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Premier Mike Harris visited eastern Ontario on Friday to present certificates to volunteers, but he received a special gift of appreciation himself. Youngsters Katie and Thomas Oulton handed Harris a poster inscribed with: "Thank you Mr. Harris. Ice Strom '98."

Press Photo -- Culliton

Premier's visit met with pessimism

by Jeff Brownlee

OSGOODE — Premier Mike Harris' volunteer-lauding tour that rolled into four eastern Ontario towns damaged by the ice storm March 20, ended in Manotick where he pledged to thaw the pipeline of relief money for damage claims caused by this year's ice storm.

"The money will flow to municipalities," said the premier, standing at a podium in front of a crowd of approximately 100 people at the Manotick fire hall.

In January, the Tory government pledged $50 million in relief to the storm-stricken residents of eastern Ontario.

While the eight disaster relief committees in eastern Ontario could see the funds start to flow as early as this week, Rideau mayor Glenn Brooks isn't optimistic.

"It's unlikely," he said. "I can't see it happening that soon. I've always said that this was going to be a six to eight month process."

Osgoode Mayor Doug Thompson agrees.

"I can't see there's any way that they can get the money that quickly," he said. "Right now, they have a log jam.

"Of course, I would like to see the money, but the province is overwhelmed with claims."

Brooks labeled the disaster relief funding a process a bureaucratic nightmare that is putting residents on an unnecessary roller coaster ride.

But the premier, with cabinet ministers Norm Sterling, Al Leach and Noble Villeneuve at his side, didn't want to dwell on financial aspects. He spent the day honoring volunteers in the worst-hit communities by January's ice storm.

• please see HARRIS on page 2

Ministers to deliver $20 million in relief

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — More money is on its way to eastern Ontario in the form of Ice Storm '98 relief.

Federal Agriculture Minister Lyle Vanclief and MPP for SD&G and East Grenville and Ontario Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Noble Villeneuve will visit Winchester on Fri., March 27 to present a cheque towards ice storm clean-up for the agricultural population.

A ministry source informed the *Press* that the agricultural ministers would be presenting $20 million in Winchester on Friday. The amount complements the disaster relief assistance already being made available. The money is intended to cover agricultural needs that are not covered under the federal disaster relief program.

An information session will be held along with the announcement, and the ministers will answer questions from the floor, the source said.

"They mainly want to clear the air and explain the process, as there has been a lot of confusion out there about compensation after the ice storm," the source said.

Villeneuve and Vanclief are scheduled to stop at the Winchester Community Centre on Friday at 9 am.

Dairyfest events moo-ving along

WINCHESTER — It may seem a bit early to be thinking about Winchester's Dairyfest, but a committee has already been making plans for this year's big event — the 10th anniversary of the summer celebration. And they need help.

Co-chair of the Dairyfest committee Patti Guy said that some plans have already been made for the 10th anniversary of Dairyfest.

"We've booked Ambush for entertainment, but we're looking for some Celtic music to book, also," Guy said. "We want to keep the country theme, but we want to give it a bit of a different flavor."

The committee has been investigating several different events that could be planned for Dairyfest, Guy said. One of the areas the committee hopes to improve upon is the teen segment. A coffee house setting is being considered for the curling club to entertain teenagers. The coffee house would contain an arcade and music, as well as team sports, with volleyball and foozball tournaments.

Old favorites, like the usual baking contest and "Cows R Us" home decorating contest are being planned, as well.

• please see DAIRYFEST on page 2

Regional police ready to go

By Jeff Brownlee

OSGOODE — When the region assumes responsibility for policing Osgoode and Rideau townships this July, it's unlikely that the current John Street building used by the Ontario Provincial Police will be part of the takeover plans.

Manotick will still have a physical police presence in the form of an office, but that's expected to be scaled down to a community policing facility equipped with computers.

The region is looking for a very accessible building in Manotick for its office. It hasn't any preferred location as of yet.

On July 5, the Rideau River will be used as a dividing line as both townships will fall under the umbrella of existing regional stations.

Officers patrolling Osgoode will work out of the Ottawa East office in Leitrim while Rideau constables will operate from the Ottawa West location on Greenbank.

Community policing offices in Edwards, Osgoode and Metcalfe will also keep their doors open.

In fact, says Regional Police Senior Constable Vic Burns, there will be more of an emphasis on community policing. Many of the offices will rely on the support of volunteers.

While community policing will be bolstered, the staff of 28 officers at the existing Manotick detachment won't decline, they will be divided in half between each township.

Of that total, 16 OPP officers will join the regional force. The remainder of the new constables will volunteer for positions in either municipality.

Two constables will be on duty in each township at all times, operating on three different daily patrols.

• please see POLICE on page 2

Information sessions ease tax concerns

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

WINCHESTER — The recent change in the assessment system has brought many people to local information meetings with a lot of concerns.

One of the main issues for the village of Winchester is how the amalgamation of the former townships will affect the property taxes.

The only thing anyone is able to say for certain is that the same mill rate will be used for all of North Dundas.

Winchester village has been known in the past for its high property taxes, and the recent information session on March 19 and 20 at the Winchester Community Hall brought that issue into the open.

More than a dozen assessors from Cornwall met with the line-up of about 40 people at the beginning of the first meeting at around 1 pm.

Michael R. Contant, Manager of Quality Assurance for the Cornwall branch of the Assessment Region, was on hand to answer questions at the Winchester meeting and said the concerns area residents were bringing in were not uncommon.

• please see TAXES on page 2



Rev. Robert Assaly shovels the snow that was dumped on the region on the first weekend of spring. Never fear, however: weather forecasters predict that temperatures will soar to 10C by Friday.

Press Photo -- Culliton

Municipal offices near completion

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — The newly renovated municipal office for the Township of North Dundas could be ready in as little as two weeks.

Renovations began on March 9 in the upstairs portion of the municipal building on St. Lawrence Street in Winchester. The municipal staff, now housed in the lower portion of the building, will be moved upstairs to brand new offices. The OPP will move into the abandoned offices downstairs, and will take over part of the garage currently occupied by the Winchester Fire Department.

The fire department will take over the space previously occupied by the Works Department. And the Works Department will move to the former Winchester Township garage.

The first step of the leap-frogging is the new municipal office. An elevator shaft is being constructed but will be closed off for some time after the new office is opened.

When entering the municipal building, the door to the immediate right leads to the stairs to the new offices. The entire space of the new municipal office is 2,500 square feet.

A 24-foot open service counter is what meets the visitor at the top of the stairs. At this counter one can pay taxes or hydro bills or consult with staff. There is space for six chairs in a waiting area.

• please see RENOVATIONS on page 2

Continued from the front page...

Dairyfest

The possibilities are endless, Guy said, and that's what the problem is: there aren't enough people on the committee to make everything happen.

"We need help," Guy said. "We need idea people who can get out to meetings and who can be part of the process. There are many different committees, including entertainment, setting up equipment.... the committee for organizing children's activities is a big part of it. We want to expand the children's activities and we need some ideas for how to do that."

The weekend has been pared down to a three-day event from the previous four days. Guy said that by cutting out the Thursday festivities and putting more events into the other three days, the crowd volume will hopefully increase.

The date for Dairyfest 1998 is August 7, 8 and 9.

Already planned for Friday night is a Junior Farmers dance, Guy said, and an event presented by the Winchester Lions Club. A talent show will also be held on Friday night.

Originally set up to involve the community and have some old-fashioned family fundraising, Dairyfest is a subcommittee of the Community Heart Project. The project was set up to raise funds for the Winchester Community Centre to update the arena and make it accessible to everyone.

"It takes a lot of time and a lot of people," Guy said. "We want to make Dairyfest bigger and better this year, but we need help."

Watch the Press for more information about upcoming meetings in the near future.

Police

Burns says that takeover plans are at the half-way point. All of the OPP officers making the jump are now being trained in the different operations of the regional force. Constables from the regional detachment will soon be conducting ride-along training sessions with OPP officers in an effort to familiarize themselves with the area.

When the OPP bows out and the region steps in July 5, Burns says that residents won't notice much of a difference except for the cars and uniforms.

"We do have a different way of doing some things," he adds. "We are highly specialized. You can't really compare the two systems."

One of the changes Burns is referring to is that under the regional structure, there are different divisions like traffic, drugs and break-and-enter.

Once a crime is reported, officers will respond, take the information and hand the case over to the proper division.

The region even has its own specialized marine patrol that will be monitoring traffic on the longest stretch of the Rideau Canal, some 27 miles of water between Long Island and Burritt's Rapids locks.

The unit is already planning to purchase a new boat.

Constable J.P. Vincelette, one officer joining the regional force in Osgoode this summer, said he has mixed feelings about the transition. While it's something new, he's sad to leave the OPP.

He's started orientation sessions at the region, but the five-year veteran of the Manotick detachment isn't sure of all of the details yet.

"The region has definitely been good at keeping us abreast of the changes and any new developments," he said.

Taxes

"People are afraid that if they have a really high assessment, their taxes will go way up," he said. "But once we explain how the property tax is determined by the municipal council, they understand it a lot better."

The last assessments for the former township of Winchester range from 1980 to 1988 values. It's a big enough increase to today's values to set some people in a panic, but Contant said most people are assured they are being treated fairly after seeing the assessed values of similar properties in the area.

Contant would like to remind local residents that April 30 is the deadline to request a change in your assessment.

North Dundas mayor Claude Cousineau said Winchester's taxes have always been higher because of the local improvement charges added to the property tax bills.

Winchester village's charges exceed those of Chesterville's.

Cousineau said social services in the Township of North Dundas, including policing, will be paid for at the county level. But services available only in a village, such as sidewalk maintenance, will continue to be paid for by the village residents.

While Cousineau clarified that, because of the amalgamation of the four former townships of Winchester and Mountain and Winchester and Chesterville villages, the new mill rate will be the same for the entire township of North Dundas, he was unable to say whether the local improvement charges for the villages of Winchester and Chesterville will be imposed in mills or set rates.

"We don't know a lot right now because we're waiting for municipal affairs to finish at their end," Cousineau said. "A lot of people call me about their assessments being too high and they're worried their taxes will go up. I don't think they have any reason to worry. A lot of the concerns though, is with the provincial downloading. Things the province paid for last year is suddenly our responsibility. Now, we have been promised several grants from the province, but we haven't seen any of them yet. But the system is supposed to be revenue-neutral, so we'll just have to see what happens."

North Dundas Township clerk Bonnie Dingwall said she isn't sure what effect the downloading of social services from the province with the amalgamation will have on property taxes.

She said that town water in the village of Winchester is metered to determine the charges, making it eligible for grants from the federal government, while Chesterville village's water is purchased by residents at a flat rate.

"I can see Winchester village's property taxes going up along with everywhere else," she said. "But I can also see the taxes in the surrounding area going up to where Winchester's taxes are now. I really don't know what's going to happen."

Renovations

The clerk's office is at the south end of the building. The large office, measuring 16 feet by 13 feet will be used for staff meetings as well. A large reception area is positioned right outside of the clerk's office.

In that end of the building are the offices for the roads superintendent, the drainage superintendent and the building official.

The mayor's office is located centrally in the scheme of things, behind the elevator shaft.

At the north end of the building is the treasurer's office, along with the accounts office.

A room for storage of files is at that end as well, along with washrooms and a small kitchenette.

Project designer Gord MacDonald of Chesterville said that the entire cost of the renovation project, including the police, fire and works departments, is $150,000.

"Everything has gone smoothly," MacDonald said. "There was one heating duct that caused a problem but it will be moved. We've also taken advantage of this opportunity to improve the existing ventilation systems."

MacDonald added that there are no foreseeable problems downstairs in the soon-to-be police quarters either.

The new police quarters will be ready by the end of May.

Harris

Harris handed out scrolls of appreciation in Vankleek Hill, Maxville and Brockville before winding up in Manotick.

He also gave plaques to municipal politicians from Ottawa-Carleton and beyond as well as offering words of praise to the many volunteers who staffed shelters, pumped basements and went beyond the call of duty during the crisis.

"The thing I will remember most is not the destruction, but the hundreds of stories of heroism," said the premier. "Neighbors were reaching out to neighbors. You made a most difficult time more comfortable.

"I brought certificates of gratitude for all of you."



Volunteer appreciation

Ice Storm volunteers in communities in eastern Ontario were presented with certificates of appreciation from the Government of Ontario last Friday. Above, left, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Noble Villeneuve, Premier Mike Harris, and MPP Norm Sterling (right) present a certificate to Osgoode Township Mayor Doug Thompson (second from right). Press Photo -- Culliton

Harris singled out local businesses like Kars General Store and Manotick Home Hardware who were instrumental in helping residents cope during the trying time, but he said that many other small businesses deserve a pat on the back for going out of their way as well.

And the premier didn't spend the entire day giving. Two Osgoode children gave the Harris a token of their appreciation.

Katie, 8, and Thomas Oulton, 5, handed Harris a poster inscribed with:

"Thank You Mr. Harris. Ice Strom '98."

In an ongoing effort to aid in the recovery, the premier also designated the first week of May as Eastern Ontario Disaster Relief Week. The province will help promote events in various communities, which is expected to be the last fundraising effort by the government.

All money raised will be matched 4-1.

To date, disaster relief claims in the region have topped 2,642 at a cost of more than $9.5 million.

In Rideau Township, 393 claims have been submitted at a cost of approximately $1.1 million. Claims are also expected to exceed the million-dollar mark in Osgoode Township.



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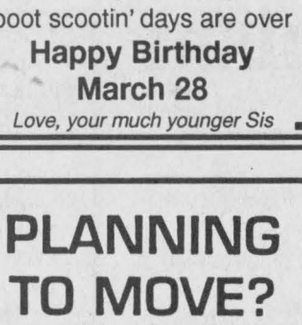

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Buried alive

The weekend's snowstorm wreaked havoc for many of us, but for the kids at Winchester Public School it was nothing but fun. Above, student Chris Robertson gets buried up to his neck in the fresh fallen snow by several of his classmates.

