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Ice storm '98 price tag nears half million

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — The price tag on what has been called the "Storm of the Century" has, so far, amounted to almost half a million dollars for the Township of North Dundas.

The cost was given in a report at Monday night's council meeting. The amount includes wages for township employees. In the middle of the storm, council was told, the township had to borrow $400,000.

"It seems that the government is reluctant to simplify the procedure to give aid to municipalities," mayor Claude Cousineau said.

The provincial government announced Monday that it will provide funding at a ratio of up to four provincial dollars for each dollar raised through local fundraising efforts for victims of the storm. The commitment exceeds the normal ratio, under the Ontario Disaster Relief Assistance Program, of one to one, in recognition of the extraordinary nature of the disaster.

However, Cousineau said, "It's difficult to fund raise from people who have already paid their share. They've already been through all the stress of the storm."

Volunteers run up tab at local bar

WINCHESTER — Added to the township's accumulative bill from the ice storm are six bills charged to the township by volunteers who came from western Ontario to help during the crisis, council was told Monday night.

The bills, charged at Kay Tab's, amount to over $1,100. Items such as chili, lasagna, pizza and chicken wings were charged, as well as alcoholic beverages.

As councillor Gail Parker put it, "I don't mind feeding the volunteers, but we shouldn't be filling them with drinks."

One bill listed alcoholic beverages charged as 26 double rye and cokes, 40 beers, seven tequila shots and 12 double Crown Royals.

• please see Tab on page 2

REWARDING VOLUNTEERS

Meanwhile, now that the worst is over council is able to consider rewarding the many volunteers who helped during the ice storm.

Volunteer Murray McDonald was honored by the mayor and council on Monday night for his exceptional work during the crisis. He was presented with a certificate of appreciation by Cousineau.

"Murray worked his guts out during the storm," the mayor told council and others gathered for the meeting. "This is for his skill and diplomacy in co-ordinating generators to residents of North Dundas."

Cousineau announced that a party will be planned for the 300 volunteers who worked during the storm.

"They worked many hours and gave up their time, and some paid for things out of their own pockets," he said. "I've never seen a community come together like this before. It's brought us all closer together."

He advised council to decide how to honor the volunteers, and invited volunteers to issue ideas to councillors or to the clerk-treasurer.

• please see Price tag on page 2



Ice can be nice

Winchester Public School students made the most of the after effects of January's ice storm on Monday, as they used thick blocks of ice to build an igloo/snow fort during recess time. While they were able to use that ice for fun, the school's outdoor skating rink was not to be used, as mild temperatures made for soft ice.

Ag minister delivers aid for farmers

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

MAXVILLE — Farmers attending a news conference in Maxville last Thursday (Jan. 29) received a pleasant surprise when they heard MPP Noble Villeneuve's announcement that the government had cheques with their names on them.

The Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs minister announced at the conference that immediate initial emergency assistance of $10 million would be awarded to eastern Ontario farmers who suffered losses from January's ice storm.

"We are providing farmers of eastern Ontario with much-needed interim emergency assistance to help them recover from the storm," Villeneuve said.

"Having seen the devastation first-hand in my own community I realize that the extent of damage experienced by individual farmers can never be fully compensated, but this emergency aid will help begin the recovery process by getting funds into the hands of farmers as quickly as possible."

Emergency assistance funds are provided for three categories: costs associated with operating, maintaining and repairing alternative electrical generation facilities or repairs to restore electric power from the public utility; emergency feed or other necessities for livestock and including the value of on-farm milk disposed of due to storm disruptions; and herd health costs

• please see Farmers on page 2

Storm claims another barn

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

BRINSTON — Another area barn has fallen victim to Ice Storm '98.

A 30-year-old hog finishing barn at Tibben Farms Inc. outside of Brinston, collapsed on Saturday after a huge chunk of ice fell off the silo onto the barn roof — already bearing a heavy load of ice.

"Two-thirds of the (barn) roof collapsed, the other third is just hanging there and will have to be torn down," said Japke Tibben.

Only three hogs were lost in the mishap.

However, with no place to house them, the rest will have to be marketed right away, she added.

According to Michael Tibben, an insurance adjuster visited the farm earlier this week and confirmed the damage is covered by insurance since the collapse was caused by the falling ice.

And while the family is discussing rebuilding the structure, their present concern is cleaning up the mess, he added.

Besides the hog finishing operation, the Tibbens also operate a dairy farm.

TAKING ITS TOLL

The ice storm has taken its toll on area barns.

•please see Barn on page 2

Snowmobilers hit trails for Easter Seals

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

CHESTERVILLE — Snowmobilers are tightening their helmets and revving their engines, gearing up for this year's fourth annual Snowarama to be held on Feb. 8.

Registration for the 80 to 100 kilometre-long event will take place from 9 am until noon at the Nelson LaPrade Centre in Chesterville.

The trail takes riders through Chesterville, Winchester, Inkerman and Mountain trails, and will start and finish at the Nelson LaPrade Centre. Pledges of $50 and up will get the holder a free dinner of stew and chili, which will be served starting at 3 pm.

Snowarama is the Rotary Club's major local Easter Seal fundraiser, with proceeds going to families of children with physical disabilities who need help paying for equipment like wheelchairs, braces and artificial limbs, which can normally cost thousands of dollars. The funds also help support travelling diagnostic clinics and summer camp programs.

Over the past four years, the event has raised nearly $14,000 for the Easter Seal Society.

And when 14-year-old Chelsea Lariviere of Hallville was asked to be this year's Tammy, she was honored to accept the year-long commitment.

• please see Tammy on page 2



Craig Campbell, Rotary Club Easter Seal Chair, Martin Derks, of Chesterville Rotary Club, and Brent VandenBosch, president of Winchester Township Snowmobile Club, welcomed Chelsea Lariviere, this year's Easter Seal Society's Tammy, to Chesterville Rotary Club's meeting.

Muskrat sure sign of spring

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

WINCHESTER — Move over, Wiarton Willie. Now there's Winchester Wanda. Er, the muskrat, that is.

Austin Carkner of Cass Bridge had an odd little visitor on Sunday morning. He looked out his kitchen window and noticed a muskrat chewing on some shrubbery in the back yard.

"Maybe it means we're going to have an early spring. I don't know," Carkner said. "We usually don't see them (muskrats) up from the river this early. Usually you don't see them until the river floods when the snow melts in the spring."

At first, Carkner said, he didn't know what the creature was. But as he looked more closely, he realized it was a muskrat. A muskrat is about the size of a small cat, and resembles a rat except for a rather long, flat tail, Carkner described.

"They have no value except as warm coats for women," he said.

• please see Muskrat on page 2

Task force to study rural amalgamation

by Derek Puddicombe

METCALFE — The mayor of Osgoode Township wants to set up a task force that will bring to light some of the concerns or ideas residents may have about the possibility of the four rural municipalities amalgamating.

The task force will consist of seven people including those from the business community and residents. There will be no politicians on the panel.

Workshop will be held in Greely, Osgoode, Metcalfe and possibly Vernon. The purpose will be to educate residents on the rural alliance proposals and for council to get some feedback from them.

Mayor Doug Thomspon's idea stems from Goulbourn Township which has set up a similar task force to discuss amalgamation options.

"It will give people a chance to get an update on governance issues and a chance to ask some questions," said Thompson, who wants the committee in place by the end of February.

Thompson is trying to coordinate the task force with the release of the governance options to be made public by the Citizens Panel at the same time.

The Citizen's Panel was appointed last summer to hold a series of public meetings that will result in three governance scenarios.

Continued from the front page...

Price tag

GENERATORS

Volunteer Murray McDonald presented his report on generators to council. He announced that over 100 generators have been returned to the township. Many generators had been borrowed from other areas, from as far away as Sarnia, and from out of province as well. Eighteen borrowed generators have been returned.

The township itself purchased 107 generators during the storm. "Now we have to discuss what to do with the generators that the township owns," McDonald told council.

He suggested that one generator be placed in each township facility for future back-up concerns.

"Some people would like to purchase the generators," he added.

McDonald suggested to council that volunteers during the storm receive a break in the price of purchasing a generator, in appreciation for the work that they did. McDonald has a list of 93 names of people who would like to purchase a generator from the township.

Input for what to do with the generators is requested from township staff members, councillors, the fire department and volunteers.

Tab

Mayor Claude Cousineau mentioned that a soup kitchen had been set up at the curling club, where the volunteers could have eaten for free.

The problem, council was told, was that only one of the bills had been signed. "The smallest one," Cousineau added.

The individual who had signed the bill was contacted by the township, but said that, while the amount of food on the bill was accurate, the amount of alcohol was not.

"There's no way to prove the bills wrong," Cousineau said. But, he added, getting legal advice would not be worth it.

Who should pay for the bill was questioned by councillors. "These people came from western Ontario, worked 16-hour days, and weren't paid for the time," Cousineau said.

"This is one of the learning experiences from the storm. I wish they had signed the bills, but the person who took the volunteers to lunch works for Winchester," the mayor added.

He concluded, "The amount of the bills is less than half a percent of the total emergency bill."

The issue was left unresolved by council while the clerk-administrator was to investigate the matter.

Farmers

directly attributable to the storm disruptions.

Depending on the severity and the duration of the power outage, Villeneuve explained, farmers may be eligible for payments of up to $1,000 for one week of power disruption and $2,000 for two weeks. Assistance of up to an additional $1,000 may be available to eligible farmers who had higher losses resulting from the storm.

Area director of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture Alvin Runnalls of Winchester said that he was concerned about the announcement at first. "The first money offered by the government was $200, and nobody knew about it or how to get it," he said. "It was a general shamozzle."

But, he added, "They're trying to be fair. Quebec is doing the same thing for their farmers. And there will be audits done to make sure that the money was used for storm-related causes. Those who didn't need all of the money will have to give it back."

He said that there has been a lot of damage done by the ice storm, and it may be summer before the total devastation is known.

"My concern is who administers the further money," Runnalls said. "We would like to see the government look after more, but we do have a promise from OMAFRA to help."

Whether the most recent cheques from the ministry will be enough for farmers, Runnalls said, remains to be seen. "For a lot of farmers it will be enough, and hopefully those who don't need all of the money will return it. Some farmers, I know, refused to take the money that was there for them because they didn't need it.

"But I'm sure there were some who took the money and didn't need it."

He added, "This is a positive step."

Farmers were advised by the ministry to determine what losses are covered by their insurance carriers. All compensation received through the assistance program is for uninsurable costs. Farmers must have a valid Farm Business Registration Number to be eligible for this assistance and be the legal signing authority for the farm business.

"While this quick payment is aimed at farmers who need immediate help, we are working with other ministries to develop a comprehensive program for the longer-term needs of rural Ontario," Villeneuve said.

He also noted that he is working with his federal colleague to ensure Ontario benefits from national disaster relief programs and with the Quebec Minister of Agriculture to ensure that farmers throughout the ice storm region are treated equitably under federal programs.

Starting Mon., Feb. 2 all cheques were to be distributed through the local OMAFRA offices from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. In Dundas County, cheques can be picked up at 457 Main Street, Winchester. For more information call your local OMAFRA office or 1-888-599-5584.

Barn

A thick build-up of ice, coupled with a 25-centimetre snowfall is blamed for the collapse of a Vernon-area barn belonging to Peter Raats on Fri., Jan. 23. Repairs to the 200-head, freestall dairy barn are not covered in the Raats' insurance policy since damage caused by ice and snow is exempt.

The Thurler family faced a similar situation when a part of their South Mountain-area dairy barn collapsed during the ice storm. About a dozen dairy cattle died as a result of the accident and insurance did not cover damages. Volunteers from a Mennonite community in western Ontario helped with cleanup at the Thurler farm.

Muskrat

Carkner felt that seeing the animal so early in the season was ironic, as the sighting occurred the day before groundhog day.

"They make a big fuss over the groundhog in Wiarton," he said. "Maybe we have our own mascot."

He added that another prediction is if you smell a skunk in the wintertime. "Usually that means that we'll have a thaw within a week," he said.

"But," he added, "nobody could have predicted that ice storm."

Tammy

"I've had friends who were the Tammy, but they were much younger than me, so I figured I was too old," she says. "But it's an honor. I like giving speeches."

