Asians') poor currency, it's like we doubled the price," he explained.

As well, Russia, which used to be an export opportunity for North American grain, no longer requires corn. The people have basically eaten all their livestock and don't need grain for livestock feed, he explained.

China's meat production has increased rapidly and is currently a good export market for our grain. But it's also very unpredictable since China can grow its own supply of corn — "China exports corn and turns around and imports corn."

And if China can't supply Korea's demand for corn, then Korea will buy from North America as well, he added.

TRENDS

Farmers with corn in storage haven't been too excited since the price for corn was highest during the harvest season. But Reesor advises farmers to wait for the planting intentions report at the end of next month... "There may be better prices then."

He also suggests looking for contracting opportunities. "The old strategy of splitting up the sales of new crop via forward contracts, so that you have half sold going into July," is still viable.

SOYBEAN OUTLOOK

A booming soybean crushing industry in North America, coupled with a strong export market for soybean oil and meal has kept demand high for soybeans, said Reesor.

But North American soybean producers are getting some stiff competition from Brazil.

Prices for soybeans recently dipped because the Brazilian soybean harvest is now under way.

So far, the highest prices for soybeans have been at harvest time, but Reesor predicts a better price later this spring.

Soybean production in Ontario has grown substantially over the past few years and skyrocketed in eastern Ontario last year.

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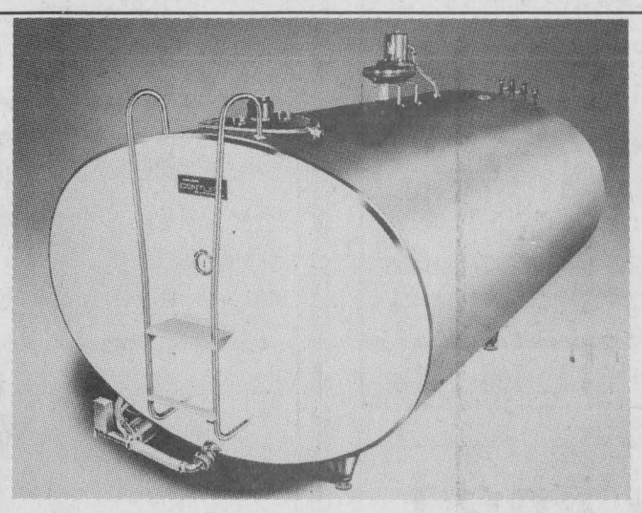

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Morrisburg conference sets sights on success

MORRISBURG - The 1998 Regional Farm Business Management Conferences span the second week of March and bring a unique program with outstanding speakers to five locations across Ontario. In eastern Ontario the session will be held on Thurs., March 12 at the Morrisburg Meeting Centre (formerly Operating Engineers Training Institute on Hwy. 2). Registration starts at 8 am with the program starting at 9 am.