Press Photo — Bierworth

Paramedics turn down EMS contract

by Jeff Brownlee

OSGOODE — Osgoode Township is losing its two advanced paramedics it fought so hard to get, but the applications are already filing in to fill the vacant positions by the April 1 deadline.

Andrew Orchard and Bruce Griffin won't be on the payroll of Eastern Medical Services, the municipality's new land-based service provider when it takes over the contract for the township in April. But EMS co-owner, Mike Chretien assures that the company will have two "equally" qualified paramedics on staff by the startup date.

In just a week since the positions were posted, the company has received over 50 applications from advanced paramedics across the province.

Paramedics coming from outside Ottawa-Carleton will have to get their licenses recognized by the region's base unit at the Ottawa General Hospital.

While EMS offered the duo positions in the company, the parties couldn't agree on a suitable contract, citing seniority and lack of benefits as the major stumbling blocks.

"Unfortunately they wouldn't recognize my seniority," said Orchard.

"Giving up 12.5 years was too big a step for me to take."

"They wanted us to pay for some of our benefits, they didn't address the fact that paramedics in Osgoode work 48 hours in a row and I would have to give up 14 years seniority," added Griffin. "Because of all those issues, there's no way we could work under those conditions."

"It was entirely their choice," said Chretien. "We're disappointed they didn't take the jobs. We wanted to make the transition as undisruptive as possible."

Orchard and Griffin will resign from their current positions with Rural-Metro ambulance and be rehired by umbrella company St. Lawrence on a part-time basis. The duo expects that it won't take long to regain full-time status.

The decision could see the two-some move to the ambulance base at the Queensway Carleton Hospital or operate out of Barrhaven.

Either way, neither is planning to move from the community they and their families have grown to love over the past few years. Both will remain members of the Osgoode fire department.

And Orchard admits he has mixed feelings about the whole ordeal, but he said his decision had to be in his best interest.

Mayor Doug Thompson sympathizes with both Orchard and Griffin, but admits the news is very disappointing.

The township's two regular paramedics did accept positions with EMS, which is also planning to hire an additional six part-time paramedics.

Osgoode will continue to have two paramedics on duty 12-hours per day, with a possibility of that increasing to 16-hour service by summer. The paramedics will continue to operate out of the Osgoode base, located on Vance Street.

Parade of Lights to light up '98

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — It's only March, but the Winchester Parade of Lights committee has already held its first meeting for the planning of the 1998 Christmas parade.

Parade chair John Adams said that a brainstorming session was held last Wednesday (March 18) to come up with some ideas for ways to improve the parade.

The items on the agenda were issues that couldn't be left until September to be dealt with, Adams said.

"We decided that we can't play too much with it, because it already works," Adams said. "We don't want to affect the success of the parade... we just want to make the experience even better. We have found that there are some issues that can be dealt with to make things run more smoothly."

One of those issues is the parade length. The first parade, held Dec. 5, 1997 lasted one and a half hours. Adams said that a way of limiting the number of entries is being examined.

"Nobody wants to stand around any longer than that to watch a parade, especially in the cold weather. We don't want to say no to anyone," he said. "But we can't really speed up the parade, and we want to increase the numbers in the parade, but we certainly can't double it."

He mentioned that one idea being considered is to encourage businesses and farming businesses to team up with floats.

The parade route is another issue being looked at carefully by the committee. "We haven't figured that out yet, but we're hoping for ideas by the time we hold our next meeting in June," the committee chairperson said. "It's doable."

Security and parking are two more issues being dealt with. And one committee member is searching for the perfect match to the blinking bears from the last parade.

The committee wants something different, although they want to continue with the success of the blinking bears.

Other items on the agenda included adding more food booths and bathrooms, and booking more bands for the parade.

"Now that everyone has seen the parade, there will be plenty more ideas," Adams added. "And everyone in eastern Ontario now owns generators, so they won't be hard to come by."

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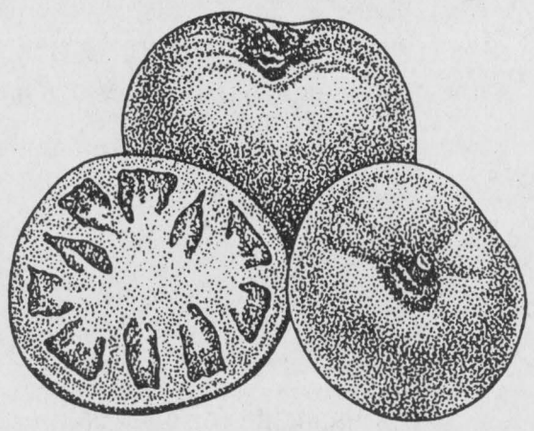

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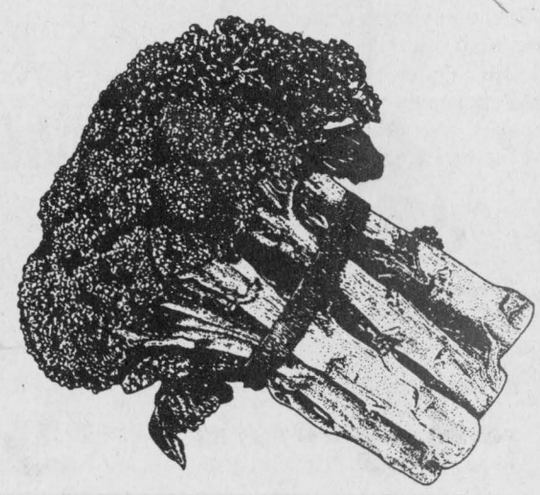

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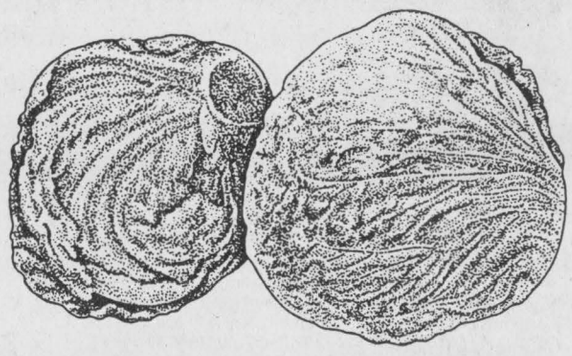

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Relief payout

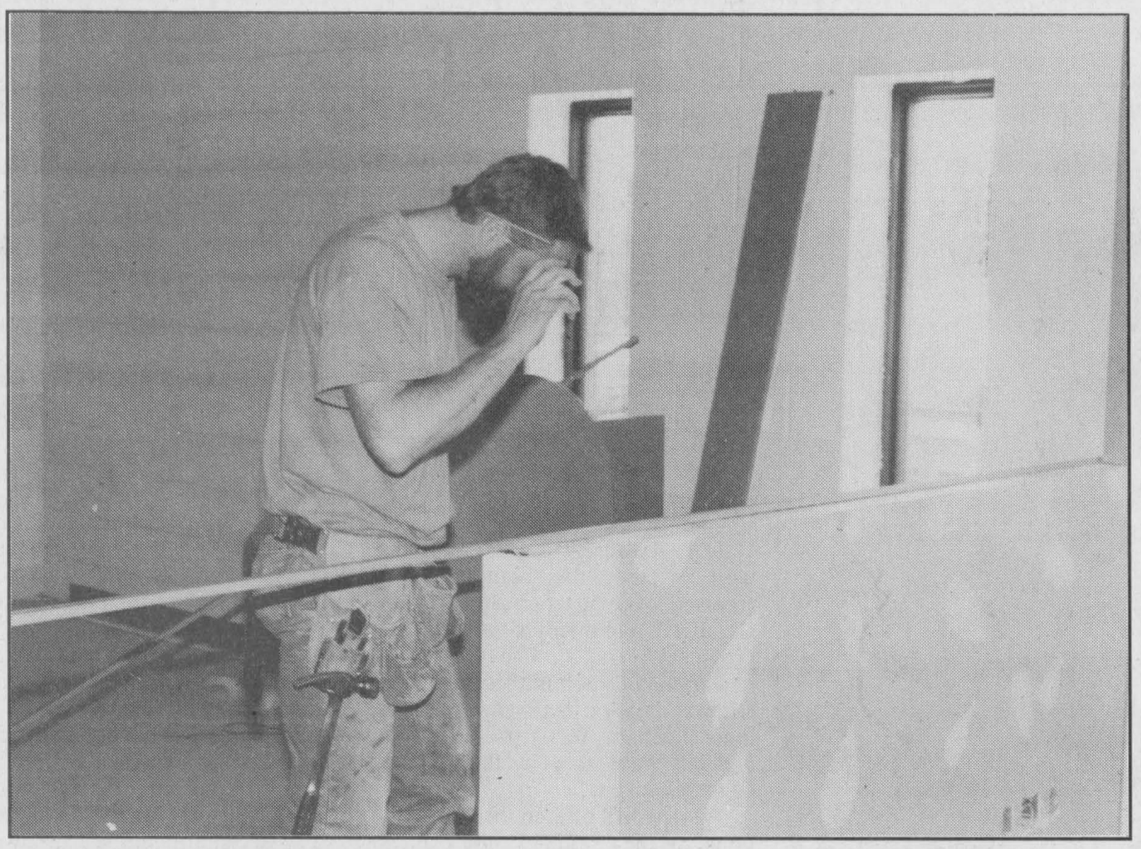
ROCKLAND — Through the Canadian Red Cross the Eastern Ontario Disaster Relief Committee (EODRC) has paid out $144,000 to meet the emergency needs of approximately one thousand families in eastern Ontario. The figure was reported at the EODRC's regular weekly meeting held in Rockland, hosted by the Prescott-Russell Disaster Relief Committee.

"The Eastern Ontario Disaster Relief Committee was established to deal with claim settlements and fundraising," said Jim Bennett, chair of the EODRC. "However, these are medium and long-term efforts and many families simply do not have the resources to wait until damage claims can be settled. The effects of the storm were particularly hard for many on low incomes, fixed incomes or social assistance."

Bennett went on to praise Red Cross efforts in helping those who most need immediate assistance.

Jane Buchan, regional director of the Canadian Red Cross said, "The Red Cross provides aid in the form of vouchers and direct payment, rather than cash. The $144,000 was spent on emergency food, medication, urgent repairs, fuel and other needs. In most cases, the families were referred to us by one of the eight local disaster relief committees, who are the first point of contact."

At the EODRC weekly meeting, the committee was given contributions from three local Prescott-Russell organizations. The Alfred and Plantagenet townships presented a cheque for $2,500, as did the Canadian Hockey Association. The Knights of Columbus of Hawkesbury donated $6,000. When added to the government's up to four-to-one matching formula, the total $11,000 will become up to $55,000 in aid.





New digs

Renovations on the upstairs portion of the Township of North Dundas municipal building in Winchester are expected to be finished in about two weeks. Pictured, Roy McEvay of Vriend Construction works on the renovations. Press Photo — Culliton

Manotick OPP report

MANOTICK — From March 16 to 22 Manotick OPP investigated 82 general occurrences and 10 motor vehicle accidents. Two involved personal injuries. Police responded to a total of 19 alarms, five break and enters and five mischief complaints.

On the morning of March 17 police received a report of an attempted theft of a vehicle from a residence on McCordick Road, Rideau Township. The ignition of the vehicle had been punched out.

Also on March 17 police were called to a farm on Parkway Road, Osgoode Township to investigate an abandoned truck that had been on the property for some time. The truck had the passenger side window smashed and all four tires and rims were removed. The truck was a 1992 black GMC that had been reported stolen to the regional police in December, 1997. Constable Chris Gardner is investigating.

In the early morning of March 18 Constable Rick Dupuis was on patrol in Metcalfe and observed a vehicle with four male occupants at the rear of the school grounds. A bottle of liquor was seized from the vehicle and a 16-year-old was charged under the Liquor Licence Act.

In the early evening of March 18 Constable Ken Ferguson received a report of an erratic driver on Rideau Valley Drive. A male was arrested and charged with impaired operation and refusing to provide a breath sample.

On the evening of March 18 police were dispatched to a barn fire on McCordick Road, Rideau Township. The same barn had been set on fire approximately six months ago. This night, bicycle tracks could be observed leading to and away from the scene. Constable Jason Smith is investigating.

On March 20 Constable Nancy Onlock received a report of a break-in at a residence on Nixon Drive in Osgoode. The stolen property included a Homelite chain saw, a skill saw and a JVC video cassette recorder. It is believed that the break-in occurred approximately a week earlier.

On March 20 police received a report of a break-in to an outbuilding on Snake Island Road in Metcalfe. Constable Rick Dupuis is investigating.

In the early morning hours of March 21 Manotick OPP set up a Ride Program on Highway 31, Osgoode Township. Police issued one 12-hour suspension and one charge under the Highway Traffic Act.

On the morning of March 22 police received a report of a theft of a vehicle from a business on Highway 31, Osgoode Township. Stolen sometime overnight was a 1991 red and white Ford F150 pickup. Constable Jeff Dulick is investigating.

AfterLoss
Learning how to cope with grief

Questions & Answers about grief recovery*

Q. I am several months past my loss now. Most days I do very well. Then all of a sudden I become overwhelmed. Is this normal?

A. Certainly. Grief can be analogous to waves hitting on the shore. At first, the waves are large and powerful and they knock us down. As we work through our grief, the waves begin to subside to a degree. When we haven't noticed any waves for a while, we know that we are succeeding in rebuilding our lives. If we know this is normal and part of our grief process, we can recover from the waves sooner and learn to expect fewer of them in our future.

* Questions asked during bereavement classes are answered here by the editor of *AfterLoss*, the monthly grief-recovery HelpLetter. For your free copy of *AfterLoss* or one of our other helpful booklets about grief recovery, please write, call or stop by.

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OBITUARIES

Bert McLean Loucks

Bert McLean Loucks of Elma died on Sun., March 15 at Winchester District Memorial Hospital.

He was 78.

Mr. Loucks was born in Chesterville on August 3, 1919 to the late Thomas and Nellie (nee McLean) Loucks.