As Tammy, Lariviere will be making speeches and guest appearances at various Easter Seal Society events throughout 1998. Despite her battle with Cerebral Palsy, Lariviere is an internationally accomplished athlete in several sports, and hopes to fly down to Sydney, Australia in the year 2000 to take part in the Paralympics in the wheelchair racing event.

"If I keep it up and work hard enough I think I'll make it," she says. "Some of my track mates have gone to the Paralympics. I look up to them."

This enthusiastic youth, who started getting into sports at age 12, also enjoys track and sledge hockey, which uses sleds with skate blades under the seat and a point at the front. Players move and play with small hockey sticks made with a point at the back.

"The great part about this game is that you can slide a puck under your own sled and score when the goalie is least expecting it," says Lariviere, who plays defense for the Ottawa Lasers team.

She trains for various teams several times a week, and says the busy schedule doesn't bother her.

The Nationview Public School student is looking forward to starting Grade 9 at North Dundas District High School next year, and says when she gets older, she wants to become a lawyer. She says her favorite subject is French History, because "I get to learn about stuff that happened in the past, before I was born."

"I like to help people," she says. "I'd also like to have a job that pays a lot of money."

Because of funds raised through the Easter Seal Society, Lariviere was able to go to Camp Merrywood last summer.

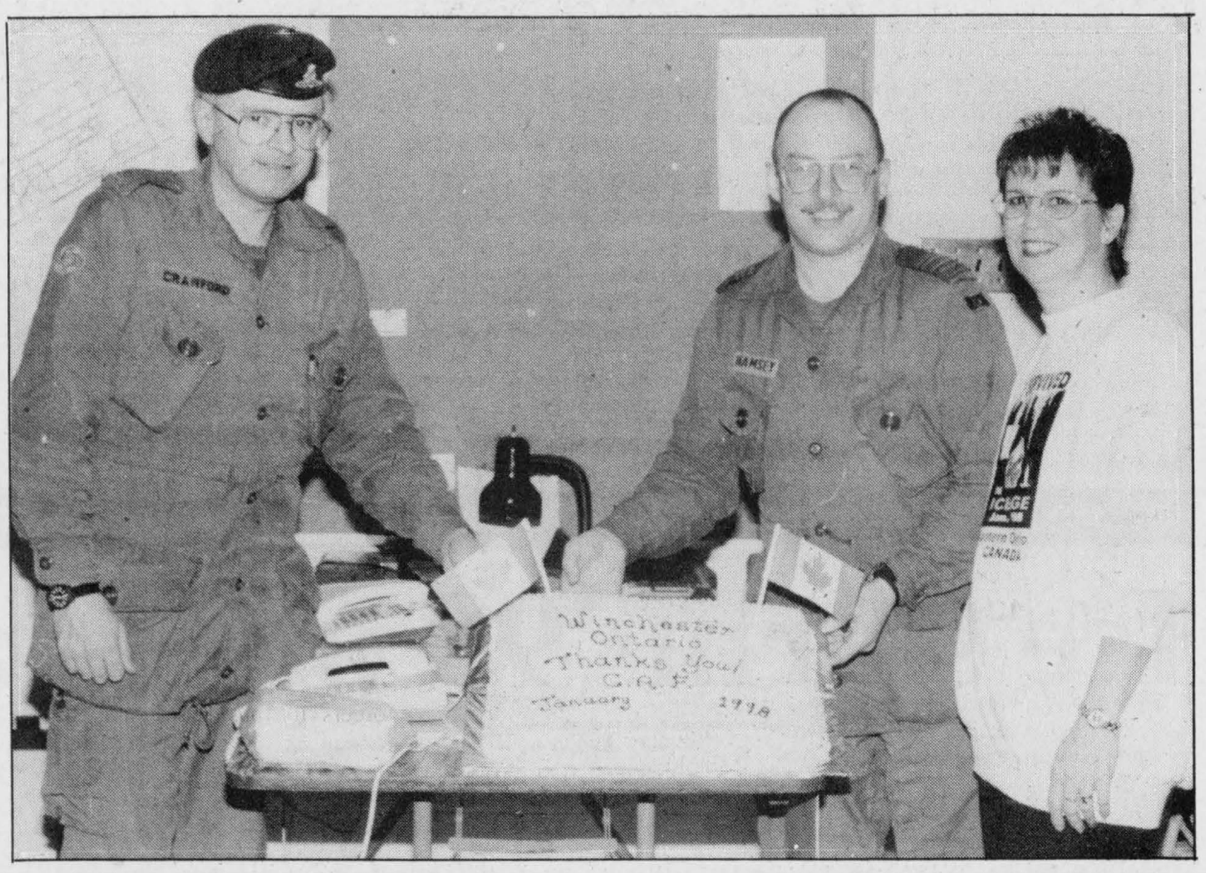
"It was the best camp I've ever been to in my entire life," she said. "I went canoeing, and I learned new things, like archery. I also got to try sailing, and that was a lot of fun."

Chelsea's mother, Christine McGregor, is very proud of her daughter.

"She does seem to have found a sport that she really likes, and who knows how far it'll take her," she says. "In the meantime, it's very good for her. She's physically fit, and she's very happy, and that's the main thing. Of course, driving her to Ottawa a lot for training is kind of time consuming, but I'm very happy for her."

Jeff Lariviere, Chelsea's father, agrees.

"I've seen how sports can really boost her self-esteem," he says. "Neither of us were ever very athletic, so we're very happy that she has been able to make it this far."



Tessy Broeren of Winchester was so moved by the military's presence in the village during the clean-up of the ice storm that she wanted to give them a proper send-off as they left town. She said that her parents went through WWII in Holland, and this was her way of saying thanks. The soldiers moved out of Winchester on Jan. 20. Pictured, Broeren presents the cake to Master Warrant Officer Jack Crawford (left) and Major Russ Hamsey (right).

Press Photo — Culliton

Ice storm theme: friends helping friends

WINCHESTER — As the days of the ice storm crisis fade into memory, the stories of survival and neighborly goodwill continue to come out. The Press invited readers to share their stories of how they managed to get through the Ice Storm of the Century.

BEYOND THE LINE OF DUTY

Out of necessity, the storm brought together friends, neighbors and strangers alike. Nancy Marriner of Winchester had a particularly heartwarming tale from the storm.

"We were without power for about four days, as were my parents," Marriner said. "My brother, who is stationed at CFB Trenton, called each day that week to see how we were. Finally, by Friday when it didn't seem like we were going to get our power back for some time, he decided to come and help."

Corporal Jim Kerkhoef showed up in Winchester with a borrowed generator and his friend, Corporal Brian Cofell.

"The two of them got right to work, cutting tree branches, clearing branches, and cleaning up," she said. "My brother's friend worked so hard, and then slept on the floor in a sleeping bag in my parents' cold house where there was no heat!"

She added, "He took emergency leave from his base, showed up, did the work and then went home."

Her parents are Barb and Tony Kerkhoef of North Street in Winchester.

"I just couldn't believe that this man would take time off work to come all the way here and help people he didn't even know. We were so impressed."

LIKE MOLES IN THE DARK

Howard and Mary Biccum, aged 93 and 91 respectively, said that they got through the storm with the goodness of their neighbors. The couple, who live on Louise Street in Winchester, have a fireplace in their basement so they were able to stay at home.

"We have a bedroom downstairs, too, so we were able to close off the top part of the house and live in the basement," Howard Biccum said.

With no phone and a tree blocking their car in the driveway, Biccum said, the situation was a little scary.

"But Denzil Crowder and his family visited us two or three times each day," Biccum said. "And they brought us firewood and made sure we were warm and comfortable. They even brought us supper one night."

The Crowder family also helped to clear the fallen tree out of the driveway.

The Biccums were in their basement from Tuesday until Sunday the week of the storm. Marion McLean and Hal and Barbara Scotsmen were other neighbors who helped to keep an eye on the Biccums and made sure they were warm and safe.

"George Edwardson wanted to take us to a shelter, but we showed him how warm we were in our basement and he agreed that we were doing just fine," Biccum said.

He added, "We were like a couple of moles in the darkness with our candles and flashlights."

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Ice smashes windshield

WINCHESTER -- On Feb. 1 at approximately 10:45 am, a 1992 Chrysler Caravan, driven by Paul Moore, 60, of Crysler, was northbound on County Road 12. A large piece of ice dislodged itself from an oncoming southbound vehicle. The ice impacted with the windshield of the Moore vehicle, smashing the windshield and injuring Moore, the lone occupant of the vehicle.

Moore was taken to Winchester District Memorial Hospital via ambulance and received treatment for facial injuries. No description was received for the other vehicle. Moore was able to stop his vehicle after impact without losing control.

An investigation continues.

Man charged in sex assault

MANOTICK — Officers of the Ontario Provincial Police Major Crime Unit charged Ralph Lennox, 60, of Manotick with sexual assault and invitation to sexual touching.

Officers investigated a complaint of a single incident that occurred approximately two years ago against a female who was six years old at the time.

Lennox's residence had an active child care service and the child was in his care at the time of the incident.

The child care service no longer exists.

Lennox was to appear at a bail hearing on Monday night.

Winchester youth charged

MAPLE RIDGE -- As a result of an investigation conducted by the Upper Canada OPP in relation to an assault with a hockey stick, which had occurred at North Dundas District High School on Jan. 23 one youth has been charged. A 14-year-old Winchester youth, who cannot be named under the provisions of the Young Offenders Act, has been charged with assault with a weapon contrary to the Criminal Code. The youth is scheduled to appear in youth court in Cornwall on March 2 to respond to the charge.

Entertainment equipment taken

WILLIAMSBURG -- On Jan. 29 police investigated a break and enter which had occurred at a private residence in Williamsburg Township. During the day, between 10 am and 2 pm, a forced entry was made into the MacKenzie Road residence. Home entertainment equipment and personal items were taken.

Recovered stolen vehicle

MOUNTAIN -- On Jan. 26, shortly after 7 pm, OPP were called to a vehicle fire along Barkley Road in Mountain Township. On a road being used as a snowmobile trail south of Bailey Road, a green 1996 Mercury four-door was recovered. The vehicle had been reported stolen from Ottawa at about 6 pm the same day.

Stolen snowmobiles

MOUNTAIN -- On Jan. 28 OPP investigated the theft of a snowmobile from the area of Mountain Township. Overnight a 1992 Arctic Cat Jag snowmobile was taken from a private residence along Clark Road. This vehicle has not yet been recovered.

Theft at snowmobile club

MOUNTAIN -- On Jan. 29 police responded to a report of a theft of a snowmobile from the Trailblazers Snowmobile Club in Mountain Township. Between 8 pm and 9:15 pm a 1998 Polaris Classic 600 Triple, purple and aqua in color, was taken from the club along Van Camp Road.The snowmobile was recovered by Manotick OPP in Osgoode Township on Jan. 31, having been stripped and abandoned.

Daylight B&E rash

LONG SAULT -- In the rural areas the occurrence of daylight break and enters continues to be a problem. Many of these break-ins occur in the late morning to early afternoon. Any instances of suspicious persons or suspicious vehicles, especially during these hours, should be reported to police when they are noticed, rather than after a break-in has been found in the neighborhood. Information being forwarded to police at the earliest opportunity may assist not only in catching an offender in the act, but may also help to dissuade a would-be thief.

Wanted: witnesses

WINCHESTER -- On Jan. 31 at approximately 3:30 pm police began an investigation into a motor vehicle collision which had taken place at the north junction of County Roads 31 and 43 (formerly Highways 31 and 43) involving a 1988 Ford Taurus and a 1988 Toyota. Police are asking anyone who may have witnessed this accident or have information pertaining to the collision to call Winchester OPP at 774-2603 or the OPP communications centre at 1-888-310-1122 for the attention of Winchester patrol officers.

Error

An article printed in the Police Blotter in the *Press* last week was incorrect. Robert Snyder had no involvement in the incident described in the article. He was, however, charged in an unrelated incident.

Survival shirts sold as souvenirs

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

CHESTERVILLE — Congratulations. You've survived the ice storm. Now, aren't you just so proud that you want to announce it to everyone who sees you? Well, Mark Thompson of M T Advertising in Chesterville has a way to let you do just that.

Thompson was sitting with some friends when they came up with the idea to make "I survived the Ice Age" sweaters. And as soon as the power was back on in Chesterville, he started the first design.

Now, after several different designs, countless orders and a lot of success, Thompson is doing specific orders for businesses and groups, including the Chesterville Fire Department, who will be selling the sweatshirts to raise money for the department.