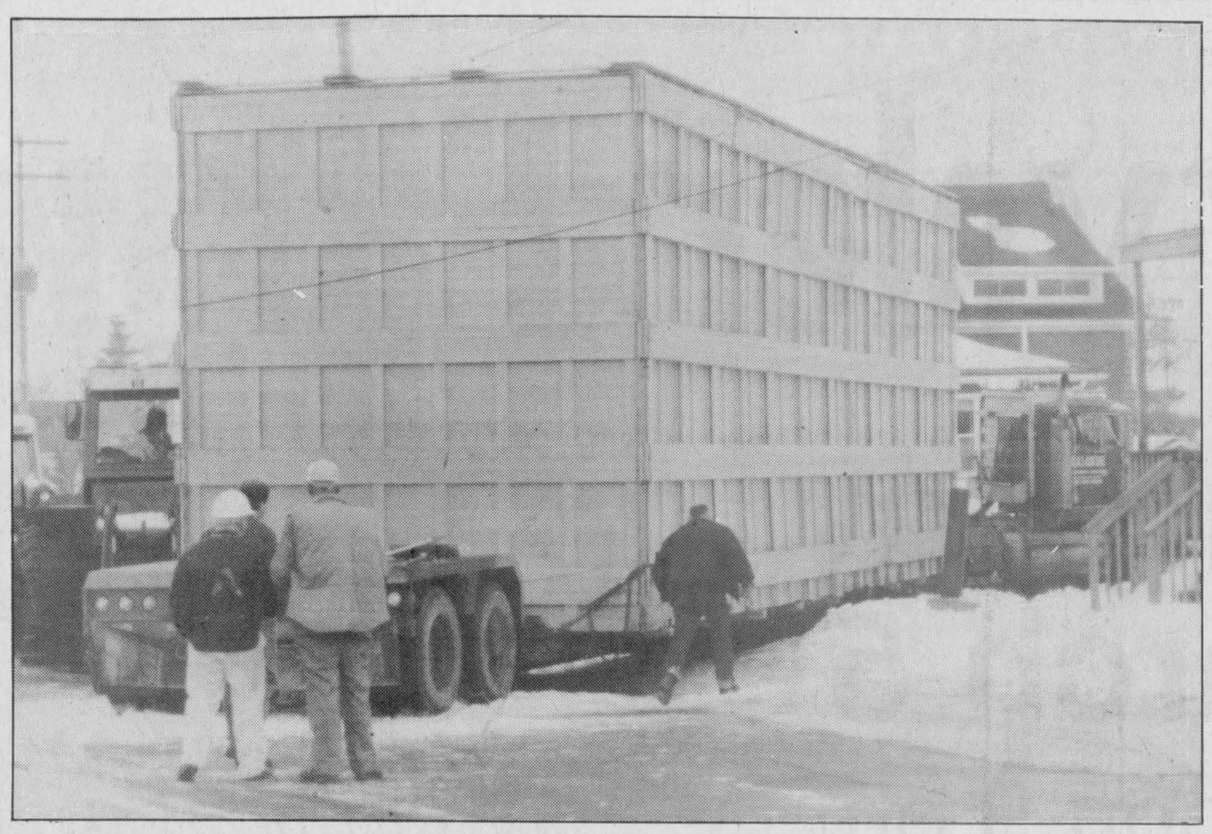
The lead speaker at each conference is Dr. Freddie Barnard from Purdue University. Barnard has been instrumental in developing key financial measurements for farm managers and lenders. His topic "Managing Your Physical and Financial Resources" sets the stage for both the morning and the day as he shares insights on "Total Resource Management".

To round out the morning program, there are two workshops — "Sizing up your business for strategic planning", one focusing on livestock with OMAFRA's John Anderson and Rob Gamble and a second concentrating on crops with Peter Mantel and Colin Reesor.

The afternoon program concentrates on Human Resource Management. OMAFRA's Bev Rawn will conduct a workshop on "Personnel Management". David Rose of OMAFRA and Ralph Winslade, Farm Management Consultant, are joining forces for a "Succession Planning" workshop covering keys to working together as well as the tax and legal aspects of farm transfers.

Our final speaker on each day has a compelling message for any farm management team member. Ben Kubassek left a community farm near Kitchener, became a successful home builder and then suffered the stress of total burnout by age 28. He has put his life back in balance and gone on to even greater success. He shares his story as a noted author and conference speaker.

To register call the OMAFRA field office in Kemptville at 1-800-267-7953 or 613-258-8307 before March 6.



Wide load

A truck carrying new cheesemaking equipment for Parmalat Canada had some difficulty making the turns from Main to Gladstone streets and into the company's yard recently. It will still be months before the equipment is assembled and ready to use. Press Photo — Van Bridger

Rural relief fund boosted

GUELPH — The Ontario Federation of Agriculture's Ontario Rural Relief Fund has received a huge boost.

Recently, the Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) donated $25,000 to the fund, aimed at assisting farmers devastated by the recent ice storm.

The Ontario Rural Relief Fund was announced on Jan. 19 by the OFA and the Foundation for Rural Living. The fund will assist with the costs of items not covered by insurance policies or government assistance.

FCC president and CEO John Ryan presented the $25,000 cheque to OFA president Ed Segsworth and Foundation for Rural Living president Eugene Lammerding in a ceremony in Guelph on Feb. 11.

Osteoporosis strikes 1 in 4 women over 50 years old.

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Call 1-800-463-6842

Help for ice-damaged trees

AVONMORE — Over the next three weeks, a series of eight seminars will be offered to inform owners of storm-damaged trees and woodlots how to care for their trees.

The seminars are the result of a joint effort among the Eastern Ontario Model Forest, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Resources Stewardship SD&G Council and a grant from Human Resources Development Canada.

At each seminar, experts will be present to offer useful advice to tree owners and to answer questions pertaining to tree and woodlot damage from the recent ice storm. Information for the seminars was produced by the Eastern Ontario Model Forest Ice Storm Team.

"This will help to address many of the questions landowners have about their damaged trees and woodlots," said Jim Hendry, Stewardship Co-ordinator for the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

Identical series of seminars are also being offered in Prescott and Russell and Leeds and Grenville counties.