He was the loving husband of Joye Loucks (nee Dillabough), whom he married in Morewood on August 3, 1946.

He was the dear father of H. Bert Loucks of Elma and Bonnie (Greg) Ball of Acton. He will be sadly missed by grandchildren James W.E. Loucks of Apple Hill, Robin A. Loucks of Elma and great-grandchildren Joshua and Brittany Loucks.

He is also survived by sisters Hazel Bolton of Prescott and Gladys McMahon of Montreal. He was predeceased by brothers Bruce and Donald Loucks.

Mr. Loucks was a registered egg producer and he maintained a pure-bred holstein cattle herd until he retired from farming in 1981. He lived in Elma for 51 years, and spent his life in the area.

He was a member of the Williamsburg United Church.

He was also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #434 in Chesterville from 1946 until he became a charter member of Williamsburg Branch #538. He served as the second president of the Williamsburg Legion.

Mr. Loucks enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Forces in 1941, graduating as an Air Bombardier at St. Jean, Quebec. He received his discharge in 1946 after having served for five years.

In 1983 Mr. and Mrs. Loucks became Weather Watchers for Environment Canada and they performed this duty from 1983 until January of 1998.

There was no visitation or funeral service. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Marsden and McLaughlin Funeral Home, Williamsburg.

Donations to the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

T.R. Leger grad April 3

WINCHESTER — T.R. Leger Alternative School will hold its annual graduation on Fri., April 3. The school usually holds the graduation in November, but opted to hold it during spring this year.

Of the 260 students graduating, 45 have completed their requirements at the Winchester Campus.

The T.R. Leger graduation is a special event for graduates because in many cases the students had returned to school after several years to obtain a high school diploma.

Their reasons for going back vary, but more commonly include job loss, a work-related injury and teen parenthood. Along with achieving academic success, many T.R. Leger grads have overcome significant barriers which prevented earlier completion of a high school diploma.

Staff and students at T.R. Leger would like to extend their congratulations and best wishes for the future to its graduating students.

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Author Mary Cook coming to town

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

WINCHESTER — Take a trip down memory lane with one of the greatest story-tellers in the area.

The popular tales of author Mary Cook will soon fill the Wesleyan Church Hall as the Dundas Community Learning Centre gears up to host the local celebrity in an upcoming fundraiser.

Cook will be coming to the hall on Main Street in Winchester on April 24 at 7 pm to talk about her five books and thrill audiences with her untold stories.

Linda Foster, chair of the Learning Centre, said she is looking forward to hearing Cook speak.

"She is a wonderful speaker," she said. "And I think the kids can relate too because of the ice storm. Before, grandparents would tell them about doing their homework beside a kerosene lamp and having only the heat of a woodstove, and the kids would say 'yeah, right,' but now they've been through it."

Each of Cook's books are a collection of short stories about events in her childhood as she grew up in the Ottawa area during the 1930s. The stories are a mixture of good times and bad, and illustrate the vivid imagination of a young Cook.

Her appreciation of the Ottawa area has kept Cook here as she now resides in Carleton Place. She speaks to school children all over the country and is in constant demand at dinner meetings. She is booked as guest speaker at various meetings up to a year in advance.

"This is the first time we've brought in a celebrity for a Learning Centre fundraiser," said Foster. "I'm looking forward to it. I think one of the things I'd like to stress is that she isn't just appealing to women or the elderly. She appeals to men and kids too. She's very homey and down to earth, and makes everyone feel comfortable."



Dundas Community Learning Centre chair Linda Foster holds up two of local author Mary Cook's books and a ticket for the upcoming fundraiser at which the popular author will be speaking. The event is scheduled for April 24 at the Wesleyan Church Hall in Winchester and is being held to raise money for the Learning Centre.
Press Photo — Bierworth

Foster heard Cook speak at a conference about two years ago and said the author left the audience enthralled.

"It was great," said Foster. "She'd have you laughing one minute and crying the next. She's an amazing speaker. She really hits home too with some of the things she talks about."

Cook worked with CBC as a broadcast journalist for more than 40 years. She has also written for several popular newspapers and magazines. CTV produced a pilot of her depression stories, which was aired in 1992 to rave reviews.

She is a seven-time winner of the ACTRA award for excellence in broadcasting. She donates her time as a guest speaker to charities and has received the Canadian Cancer Society's highest award for starting more than a dozen Cancer Society branches in one year. She is a life member of IODE and has served on the boards of the Children's Aid Society and the Ontario Veterinary Association.

There are only 150 tickets available for the event at $10 each. They can be purchased at Fawcett's Jewellers. Cook will also be available to answer questions and sign books while she is in town.

The Learning Centre, which is located at 457 Main St., offers free, one-on-one tutoring to anyone who needs it, and confidentiality is guaranteed.

For more information about the Learning Centre, call Linda Foster at 774-2881 (work) or 774-2931 (home), or call the Learning Centre at 860-READ.

Bad weather being blamed for low turnout at Meltdown

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

CORNWALL — About 2,000 people braved the freezing temperatures, blowing snow and poor driving conditions to celebrate Meltdown '98 at the Cornwall Civic Complex on March 22.

The event was held to kick off Disaster Relief Week for SD&G and give businesses in the United Counties a chance to make donations to the Disaster Relief Fund.

Despite the lower than expected turnout, about $40,000 was raised in cheque presentations alone. And that's only the beginning, said Meltdown '98 organizer Leslie O'Shaughnessy.

"Anyone who did show up had a great time," he said. "But I think the weather kept a lot of people home. Still, we're looking at it as a success."

The event was held from noon to 6 pm and kept the audience rocking to the tunes of popular local bands, including the Barstool Prophets, the South Glengarry pipe band, the Velvet Heart Show, the Tammy McRae band and singers Mike McAnany and Sam Hill.

Cheques were presented between performances.

It's now easier to donate $20 or $50 to the relief fund.

To make a $20 donation, dial 1-900-630-3320. The $50 donation line is 1-900-630-3350. When you call, Bell Canada will charge the amount to your monthly bill, and send the donation to the Disaster Relief Committee within 45 days after March 30, which is when the lines will become inoperative. Then a receipt will be issued to every caller by the committee.

O'Shaughnessy would also like to remind area residents that Meltdown '98 buttons are still on sale and spotters will still be handing out $25 cash prizes at various places in the United Counties until March 28. And though he wouldn't say when, he mentioned that a spotter will be in the Winchester area soon.

As for the Meltdown, O'Shaughnessy isn't confirming anything yet, but he hopes it could become an annual event.

"The concert was a lot of fun," he said. "There has never been anything so big in Cornwall planned so fast. If it becomes an annual thing then, of course, we'll have more time to get things together. But I think it would be nice to have it every year as a spring welcome. The volunteers did a super job, and it's something that Cornwall has never seen before."

Herb grower spices up meeting

by Marg. McDiarmid

VERNON — Joan Chinkiwsky from Metcalfe was special speaker at the March meeting of the Vernon Womens' Institute.

She operates the 'Spice of Life' herbal shop in Metcalfe and spoke of the different herbal teas, tonics, capsules and tablets and told of the specific ailments they help. Members also enjoyed a short video taken in her shop.

Sandra Toll introduced and thanked Chinkiwsky for her interesting presentation.

Thirteen members answered the roll call with an Irish story or joke.

President Ann Leighton-Kyle spoke about the conference workshops scheduled to take place in July in Bellville.

A letter and pictures of our foster child in El Savador was passed around.

Plans were made for catering to the Metcalfe Lions Club on April 8.

A nominating committee of Sandra Toll and Helen McDonald were appointed for our annual meeting in April at the home of Evelyn Cowan in Metcalfe.

A social time followed with a delicious lunch prepared by Thea Marion and Josie Poole was served.



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MARCH 24
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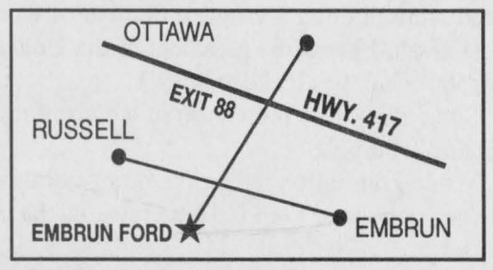

Editorial/Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Show us the money

Residents of eastern Ontario appeared less than pleased at a visit by the province's premier on Friday.

While the group receiving Mike Harris at the Manotick Fire Station was receptive to the premier and applauded his comments, the conversation throughout the crowd before and after his appearance was not about certificates, but money.

More specifically, compensation for Ice Storm 1998.

Not that he's unwelcome in these parts, but his well-meaning act of handing out certificates of appreciation for volunteers was, perhaps, a tad patronizing.

And although the worst natural disaster in Canada's history occurred just two months ago, the people who suffered through it are waiting rather patiently for their compensation in order to start clean-up and start getting on with their lives post-storm.

Arriving empty-handed did little to endear Mr. Harris to his voters.

Yes, it takes time to arrange the monetary compensation, but tell that to the people who had no choice but to live through the ice storm disaster and its devastating effects.

Forgetting the little people

Volunteers are what make a community tick.

What Ontario Premier Mike Harris forgot when he brought in legislation for the amalgamation of municipalities was the little people... the volunteers who have willingly given so much of their time to make community events happen.

By paying people to oversee all operations in the enlarged municipality, Harris has alienated a large portion of the population: the people who used to be the people who ran things.

Once the volunteers find they have to work for a paid employee, they lose their enthusiasm. When they're volunteers, everyone is on the same level, and working together is fun. Once the paid employee takes charge, those not being paid to help will have less incentive to perform their previous duties.

Resentment builds up, directed at the employee who is paid to do what the volunteers have done for free for so long.

It's only human nature.

Volunteers are vitally important to a community, and should be handled carefully and treated with respect.

Communities may remember losing a generation of volunteers in the 1980s due to government grants that were suddenly able to pay for workers in jobs where volunteers used to be needed. Once the windfall of the 80s was over and volunteers — read: free labor — were needed once again, it took some time to build up that feeling of community spirit.

The danger now is losing that enthusiasm again. Handle with care.

L.C.

This week in...

1948

At a meeting of the Municipal Council permission was granted to Gilbert Raistrick, Dog-Tax Collector, to set the date of April 15 as the deadline for local dog owners to pay their dog tax and receive the necessary tag. After April 15, all owners of dogs who have not paid their dog tax would be liable to prosecution.

For the second year in succession, Inkerman Rockets annexed the title of Ottawa and District Amateur Junior Hockey Champions. To earn the title this year, the Rockets had to overcome stiff opposition in their series with the Ottawa Senators, Junior Champions of the Capital City League. The Rockets won the first two games, dropped the third to the Senators by a one-goal margin, and came back strong in the fourth game to clinch the series.

The Picadilly Theatre at Williamsburg donated the proceeds of a show to the Winchester District Memorial Hospital. The show was well patronized, with many local citizens in attendance and as a result the sum, of $58.40 was turned in to the hospital treasurer

1958

Candidates wound up their campaigns as voters prepared to go to the polls. In Grenville-Dundas it would be a three-way fight between A. Clair Casselman, a Progressive Conservative candidate who had represented the riding for 37 years; Arthur Clark Casselman, a Cardinal school teacher who made this third attempt for the Liberal party; and Rev. R.H. James, a Metcalfe minister who would be the Social Credit's candidate.

Winchester Juniors, winners of the Central Ottawa Valley Junior Hockey League and the Winchester Press Trophy, and a number of parents were special guests at the March luncheon meeting of the 100 Club. Because of the closing of Heidi's Restaurant, the meeting was held in the Town Hall and catered to by the LOBA.

The teachers of Winchester and Mountain Townships held a joint meeting at Winchester Public School with a good attendance. M.N. Hutchinson was chair in the absence of Harry Potter. Rae Helmer, as president of the Mountain Teachers, introduced the guest speaker, Dorothy Dunn of Ottawa Teachers' College. A complete summary of the social studies course through the grades was given, with special emphasis on that fact that in the primary division, social studies evolves from the child's personal experiences in the home and with people close to him or her.

1968

June 1 was set as the date for official opening of the new wing at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital. This decision was reached at an executive meeting. Since it was imperative that Hon. Matthew Dymond, Ontario Minister of Health, be on hand to cut the traditional ribbon, the date necessarily would allow for last minute changes in the minister's busy schedule. The new wing was almost completed and those who had already visited it came away favourably impressed.

In a dormant state for several years, Winchester Hotel would take on new life. H. Besin, long-time owner of the building, told the Press that work had already started on the stately centre town building which would eventually see it transformed into a modern business and professional complex.

In the second game of a two-game total point series, Winchester defeated Dunbar 4-0 to win the local Atom hockey championship. Doug Crowder paced the attack by getting a hat trick. Al Porteous scored a goal and an assist. Third member of the line, left winger Steve Guy, collected two assists. Shutouts in both final games were recorded by Doug Duncan.

1978

A movement to determine what effects a proposed hydro generating station along the St. Lawrence would have on this area surfaced in Iroquois. The group, which was still unnamed, would attempt to ferret out answers from Ontario Hydro and other sources to educate the public about the pros and cons of living in the shadow of a hydro generating station.

The Seaway Valley Tourist Council tailored its promotion to the money available and didn't return to paid private memberships for funding, said council president Art Casselman. He was re-elected president of the tourist council for the fourth consecutive term and commented on a suggestion at the last meeting to initiate private membership fees.

The Board of Governors of the Winchester District Memorial Hospital went on record as favoring the establishment of a district health council. A motion proposed by John McIntosh and Louise Sloan favoring the scheme was passed with only director Carl Ward dissenting. The matter was referred to the finance and management committee for the purpose of preparing a list of names from Dundas County to be considered for membership on the health council when it was formed, said a summary report of the February board proceedings.

A politely worded invitation from the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry board of education had Winchester council a little worried. A letter received from the board invited two members of council and the clerk to attend a meeting March 28 at


THE WINCHESTER PRESS

which the board would reveal its budget presentation.