He is also working on the next design, which he says will be more comical than the others.

Meanwhile, the demand is still high for the sweatshirts, T-shirts and hats being sold in various stores in Winchester, Chesterville, Vernon, Metcalfe, Morrisburg, South Mountain, Finch and Morewood.

"We leave it up to the individual businesses to decide if they want to use the profits for emergency relief funds or not," says Thompson. "Everyone wants a souvenir."

He says he was surprised at how quickly the idea took off.

"It's gone better than I expected it to," he says. "It's kept us busy. That's for sure. He says even members of the military have bought some of the ice storm merchandise to bring home to their families."



Mark Thompson, of M T Advertising in Chesterville, has been supplying local stores with the ever-popular "I survived the Ice Age" sweatshirts, T-shirts, and hats. Thompson is currently working on a new design, as well as filling an order for the Chesterville Fire Department. The sweatshirts will be sold in an upcoming fundraiser to raise money for the department. Press photo -- Bierworth

School board receives name

by Lori Culliton
Press staff

CORNWALL — District School Board #26 has a new name: Upper Canada District School Board.

The new school board combines the former public boards of SD&G, Prescott-Russell, Leeds-Grenville and Lanark under Bill 104, the Fewer School Boards Act.

"The name still needs regulation approval from the education implementation approval board," interim school board director James Dilamarter told the Press.

There were about 30 name suggestions given to the board, and the Upper Canada reference was the most popular.

"The board voted for Upper Canada because of the geographical reference, plus the fact that this region is commonly recognized as Upper Canada," Dilamarter explained. "It offers a historical perspective, and most people will recognize the area by the name."

He added that the most westerly school board in Quebec has been named the Lower Canada School Board.

Euchre results

by Jean Casselman

WILLIAMSBURG — Williamsburg township seniors' euchre was held at the Park Lane Seniors' Support Centre on Wed., Jan. 28.

Winners were as follows: ladies, Evelyn Swerdfeger, Gladys Kyle, Eva Jackson; gents, Olin Smith, Doris Hill and Muriel Miller; door prize, Marion Hart and Ruth Casselman; draw, Keith Casselman, Dwain Hess, Pauline Hess, Olin Smith, Eva Jackson.

The next euchre will be held at the Park Lane Seniors' Support Centre on Wed., Feb. 11 at 8 pm, as will all further euchres until further notice.

Everyone is welome.

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Heart-Stroke Month

Baker averts surgery by changing lifestyle

by Catherine Thompson

MORRISBURG — Ray Baker remembers very well the heart attack which took him by surprise six years ago.

It happened early one morning after he had driven to his work as a bread salesman for Weston Bakeries.

On Aug. 13, 1992 at 2:30 am when he was starting to load a truck with supplies in Cornwall, he began to perspire and feel lightheaded.

The shipper noticed he didn't look well, and Baker agreed that he didn't feel well, and that it could be a touch of the flu.

"I laid down on the desk and I didn't have a lot of pain but I had a tingling sensation going down my left arm and I kept sweating, and I didn't know why," he recalls.

The shipper believed he was having a heart attack and rushed him to Cornwall General Hospital where he arrived at the Emergency at 3 am.

Here Baker was put in a wheelchair, asked questions, and given a dose of Streptokinase, an expensive miracle drug the hospital staff call "Liquid Draino, for the way it cleans your arteries right out."

He stayed in the Intensive Care for a week and later was moved to a ward, where he stayed for another three weeks. To be discharged, Baker had to show he could walk to the length of the hall and up half a flight of stairs.

During a follow-up visit to the McConnell Medical Centre, Dr. John Paul DeYoung, who was his doctor at the Cornwall General, described his condition.

"If you're going to have a heart attack, the one I had was the best kind," Baker said. "It was at the bottom of the heart where there wasn't a lot of damage.

"If it had been at the top where there are a lot of arteries, there would have been a lot more damage. But there is always damage when you have a heart attack."

Baker was placed on a blood thinner "Metoprolol" aspirin, and sent to his own physician, Dr. Wayne Domanko, who recommended he see a specialist in Ottawa.

QUICK ACTION

"I thought it would be weeks and months before I could get to see someone. The next morning I had a phone call that I had an interview within a week with a Dr. Robert Beanland at the Heart Institute," Baker stated.

After a medical and stress test, the specialist said there was no reason whatsoever to have surgery. "I had no blockage, except 40 per cent in one artery," he said.

Baker started to attend the Heart Institute's excellent rehabilitation program, which is limited in numbers of participants.

"They just don't take anyone and everyone, they are very selective," Baker said. "If you're a smoker, they give you one month to quit smoking."

After consultation with a nurse, Baker did stretching and exercised on an indoor track, where he was to walk a specific distance in a certain time, according to his age and health.

"I did this three times a week for six months," he stated.

His weight was also targeted. "I was around 250 pounds when I had the heart attack and I went down to 190 since the rehab program," he said.

Baker said he hasn't had eggs for six years but allows himself egg whites and applesauce in baking.

"When it comes to beef, a very small portion. I used to eat a T-bone steak. Now my wife and I have one between the two of us."

As for exercise? "I was walking six miles a day when we were going to Ottawa," Baker said. "I still continue to walk three miles a day." Baker retired in February last year, and keeps up an active lifestyle.

"I play 18 holes of golf a day in summer, and I started curling."

When it gets really cold, he gets on the glider his children bought him for Christmas, the exercise bicycle and works out for an hour to an hour and a half a day.

For three years after his attack, Baker went back to the Heart Institute and had clean bills of health each year. He has not had to return to the Heart Institute for three years. But he still has a check up every two months by Domanko and cholesterol checks three times a year.

UPDATE

Since his heart attack Baker has regained a little weight and his cholesterol occasionally goes over the low of three, but not over the high of 5.2 millimoles per litre. As a result, he started a new drug called Zocor which helps to reduce blood cholesterol.

It was suggested that stress might have been a cause of heart trouble, but as far as Baker was concerned, long hours and hard work didn't constitute stress. Stress meant financial worries and family problems and Baker had neither.

However, he did have 18-hour days delivering bread to stores at night and frequently had a sleep deficit, which contributed to his fatigue.

Heredity may have also been a factor since his father died of a heart attack in his early 60s.

But Baker freely admits, "I ate the wrong foods, that's all there was to it. And I didn't look after myself."

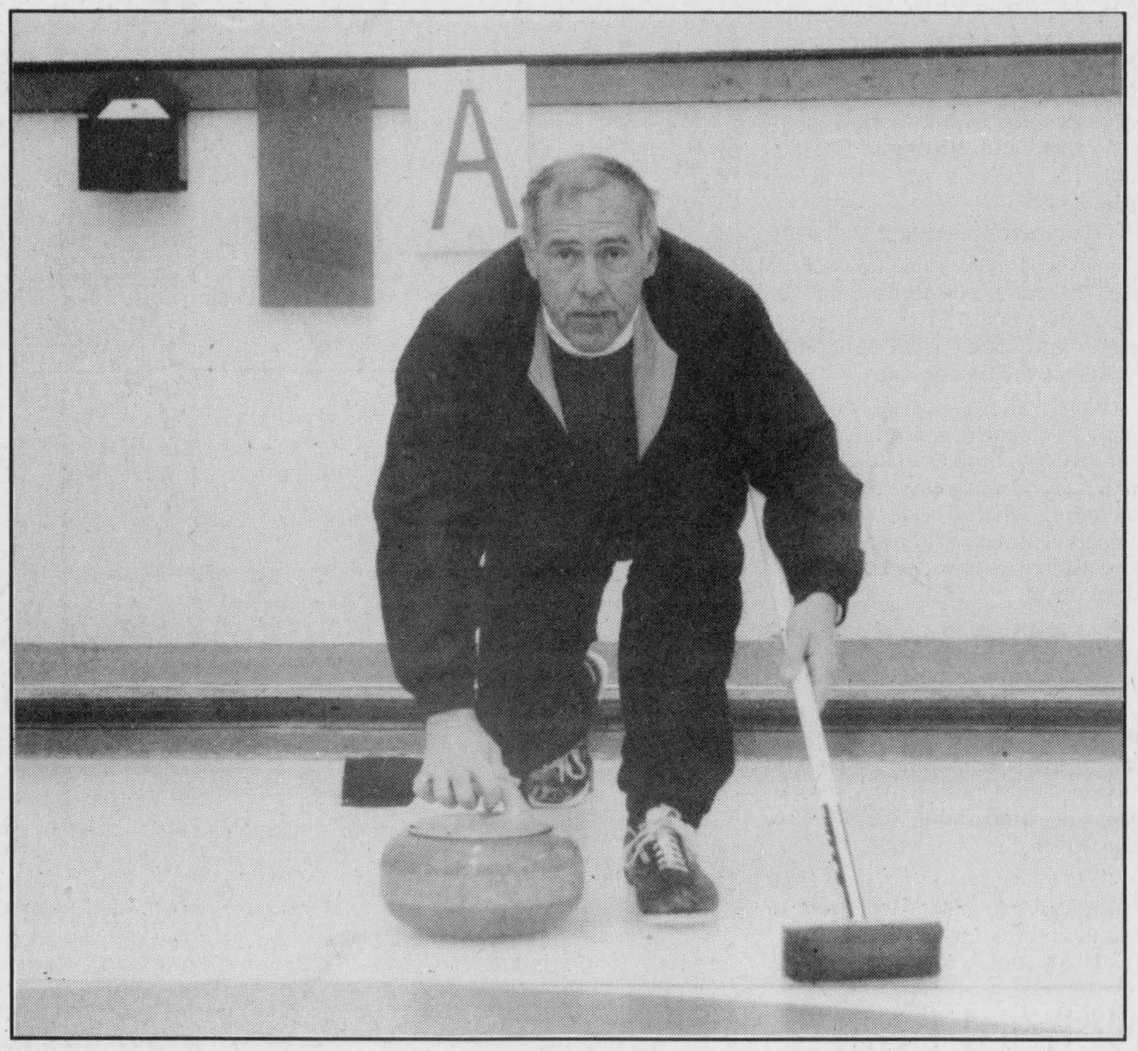
From youth, Baker was a heavy smoker at two cigarette packs a day, but he hasn't smoked in 20 years.

The fact that Baker had been very active from youth in hockey, ball and golf made the event more unexpected to his friends.

"Everyone was surprised that Snookie Baker had a heart attack," he said.

Baker confirmed one aspect about his experience. Although he didn't have a lot of pain as some have during heart attacks, he agreed, "it was very frightening".

"That's one reason when you go through the rehabilitation program you take it to heart," he stated. "One thing about it, you have a second chance that a lot of people don't have."



Heart sense

Ray Baker participates in a new pastime at the Morrisburg Curling Rink. When not there, he can usually be found walking, exercising or golfing in the summer. Courtesy Photo

Bell expanding services

TORONTO — Bell Canada has announced plans to improve service for more than 6.8 million customers in Ontario and Quebec, including Ottawa and Seaway Valley.

The company will invest about $200 million to modernize telecommunications technologies and services, will expand local calling areas and eliminate milage charges.

"Bell Canada is pleased to be providing our customers with expanded local calling areas," said Terry Mosey, vice-president, marketing (local services), Bell Canada. "Our customers have been requesting expanded local calling so that they can reach many neighboring residents and businesses by telephone without paying long distance charges. Many communities have also told us that improved telecommunications will support their efforts to attract new businesses and contribute to their economic development."

The benefits of the Bell Canada plan, approved by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) include:

— Eliminating, effective Jan. 1, 1998, the extra mileage charges that approximately 200,000 customers have been paying in addition to their basic service price in order to get single- or two-party service. These charges ranged from 30 cents to more than $40 monthly;

— Offering single-line service to every customer who wishes it by 2001. Today, almost 60,000 customers in Ontario and Quebec have four-party service. Single-line service is necessary for improved 9-1-1 emergency service where offered by the municipality, Internet access, fax machines and modems.

— Expanded local calling areas for 6.8 million customers in 642 exchanges in Ontario and Quebec by the end of 1999. Customers will have local calling into at least one business centre, as well as to and from communities enroute to this centre through a local calling "corridor". By eliminating long distance charges between the affected exchanges, it is expected that 99 per cent of Bell's customers will have toll-free access to at least one Internet provider by the end of 1999.