Seminars will be held as follows: Thurs., Feb. 26 (English), Macdonell's Inn, Cornwall; Mon., March 2 (English), Morrisburg Public School; Tues., March 3 (English), OMAFRA office, Avonmore; Mon., March 9 (English), Knights of Columbus Hall, Alexandria; Wed., March 11 (English), Winchester Public School; Mon., March 16 (French), Macdonell's Inn, Cornwall; Tues., March 17 (French), Knights of Columbus Hall, Alexandria; Wed., March 18 (English), Williamstown Community Centre.

All seminars are from 7 pm to 10 pm. Seminars for arboriculture for ice-damaged tree in urban settings will be held 7 pm - 8:15 pm and managing ice-damaged woodlots and plantations sessions are set for 8:30 pm - 10 pm.

Seedy Saturday focuses on trees

OTTAWA — This year's Seedy Saturday deals with ice storm recovery.

Which trees suffered the most during the recent ice storm? Which ones the least? Answers to these questions and more, await visitors to the third annual event.

Sponsored by USC Canada and Canadian Organic Growers, the event will be held on March 7 from 10 am to 2 pm at Kingsway United Church on Island Park Drive in Ottawa.

This year's theme will focus on rejuvenating trees damaged by the ice storm. Three tree experts will be on hand to discuss everything from pruning techniques and protecting gardens from global warming, to planting new replacement trees and protecting understorey in wooded areas. A fourth seminar will look at traditional land management techniques in West Africa.

There will be displays and workshops will be held on an hourly basis as well.

Admission to Seedy Saturday is $5 for adults or $8 for couples. Those under 18 are admitted free.

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Place: Country Kitchen Restaurant, Hwy. 31, Winchester
Time: 1 pm, Thursday, Feb. 26
Guest Speakers:
Jack McGill, District Committee - Off Board Marketing, etc.
Lloyd Siemen, Ag Canada Researcher - "Cereal diseases"
Cliff Metcalfe - Research Trial
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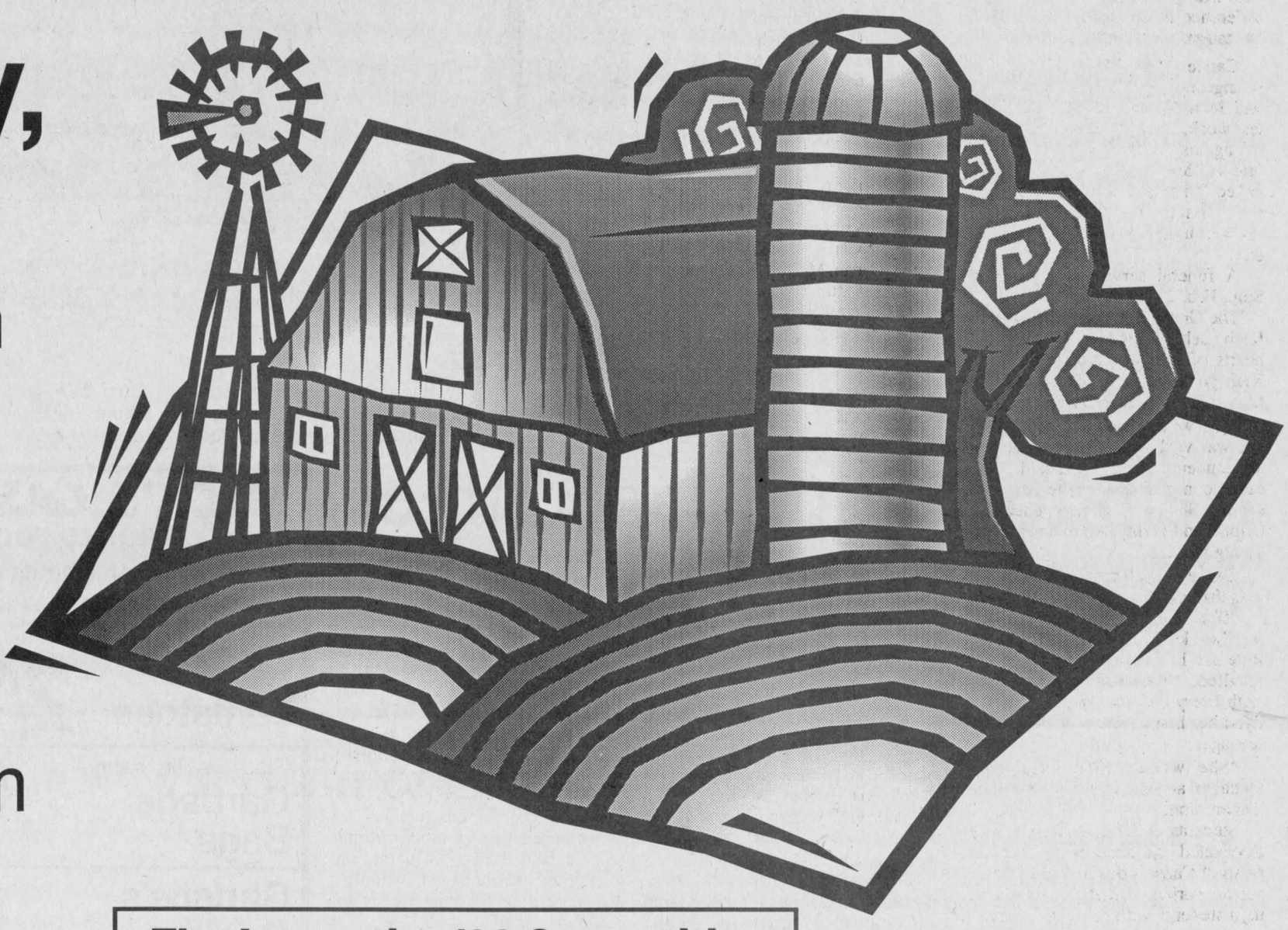
*The Red Cross is still accepting donations for ice storm relief. Donations earmarked "Red Cross - Disaster Response" can be made at your local Red Cross, or sent to the Canadian Red Cross National Office, 1800 Alta Vista Drive Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 4J5.