1988

County taxes would be increased by 4.7 per cent if county council were to approve a $16.4 million budget. County council was facing a 10 per cent increase to accommodate growth in county programs and agencies, but decided to slash increases to 4.7 per cent. Most programs and agencies held steady at an increase of four to five per cent, but county council doled out less than the requested amount of funds to the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, the Children's Aid Society, the Seaway Valley Tourist Council and the county library.

One of Grenville-Dundas' potential waste management sites is located too close to Winchester's municipal well for comfort, said a rural planner. Mountain resident Larry Cotton said a well that provided about half of Winchester village's water was only .6 kilometres away from the boundary of Site 7, one of the largest of the 24 sites selected as potential waste management sites by consulting engineers A.J. Robinson and Associates.

A general floor plan for the new Greely Community Centre was completed and the public was invited to voice their opinions at a public meeting. The architectural firm of Katz and Webster had been working closely with the Greely Community Centre building committee and Osgoode council on the project, which would cost an estimated $1.65 million.



White House conspiracy theory may be right

But seriously...

by Lori Culliton

By now we all know way too much about the personal life and dalliances of the president of the United States.

We know way more than we want to know, but like the nosy, sensationalists that we are, we keep going back for more dirt. More gossip.

Admit it. Bill Clinton has been at the butt of at least one joke you have either heard or told this week. Probably more than once.

And even if you never buy such trash as "The Enquirer" (nobody does, although that doesn't explain how the magazine keeps selling every week) you are not above reading the headlines in the line at Wal-mart, or even flipping through the pages to see what the randy president has been up to lately.

It doesn't even have to be true. It just has to titillate you enough for you to want to read the next tawdry story, true or not.

Some think the president is guilty of the philandering he's been accused of by a growing number of women.

(I mean, I know the president of the United States is a busy guy, but man has he been busy!)

Some think he's the victim of a conspiracy to oust him from his powerful post.

While I admit to reading the news stories about the president's alleged activities, I tend to lean towards the conspiracy theory, myself.

However, I don't blame political ambushers for the conspiracy.

No, in my opinion the people behind the conspiracy are in Hollywood.

That's right, the movie producers in Hollywood, I think, are plotting against the president.

Why? you might ask. What business would movie producers in Hollywood have with a guy in Washington?

Well, to start with, people are fascinated with the man touted as the most powerful guy in the world. And people will watch things that they're fascinated with. Better still, they'll pay to watch things they're fascinated with.

Why did movie of the year "Titanic" meet with such success? Because we are fascinated with such disasters and will pay big money to see carnage again and again. Well, the special effects were pretty good too.

But I return to my point. (And I do have one.)

Hollywood is scheming against the president in order to sell movie tickets.

That's right, folks. Case in point: the movie that opened last weekend in theatres, "Primary Colors".

Now, okay, the producers of the movie are insisting that the movie is fictional; it has nothing to do with the Clintons.

The fact that John Travolta developed quite a tummy for his role, had his hair greyed to a salt-and-paper shade and adapted a soft southern accent identical to the portly president is purely coincidence.

And the fact that Emma Thompson does a pretty good Hillary means nothing too. Neither does the fact that Clinton accuser Kathleen Willey is a dead-ringer for Emma Thompson.

Purely coincidence.

Right.

Another case in point: the movie "Wag the Dog" for which Dustin Hoffman didn't win a supporting actor award. I've spent time on this movie in this space in the past.

The two movies point towards a conspiracy that should be so obvious I'm surprised Washington hasn't caught on.

But I'm not going to be the one to break it to them.

No, I'm waiting for the next Hollywood attack on the presidency.

Know your options and be aware of disease, risks: Swerdfeger

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — When living with cancer, attitude is important. It's imperative to maintain a positive outlook. That gives you the weapon to fight the horrible disease.

Linda Swerdfeger of Winchester uses those words of wisdom to get through her ongoing battle with cancer, and she uses those words to help other people who are going through the same kind of battle.

"It's easy to be down and suffer through the 'why me?' syndrome," she says. "That won't get you anywhere."

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1982 at the age of 28, Swerdfeger has gone through several recurrences since then. Her last recurrence was a year and a half ago.

"I take it one day at a time," she says. "The old phrase 'clean bill of health' just isn't true."

A recovery spokesperson for breast cancer, Swerdfeger now does her part by offering breast health training awareness to women. She also speaks to women who are undergoing surgery themselves and she speaks to groups about cancer awareness.

"It's good to talk to a survivor," she says. "They're the only person who could really understand what you're going through."

She adds, however, "Every situation is unique. You can't say 'I know how you feel'. You can't possibly know how that person feels. It's presumptuous. A person can withdraw when they hear that."



Linda Swerdfeger

What Swerdfeger can do is be there for them, which, she says, is as much as anybody can do for a person fighting the disease.

"Sometimes people stay away and avoid the person because they don't know what to say," she says. "That's the worst thing you can do. What you should do is offer to do something for them, offer companionship. Cancer is a big word in this society, and we tend to avoid it... we tend to be scared of it. But you might as well say something than avoid them."

Cancer awareness in society has improved, Swerdfeger says. "It's improved, but there is still a long way to go," she says. "Women still don't do self-examinations often enough. It's taught to women, but it's not done often enough. A lot of women just think they're too young to be at risk. Mammograms are only recommended for women over 40 or 50 but I was 28 when I was diagnosed. You're not too young."

The best defence against breast cancer now, Swerdfeger advises, is early detection. There is no cure, but if it's caught early, she says, a woman can find out about her options.

"The risk increases with age but that doesn't mean you can't get cancer before you're 40," Swerdfeger says. "People think 'it won't happen to me'. But breast cancer happens to one in 10 women. The history in your family increases your risk, but there are plenty of women who have breast cancer who had no family history of cancer."

Swerdfeger's own experience was against the odds. She was diagnosed at the age of 28, much younger than the warning age of 40. She also had no family history of cancer.

"It was very traumatic," she says. "I had been reassured that there was no way the lump in my breast was cancer because I was too young. I received a phone call at home to tell me that the lump was cancerous. That was a Friday. I was told to book into the Winchester hospital on Sunday for surgery on Monday.

"They didn't give me any options," she continues. "That wouldn't have happened today. They would have given me more time to examine my options and decide which treatment was best for me. But I did what I was told."

Swerdfeger had preschool children at the time and had breastfed her babies. She had been told that breastfeeding helped the odds of breast cancer, another misconception.

She underwent a lumpectomy on her breast, and then a mastectomy on the same breast not long after. Then a lump was found on the other breast and a lumpectomy was done on it. That was followed some time later by another mastectomy.

She's been through it all — chemotherapy, radiation, hormone treatment (tamoxifen).

Despite the chances that the disease could come back, Swerdfeger remains positive.

"I don't live in fear of it. I don't think about it," she says. "I've had several recurrences on the other side. It's always a setback but I don't think about it. I deal with it when it happens."

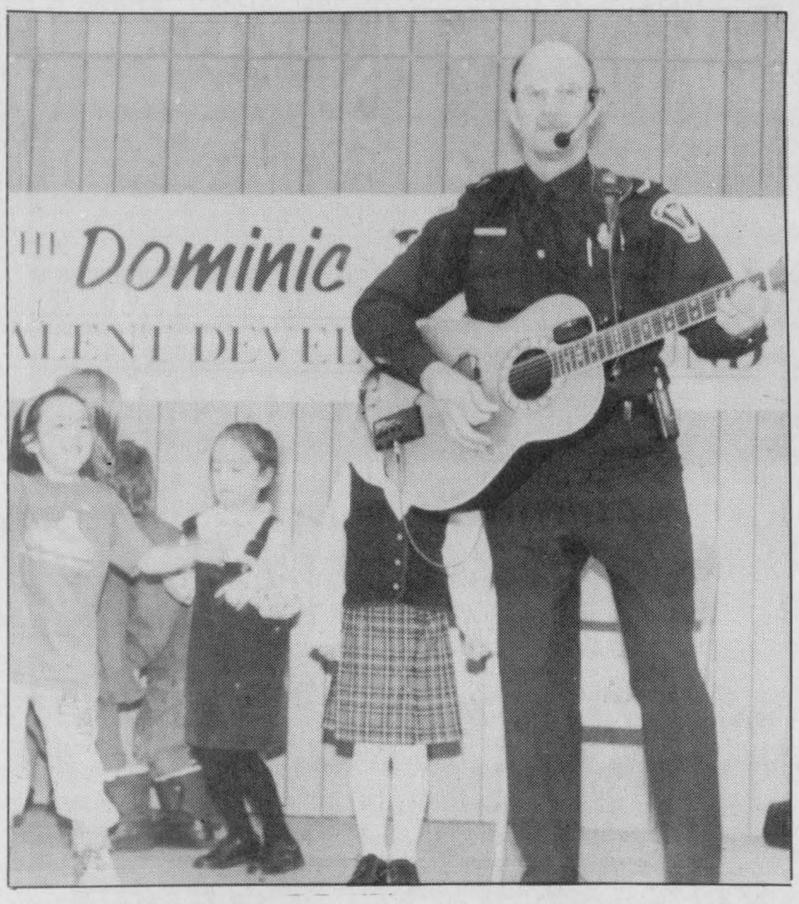
Meanwhile she visits a doctor every six months. And she worries about her two daughters.

"They will have to be aware of cancer and they'll have to have earlier mammograms," she says. "They're risk is higher because of my history."

The best defence, she says again, is knowing your options and being aware of the disease and its risks.

"You can carry on. You can have a normal life. I'm not saying it's fun, but you can always find a way to cope and move on," Swerdfeger says matter of factly.

"You have to move on. What are your other choices if you don't?"



Singing cop

Popular singing policeman Dominic D'Arcy gave area children an upbeat ending to their spring break at the Chesterville Community Hall on Sat., March 21. The hour-long show raised about $250 for Happy Face Nursery School. This was the first time D'Arcy sang for the nursery school's annual March break children's show. Tickets were $2. Press Photo — Bierworth

DeBruijns cook up fundraiser

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

CHESTERVILLE — Debbie de Bruijn is cooking up a storm.

With the 'Pampered Chef fundraiser' only days away, she and her mother-in-law, Marilyn de Bruijn, are sorting through an array of cookware and choosing which tantalizing recipes to make at the event.

The fundraiser will be held at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall on Mill Street in Chesterville on Sat., March 28 starting at 2:30 pm.

All proceeds will go to the Disaster Relief Committee to benefit the SD&G victims of January's ice storm. The amount raised will be matched by the government four to one.

'Pampered Chef' is a line of cookware that is sold only at social gatherings, much like the ever-popular Tupperware.

Marilyn de Bruijn said she was planning to host a cookware party, with her daughter-in-law, when the two decided they wanted to give something back to the community in relation to the ice storm.

That's when they learned about the Disaster Relief Committee, which is based at the SD&G United Counties office in Cornwall, and its efforts to raise funds for ice storm relief.

"We wanted to turn it into a fundraiser," de Bruijn said. "We have been on the receiving end of help for victims of the ice storm and we wanted to give something back and send the proceeds to a charity."

The cookware will be on display at the event and anyone interested in purchasing an item can order then. Debbie will be demonstrating how different items are used and what benefits the clay-based cookery has over the traditional metal and glassware.

"She's not a pusher when it comes to selling," de Bruijn said. "It (the product) sells itself. It's amazing to see the response. People like it so much."

The cookware line includes a variety of kitchen tools, including vegetable dicers, apple peelers and corers, corn cob nobs, slicers, knife sharpeners, ice shavers and items for left-handers.



Peters – Ault

Mr. and Mrs. George Peters of Iroquois and Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Ault of Brinston are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Trish Peters to Barny Ault. The wedding will take place May 16, 1998 at the Brinston United Church.



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NDDHS NOTES
by Sam Cullen

Township honors three firefighters

OSGOODE — Osgoode Township honored its men and women in yellow March 21.

The annual firefighters' award banquet at the Osgoode Community Centre may have been an opportunity to honor those who went well beyond the call of duty, but as Fire Chief Gerry Bennett explained, the department's entire contingent of 62 firefighters are all deserving of firefighter of the year awards.

"I've said it a hundred times, but I'll say it again: You are the best group of firefighters in Ottawa-Carleton," said Bennett. "When all of you put in a 150 per cent effort it makes my job a whole lot easier."

The department's captains named three firefighters who dedicated a lot of time to the department the past year. Don Lewis, Jason Bachhuber and Etienne Quesnel were honored for their devotion.

The awards evening was of special importance this year, due to the ice storm.

Bennett said that he was proud of how the department came together during the crisis.

Back to the books

MAPLE RIDGE — With our week of rest and relaxation gone, students have to face the undesirable task of re-entering the classroom.

For many OAC students, March Break was an opportunity to visit potential university choices. While taking their road trip, bus trip or train ride, this is a major deciding factor for most students. At which school will they spend the next four years of their lives?

Of course there are always those people fortunate enough to grace such wonderful, sunny countries as Mexico with their presence for one week.

But I'm not bitter.

It's not as though I suffered through miserable weather for a week while some people had the chance to bathe in the sun.

I hate winter.

Happy Retirement Helen

After 18½ years of dedicated work at my office, **Helen Stewart** has decided to retire. She will be greatly missed, not only by myself and the rest of the staff, but also by many patients who have come to know her over the years.

Keep your eyes open, you may run into Helen on one of the golf courses in the Metcalfe area this summer, as she is planning to take up the game.

Enjoy your golf, Helen, and the rest of your retirement, and thank you for your loyalty, dedication and hard work.

Dr. Robert A. Rowan

Guidance & Understanding



Gloria Byers, at left, and Victoria Byers.

On April 3rd, 1998, Byers Funeral Home Inc. will be marking its fifth anniversary. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community and surrounding area for the confidence and trust shown in us.

More and more people are making prearrangements, and we invite you to call for an appointment to discuss your wishes. With the choice of cremation becoming an important alternative, we are able to provide all information and necessary documents for the process. Prearrangements can be updated or transferred at any time.

To lighten the burden at the time of death, we are pleased to take care of the ensuing paperwork including obtaining necessary certificates and CPP benefits applications, and to receive all in memoriam donations in accordance with the family's wishes. After the service, we now offer a funeral reception area for your convenience. With sympathy and understanding, we keep your wishes close to our hearts in a family atmosphere, while providing all aspects of funeral service.