In the Ottawa area, new toll-free local calling services as of March, 1999 include: Gloucester — Chesterville, Crysler, Navan, South Mountain, St. Isidore, Williamsburg and Winchester; Chesterville — Gloucester, Metcalfe; Jockvale — Kemptville, Merrickville, Osgoode; Chesterville — Gloucester, Metcalfe; Manotick — Kemptville, Merrickville; Metcalfe — Chesterville, South Mountain, Williamsburg; Osgoode — Jockvale; Williamsburg — Gloucester, Metcalfe, Ottawa-Hull; Winchester — Gloucester.

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11:00 am - Sunday School
Tuesday
6:30 pm - Pioneer Club for Grades 1 and 2 at the Winchester Public School
Thursday
7:30 pm - Youth Enthusiastic at Winchester Public School
For more information 774-0721 or Box 264, Winchester, Ont., K0C 2K0
774-0721
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43tfc

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Minister: Rev. Carol Poley-Delisle, B.A., B.Th., M.Div., B.C.L., L.L.B.
Office: 774-2512
Manse: 774-1546
Sunday
WINCHESTER UNITED CHURCH
11:00 am - Worship Service and Sunday School
Tuesday
12:45-1:15 pm - Prayer Circle
WINCHESTER SPRINGS UNITED CHURCH
9:30 am - Worship Service and Sunday School
40tfc

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

HARMONY COMMUNITY CHURCH
Evangelical Missionary Church
Hwy. 31 & Ormond Rd.
774-5170
Pastor: Rev. Bruce North
Sunday, Feb. 8
10:30 am - Morning Worship with Guest Speaker Rev. Dale Lloyd
Super Church for ages 1-12
Wednesday
7:30 pm - Bible Study
Friday, Feb. 13
6:15 pm - Valentine Dinner at the Country Kitchen
Difference Makers together!
45c

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

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Winchester
Knox Presbyterian Church
Mountain
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Knox Presbyterian Church
Mountain
9:30 am - Divine Worship
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church
Winchester
11:00 am - Divine Worship, nursery care and program for children
40tfc

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Williamsburg, Ont.
Rev. George J. Rowaan
448-2351
Sunday, Feb. 8
9:30 am - Morning Service: *"Lord Grant Us Passion"*, Genesis 18:16-33; Luke 19:41-44
Sunday School for all children ages 3-12
7:30 pm - Evening Service: *"One With Us"*, Luke 2:40
Pastor Rowaan at both services
Child care available
PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
45c

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF WINCHESTER, CHESTERVILLE, CRYSLER AND SOUTH MOUNTAIN
Sunday, Feb. 8
8:00 am - Chesterville
9:30 am - South Mountain
11:15 am - Winchester
Rev. Robert Assaly: 774-2236
45c

WINCHESTER WESLEYAN CHURCH
Bringing New Hope To Discouraged Hearts
Sunday, Feb.8
9:30 am - Prayer Team
10:30 am - Worship Service
7:00 pm - Join us each Sunday night in February for a Billy Graham film presentation
THIS WEEK: *"The Homecoming"*
Call for details on midweek prayer groups and children's programs
Pastor Thurland Brown
537 Main St., Winchester 774-3137
45c

EBENEZER REFORMED CHURCH
Affiliated with the United Reformed Churches in North America
Based on the Infallible Word of God and the Three Forms of Unity (Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, and the Canons of Dort)
Sunday, Feb. 8
11:45 am - First Baptist Church, Court House Square, Brockville
2:30 pm - Hulbert United Church, Interim Minister: Rev. J. Roke, Phone: 613-924-1547; Clerk, Wilburt Feenstra, 613-498-1812
45c

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

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During February, property owners will receive a Notice of Property Assessment and an information package in the mail.

Your Notice shows the Current Value Assessment of your property. From now on, property assessments will be kept fair, consistent and up-to-date for everyone. Your municipality will continue to be responsible for setting municipal property tax rates.

Your Notice package will tell you more about the Ontario Fair Assessment System. For example, it will tell you:

- how municipalities must assist low-income senior and disabled homeowners and how they can phase in any tax changes over a period of up to eight years;
- where and when information sessions on the new system will be held in your community.

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

Ontario

Snowmobile thefts snowballing

MANOTICK — From Jan. 26 to Feb. 1 of this year, the Manotick detachment investigated 92 general occurrences and 11 motor vehicle collisions.

On Jan. 29, the operator of a snowmobile received minor injuries after he crashed on one of the trails in Osgoode Township. Const. Rick Dupuis is investigating.

By law, anyone in charge of a snow vehicle who is directly or indirectly involved in a collision where there is personal injury or damage to property in excess of $400 must report it to the police. Failure to do so could result in a fine of $105 ($90 plus $15 victim surcharge).

Police investigated one break and enter last week. On Jan. 31, a house on the 5th Line Road in Osgoode Township was entered. It is still unknown what, if anything, was stolen.

Overnight on Jan. 26, a white 1987 Olds 88 was taken from the Albert Street apartments in Metcalfe. On Jan. 28, a North Gower resident reported that his 1990 Chev pick-up truck was stolen from his Craig Street property. On Jan. 30, the truck was recovered off of Malakoff Road. The thief had damaged the steering column and stole the four wheels and rims.

At approximately 11:15 pm on Jan. 30, a Richmond resident reported that the 1998 Yamaha he had been driving was taken from the Gypsy Rose parking lot. It had been left in the lot at 10:45 pm. The machine was recovered the next day on a trail south of the parking lot. It was left smashed up against a tree. Anyone with information is asked to contact Const. Janice Harris at 692-2525.

A 1996 Arctic Cat VIN 9625205 was taken from a McKendry Drive garage during the evening of Jan. 30. The snowmobile tracks were followed to the Carlsbad Springs area. Unfortunately, the tracks did not lead to the thief.

On Jan. 31, a Polaris snowmobile was recovered in a ditch near Boundry Road in Osgoode Township. The vehicle had been stolen from Mountain Township on Jan. 29. The vehicle was stripped.

Const. Rudy Schaefers is investigating the theft of gas from an Osgoode gas station. At 10:30 am on Jan. 28, a man pulled into the station in an aqua colored van with a white design on it. Once the vehicle was filled, the driver left westbound on Main Street without paying for the fuel. Anyone with information is asked to contact Const. Schaefers at 692-2525.

Overnight on Jan. 29, a Bosch generator serial number 21713H was stolen from a Blackcreek Road property.

The owner of a River Road home reported that the top of her ceramic fountain was stolen on Jan. 31. This piece was very heavy and would have required at least two people to carry it.

Last week, two people have expressed concern about the way some snowmobilers are operating their machines. There are speed limits that must be adhered to and they are as follows: on highways (roads) where the posted speed limit for motor vehicles is 50 km/hr or less, the snowmobile must not be driven faster than 20 km/hr. On trails and other highways where the posted limit is greater than 50 km/hr, the maximum speed for a snowmobile is 50 km/hr. Snowmobilers are also required to stop when they come upon a stopped school bus with the red lights flashing and the driver must remain stopped until the signal lights are no longer operating. Unfortunately, some riders give all snowmobilers a bad name.

There was a one 12-hour suspension issued last week.



Chipping chopped

Crews from central and western Ontario have completed much of the brush clearing in Winchester village and have since returned home. Local North Dundas Township workers are currently looking at options on continuing the removal and chipping of downed branches. Operations may be curtailed until spring. Brush will eventually be picked up.



Another donation

The Township of Osgoode Care Centre accepted a second cheque from the Nepean-Gloucester Firefighters Benevolent Fund on Friday morning. The cheque for $1,514 was presented to Claire O'Brien (right), chair of Community Relations on the Board of Directors and Murray Munro (left), administrator of TOCC by Gloucester firefighter Mike Knoefler. The first cheque donated to the TOCC was for $2,200. The money will go towards the purchase of a new lawn tractor. Press Photo — Culliton

Fashion show

MORRISBURG — The Upper Canada Playhouse is sponsoring a fashion show with a difference.

At the fashion show, guests will arrive to be seated at a "one of a kind" table setting. Twenty-five hostesses are each preparing a table for eight. They will be using their own color scheme or theme and will provide all the necessary fixings for their tea table.

From candles to cutlery, from the serving dish to the homemade dessert, each table will reflect its hostess.

As guests enjoy the table laid before them, they will be treated to a unique fashion show.

Local artisans will have their creations modelled and displayed. Artisans include Anna Bing with machine and hand-knitwear, Caroline Dey with appliqued outer wear, Marion Gleason and Francesca Overend with woven wear, Fimo jewellery by Margi Laurin and original quilted garments by Judy Pallette.

CountryGirl of Winchester will round out the show with bridal wear and mother of the bride apparel.

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3 lb. Leg of Pork Roast (Boneless) $10.17
2 lb. Stew (Boneless) $5.58
2 lb. Schneider's Chicken Burgers (All white meat) $8.49
1 lb. Schneider's Wieners $2.23
TOTAL $79.99

VARIETY PACK #2
10 lb. Ground Chuck, 85% lean $21.90
10 lb. Pork Loin Chops $24.90
10 lb. Top Sirloin Steak (Boneless) $37.90
8.8 lb. Boneless Skinless Chicken Breasts $39.95
3 lb. Rump or Sirloin Roast $10.17
3.3 lb. Box Oktoberfest Precooked Sausage $11.95
1 lb. Schneider's Wieners $2.39
TOTAL $149.16

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Editorial/Opinion

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EDITORIAL

No smoking

It's a common sight in our society.

"No Smoking" signs adorn the walls of most public buildings, and upon entering a building one is usually confronted with the announcement that smoking will not be tolerated via a sign posted on the door.

Many restaurants now prohibit smoking, and it is a law that a non-smoking section is required to be present in every restaurant.

So why should North Dundas be different? Why is the brand new Township of North Dundas so far out of date?

At Monday night's council meeting of the Township of North Dundas, Councillor Estella Rose was strangely without much support when she requested that the township building be declared a non-smoking building.

"That's cruel and inhumane punishment," mayor Claude Cousineau quipped.

Clerk-administrator Howard Smith admitted to council that most members of his staff are smokers, and there was the usual haranguing of Rose by councillors who are smokers themselves.

Rose persisted, and pointed out that there is one woman on staff who is pregnant, and that the air quality of the building isn't the best to begin with.

Here we have a brand new council, entering a brand new era of municipal politics, and still holding on to a very old habit.

Nobody, not even Rose, is suggesting that any of the puffers quit the nasty habit, although there are studies that prove that wouldn't be such a bad idea.

She is merely suggesting to those who intend to smoke: step outside to do so.

What's the problem with Rose's request? In any other government building there is no smoking allowed, by staff members or other.

The request was quite reasonable and it would seem that in 1998, with the awareness of the effects of smoking and of second-hand smoke, the request should not have had to be made at all. Non-smoking in a public building such as the Township of North Dundas building should be a given.

How disappointing -- infuriating -- that councillors would be more concerned with their own right to invade their lungs than with the right of others, including visitors to the building (ratepayers?), to breathe clean air.

Bravo, Councillor Rose. Don't back down now.

L.C.

This week in...

1948

The Winchester District Memorial Hospital Board's request for a municipal grant of $20,000 from Winchester village was the main item of business on the agenda of the municipal council at its regular meeting, held in the council chambers on Monday evening till midnight without any definite decision being arrived at by members of the board.

A cheque for $600 from Mr. William R. Justus, prominent Smiths Falls businessman, and a former resident of Winchester, made news as the latest donation to the Winchester District Memorial Hospital Fund. The donation was earmarked to help furnish a ward when the hospital building was completed.

In the two-game, total-goal series to decide the leadership of the Cornwall District Junior Hockey League, the Inkerman Rockets emerged victorious by a 17-10 count on the round, over the Cornwall Crusaders. The Rockets won the first game here on Thursday evening by a score of 13-5, but were nosed out by the Crusaders the following night by a 5-4 score.

1958

Conscious of keeping all three fire-fighting units in top running order, members of Winchester Municipal Council voted unanimously in favor of hiring a qualified mechanic to inspect and test all machines at least once a week.

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church proudly sported the title, "The Church with the Chimes." Regardless of denomination, all Winchester and district citizens were pleased and proud of the new $2,000 Carillonic Chimes installed at St. Paul's. The chimes were officially dedicated at a Sunday evening service with the keys to the chimes being handed over to Rev. W. Sutherland by Mrs. Alex Davidson on behalf of the Ladies' Aid. The purchasing of the chimes made up the chief project of the Ladies' Aid Society that year.