Crysler Farm Show

Thursday, March 5
12 noon-9 pm

and Friday, March 6
10 am-4:30 pm

at Crysler Community Centre



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Indoor and Outdoor Displays

The Innovation '98 Competition

This competition will take place at the Crysler Farm Show. This is your opportunity to share an innovative idea with other farmers.

PRIZES: 1st - $100; 2nd - $75; 3rd - $50; 4th - $25 & 5th - $10

Innovations are to be brought to the Chrysler Community Centre by noon, **Wednesday, March 4, 1998.**

All SD&G farm families are eligible. The innovation **must be made on the farm.** In cases where the innovation is too big to bring, a photo (approximately 8" x 10") with a description of working part(s) will be accepted. Innovation can have anything to do with:

- Environmental protection
- Feed systems
- Barn equipment
- Field machinery
- Livestock handling
- Or anything to do with seed and forage

All entries must be accompanied by a **sheet of paper** describing the following:

1) Name of innovation
2) Function of the innovation (what it is supposed to do)
3) Description of the innovation (how it works)
4) Estimated cost and/or time to build

Entries, including the descriptions, will be displayed mounted in space provided. Judging will be done by public ballot at the show. This competition is sponsored by the Soil and Crop Improvement Associations of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry.

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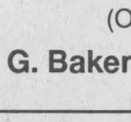

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Local hero succumbs to heart disease battle

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

METCALFE — "Every once in a while you come across somebody in your life who stands out. Despite the difference in our ages, Carrie Moffatt taught me a lot."

Carrie Ann Moffatt, 16, the youngest of four daughters of Keith and Jean Moffatt of Metcalfe died last week, finally overtaken in a battle against a rare heart condition. She was born with a cardiac disorder called Tricuspid Atresia. Her heart was missing a valve and chamber and was unable to pump blood properly.

A funeral service was held on Sun., Feb. 22 in Metcalfe.

The Grade 10 Osgoode Township High School student touched the hearts of everyone around her, said Kathryn Weld, a special education teaching assistant at OTHS.

"She was an average student but she was very well liked by teachers and students alike," Weld said. "She never complained, despite her condition. She was always cheerful, helpful and loving. An extraordinary young woman."

Carrie's trademark, Weld said, was the constant smile on her face.

"She was always smiling. She was best known for her positive attitude and her sense of humor," Weld recalled. "She was very friendly with everyone, she loved boys, she dyed her hair ... she was the typical teenager.

"She wanted to be a regular teenager, and she was. She was quite a champion."

Students at the high school were devastated and shocked to hear the news of Carrie's death, Weld said. A social worker visited the school to help students with grief and there is a crisis prevention centre at the school to help students as well.

In 1991 Carrie was to undergo surgery at the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minnesota to permanently correct her problem. In a news release, a family spokesperson explained, "As a gesture of hope and support, local communities sought to raise $30,000 to help the family with expenses relating to additional surgery, medications, travel and accommodations during the operation and the two month recovery period. As news of Carrie's story swept the Ottawa Valley and beyond, the fundraising campaign snowballed to $210,000 in six weeks.