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Procrastinators hit by new tax rules

WINCHESTER -- Although you should be doing your tax planning long before it's time to file your income tax return — preferably throughout the year — it's only human nature to leave things to the last minute.

The bad news is that various recent changes to income tax rules mean there is more to think about when you prepare your tax returns this year. The good news is that there are still a few opportunities for saving on your 1997 taxes.

Above all, says Bob Ellison, CA, senior manager in the Hamilton office of Deloitte & Touche, "be sure to use as much of your RRSP contribution entitlement as your budget allows. Sometimes, it may even pay to get a bank loan to top up RRSP contributions."

But, warns Peter Boultbee, CA, a tax partner with Toronto-based Smith Nixon, be careful about purchasing certain types of mutual funds when you make your RRSP contributions.

"You may have to pay tax on a year-end income distribution," he says, "even though you have already paid for it in fact through the market value of the units you purchased."

Doug Hartkorn, CA, a tax partner with Shimmerman, Penn, Burns, Becker in Toronto, explains that the list of medical expenses eligible for the medical tax credit has been expanded.

"As well, there's a new refundable tax credit for low income individuals with incomes of $2,500 or more," he advises.

Ellison points out that child tax benefits may now include a "working income supplement. The benefit will be calculated on a per child basis, with a one child family receiving a maximum of $650, a two child family a maximum of $1,010, and the benefit for additional children is $330 each."

Hartkorn says that tax incentives for charitable donations have increased. "The annual limit on charitable donations is now 75 per cent of your net income, plus a further 25 per cent of any taxable capital gains reported in the year with respect to gifts of capital property to a charity," Hartkorn says. "As well, a gift of eligible publicly-traded shares will entitle you to a donation equal to the full fair market value of the shares while requiring only 37.5 per cent of the capital gain to be included in your income."

Hartkorn notes that either spouse may claim the donations of the other, regardless of whose name is on the tax receipt. "Don't split the donations between spouses," he advises. "The tax credit on the first $200 of donations is calculated at the lowest federal tax rate, which could result in lost tax savings of approximately $50."

According to Ellison, "Students and their parents should be happy to learn that tuition fees for tax purposes now include mandatory university fees, such as charges for health services and athletics.

Moreover, students can now carry forward indefinitely any unused education and tuition tax credits."

Hartkorn adds, though, that any amounts a student doesn't need to reduce his or her taxes to zero should be claimed by the parents or a spouse rather than having the student claim it at a later date.

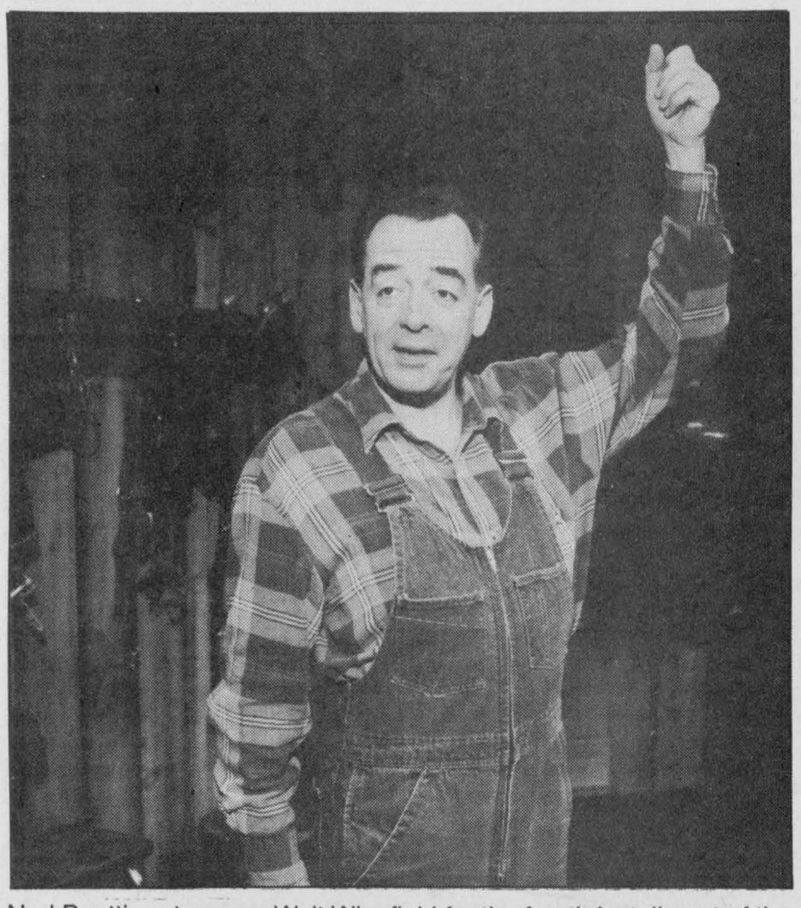
"The value is greater for a tax dollar saved today."

Boultbee points out that, for those who have not yet heard the news, the $100,000 foreign asset reporting requirement — which called for taxpayers to report all foreign holding of $100,000 or more — has been deferred for one more year.

"This indicates the proposal will be sent for further study and may mean it will die a timely death," he says.

Regardless of how these and other income tax rules will affect what you remit to Revenue Canada this year, a visit to a chartered accountant will help minimize the work involved in preparing your tax returns, while maximizing your tax savings.

Brought to you by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario.



Ned Beattie returns as Walt Wingfield for the fourth installment of the Wingfield trilogy in Wingfield Unbound, playing at the NAC until April 4. Courtesy Photo

Wingfield returns with fourth offering

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

OTTAWA — For anyone who has had the opportunity to see any of the Wingfield Trilogy — *Wingfield's Farm, Wingfield's Folly* and *Wingfield's Progress* — the return of Rod Beattie with a brand new Wingfield, *Wingfield Unbound*, is like welcoming home an old friend. Or rather, about 17 old friends.

For those unfamiliar with Walt Wingfield, the hapless stockbroker-turned-farmer who leaves the hectic city life to buy a farm and relax, the newest in the former trilogy is refreshing and funny.

While the notion of a one man play may seem strange to those unfamiliar with Walt Wingfield and Beattie himself, it takes only seconds to become enamored with the man of many characters.

The play, written by Dan Needles, originated in 1974, when Needles wrote a column for a small-town community newspaper in Ontario. It was called "A Letter From Wingfield Farm", about a fictitious stockbroker relaying his weekly adventures on his farm.

The column was turned into a play, with the help of Beattie and his brother, director Douglas Beattie.

Wingfield Unbound begins with the editor of the paper, played by Beattie, of course, setting up the story. He then begins reading a letter from Walt, and becomes Walt in the transition.

Each letter begins, "Dear Ed."

Walt is newly married, having wed Maggie, a neighbor. Maggie's brother Freddy is a stuttering bachelor who always has advice for Walt — usually bad. There are Freddy's two nephews who border on criminal, and the wise old Squire, who is becoming quite old.

Beattie plays them all, with surprising ease. He slips in and out of the characters as naturally as if each character was on the stage with him, including the dog.

And residents, rural or urban, can appreciate the plotlines.

Persephone Township, Walt's home, is in the process amalgamation. The goal is a "mega-township". Because of that, Walt moves to preserve the township and embarks on a battle with a professed haunted mill. Walt's visit to the tired old council meeting is nothing but hilarious.

"If nothing can be decided until after amalgamation, why are you holding council meetings?"

Answer: "Council is always held on the first Monday of the month."

At the same time, adventures on the farm keep him busy. He buys a ram by the name of Pink Floyd, possessed by its previous owner's spirit. He continues with his decrepid work horses ("Going down to the barn these days is like going to the legion."), struggles with his poultry problems (can a hen have a stroke?) and quips some funny lines along the way.

"Nature is a lot like Revenue Canada — she sets her own rules and doesn't always tell you what they are."

Wingfield Unbound, as well as its three predecessors, captures the comedic essence of rural life, while maintaining a touching air and the meaning of community. It is highly recommended.

Wingfield Unbound is at the NAC nightly until April 4. For tickets, call the box office.

Daffodils support cancer cause

WINCHESTER — Spring is almost here and it means just one thing — it's time for the Canadian Cancer Society's Daffodil Days.

Look for daffodil sellers around town from Thurs., April 2 to Sun., April 5. Take a Daffy Break and pick up a Bunch of Hope for just $4.

Proceeds from every bunch of daffodils you buy go to Canadian Cancer Society research, support services for cancer patients and early detection and risk reduction programs.

One in three Canadians will develop some form of cancer during his/her lifetime. Two in three families will have at least one member who will be affected by cancer.

The Canadian Cancer Society is the single largest funder of cancer research in Canada — and this year celebrates its 60th anniversary. The society is totally supported by donations from the public. Funds raised go to the most promising research projects across Canada... the balance is for local community programs.

Daffodil Days started in Toronto on a spring day in the mid-1950s, when Canadian Cancer Society volunteers decorated the tables for a Cancer Tea with daffodils because they represented hope and renewed life.

The following year 5,000 daffodil blooms were sold, raising $1,200. This year more than four million blooms were shipped to Ontario from British columbia in refrigerated trucks. The target for Daffodil Days across Ontario is more than $2 million.

The Daffodil Day concept is now held across Canada, the United States, Europe and Australia. Daffodil Days is now the world's largest user of cut daffodils.

During April — Cancer Month — 125,000 Canadian Cancer Society volunteers will knock on doors across the province, asking for your donation. In total, this year the society hopes to raise almost $40 million in the fight against cancer.

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Millview Diners' Club, April 28
NOTE: Line Dancing is changing to Wednesday afternoon, 1:30-3 pm
South Mountain Diners' Club
Oddfellows IOOF Hall
April 2: Diners' Club, Chicken Pot Pie
April 9: Chicken Fingers, Diner's Ham & Scalloped Potatoes
April 16: Diner's Club, Euchre Party
April 23: Diners' Dinner
April 30: Diners' Club - Games Day
Cost for Diners: $4.50 Non-Senior Guests welcome: $7.00
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RCMP fraud squad alerted by Williamsburg residents

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

WILLIAMSBURG — When Williamsburg resident Donna McIntosh picked up her mail one day last August, she was surprised to find a letter in a thin, brown paper envelope with a Nigerian stamp on the front.

She still didn't know what to think after she and her husband, Currie, read it.

It was addressed to the president of the McIntosh's small, home-based business, Williamsburg Pump Supply and Service. It looked official and requested assistance in wiring millions of dollars in US funds out of Nigeria, claiming the cash was floating around. The letter, which was signed by a Nigerian doctor, promised a percentage of the funds after the wiring was completed. Then, they asked for a response in the form of a void cheque.

Both knew it was a fraud, but the local police weren't interested in it, so they left it alone for a while.

When a second letter came in the mail about two months later, McIntosh picked it out of the mailbox with her fingernails, sealed it in a plastic bag, and sent to the RCMP. But they couldn't do anything either because no crime had yet been committed.

"Things that sound too good to be true usually are," said McIntosh. "So, of course, we didn't respond. After a while, we chucked the first one in the garbage. That was before we got the second one."

While they had heard of scams going on before, neither expected to receive such a letter.

"I hadn't hear of this particular type of scam," said McIntosh. "But at this day and age, you can expect almost anything."

McIntosh advised, "If you get a letter like that, tell people about it. It's a scam. Don't get trapped."

About three weeks ago, Russell resident Ray McNamara received a similar letter. His was also signed by a Nigerian doctor but arrived in a regular, white envelope, stamped Lagos, Nigeria and was addressed personally to him.

"I had no idea what it was," he said. "Why would someone send you a scam letter? I had sent something overseas a few weeks before and I thought maybe things got mixed up. That was my first reaction."

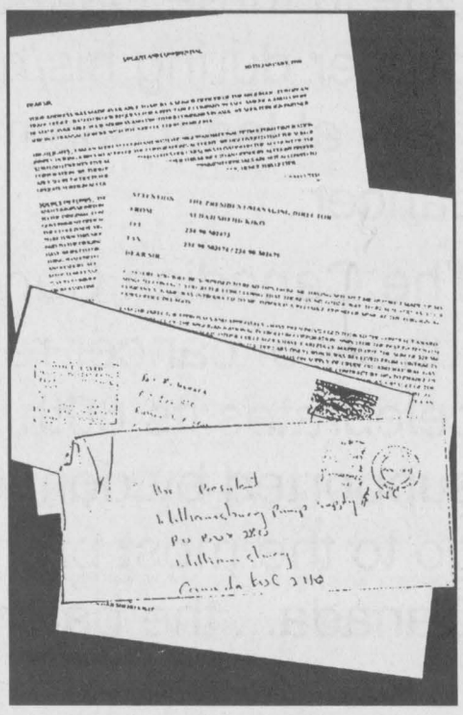
McNamara said he knew right away it was a fraud, but his first concern was for people who may have received the same letter and would be tempted to respond.

"You hear about these kinds of frauds on TV, and it's always in the back of your mind that they're out there, but you never think about it landing on your doorstep," he said. "Of course, since then I've been trying to find out a lot more about it and there are a lot of people who lose everything because of it. Maybe the reason people go for it is that their interest is piqued and they respond, just to see what could happen. They figure they can back out at any time and suddenly, the doors close."

McNamara's letter asks for his bank name, address, phone numbers and branch and account numbers.

The writer states he is an audit accountant with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and that during an audit of the corporation's account, they discovered that $25 million in US funds was floating in the account. The writer says he decided to transfer the money to an offshore account for personal use, but because government officials are not allowed to operate foreign accounts, he is asking for assistance.

His letter states: "The sharing of the funds will be thus: 30 per cent of the money for you, the account owner; 10 per cent for all the expenses that might be incurred during the execution of this transaction, these include telephone bills and hotel bills; and 60 per cent will be for us. Be informed that after all the expenses have been deducted from the 10 per cent, whatever remains will be shared 65 per cent to 35 per cent."



These are copies of letters received by residents of Russell and Williamsburg. Fortunately they realized the letters constituted fraud.