By virtue of their Monday night win over Finch, Winchester Juniors clinched first place in the Central Ottawa Valley Hockey League with 17 points. Each with two games to play, Finch and Metcalfe had 12 and 8 points respectively. Alexandria followed with 5 points.

1968

Less than 48 hours after attempting to rob a Winchester couple, 22-year-old Charles Roy Smith, of no fixed address, was sentenced to one year in reformatory. About 8 pm on the night of Tuesday, January 23rd, Smith entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hayes of Winchester and demanded money. Mr. Hayes scared the young man off, armed only with a stick of wood, and by 10:30 pm Constables Ray Noble and John Burke had captured the would-be robber.

Icy road conditions were blamed for a head-on collision near Winchester Springs that sent two Cornwall teenagers to Ottawa Civic Hospital where they were reported in satisfactory condition. Derek Fallon, 19, and Linda Pilgrim, 18, of Cornwall, were transferred from Winchester Memorial Hospital. The other car was driven by David Hollingshead of Morewood. He and his wife were treated at the Winchester hospital and released. Their three children were uninjured.

Millions of people like their newspaper for breakfast, but not in order to eat it. They thereby differ from the cows, which apparently thrived on meals made up of newspapers. According to scientists at a well-known university in the United States, a mixture of ground-up newsprint and molasses made healthy, wholesome cattle feed. One herd was fed regular, high quality, traditional feed. Another herd was given newspapers and molasses. The latter herd of heifers gained just as much weight as did those fed with standard feed.

1978

Ontario Provincial Police were warning residents to be on the lookout for counterfeit bills after a sample of the funny money was discovered in the LCBO bank deposit Monday morning. The bill, a Canadian $10 issue, was reportedly passed at the Winchester liquor outlet and was discovered by Bank of Montreal employees Monday when the liquor store made its regular deposit.

No one was injured in an apartment fire on St. Lawrence Street that left the residence extensively damaged. Fire Chief Dalton Kenney said he didn't estimate the damage at the two-storey, frame dwelling owned by Gordon St. Pierre. The apartment tenant was absent when the fire broke out. The fire appeared to start in a mattress in the bedroom.

A weekend snowmobile rally in Winchester Springs, sponsored by the Winchester Springs Recreation Association, went over with a bang. More than 75 snowmobiles entered the event, which saw Margaret Smith come in as first female finisher. She



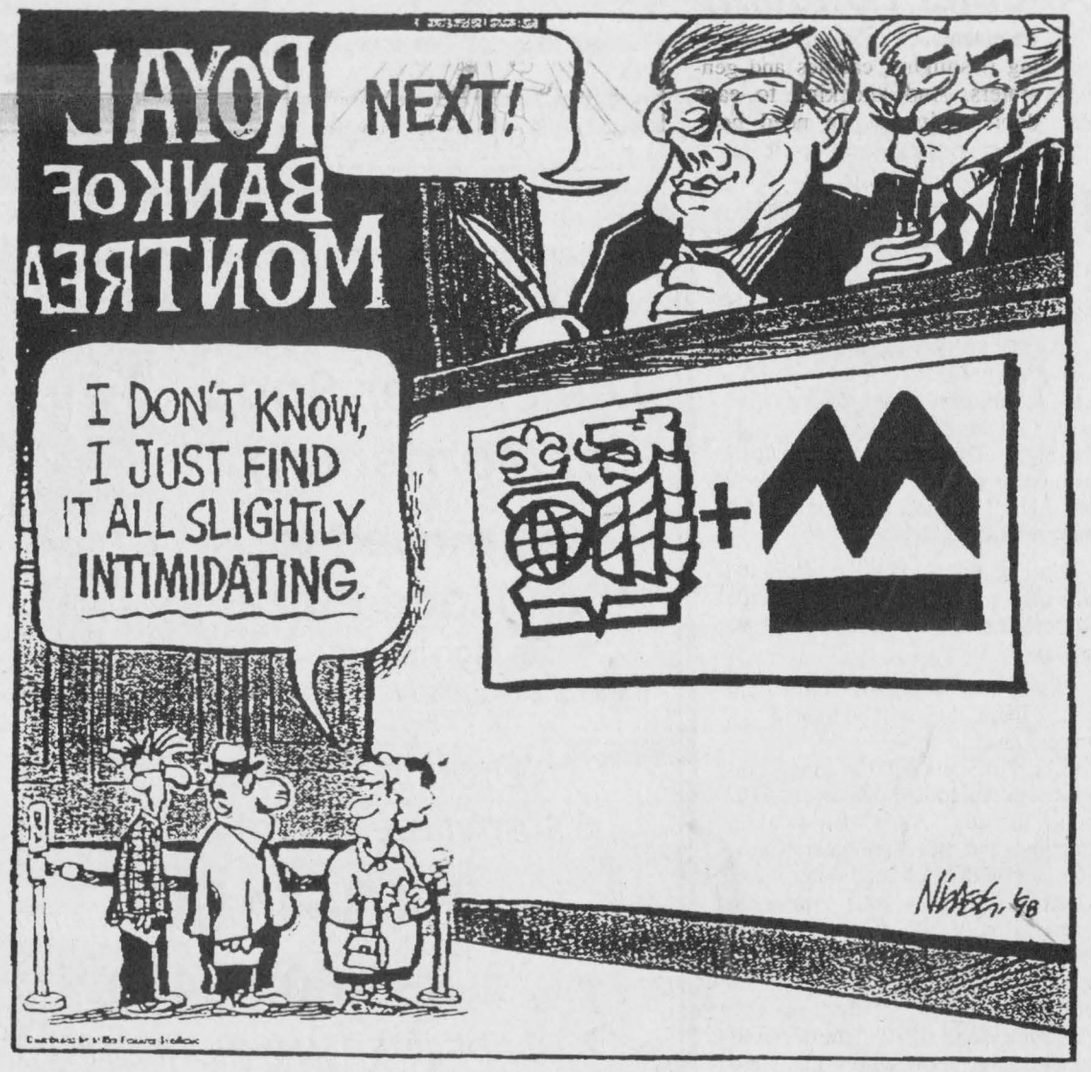
was awarded an association trophy and $10.The first-place male, Paul Barkley, was awarded a WSRA trophy and $10.

1988

It was feared a United Counties Council plan to build a $5 million senior citizens' home in Williamsburg might not get off the ground. The proposal, which had been approved by council, still had to be endorsed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. The government was looking at "major policy changes" which would see smaller, satellite homes built for senior citizens instead of a larger, central home.

A proposed 62-lot subdivision was given the green light by Winchester council, pending completion of the village's proposed sewage project. Reeve Larry Gray assured developers that by this time next year construction would likely be able to begin.

Metcalfe Agricultural Society members re-elected president Harold Cowan for a second term. More than 50 members opened the meeting observing a period of silence in memory of two past presidents, Carman Blair and Stan Hicks, who had passed away during the year.



Virtual Valentines: Looking for love online

But seriously...

by Lori Culliton

Valentine's Day is creeping up behind some of you poor, unsuspecting people.

Granted, if you're attached, you have your own problems as you attempt to prepare yourself for the most stressful, highest-pressured day of the year, trying to make the day perfect for your significant other. I'll deal with you poor guys next week.

This week, I'm more concerned with helping those who are unattached to find a mate. Why should the people who are already buckling under high Valentine's expectations suffer alone?

If you are searching for, but have not yet found, that special someone — or even that kind-of-special someone whom you could at least spend the most romantic day of the year with — you may be looking in the wrong places.

And you're in luck — I'm here to help.

First of all, don't get too hung up on Valentine's Day. There is so much pressure put on that day for those supposedly in love that it causes more fights than romance, believe me.

But if you're looking to meet that certain someone to spend romantic evenings with, buy flowers for, and all that other mushy stuff, please step into the 90s with me for a moment.

That's right. There are plenty of opportunities to meet people. But things are done slightly differently in the 1990s.

Of course, you could try the old staples you read about in advice columns — love in the laundromat or the produce department of a grocery store.

But personally, my dear reader, I must admit that introducing yourself to a potential someone while caring for your skivvies or scoping out some ripe veggies doesn't exactly sound appealing.

Come on, people. This is 1998. We don't get out much anymore. We bank by phone, we order in and we have home entertainment so that we don't have to go out.

How do you meet someone? Well, how about over the phone? Or the phone lines? Not quite ordering in, but still from the safety of your own living room.

These days, most daily newspapers offer singles meeting places, where, for a nominal fee, you can check out possible dates over the phone, and have them check you out the same way. Of course, this can become costly, but it's a safe, hands-off approach to finding a potential someone.

And then there are the online services offering up a world (literally) of opportunities. There are many online meeting places, whether you're looking for a chat room or a service that will match your profile with the profiles of other individuals looking for someone just like you.

And the world is at your fingertips when you meet people on line. Of course, when you find that your perfect mate is in Australia, for example, it turns into more of a "virtual" romance. If you're looking for a Latin lover, this is the best place for you to be.

But there are opportunities to hook up with local people too. Log onto a web site such as www.singlesonline.com or www.friendfinder.com and see just how many other people are out there, trying to meet someone.

At one time, it was believed that there were only computer nerds online, but these days the internet is in vogue and everybody is doing it.

Now don't get me wrong — there are weirdos and other scary people out there on the internet. But they're also at the clubs, in the supermarket and at the malls. Meeting over the 'net just gives you a more anonymous tool for weeding out the creatures from the possibilities.

I might add, I've heard plenty more good news stories of people hooking up than I have horror stories.

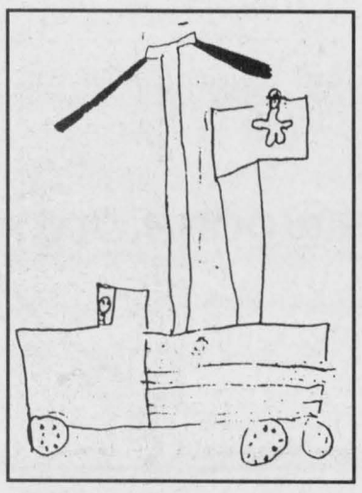
Now, if you don't already have a computer, meeting someone online might be a little unreasonably expensive. However, if you are already online, surfing the net, checking out these sites won't hurt.

In fact, you may be surprised by the results.

After all, it worked for me.

Children say thanks for ice storm relief

Submissions from Morewood Public School's Grade 3-4



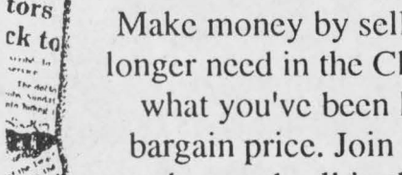
Dear hydro workers:
Thank you for helping with the power. I think you did really good.
Ryan Lynch

Dear Mr. Dean:
Thank you for giving people food and for keeping your store open longer hours.
Tanya Rae

Dear hydro workers and army people:
Thank you hydro workers for working on the hydro line. You are my heroes. Thank you army people for giving us a generator and a little light and wood. Thank you all.
Shay Lynn Giberson

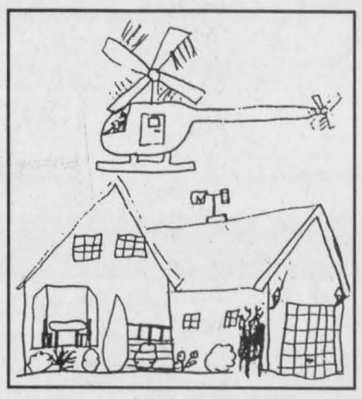
Dear Grandma Holliday:
Thank you for letting us stay at your house. You are all ways prepared with your generator and wood stove. It's fun staying at your house. Happy belated 72nd birthday!
Andrea Milne

To the army:
Thanks for helping for each and every one of us. For pumping basements, cleaning up trees, giving flashlights, candles and generaters. And knocking to each door, asking if we need help. Everyone appreciates your help.
Rebecca Gibeault



Dear Firemen:
Thank you for giving people who didn't have a generator. Or pump out people's basement that are flooded.
Tracy MacGregor

To all the army:
Thank you for working night and day even when it was cold.
Thank you for giving food, generators, drinks, gas, diesel, wood, blankets, candles and flashlights. I feel great. Thanks for helping us.
Beatrice



Dear councillors and mayor:
I think you did a very good job organizing for the storm. All I can say is thank you very much for everything you did. Without you we wouldn't have got threw the storm. I hope that if it ever happens again you will still help us. If it ever dose. Dad and Mom if you are reading this thanks a lot for helping me threw all this. Well I gess I'm done now. Thanks for listening.
Sarah Schoones

Dear hydro workers:
Thank you for working night and day even though it was very cold. Thank you for making the power go back on. Thank you for putting our power on because I'm very happy.
Chelsey Draycott



Dear hydro workers:
Thank you for working all day fixing the hydro poles when it was very cold so people could have power.
Anabel

Dear hydro workers, army:
Thank you for your help and offering food, candles and a place to stay. It was nice to see you around army. Thank you for leaving your families and come and help us. You have been a good help!
Amanda Spruit

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Residents never felt ice storm's wrath

The Editor:
In consideration of the recent Ice Storm 98 and related disaster, on behalf of the board of directors, staff and residents of the Township of Osgoode Care Centre, we wish to extend our sincerest heartfelt thanks to members of council and all the township officials and volunteers who assisted the community in sustaining a remarkable level of service throughout the entire ordeal and insuring the needs of the residents of the care centre were addressed without any hesitation.