"The excess funds were turned over to the CHEO foundation to create the Carrie Moffatt Endowment Fund. This fund is available for access by families of other young cardiac patients with extenuating expenses."

The August 1991 surgery extended Carrie's lease on life, but it became apparent in 1993 that a heart transplant was in her best interest. However, at age 16, Carrie lost her battle on Feb. 19, surrounded by family.

On Sunday afternoon (Feb. 22) hundreds of grieving family and friends paid their last respects to the young lady who had inspired a community with her sweet smile, positive attitude and zest for life.

Carrie was eulogized by her older sisters Marjorie, Julie and Marilyn. "Since 1993 Carrie's New Year's resolutions were to live through another year and get a new heart," said Marjorie. "Unfortunately part of her resolution was totally out of control. She did her part by living each moment to its fullest. Carrie had the will to live and she loved life.

"Carrie made our family, and I'm sure many other families, think about what is truly important in life. She was an inspiration to all. She is my hero," her sister said.



Strut power

Local models assisted Kim Link of Classique Bridal in Winchester in showing off her fashions in the Welcome Wagon Bridal Show held at the Cornwall Civic Complex on Monday night. Above, Judy and Chanel Marion of Winchester, modelling as bride and flower girl, wait to step onto the runway.



Hats off

Michelle Levers of Winchester and Martha Link-Horvath of Chesterville model mother of the bride/bridesmaid gowns at the Welcome Wagon Bridal Show in Cornwall on Monday night.

Press Photos — Culliton

CAPRO to interview Winchester's battered women

WINCHESTER — As part of a province-wide study, the Community Abuse Program of Rural Ontario (CAPRO) will be interviewing about 10 women from Winchester and the surrounding area who have left abusive relationships.

A provincially funded project of the Ontario Farm Women's Network and the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, CAPRO works with people throughout rural Ontario to raise awareness of domestic abuse in their communities and develop local solutions.

"Nearly all studies on woman abuse have focused on women in large cities," said Inge Roosendaal, the CAPRO researcher who will be conducting the interviews. "But according to Statistics Canada, three out of every 10 women living in rural and small-town Ontario have been abused by their spouses at some time in their lives."

Roosendaal says that this new study, which is a collaborative effort between CAPRO and the federal Department of Justice, will show what kind of help rural women need to leave abusive relationships safely and look at what people in the area can do to help prevent woman abuse in their communities.

"This study will help CAPRO target its activities more effectively, and will give the Department of Justice vital information about how the justice system can better protect abused women and children," Roosendaal added.

In addition to Winchester and surrounding area, the study will gather information in areas around five other small communities in Ontario: Cochrane, Vermilion Bay, Durham, Espanola and Woodstock. Through the Family Violence Initiative, the federal departments of Health and Justice are sharing the costs of the study.

Roosendaal will also hold discussion groups with people from the community who provide services to abused women and with members of the community at large. She stressed that the identities of the women she interviews and the discussion group participants will be kept strictly confidential.

"The results of all the interviews and the discussion groups will be rolled into a report that will be available to the public, but it will be impossible to identify any one source of information," she said.

The final study report should be ready by the summer of 1998.

Anyone interested in participating in the study, or who would like more information about it can call Inge Roosendal on a special, confidential line at 774-4086.

OBITUARIES

Baden Clifford Empey

Baden Clifford Empey of Woodland Villa in Long Sault, formerly of Ingleside, died on Mon., Feb. 9 after a lengthy illness. He was 97.

A retired railway worker and Parks Canada employee, Mr. Empey was born on Oct. 1, 1900 in Osnabruck Township to the late David Empey and Rose Stevens.

He was the dear husband of Ethel Mary Crites whom he married on May 2, 1936 in Farrans Point.

He will be sadly missed by his children Shirley (Don) Cooper of Ingleside, Gerald Empey of Lunenburg, Margaret (John) Ray of Winchester and Kathleen (Bruce) Beckstead of Newington.

Mr. Empey is also survived by six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother Cecil Empey, sister Amy Empey and one grandson, Wade.

He was a member of Aberdeen Lodge 302 for 77 years.

Funeral services were held at Brownlee Funeral Home in Ingleside on Sat., Feb. 14. Reverend Lloyd Smith officiated.

Interment was at St. Lawrence Valley Union Cemetery.

Sandy David Saunders

Sandy David Saunders died suddenly at Embro, Ontario on Sat., Feb. 7 at the age of five.