McNamara reported the letter to the local OPP, though they weren't much help, he said. Because the letters tend to target small businesses, McNamara plans to take his to the Russell Chamber of Commerce at their next meeting to warn others about it.

A local OPP officer, who didn't want to give her name, said there is nothing that can be done about the letters at that level. She said the RCMP would handle them, and that's where they should be taken.

RCMP Sergeant Fred Pratt has been handling similar fraud letters over the past several years, and said that even though some arrests have been made and phone and fax numbers blocked from the country, the problem is still far from being solved.

Pratt said that initial letters are sent, asking for bank account information and promising a percentage of millions of dollars floating around in the US. Once the receiver responds, more letters are sent, asking for payments or wiring of shipping fees. Then, more money is requested and before the receiver even realizes it, he is sucked in, paying up to hundreds of thousands of dollars on the mere hope of getting something back.

While all this is happening, the fraud artists in Nigeria are busy finding other ways to get their hands on the money. Some, Pratt said, convince the banks they have legal and official documents, and change the signatures on the account.

"They're not going to provide you with any money in the end," Pratt warns. "All they want is your money. The truth is, there are no millions floating around in the States."

He said the names of the people who receive these letters may come from mailing lists, organizations of small businesses, or 'easy target lists' of people who have been previously victimized.

"The main thing is not to respond to these letters," he advises. " It only encourages them to do it again. It's nothing but a fraud. It would be nice if nobody ever responded, but that would take nationwide co-operation. All I can say is, know who you are going into business with and be very cautious. Protect your investments."

Scott Peterson, manager of the Winchester Branch of the Royal Bank, said he receives dozens of warnings from other banks about similar frauds every year, but didn't know it had reached the surrounding area.

"I've heard about things like this," he said. "It's usually initiated in a country in South Africa and they ask for the clients' help in transferring large amounts of money."

But Peterson said that while nobody could take money from your account with the information provided with a void cheque, people should be cautious who they deal with.

"No one should be releasing any information about accounts unless they know exactly who it is," he said. "There are always verbal and written pre-authorized payment plans between people and businesses like insurance companies and phone companies, but at least they know where it's going. Once the money leaves the country, there's no way of getting it back."

Euchre party

WILLIAMSBURG — The Williamsburg Township Seniors' group held its euchre games on Wed., March 11.

Winners were as follows: ladies — Enid Dalrymple, Peggy Thompson, Norma Hehir; gents — Cecil Lee, Dwain Hess, John McCaslin; door prize — Muriel Miller, Doreen Winters; draw — Lyle Ezard, Zeta Godard, Enid Dalrymple, Albert Winters, Cecil Lee.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

WE WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE ERRORS IN OUR CURRENT "Spring Savings Break" FLYER

Page 1: 6-1/2 gal. shop vac, 54-0221-6. Copy reads: 8.5 amp. **Should read: 7.4 amp.**

Page 5: Motion sensor flood lights. The bulb listed with #52-4043 is not recommended for this outdoor fixture.

WE WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING IN OUR CURRENT "Spring Fix-up Event" FLYER

Page 6: 48-pc. combo bit kit, 54-3621-0. **Three-year warranty slug does not apply and this is not a Mastercraft product.**

Pages 6 & 9: Bit set, 54-3673-2, 54-3661-0 and 57-3544-4. **The three-year warranty slug on these products does not apply.**

WE WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO AN ERROR IN OUR CURRENT "1998 CATALOGUE"

Page 202, item 6: Fisher Price Safe Embrace, 46-6067. Copy reads: 30 to 60 lbs. **Should read: 40 to 60 lbs.**

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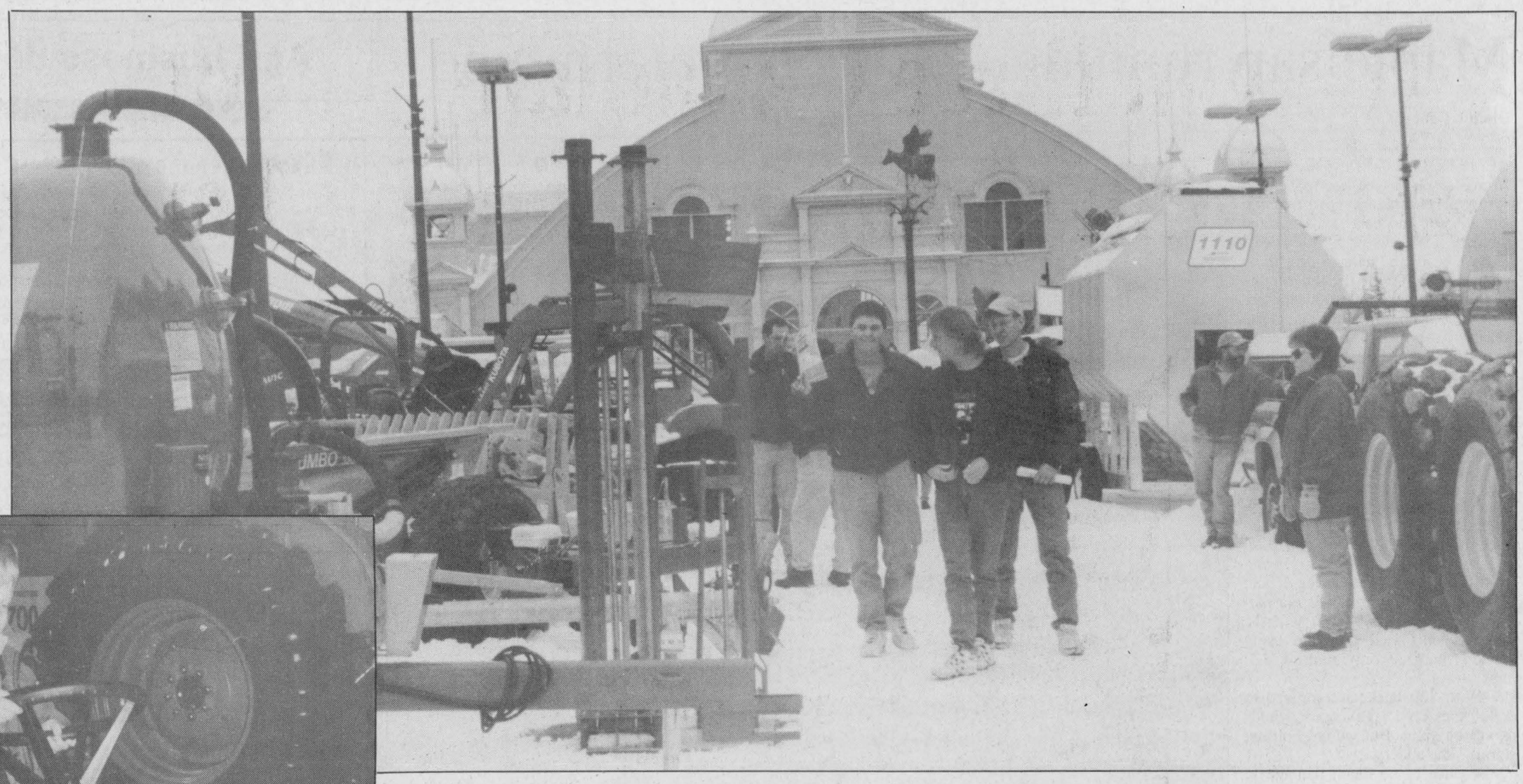




Farm update

Farm show defies March blast

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

OTTAWA — Despite Mother Nature's attempts to prove otherwise, spring had sprung for this year's Ottawa Valley Farm Show.

"Numbers were up... About 200 over last year," said OVFS General Manager Cindy Day. The show ran from Wed., March 18 to Fri., March 20 at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa.

According to Day, the show attracted nearly record crowds on Wednesday and despite nasty weather, Thursday, visitors still braved the conditions to take in the event.

Friday also has a good turnout and the exhibit booths — all 260 of them — were sold out in advance.

The OVFS featured the latest in machinery, equipment, livestock feed and housing, seed, fertilizer, herbicides, computer programs as well as displays of various types of livestock, the Simmental Cattle Show and Sale, the Pedigreed Seed Sale and the Eastern Ontario - Western Quebec Championship Seed and Forage Show.

"Exhibitors told me it (OVFS) was one of the best events to generate interest in their products and make potential sales," Day commented.

As well, the Simmental Sale on Wednesday and the Pedigreed Seed Sale, Friday, went very well. Proceeds from the seed sale will be donated to the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, she added.

Holding the event during March Break this year, may have also contributed to its success, suggested Day.

"We had a number of kids... and admitting children under 12 for free may have helped," she explained.

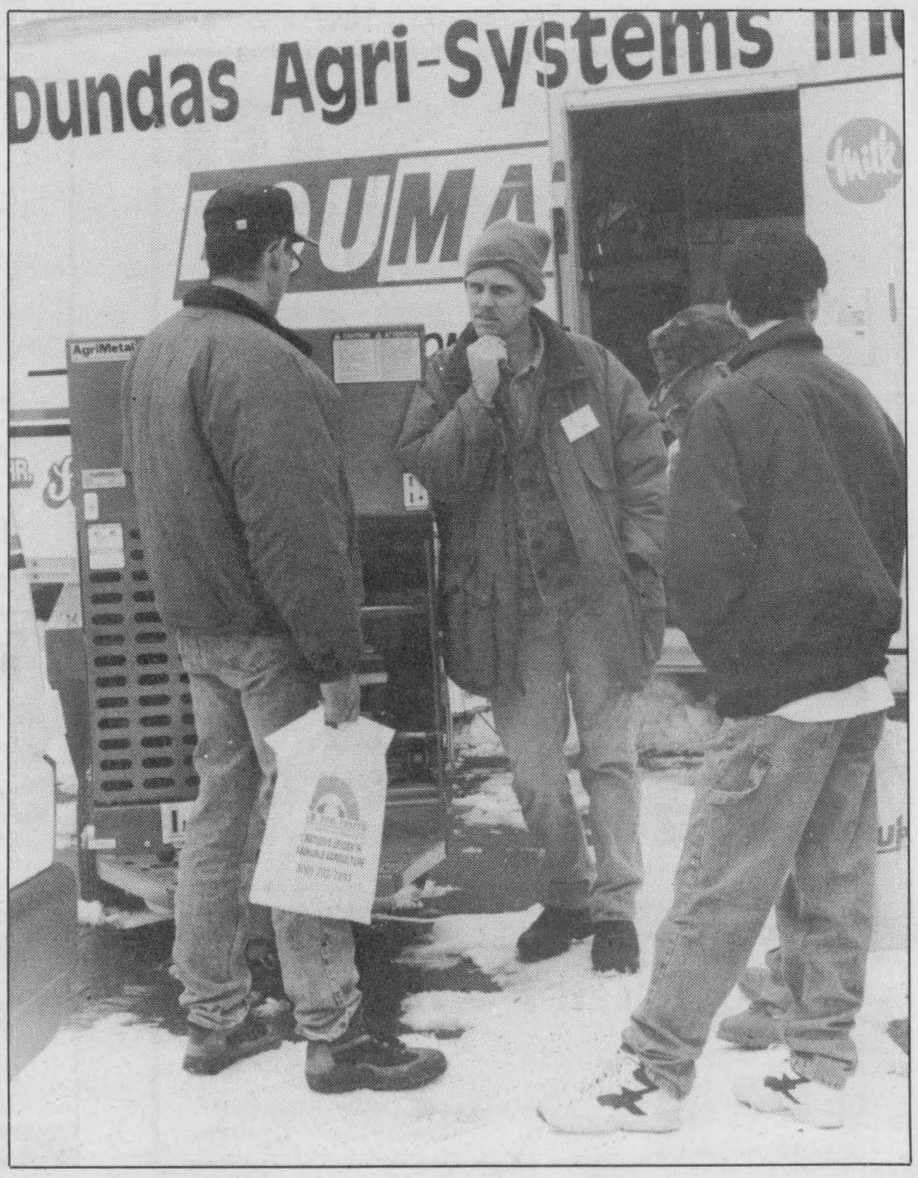
Completing her first term as general manager of the OVFS, Day admitted she was originally nervous about taking over the reins, but added she was very pleased with how well the show came together.

"It was a very rewarding experience. I met some wonderful people," she said, adding she's looking forward to next year.











Farm Show fare

There was lots to see and do at this year's Ottawa Valley Farm Show held March 18 - 20 at Lansdowne Park in Ottawa. Pictured, clockwise from top: a little snow didn't deter visitors from taking in the show; a group of men take a closer look at some heavy equipment; farm show visitor checks out the seed show in the Aberdeen Pavilion; visitors stop to chat in front of the Dundas Agri-Systems booth; the Pedigreed Seed Sale on Friday raised funds for CHEO; crowds gather around a new tracked tractor; and Thomas Cormier of Carlsbad Springs tries out a garden tractor. Press Photos — Fetterly

Maple sap running, yields undetermined

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

KEMPTVILLE — Despite damage from January's ice storm, maple syrup producers are now tapping. But it's still too early to determine yields.

"We won't be able to determine yields yet... It will depend on the amount of cleanup producers are able to do from now to the end of the season... April will tell the tale," explained agri-forestry specialist Dave Chepeski.

But Marilyn Drummond of Drummond's Sugar Bush, west of Spencerville is already predicting lower yields.

"(The sap) ran a bit this week, but yields won't be great" she said in an interview last Thursday.

According to Drummond, the pipeline at the family's sugar bush was broken during the ice storm and is still buried under a layer of ice. And while the Drummonds normally have about 1,800 taps with the pipeline, this year they are using buckets and are only running 820 taps.

"With 820 buckets compared to 1,800 taps on a regular year, yields won't be great. But we are bottling syrup," she added.

Because of so much damage to the trees, the Drummonds decided to go with just one bucket per tree. On a regular year, the larger trees could handle two taps. The more seriously damaged trees are not being tapped at all this season in attempts to reduce further stress, Drummond added.