The expeditious and professional response to the needs of our residents at the care centre was no less than fantastic.

To reiterate, on Friday afternoon of Jan. 9, I called the emergency phone service for fire department support in the region and briefly explained some of our problems and was advised somebody would call back shortly.

Contrary to my expectations of having to wait a considerable period due to the magnitude of the disaster, within minutes I received a call advising somebody would be attending from the local fire department.

I no sooner hung up the phone and there were two fire officials presenting themselves at our premises advising they were there to ascertain our problems and needs.

After our discussions concluded, within a very short period of time three members of our armed forces arrived along with extra blankets and disposable dishes and by early night a large generator was connected to our main electrical service and essentially we were operating at 100 per cent. It is worth noting that the facility is equipped with a stand-by generator but is not adequate to operate all building systems.

The disaster ended for our residents that night and I feel it safe to say they never felt the wrath of the disaster or sensed its magnitude.

It is our intent to say thank you for your help and we ask you to convey this message onto all those who assisted and give special mention to Chief Gerry Bennett and the entire fire department personnel under his command for all their help.

A tip of the hat to all. Thank you.
Murray Munro
Administrator, Osgoode Care Centre
(C.C. Mayor Doug Thompson)

Big thank you to ice storm volunteers

The Editor:
To the volunteers of "Ice Storm 98": We are sending this letter to thank all the people who helped during the storm; the neighbors, the relatives, the shelter workers, the firefighters, the military, the Bell workers and the Hydro workers.

We're thanking you for putting out fires, for bringing us food and water, for checking on us to see if we were OK, for fixing the power lines and telephone lines, for pumping out basements and sharing generators.

A big thank you to the Odd Fellows service group in providing a warm and comfortable shelter in South Mountain for all the victims of the storm.

Your kindness will never be forgotten.

We are happy to live in this community.
The students of Grade 4/5
Nationview Public School

It's art that imitates life, writer says

The Editor:
Many thanks to Lori Culliton for her delightful piece, Truth is Stranger than Fiction. I now look forward to seeing the movie "Wag the Dog" for a hearty laugh. However, I'm not so sure that it is life that imitates art, in this case, rather art that imitates life.

Archie Bunker mocked the reality of American racism. This movie makes a parody of the cynical reality of American, and perhaps Canadian, politics. The theme of a focus on a presidential (sex) scandal diverted by White House spin-doctors by inventing an enemy against whom to wage war has become a persistent theme of the last decade. Witness Reagan's former chief spin-doctor, Deaver I think it was, last year exposing the cynical manipulation of public opinion as diversionary tactics, which he masterminded at the White House since 1984.

While I will enjoy the movie, the reality is sickening. Many civilians now stand under threat of losing their lives in Iraq to pay the price of Clinton's sexual escapades and his inability to be truthful. (Perhaps like his predecessor, he will later confess to taking military action based on "a mistruth"!)

We the public will laugh at the movie, perhaps as we did at Archie Bunker, without seeing ourselves behind the character. This week the morally bankrupt president of the USA, now apparently having lied about his infidelity to first win the presidency, wins a new high in "approval ratings" by a public whose support is needed to get away with atrocities in Iraq.

The greater the spin, the bigger the lie, offered by these White House cynics, and perhaps habitual liars, the more the public laps it up and the higher the president's stock rises.

The promise of satiating the human appetite to shed blood, of course, as in the movie, is behind the public approval. The only aspect that makes the public attitude slightly above that of savagery is the successful demonization by the spin-doctors of the Iraqis to persuade much of the public that the victims of this cynicism are slightly less human than we are.

Perhaps in North American culture art is simply confused with life, even when the art is mocking us. Then it is the artist or the actor who has had the last laugh. Archie Bunker may no longer be laughing at us, but Bill Clinton certainly is.
The Rev. Robert Assaly
Winchester

Winchester praised for work in storm

The Editor:
During the Ice Storm 1998 the best came out in people to help others. I am so grateful that the Winchester Curling Club executive graciously offered their facility to those who needed meals during the storm. It was a perfect location, with the greatest "freezer/cooler" anyone could have wished for.

A very heartfelt thank you to all who brought food and donated items, who volunteered to serve meals and clean up and those who ran errands during the day.

A special thanks to the cooks. Word went around about how great the meals at the Curling Club were! All of you contributed so much in a crisis like this.

An applaud for Dominique Darcy "the singing policeman" and others who entertained during the week. You brought fun and laughter during the "dark" days.

A very special thank you to all businesses, churches and corporations who brought tons of food and items to be distributed to people in our area. All of you showed how much you cared in a very special way.

Winchester really pulled together. A job well done.
Jannie Van Noppen, co-ordinator, Volunteer Emergency Food

OPINIONS

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

More letters to the editor on page 8

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Natural gas fireplaces



Dashing through snow

Kids and parents alike enjoyed a horse-drawn sleigh ride on Sunday afternoon at Greely's 27th Winter Carnival. The week-long carnival wrapped up on Sunday with outdoor volleyball and hockey games, a children's fun fair and a variety show in the evening. Press Photo — Culliton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poems reflect on aspects of Ice Storm '98

The Editor:

Well, didn't Mother Nature do a number on us? She really put us to a test. A test of strength, endurance, patience, tolerance, resourcefulness, a test of humanity. As a farmer, one of so many out here in the backroads — and yes, we do exist, our lives were much more than inconvenienced, they were turned upside down — our livelihoods put at stake. This has been a stressful and chaotic couple of weeks, but in moments of somewhat calm, now that we have a generator, the cows milked and fed, resting comfortably in the barn, the hum of the furnace breaking the silence in my now warmed-up home, I had time to reflect and write these poems.

People
..... People.....
Heroes and imbeciles
... The heroes...
Giving of themselves
Their time
Their efforts
Their kindness
Giving a little
Giving a lot
Giving what they can
To ease the burden
To give hope
When all has gone wrong.
Pillars of humanity
Forever admired
Their deeds appreciated
Never to be forgotten.
... The imbeciles...
Giving nothing
So ignorant
So greedy
Taking care of themselves
Taking comfort in others' struggles
Taking what they can
Having no money
Having no shame
When all has gone wrong
A disgrace, a minority
Forever marked
Their actions unforgiveable
Never to be forgotten
Heroes and imbeciles
... People...

Mother Nature
Mother Nature
So magnificent
So powerful
So unpredictable
So uncontrollable
We are at her mercy
She may bless us
She may burden us
We must take what comes
When blessed
We should appreciate
Savor the wonder
The beauty, the mystery
Not take it for granted
For when burdened
It is a reminder
It is not ours
Not for us to say
Not for us to keep
In a blink of an eye
She can change our world
Sometimes a tease
A taste, a warning
She is not to be disrespected
At other times
An impact so overwhelming
That will leave scars
For years to come
Lessons must be learned
Mother Nature
So magnificent
So powerful
We are at her mercy.

Freda Lamoureux
RR 3, Crysler

Osgoode mayor tributes residents

The Editor:

Osgoode Township was hit with a disastrous ice storm in the first week of January. So widespread was the damage that for the first time in our history a State of Emergency was declared on Jan. 9 at 9:05 am.

Virtually all electricity was out in Osgoode Township, causing massive problems to our residential and commercial residents. The disaster could have been a terrible tragedy for our residents had it not been for the tremendous effort and resilience of so many in our township.

There are literally hundreds and hundreds of residents of all ages who helped our entire township endure some of the most difficult times of our lives.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who assisted or offered assistance in our disaster efforts during the past three weeks. We salute all our volunteers, the media, OPP, regional police, local and area fire departments, hydro crews, military, personnel from the City of Gloucester, Regional Health Department staff, Public Works, our municipal staff and all organizations across the province who supplied necessary equipment in our time of need.

Residents of Osgoode Township have always been known to be a resourceful, hard working and very caring group of individuals. The way in which we all coped with this "Ice Storm of the Century" has proven how great we are as individuals and as a municipality.

Our struggle was great, our task was formidable, our resolve to deal with the tragedy was absolutely incredible.

As Mayor of Osgoode Township and on behalf of council, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, the residents of Osgoode Township. There was great suffering, many hardships to endure (many hardships still to come) and perhaps some hardship we will never overcome. Yet, this disaster has brought our residents and our community much closer together. We all united in a time of need helping each other overcome tremendous obstacles.

We ALL can be very, very proud.

Mayor Doug Thompson
Councillors Dwayne Acres, Dale Harley, Carol Parker and George Wright

Send your letter to the Winchester Press via E-mail: winchester_press@ocna.org

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FEB. 14 FEATURING AMBUSH - TICKETS AT RICK'S

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Please remember to supply your name and a telephone number where we can reach you during the day along with your electronic submission.

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RRSP Seminar
"Investing for today and tomorrow"
TIME: 7:30 pm
LOCATION: Country Kitchen Restaurant, Winchester
DATE: Tuesday, February 10
SPEAKERS:
Troy Lalonde, B.Comm
Investment Advisor
Nesbitt Burns
Eric McAuley, B.Comm
Tax Specialist
BDO Dunwoody
Ward Mallette
Reception to follow

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Mayor Thompson makes case for rural municipalities' independence

BY Derek Puddicombe

METCALFE — Osgoode Township Mayor Doug Thompson doesn't like to use the recent ice storm as an example that rural municipalities don't need regional government to guide them, but it does make a good case.

Almost a month after the storm left thousands of rural residents without power and fleeing to shelters for food and warmth, Thompson is hurrying to reopen the question of municipal restructuring.

"There is no doubt as a result of this that the rurals could make a go on their own," said Thompson. "During the disaster we looked after our own needs and it shows how we can cope with things and look after ourselves."

He acknowledges the support Osgoode received from the region, but said that they would have got it anyway because the region was lending aid to municipalities outside of the region.

At the height of the storm it was the township staff and volunteers who knew where help was most needed not regional government representatives, said Thompson.

"Our staff knows the area and knows where the shut-ins and people who need help are," said Thompson. "Help from the region would have come anyway."

Praise for the region comes easier to Rideau Mayor Glenn Brooks, who before the storm was a loud voice for Rideau leaving the region. However he is quick to say that it wasn't only the region that helped Rideau weather the storm.

Brooks gives the region credit especially to chairperson Bob Chiarelli, but it was a combination of the regional government and township volunteers that made operations flow easily, said Brooks.

"Let's put it into perspective. The region was there for support, but the operations were here, Brooks. "We controlled the security and military. We set up the shelters and many of the volunteers were from here."

And like Thompson, Brooks agrees that the rural municipalities can take care of themselves. They can even help each other out during a crisis when usually the smaller areas are trying to look after themselves. Indicating that in the end rural governments really didn't need the region.

"The rural areas did a superb job," said Brooks.



Make-believe nuptials

NorDun Seniors Centre cured the winter blahs with a mock wedding and fashion show recently. The pretend union of "Lily Feisty Jones" and "Sammie Tiger Hathaway" lifted spirits after the ice storm. fiasco and gave everyone a good laugh. Above, Ileen Robinson was the mother of the bride, Betty Cooke played the blushing bride (dressed in her mother's wedding gown), Charlie Pattersen was the groom and Lotti Eckert played the matron of honor. The couple were joined together in "hockey macaroni". Other residents were invited to display their wedding gowns around the common room for the fashion show.