The beloved son of David and Hazel (DeJong) Saunders of Embro was born on Nov. 13, 1993.

He was the dear brother of Mary-Jane and loved grandson of Fred and Pat Saunders of Embro and Abram and Gertie DeJong of Inkerman.

He will be sadly missed by several aunts, uncles and cousins.

The funeral and committal services were conducted in the chapel of the M.D. Smith Funeral Home in Woodstock, Ontario on Wed., Feb. 11.

Captain Richard Shirran officiated. Spring interment in North Embro Cemetery.

Donnie Harold Scott



Donnie Harold Scott, formerly of South Mountain, died on Thurs., Feb. 19 at St. Lawrence Lodge in Brockville. He was 77.

A farmer, Mr. Scott was born on June 28, 1920 in Heckston, Ontario to the late James Scott and Bessie Simms.

He was predeceased by his wife Muriel Bessie Dawson in 1995. They were married on Oct. 22, 1947 in Maitland, Ontario.

He will be sadly missed by his children Jim (Bonnie) Scott, Wayne (Mona) Scott, Wanda (Lubbert) Vandemheen, Peggy (Harry) Honey, Joanne (Dennis) Leeck and Barbara (Glen) Stevenson. He will be fondly remembered by his grandchildren Scott, Marty, Kevin, Leslie, Sarah, Brady, Kelly, Janice, Nicholas, Matthew, Stephen and the late Jeffrey, as well as great-grandson Kyle.

He is also survived by a brother, John (Esther) Scott of Whitby.

Mr. Scott was not only a farmer but worked as a mail delivery person on a rural route in South Mountain and he also worked in funeral services in the area for years. He was a member of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in South Mountain.

Funeral services were held at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Feb. 21. Reverend Marion Johnston and Mary Moorhead officiated.

Spring interment will take place in South Gower Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Kevin Scott, Scott Vandemheen, Brady Stevenson, Ken Dawson, Bob Dawson and David Bryan.

Robert Arlington Stewart

Robert Arlington Stewart of Dundas Manor in Winchester, formerly of RR 3 Chesterville, died on Sat., Feb. 21 after a lengthy illness. He was 85.

A retired farmer and a former carpenter with Byers Construction, Mr. Stewart was born in Newington on Sept. 8, 1912 to the late Walter Stewart and Annie Reveler.

He will be sadly missed by Mary Racine (nee Brown), whom in married in Winchester on May 27, 1967.

He was the dear stepfather of Joe (Barbara) Racine of Greely and Linda (Jim) Merkley of Calgary.

Mr. Stewart will be fondly remembered by his grandchildren Shane (Penny) and Chris Racine, and Rick, Dan and Kelly Merkley, as well as great-grandchildren Dezarai, Courtney and Kalin.

He was the dear brother of Clayton (Unice), Hudson (Joanne), Dorothy Byers, Bessie Clark and Hughetta Thoms. He will be sadly missed by several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by Mildred Wolley.

Mr. Stewart was a member of the Morewood Presbyterian Church.

Funeral services were held at Daniels Funeral Home in Winchester on Wed., Feb. 25 at 11 am.

Reverend Bert de Bruijn officiated. Interment will take place at Morewood Presbyterian Cemetery in the spring.

Snowmobiles stolen

CORNWALL — This week, Crime Stoppers is asking for your help in solving the thefts of two snowmobiles.

Between 1:30 and 5 pm on Sat., Feb. 14, a red 1997 Bombardier Formula 583 snowmobile was stolen from a Main St. residence in Winchester.

On Wed., Feb. 11, at 4 pm, a black and purple 1994 Mach 2 snowmobile was stolen from a residence on Crump Rd. in North Dundas Township.

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

Call Crime Stoppers at 613-937-8477, or 1-800-265-8477.


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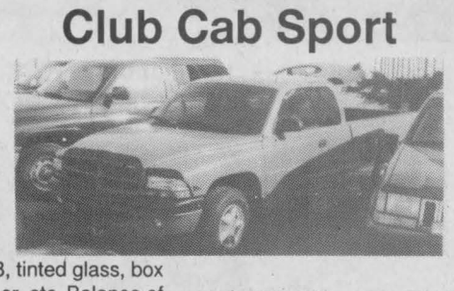
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WI to host quilting classes in Metcalfe

by Marie Cooper

METCALFE — The Metcalfe Branch of the Women's Institute is pleased to have Kenmore quilter Vicki Vanderlinden back to teach two more quilting courses this April.