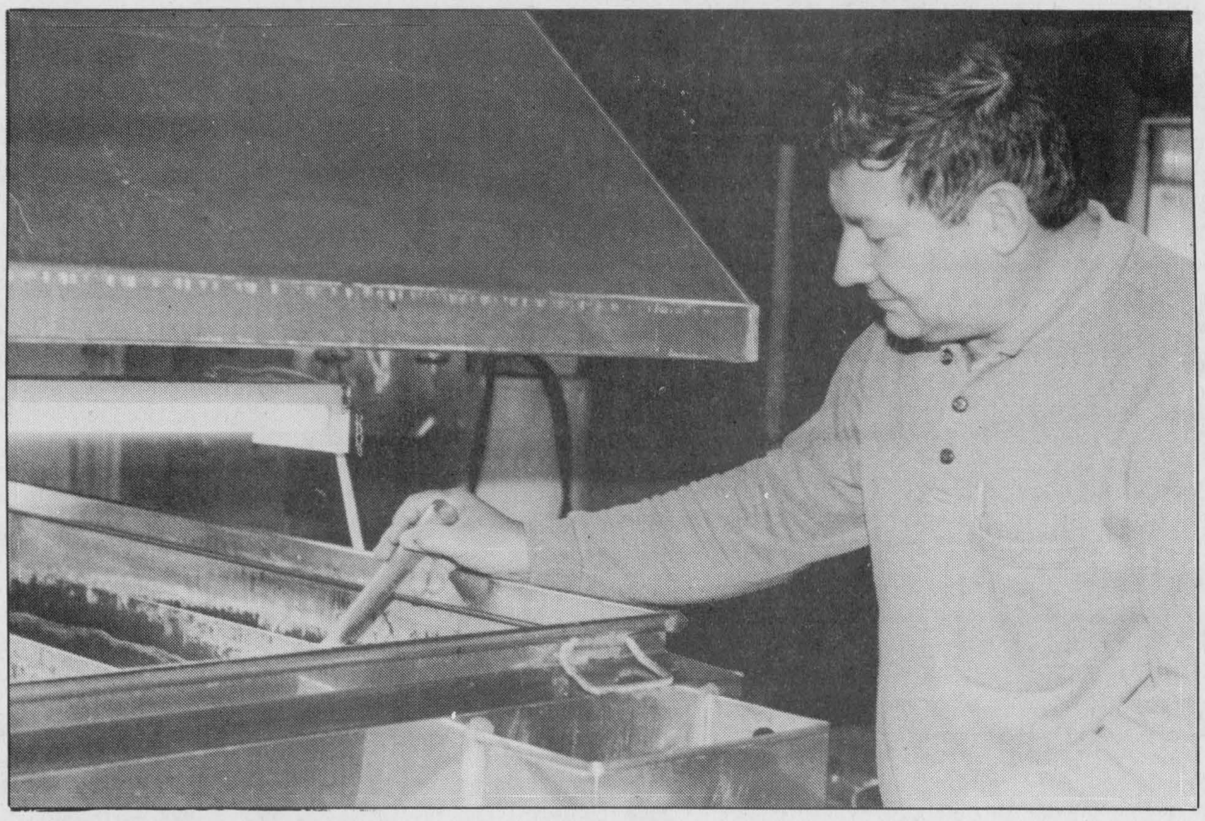
Sand Road Sugar Camp located off Hwy. 138 north of Monkland, reported it was also tapping last week and hoped to continue on the weekend.

But cool temperatures and a heavy snowfall on Saturday and Sunday meant the sap wasn't running.

Ideal conditions for maple sap to run consist of below freezing temperatures at night and above freezing with some sunshine during the day.

Weather forecasters are predicting more spring-like conditions to return this week — which should be some good news for local maple syrup producers.

The maple syrup season traditionally runs from mid-March into the last couple of weeks in April.



Maple madness

Albert Sanders, owner of Sanders Maple Sugar Bush near Finch, prepares some fresh maple syrup. The sugar bush is open despite the beating of January's ice storm. Production is slower this year because of the damage to the trees.
Press Photo — Bierworth

Wouters buys Berry egg-laying operation

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

SOUTH MOUNTAIN — Berry's Egg Farm has been sold to Winchester-area egg producers Tony and Trish Wouters. The third-generation South Mountain farm changed hands March 13.

According to Tony Wouters, he was looking toward the future when he made the decision to purchase the Berry operation. He said he feels the ongoing General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) negotiations will inevitably result in loss of sales for Canadian egg producers and the expansion will help him gear up for the changes.

Wouters also explained that when the Berry farm came up for sale, he was in the situation where he would have to upgrade the existing facilities at his Boyne Road farm.

"And Dwaine (Berry) had a new state-of-the-art barn built eight years ago," he explained.

Wouters has kept the 30,000 laying hens from the Berry operation and has moved his own 10,000 layers to the South Mountain location as well. Wouters' 10,000 pullets will remain at his home farm.

As well, he plans to retain the 'Berry' name at the South Mountain farm.

Dwaine Berry, who has been involved in the egg sector his whole life, predicts amalgamations, like the one between his and Wouters' farms will become more common as the trend toward larger operations continues. And while there are currently about 400 egg producers in Ontario, he says he feels that number will probably be reduced by a half in the next few years.

While Berry will continue to operate the chick hatchery in South Mountain, he added the sale of the egg farm will also allow him time to pursue other interests.

The Berry family began operating the hatchery, egg farm and an egg grading station in the 1920s.

4-H update

Members practise healthy eating

by Anja Zollinger

ORMOND — The Healthy-eating-around-the-clock club held its first meeting on January 30 from 7 pm- 9 pm at the home of Mary Deeke.

Club members nominated officers as follows: president, Sara Howse; vice-president, Claudia Zollinger; treasurer, Shelley Deeke; press reporter, Anja Zollinger and youth leader, Julia Deeke. Other members are Sheena Martin, Kayla St. Pierre and Martina Zollinger.

During the meeting the group made Orange Julius and oatmeal pancakes.

The second meeting was held on Feb. 6 at the home of Lara Mesman. During this meeting members made couscous and chickpea salad, birdseed bars and Orient Express chicken.

Meeting three was held on Feb. 13 at Mary Deeke's home. The group made fully-loaded carrot muffins and nuts and bolts.

The club is named "The Healthy Hamsters".

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1:00-1:15	How Much Money Do We Need?	Theresa M Wever, R.F.P., CFP - Money Concepts
1:15-1:30	Three Main Considerations	John MacDonald, Farm Business Specialist, OMAFRA
1:30-2:00	Financing the Transfer	Dennis Ring, Farm Credit Corporation
2:00-2:30	Legal Issues	Peter Remillard, Lawyer - Chesterville
2:30-3:00	Tax Considerations	Jean-Paul Lafrance - BDO Dunwoody, Embrun
3:00-3:15	Question Period	

To register call: 1-800-250-5557

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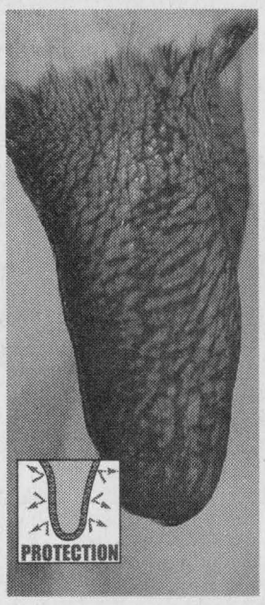

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Crop specialist suggests forage options

by Gilles Quesnel
OMAFRA Soil and Crop Advisor

AVONMORE — Since the January ice storm, a number of farmers have asked what impact the layer of ice would have on the winter survival of forages, especially alfalfa. Concerns over the ice sheet on forage fields are heightened by the fact that forage winterkill over the past two years plus a dry summer last year has left the area with a very short hay supply.

As of early March, field research in northeastern New York State, conducted by Dr. Jerry Cherney of Cornell University, indicates that there has been little forage winterkill to date. However, actual survival of perennial forages will be greatly impacted by weather conditions towards the end of the winter season.

The best approach at this time is to determine your forage needs for the coming year and be ready to evaluate your existing forage stands from late March through to mid-April. With the frost out of the ground, check forages for early signs of green-up. These buds should start to green up with the first few warm days at the end of March. Also, dig out a few alfalfa plants and slice them in half. Healthy roots will be firm with a white to cream color interior. Damaged roots will be soft and/or spongy and will have a discolored or brownish interior. If fields must be replanted, it is important to make the determination as quickly as possible in the spring.

For stands that were mostly alfalfa, there are options to thicken stands. In the case of new seedings, thin or bare spots could be disced and reseeded to alfalfa. Another option is to frost seed or use a drill to reseed thin spots early in the spring with either red clover (four - six pounds per acre), white clover (two - four pounds per acre), orchardgrass (four - six pounds per acre), or perennial ryegrass (five - six pounds per acre) — depending on the anticipated future life of the stand. Red clover, orchardgrass and perennial ryegrass all will be vigorous seedlings and able to compete with established alfalfa. Perennial ryegrass is much less likely to survive the winter. Older alfalfa stands with less than four plants of alfalfa per square foot should either be rotated to a new crop or overseeded with something other than alfalfa. If perennial weeds are not abundant in an older alfalfa stand, it can be overseeded with the species mentioned above.

If winterkill of alfalfa results in a predominately grass stand, then it should be treated as a grass stand. If 50 per cent of the area in the field has some grass plants or tillers, the stand should thicken with N fertilization to produce reasonable yields. Fertilizing the thin grass stands should produce higher yields (and also the quickest return of forage) than any attempt to interseed legumes into the stand. The grass must then be managed to produce a reasonable quality forage. It is critical to initiate a grass fertilization program early in the season. From 75 - 100 pounds per acre of actual N fertilizer can be applied at green up to stimulate grass development in the spring and maximize grass production during the entire season. An additional 50 pounds per acre of actual N fertilizer is recommended after each cutting, except the final harvest of the season.

If perennial forages are being reseeded, it is recommended to sow them with a cereal nurse crop. This will result in an increase in the forage supply for the short term, and will also increase overall forage yield in 1998. Cereals should be harvested in the late boot stage to heading, to get optimum yield of reasonable quality forage. After heading, forage quality is low and the risk of damage to the underseeding due to lodging is too great. Most small grains cut in an early boot stage will regrow and mature quickly. Although unsightly, this relatively short regrowth may not greatly affect the subsequent harvest. Cereal/field pea combinations will produce slightly higher quality forage, but usually only marginally higher yielding forage than straight cereals. The additional cost of seed and the additional risk to the perennial seeding must be considered in comparison to the increased quality obtained. Cereal/field pea combinations must be planted early (by early May) to give these cool-season crops time to produce acceptable yields. In general, planting straight cereals without peas may be more economical.

For supplemental or emergency forage, annual crops can be used. If annual crops are to be planted and a full growing season is available, the prime crop for consideration is corn silage for maximum yield of high quality forage. Even sites that normally would be considered too low in corn yield potential are candidates for corn silage in a year of short forage supplies.

Warm season annuals such as sorghum or sudan grass are possible candidates for an emergency forage source when less than a full growing season is available. These crops grow well in the heat of the summer, but usually do not respond well to early spring planting. Warm-season annuals are not as digestible as cool season grasses and will likely have lower intake. They may be low in sugar content, and would benefit from an enzyme silage additive to improve fermentation. Farmers may want to analyze forages.

Help on the line

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

MANOTICK — It's a common sight in many people's yards: large trees doubled over, tops broken off, and branches hanging from 20 feet in the air. But there is help for the trees damaged in January's ice storm, and it's only a phone call away.

Human Resources Development Canada, the Landowner Resource Centre and the Ice Storm Forest Recovery Group have teamed up to establish a 1-800 number to provide toll-free damaged tree advice to area residents.

Though the number is not new to the region, additional staff was hired in January on a temporary basis to help cope with the flood of calls concerning ice-damaged trees.

Paul Moreau, manager of the Landowner Resource Centre, said the entire staff working the phones have a knowledge of damaged trees and can inform area residents of upcoming workshops about damaged trees.

One way to see if the tree is still alive, said Moreau, is to see how much of the top, or crown, actually broke off. If less than a quarter of the crown is gone, the tree has an excellent chance of survival. But if more than 75 per cent of the tree is on the ground, it's time to turn it into firewood. Anything in between these two estimates is a grey area, he said, and may differ from one tree to the next.

When the warm weather comes, Moreau suggests tree-owners use fertilizer and a weeping hose to help the tree grow back faster.

As for cutting those hanging branches high off the ground, Moreau's advice is simple: Be careful.

"In the event where they feel their safety is at stake, I would suggest they stay on the ground and let the branch fall on its own," he said. "When the crown of the tree is hanging from the top, it's called a widowmaker. And for good reason. All it takes is for someone to be walking under that hanging crown when it falls, and suddenly that man's wife is a widow."

If you plan to cut off broken branches by yourself, don't cut too close to the bark, Moreau advises.

"There's this little knob between the branch and the tree, and if you cut too close you could hurt the tree more," said Moreau. "If you're not sure, hire a professional to do it."

But in doing that, there are more words of caution to take, he said.

"Follow the main rule of business and don't hire the first guy who says he can do it," he said. "Ever since the ice storm, nearly anyone who picks up a chainsaw thinks he's a tree expert. Always get three quotes on jobs, and always make sure the professional has a chainsaw certificate. It's just a liability issue."

For more information or for advice on pruning the damaged trees in your property, call the Landowner Resource Centre, located at 5524 Dickinson St., Manotick, at 613-692-2390 or toll-free at 1-800-387-5304.

6th Annual Farm Fair April 8th

DIXONS CORNERS — Grade 4 students across the county will receive an education in agriculture at the upcoming Dundas County Farm Fair.

The Dundas Ag Awareness Committee is presenting its sixth annual farm fair on Wed., April 8 from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm at the Matilda Community Hall.

Students from the county's schools will have the opportunity to learn more about where their food comes from and the people who produce it, stated committee member Marilyn Johnson in a press release.

Oral presentations, videos, live animals and the active participation of the students all contribute to making the farm fair both an invaluable and enjoyable educational experience for all participants, she said.