Press Photo — Culliton

OPP ER teams busy

LONG SAULT — Search and rescue details, crowd management, hostage taking, high-risk arrests. These are just some of the occurrences which utilize the specialized training of the OPP emergency response team.

Since August, 1992, the emergency response teams have been an officially recognized unit within the OPP. Currently there are 256 officers across the province who have volunteered for and obtained positions on one of the 16 teams now in existence.

Each team consists of 16 members who have been selected based on their level of physical fitness, maturity, patience, ability to function in high stress situations and firearms proficiency.

The officers who make up the emergency response team work as patrol officers at local detachments until they are called in to assist at specific occurrences within the region. The team acts as a search and rescue unit, conducts searches for physical evidence at crimes scenes and responds to calls for assistance at riots, strikes and demonstrations through crowd management. They also support the activities of the OPP tactics and rescue unit by maintaining containment at occurrences falling into their area of responsibility involving hostage taking, barricaded persons and high-risk arrests. The team provides VIP security and assists OPP canine teams when they are called in for the purposes of tracking wanted persons.

East region of the OPP maintains three teams, one being located in each of the former districts previously the responsibility of Belleville, Perth and Long Sault headquarters.

In 1997, Emergency Response Teams in east region responded to a total of 207 calls requiring their expertise.

The teams consist of highly skilled group of professionals who act as a multi-faceted resource for each detachment of the OPP.



Brent Johnston

Stuart and Lois Johnston of Metcalfe are proud to announce the graduation of their son Brent, who was recently granted a Master's degree in Management from Cambridge University in England. He was awarded a British Chevening Scholarship by the U.K. government to pursue graduate studies during 1996/97. An alumni of the University of Ottawa and Osgoode Township High School, Brent is employed by Arthur Andersen & Co. in Toronto.

Congratulations from Mom, Dad, Brian, Cindy, Jordan & Kelvin.

Metcalfe plans carnival

METCALFE -- The Ice Storm is over, and what better way to celebrate than by joining in the fun at the annual Metcalfe Winter Carnival. The fun starts on Thurs., Feb. 12 and goes right through to Feb. 15. Here's a rundown of this year's events.

Thurs., Feb 12, 8 pm, a Euchre game sponsored by the Loyal Orange Lodge will take place at the Metcalfe Community Centre. For more information, contact Mark Alexander at 826-2540.

On Feb. 13, head down to the Larry Robinson Arena for the Jr. "B" hockey ame gat 8:15 pm. There's also a Teeny Bopper Dance at the Metcalfe Community Centre from 7 to 10 pm. For more information about the dance, contact Walter Nibogie at 821-1756.

On Valentine's Day, treat that special someone to a Pancake Breakfast at the Metcalfe Community Centre from 7:30 to 10:30 am. For more information, contact Ronda Hicks at 821-0330.

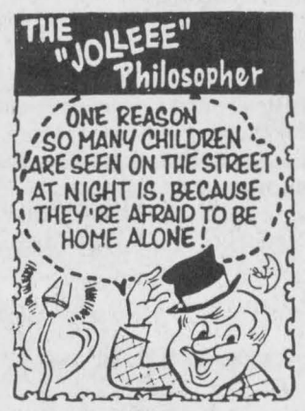
Hockey buffs can watch the minor hockey tournament at the Larry Robinson Arena going on all day from 7 am to 6 pm. The celebrations move into the Larry Robinson Arena from 7 to 9 pm with the Carnival on Ice. Steve Corlyon can be contacted for more information at 821-3227.

From 8 pm to 1 am, the buffet and dance takes place at the Metcalfe Community Centre. This event is sponsored by the Metcalfe Co-operative Nursery School, and Joan Killin can be contacted at 821-3939 for more information.

On the final day of the carnival, the Carnival Parade will start at Glen Street at 1 pm, and finish at the arena. Contact Doug Thompson at 821-2000 for more information.

From 2 to 5 pm, the arena will again be alive with the sights and sounds of a Jr. "B" hockey game as Metcalfe takes on Buckingham. Contact Bill Buckland at 821-3336 for more information.

To finish the winter celebrations, a Carnival Supper and Sing-a-Long will take place at the Metcalfe Community Centre from 4:30 to 7 pm.



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Decorator gives hints to WI

by Norma Duncan

WINCHESTER — President Vivian Fawcett and secretary Irene Broad chaired the January meeting of the Women's Institute. The WI sang the opening ode and repeated in unison the Mary Stewart Collect. The roll call was answered by naming a Canadian product.

The motto was spend a thought before you spend a penny. Muriel Merkley replied with a reading.

Convenor Olive Summers introduced interior decorator specialist Lorraine Geggie. Her presentation regarding display of color combinations and articles to enhance homes, as well as many tips for decorating was very interesting.

The guest speaker was presented with a gift and thanked by Marion Renwick.

A delicious lunch and social time was enjoyed, and the meeting closed with singing "God Save The Queen".

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Tax Depot expands into Winchester

by Sandy Bierworth
Press staff

WINCHESTER — It's that time of year again.

Time for people to dig out the overloaded shoeboxes of old receipts and sit down to confusing tax forms to try desperately to get the numbers to balance. But a new U & R Tax Depot outlet on Main Street in Winchester hopes to lighten some of the load this tax season.

Ben and Donna Patey run a Tax Depot from their Osgoode Township home and recently decided to extend the chain further by opening offices in Winchester and Manotick. The grand opening for the two new locations took place last Monday.

The offices will be open only during tax season and offer a variety of services for tax preparation, including income tax preparation, Taxrush cash refunds and Speedfile electronic (E-file) filing. The Osgoode Township location, which is also called Alpha and Omega Business Management Services, is open year-round and offers a full range of accounting services.

"Appointments are not required and the rates are very competitive, though they vary depending on the complexity of the tax return," says Ben Patey. "We will also go to someone's home or business if required."

While business hours are not yet consistent, Patey says the outlets will soon be open 9 am to 9 pm.

Patey trained with Tax Depot about nine years ago, and the Winnipeg-based franchise contacted him in September of last year, when they wanted to expand.

Patey has been in the business for more than 20 years and started an accounting business in his home during February, 1995. He sees joining the Tax Depot franchise as an opportunity for growth.

"I saw it as a logical extension of my business," he said. "They offer tremendous support in starting new outlets, and they emphasize client service, which fits in with what I've been doing all along. It's been very successful."

By the time tax season is completely underway, the three outlets will collectively have six employees, not including the Pateys.

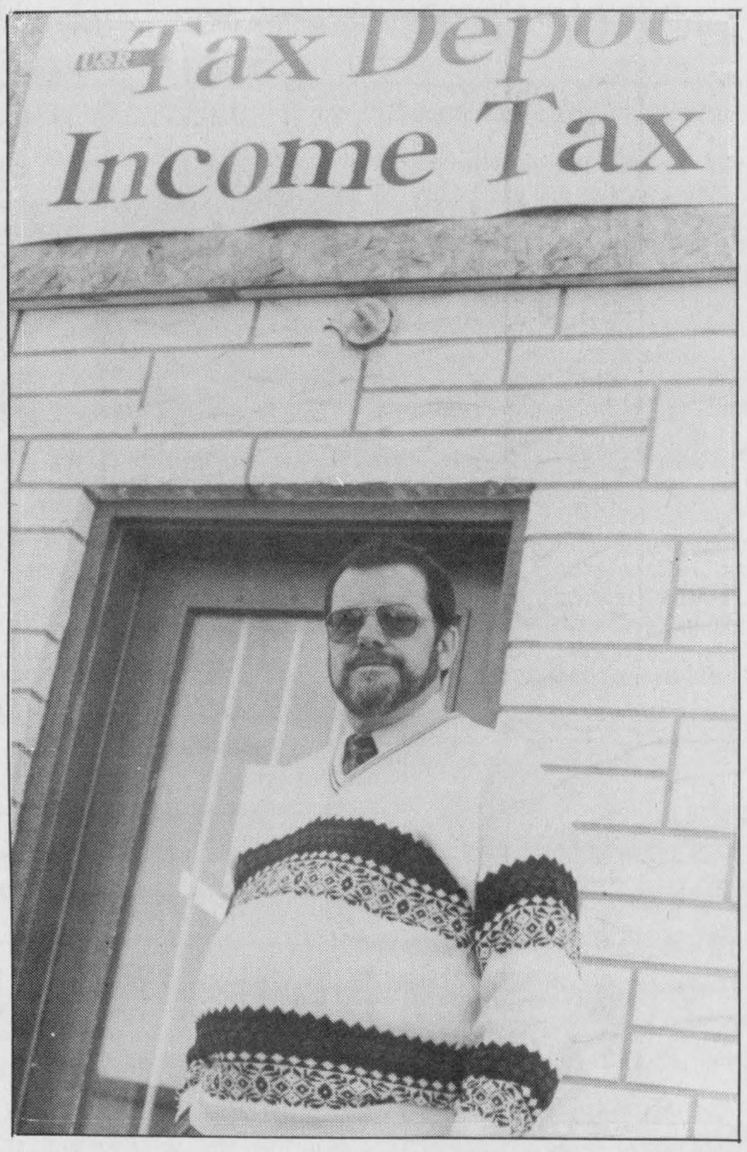
The U & R (which stands for urban and rural) Tax Depot franchise owns offices nationwide and is awarding franchise territiories at no initial cost as part of an agressive plan for growth. The company is the second largest tax preparation company in Canada and with over 100 new locations, it is hoping to become the best.

Over the next two to four years, the Pateys hope to open offices in Russell, Greely, Osgoode and Metcalfe.

Donna Patey is a business school graduate and a certified income tax preparer.

Ben Patey took Algonquin College's School of Business accounting course after being downsized from one of Canada's banks. After graduation, he started his accounting business from his home.

"Why should people come to me rather than go into the city? The convenience of having a local tax depot, and first-class service," he says. "Shop local, buy Canadian, that's my motto."



Ben Patey stands outside the new U & R Tax Depot in Winchester. Patey and his wife, Donna, also own franchises of the depot in Manotick and at their home-based business in Osgoode Township. Press photo – Bierworth

Osgoode seeks compensation

by Derek Puddicombe

OSGOODE — Osgoode Township is asking the province for about $800,000 for costs and damage it incurred as a result of last month's ice storm that battered the municipality.

During the storm the township paid for water, food for the shelters, candles, batteries and firewood. There were also loss of revenue costs associated with the closings of the community centres which were used as shelters, labor costs for the fire department plus supplies.

The roads department also spent money on extra sand and salt, brush clean-up and chipping and $16,350 was lost to the tag-a-bag program that was delayed for three weeks.

The township also had increased labor and cleaning costs.

"The province has asked us to hand in a preliminary estimate so they know how to allocate the money," said Moira Winch, the township's chief administrative officer.

To get a better idea what kinds of things to apply for Winch made a call to Mark Bennett, a staff member with the city of Winnipeg.

Winnipeg was hit by a natural disaster last spring after flood waters from the United States ripped through the province.

She was told to make the claim as detailed as possible, because in the case of the Manitoba government, it didn't look kindly on claims that were made months after the crisis.

On the claim the province wants to know what cost resulted from crisis management and what was wear-and-tear on township equipment.

Winch is also determined to make the province aware that the replanting of trees should be on the list for compensation.

Keeping Health In Mind

"Keeping Health In Mind" is a monthly newspaper column made possible with the help of the Lannin Business Centre, the Winchester Press and the clinical staff of Tri-County Mental Health Services, a community program of the Cornwall General Hospital.

A balanced view

The good news is that aging has been making headlines recently. The bad news is that more often than not these headlines warn of dire consequences of an increasingly aging population. The problem with many media stories about the impact of more old people in Canada is that they do not present a balanced picture. Rather, they often begin with the conclusion that an increasingly aging population is indeed a problem and the only question worth asking is how this problem should be dealt with.

Instead of broadening the story, aging itself is cast as the villain. These stories imply that aging is a time of inevitable decline and dependency. The cost of mass decline in health and social service dollars is measured.

When society gives the message that one group or another is a burden; that 'we' must find out ways of coping with 'them', then society is engaging in a process of marginalization. Marginalization is a destructive process which brings with it messages of worthlessness and dollar value expendability.