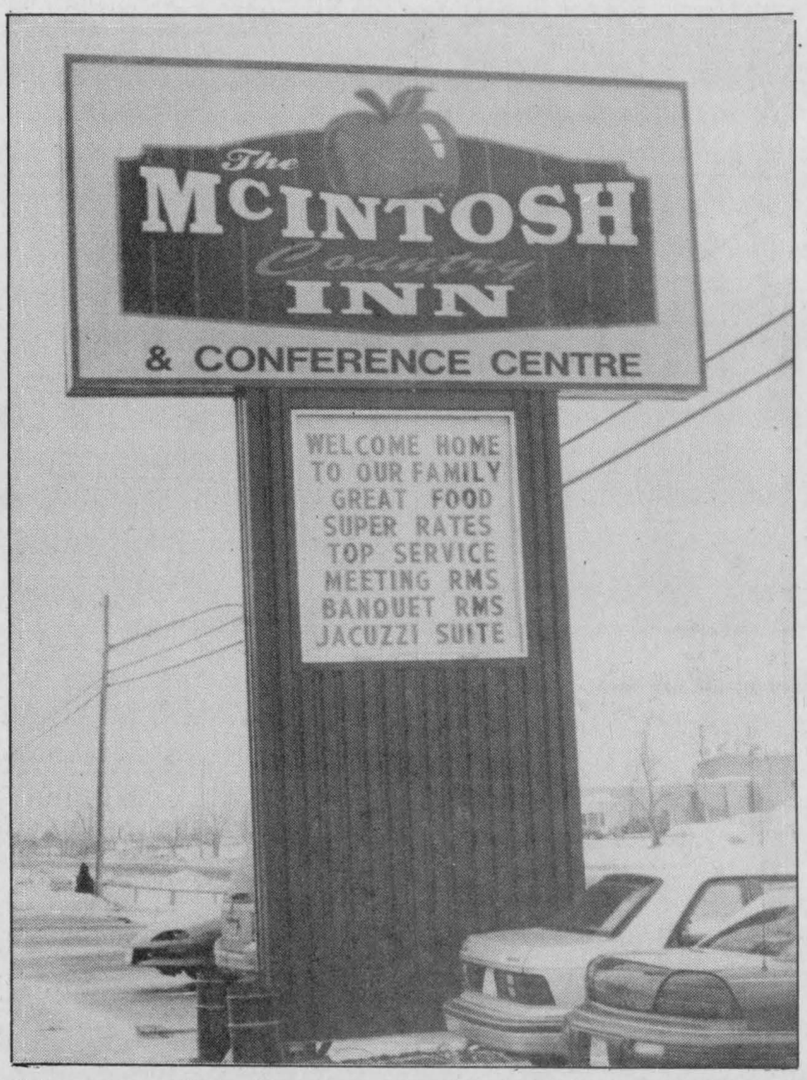
The first class will be on Thurs., Apr. 9, from 7 to 9 pm. Participants will learn a useful and versatile technique called "Foundation Piecing". In this technique, paper is used as a foundation for creating fabric pictures. (Some people call the method "paper piecing").

If you admire the precision patchwork of others with all the seams meeting perfectly, then you will want to take this class. Even beginners can create blocks with plenty of tiny pieces that fit together perfectly. If you can sew a straight line, then you can do foundation piecing. This class is only $15 and we supply the fabric. You only need to bring your sewing machine, thread and sharp scissors. The second course is the following three Thursday nights, April 16, 23 and 30, from 7 to 9 pm. We will apply the foundation piecing technique to a project of your choice, including wall hanging, vest, tote bag, sweatshirt embellishment, mittens or table runner, depending on your level of expertise. The instructor will walk you through the project and you will complete it in the three classes. Cost for this course is $30, and you are to bring your own fabric, sewing machine, thread and scissors.

You may sign up for only the first evening and not the following three weeks if you want to simply learn the technique. However, you must take the first class in order to sign up for the second course. Classes will be held at a WI member's home in Metcalfe. To register, contact Heather McColl at 821-4054.

The February meeting of the Metcalfe WI, which was held at Metcalfe Firehall and was open to the public, was a fun learning experience for everyone. Branch member and computer enthusiast Jane Cooper gave us all a much needed introduction to the Internet. Few of our members or guests had any knowledge of this tool, so Cooper explained how thousands of personal computers are linked to 'servers' and then we 'surfed the Web'.

The March meeting of the Metcalfe Women's Institute will be our annual Tweedsmuir History meeting and we are asking members to show up with a personal story of their Ice Storm '98 experience, a newspaper clipping on the storm, or photographs they may have. Everything will be included in our local history album. The meeting will be at Heather McColl's home, 2697 Derby St., Metcalfe, on Tue., March 10 at 7:30 pm. Guests and new members are always welcome. Call 613-821-1597 for more information about our branch.