Dairy, eggs, beef, pork, ostrich, soil and crops, horticulture and sheep will be featured during presentations. Groups of children will rotate among the various stations set up at the fair.

This year's fair is sponsored by the Dundas Federation of Agriculture as well as a local seniors group, the Matilda Helping Hands. Any county senior wishing to experience Dundas agriculture is invited to attend the event as well.

Dundas Ag Awareness Committee's goal is to teach children and adults where the food on their tables comes from and spread the word that Canada produces the safest and most varied food supply in the world.

For further information contact Tracey Thatcher at 448-1385 or Dawn Runnalls at 448-3425.

UC school board seeks new location

HAWKESBURY — The Upper Canada District School Board continues to be wooed by cities and towns hoping to attract the new board to relocate in their communities.

Site selection was the topic of two presentations received by the board at last week's regular meeting. Two delegations from the towns of Perth and Smiths Falls and from the City of Cornwall, made their individual cases for wanting the board to move its facilities.

Both presenters, Brian Sylvester, for the City of Cornwall and Paul Howard, for the towns of Perth/Smiths Falls dealt with site selection considerations for the board. Both proposals focused on establishing a significant board presence in both the western and eastern regions of the jurisdiction.

To date, the board has received three presentations in regard to possible office locations. By resolution, the board decided that it will also receive presentations at the next regular meeting on March 25.

Administration will then prepare an analysis of site considerations for final consideration by the board before May 1. Any presenters wishing to go before the board in regards to site selection must apply to do so on March 25 at the board meeting. The meeting will be held in Cornwall, beginning at 4 pm.

FARM CLEAN-UP CREWS

Work crews available to assist farm clean-up of Ice Storm '98 damage in Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry, Leeds, Grenville and Lanark counties

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- 1 day's work per farm - farm registration number required
- No charge to farmers - Human Resources Development Canada funded

Farm Clean-up Project Priorities:

1. Support efforts of conservation authorities and municipal drainage crews to clear culverts, drainage ditches and watercourses on farm properties of loose debris to prevent flooding.
2. Clear annual crop land and associated laneways of trees and branches to enable safe machinery operation and access to land requiring preparation, i.e. spring planting, orchards, nurseries.
3. Clear hay crop land and permanent pasture land, associated laneways and fence lines to enable safe machinery operation. Fence repair not included.

Register for a work crew by calling the Landowner Resource Centre at 1-800-387-5304.

Projects managed by Kemptville College / University of Guelph

Information: 613-258-8473, 613-258-8468, 613-258-8440

Information Seminar



Ice-Damaged Woodlots and Plantations

The **Ministry of Natural Resources, Human Resources Development Canada** and the **Stewardship Council of Ottawa-Carleton** are sponsoring an information seminar to advise and assist you on how to properly help your trees recover from the ice storm.

Experts will be available to answer your questions on:

Wednesday, March 30, 1998

Osgoode Town Hall
Council Chambers
8243 Victoria Street
Metcalfe, Ontario

7:30 pm to 10:00 pm

For further information, please contact the LandOwner Resource Centre in Manotick at (613) 692-2390 or 1-800-387-5304.

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Spring Information Meeting

Wednesday, April 1

Mountain Township Ag Hall, South Mountain



9:30-10 am Registration - Cost $5 per person, includes lunch
Coffee and donuts

10 am Sharp - Morning Session: 10 Tips in 20 Minutes

- 'Tips for Increased Fertilizer Efficiency' - Cliff Metcalfe, Agronomic Consultant
- Tips from 'Problems of Last Year and What to Change or Not to Change' - Paul Sullivan, Agronomic Consultant
- 'Tips for Better Weed Control' - Bryan Cook, Agronomic Consultant
- 'New Chemicals and Leaf Hopper Concerns' - Gilles Quesnel
- 'Marketing Outlook for 1998'

12 noon - Lunch - During lunch break visit 'Trade Display Area'

SPECIAL FEATURE

Steve Stubblejumpski from Double Bumps, Alberta
'It's April Fool's Day and You Need A Laugh - Don't Miss Out'
(sponsored by Agrico Canada, Winchester)

- Environmental Farm Plan II - Arlene Ross, Program Representative
- Agronomic Update Session
- Rob Saik, Agritrend Consulting, Two Hills, Alberta

2:50-3 pm - Wrap up and door prizes

(Sponsorship by chemical companies)



Wednesday & Thursday 4 pm-10 pm

FAJITAS NIGHTS

Chinese Buffet
with salad bar and dessert table $9.95
Friday - Sunday, 5 pm-9 pm

New Kid's Menu - Everything $2.25

Dinner Specials

Pork Souvlaki $6.95 ONE STICK / $8.95 TWO STICKS
Served with soup, Greek salad, rice or french fries, tea or coffee and dessert.

6 oz. Striploin Steak $6.95
Served with soup, salad, vegetable, potatoes, tea or coffee and Jell-O or rice pudding.

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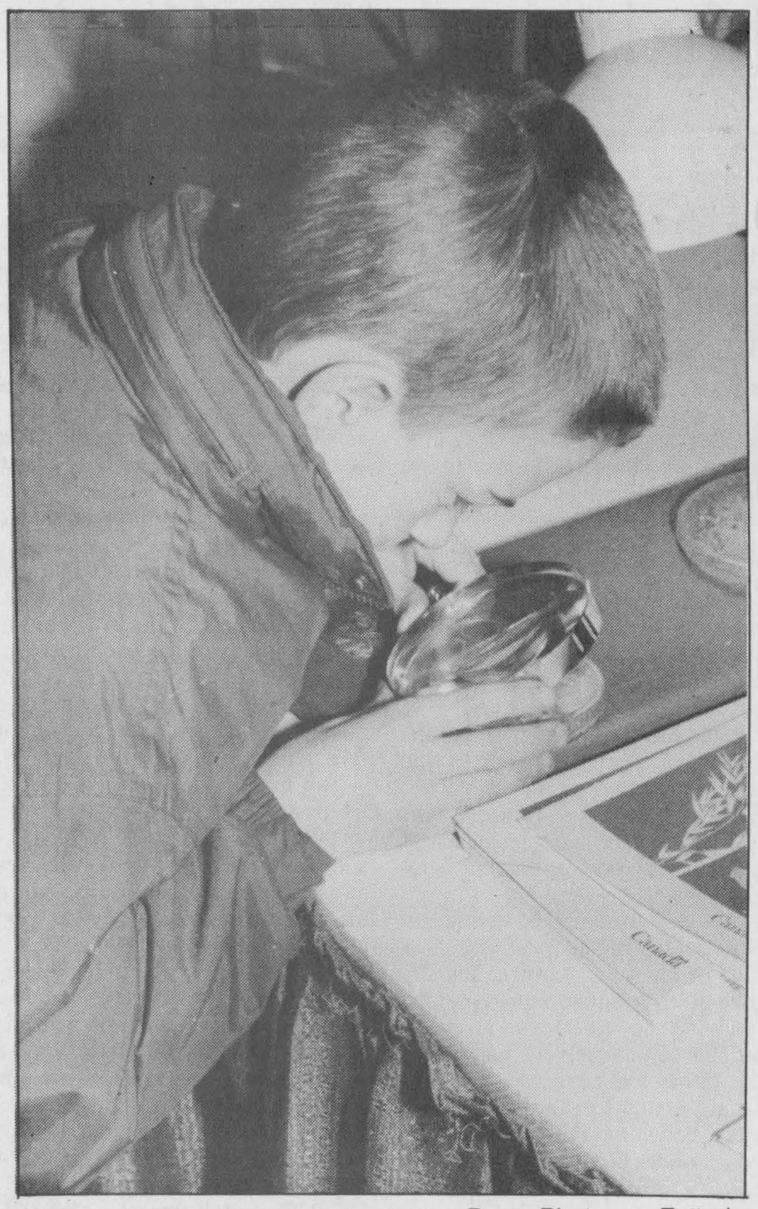
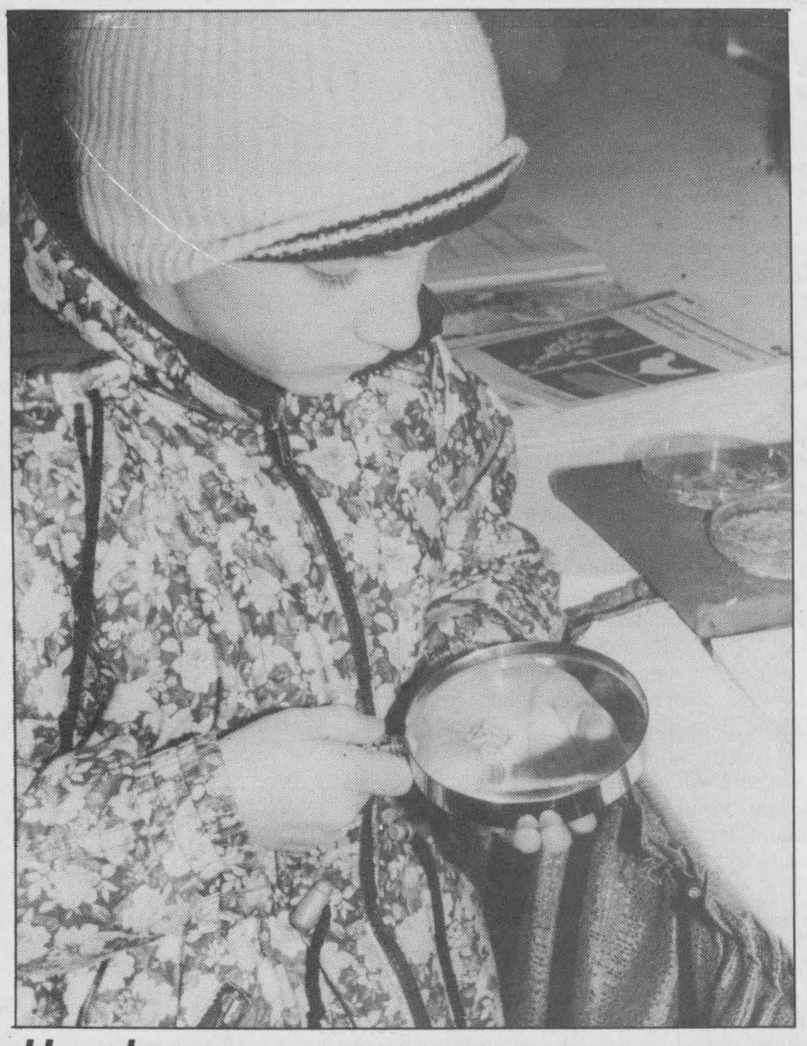




Press Photos — Fetterly

Up close

Nick Rose (pictured left) and his sister Rebecca (above) of Alma, Ontario used a magnifying glass to check out some oat seed at an Agriculture and Agrifood Canada display set up at this year's Ottawa Valley Farm Show. The show ran from Wed., March 18 to Fri., March 20 in Ottawa.

County Rd. 1 or Carman Rd.?

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

WILLIAMSBURG — Some know it only as Carman Road. Others know it only as County Rd. 1. But in the case of an emergency, which name would suffice?

This was the topic of a lengthy discussion at the March 12 South Dundas council meeting.

Having two names for the road is not only confusing but can be dangerous, said councillor Bev Sabourin. With the 911 service coming to the United Counties, emergency vehicles would need to be able to find the road without confusion.

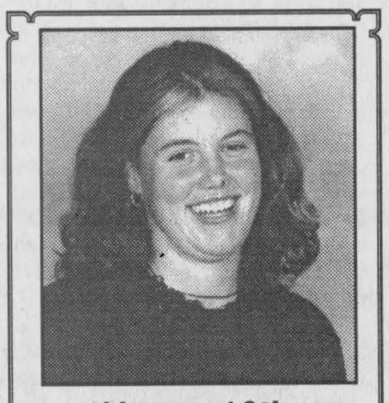
She also asked mayor Johnny Whitteker to ask the United Counties for a lower speed limit on the road and for a 'Children being Children' sign. The posted speed is 80 km/hr and there are numerous families along that stretch of road.

"I'll make it a point to bring it up at the next county meeting," said Whitteker of the requests. "They'll probably suggest changing it to just County Rd. 1."

Administrative treasurer Mike Waddell said the double name is definitely confusing.

"We can't change the name of a county road, that's like trying to change the name of the 401," he said. "But if you want to avoid confusion, don't have two names."

No final decision was made on the name change as council plans to ask the municipal staff for recommendations.



Happy 16th to our little Angel!

Love, Mom, Dad, Corey & Mabel



There was a young man from the city
Who made all the girls camping
act giddy.
In his white GTO
He was a hero
Now he's 40, oh Lord - what a pity!

SNC field crews clean up debris

WINCHESTER — South Nation Conservation forestry crews funded by Human Resources Development Canada are in the field, working to clean up debris resulting from January's ice storm.

Now SNC has received an additional $150,000 grant from the province of Ontario under the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance program. These funds can be used to assist municipalities with clearing riverine areas and drainage facilities, or ensuring parks, public forests and trails are safe to use.

In all, more than 50 people in 10 crews will work with watershed municipalities over the next six months.

SNC and watershed municipalities continue to ask for the public's help in identifying areas that need to be cleared, especially municipal drains and other water courses. In order to reduce the risk of flooding this spring, these areas must be cleared as soon as possible.

Contact your local municipality to report blockages in municipal drains or other watercourses. For advice on ice storm damage to private woodlots and property, call 1-800-387-5304.

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•Side door impact beams •"Next generation" dual air bags •Child protection locks
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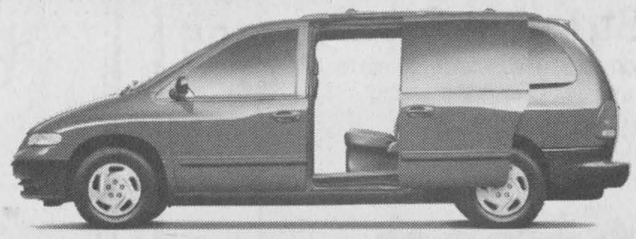

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