Name change

What was formerly Howard Johnson's Hotel in Morrisburg is now the McIntosh Country Inn and Conference Centre. The inn changed its name officially on Jan. 12 when it decided to break free from the HJ chain and become an independent hotel. The Inn is owned by Tom Monrow, Les Cruickshank and Roy Brister. Photo -- Cooke-Erwin

Annual school fundraiser stages back yard barbecue

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

INKERMAN — Crank up the music and put on your dancing shoes. Inkerman Public School's annual fundraising dance will be rocking the South Mountain Agricultural Hall on March 7.

Tickets for this "Backyard Barbecue" dance cost $8 per person, and the event will start at 8 pm and keep you moving until 1 am.

Inkerman Public School principal Jim Shaw is looking forward to the event. He said it's a great alternative to sending students door to door to sell chocolate bars to raise money for the school.

"We're having a party, it's a lot of fun, and we're making money at the same time," he said. "I think it's wonderful. But we wouldn't be able to do it if it weren't for the parents who participate."

Each year, there are about 325 tickets, and every one of them is sold, said Shaw.

The profits from the dance go to help the school buy new provisions, such as playground equipment, gym mats, cultural activities and bike racks.

Every ticket sold is entered in a draw for the grand prize of a barbecue. Smaller prizes will also be given away during spot dances.

Participants are encouraged to dress as though they were going to a barbecue.

Judy Baldwin, chair of the school committee, said the prizes are usually bought as opposed to being donated by local businesses.

"We find that businesses are always being canvassed, so we try to get away from asking them to donate prizes," she said. "But in all, the whole night is usually a very good time."

The DJ for the dance will be Steve Barkley, who will keep the beat alive with every type of music and will accept requests.

Tables will be adorned with reminders of the barbecue theme — hotdogs and hamburgers made out of plasticine.

This age of majority dance is the only fundraiser that Inkerman Public School has during the school year.

To order tickets, call school board member Cheryl Fawcett at 613-774-0007, Judy Baldwin at 613-989-5274 or Inkerman Public School at 613-989-5739.

Be wise... advertise

WI donate to firemen

by Joyce D. Patterson

WILLIAMSBURG — The first 1998 meeting of the Williamsburg Women's Institute was held on Feb. 10 (December and January meetings had been cancelled because of the weather).

This was also the first meeting that took place at the new temporary quarters at the Park Lane Seniors' Support Centre.

President Isobel Williams opened the meeting with a welcome to all. Eleven members and one guest answered the roll call question, "What does your first schoolhouse look like now?" The ladies discovered that some are now homes, one is a tool shed, and some members have moved far away from their first schoolhouse and don't know what they now look like, or if they are still there.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted. Correspondence included some thank you letters for contributions, and some were requests for contributions. They decided to give a donation to the local fire department for their work during Ice Storm 1998.

Lynn Gilmour was in charge of the program. The ladies heard several readings about Valentine's Day and some difficult but interesting quizzes; also a "Wintertainment" word find puzzle.

Lunch was served by Muriel Miller and Joyce Patterson.

Music exams in Chesterville

CHESTERVILLE — It is almost time once again for the Royal Conservatory of Music exams. This is a reminder to music students, teachers and parents that exams in piano, singing, all theories and all instrumental, including wind, brass and strings are available in Chesterville.

The exams are available at the Royal Conservatory Exam Centre in Chesterville as a convenience to all local music students. With exams available in Chesterville students do not have to commute to other centres such as Ottawa, Cornwall and Brockville to take their exams, thus saving time and avoiding a great deal of stress for student and parent alike.

Those who wish to be tested at the Chesterville exam site should refer to Centre 121 on the official application form.

Seniors euchre

by Jean Casselman

WILLIAMSBURG — The Williamsburg Township Seniors' Group held its euchre day at the Park Lane Seniors' Support Centre on Wed., Feb. 11.

Winners were as follows: ladies, Enid Dalrymple, Sharon Munroe, Emma Barkley; gents, Lynn Gilmour, Ralph McIntosh, Ray Casselman; door prizes, Emma Barkley, Audrey Whitteker; draw, Sharon Munroe, Evelyn Swerdfeger (2), Peggy Thompson, Lois Sweeney, Keith Casselman.

The next euchre will be held on Wed., Feb. 25 at Park Lane Seniors' Support Centre and everyone is welcome.

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