What impact does the present day discussion about the impending increase in the elderly population have on the mental health of the individual senior? If you were a member of a group that was being labelled a burden, how would that make you feel? Such messages can cause incalculable damage to the emotional well-being and mental health of the individual. To an elderly person who may be emotionally vulnerable, news stories about the burden of the elderly may easily be translated into feelings of individual worthlessness.

Aging can be a time of personal loss. Retirement, illness, the death of family and friends can all challenge one's emotional stamina. Maintaining a robust self-esteem in the face of loss of role, status or health is important for good mental health. Powerful negative messages in the media may confirm an individual's insecurities and challenge their mental health.

There is a bigger story to aging than decline and dependence.

If an image of a resilient and adaptable elderly person were called for, we could find thousands of examples in the ranks of those elderly caregivers who daily look after the physical and emotional needs of others. On an individual basis, their energy and commitment goes a long way to neutralizing the negative messages society gives about elderly people. Many elderly people daily provide care which can be emotionally and physically demanding. Caregiving is a role which not only tells the person being cared for they are worthwhile, it shows clearly that elderly people are willing and able to contribute.

What can the individual do when faced with purely negative stories on aging? The next time you see a news item on the expected increase in the aging population, try and balance what you read or see on television by giving some thought to all those over age 65 who are contributing to public life in politics, the arts, religion and in your own community. And remember, if not already there, we all will be. The way we talk about elderly people and the attitudes toward aging we hold are important. Future generations of elderly people will live in the society we are molding today.

Greg McMillan, M.Sc., Social Worker

For more information or to receive the French version of this article, or to seek professional advice, please call 932-9940 or 1-800-465-8061. Free, confidential services are available in French and English to residents of Dundas, Stormont and Glengarry through their offices in Winchester, Cornwall or Alexandria.

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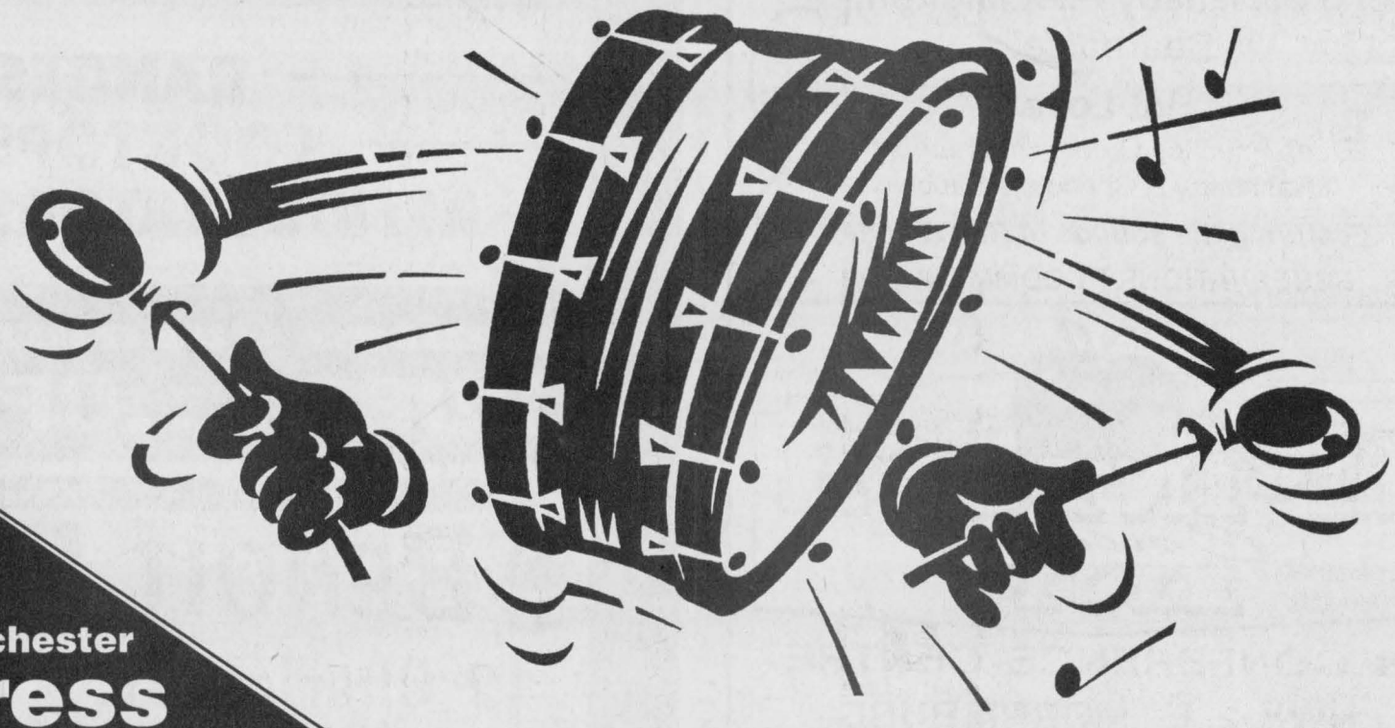

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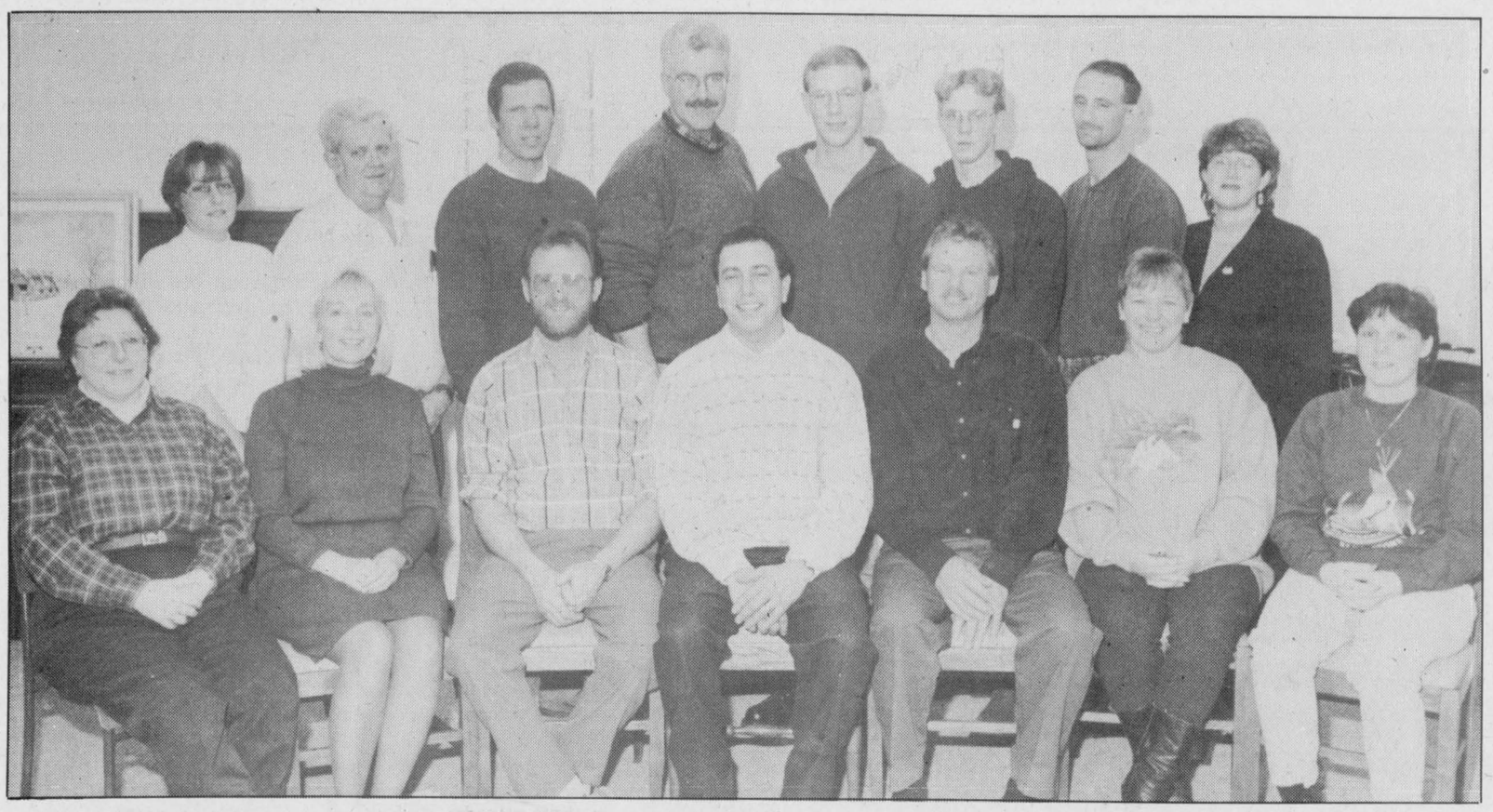

New Chesterville fairboard

Newly elected members of the Chesterville Agricultural Society officially took office at the society's annual meeting on Sat., Jan. 24. They are, seated left to right: Denise Sunderland, secretary Mary Schoones, second vice-president Gord Milne, president Martin Sunderland, past-president George Ennis, Billie Mae Moroz and Sylvia Barlow; standing from left, Bonnie Milne, treasurer Tom Parker, Phil Gasser, Dale Enright, Andrew and Dan VanGilst, Darren Nurse and Glenda O'Brien. Missing from picture are homecraft secretary Faye Gallager, Debbie, Ed and Melissa DeCooman, Russell Robinson, Pat O'Brien, Gordon Dean, Tim VanGilst, Rose Hennen, Glenna Walkden and Gayle Baillargeon.

Photo — Courtesy Chesterville Record

Farmers' Week topics span ag spectrum

Dianne Fetterly
Agricultural editor

KEMPTVILLE — The 1998 Farmers' Week and Trade Fair kicks off next week with something for every type of agricultural operation.

The nine-day event begins Thurs., Feb., 12 and runs until Sat., Feb. 21 at the University of Guelph, Kemptville College. Organizers say they have a fine slate of activities in place for this year's Farmers' Week.

Farmers' Week begins with the Winter Woodlot Conference on Thursday. The slate of activities for this year's woodlot conference has recently been changed due to the damage sustained by forests during the ice storm. Among other things, the day will feature a special section on the maple syrup industry and report on damage to eastern Ontario forests.

The theme for Money Matters Day (Fri., Feb. 13) is "Your Farm in 2002". Guest speakers will help farmers plan for the future and a panel discussion will be held in the afternoon.

At Ecological Day on Sat., Feb. 14 participants will discuss the demand for organic produce. A series of workshops will be held throughout the afternoon.

Monday evening (Feb. 16) from 6:30 - 10 pm is Beef Night. Among other things, those attending the session will learn ways to stretch feed inputs to their beef herds.

Tuesday (Feb. 17) is Dairy Day. Among the popular speakers will be Dairy Farmers of Ontario chairman, John Core, who will discuss changes in the dairy market. Topics also include raising replacements, managing with high production, and adjusting the 1997-98 feeding program.

Accent on Living Day, Wed., Feb. 18, will touch on gardening, decorating and herbal skin care. It will also show participants how to get started on their life story.

Thursday's Crops Day will feature presentations on grain marketing, weed resistance, foliar fertilization and the total phosphorus management program. Concurrent sessions will be held in the afternoon.

The 1998 Swine Update is slated for Friday (Feb. 20). Topics will include swine housing, profitable feeding and pork production trends in Ontario and Quebec.

Saturday (Feb. 21) is both Sheep and Horticulture Day.

Sheep Day will include a look at a computer program produced by the Canadian Sheep Federation to improve sheep management as well as pasture and forage alternatives for sheep, sheep nutrition, flock health and artificial rearing of lambs.

Horticulture Day will touch on horticulture production and marketing.

All events are slated for the W.B. George Centre except for Horticulture Day which will be held at the F.J. Parish Building. Registration is at the door and fees range from $5 - $20, depending on whether lunch is provided.

For further information on Farmers' Week contact Sue Hogan at 613-258-8336, extension 473. E-mail: shogan@kemptvillec.uoguelph.ca.

Farm update

4-H update

Ormond Club is working with wool

by Sara Howse

ORMOND — The second meeting of "Ormond Working with Wool" club met at the home of leader Joanne Toonen on Mon., Dec. 22, 1997. The meeting was called to order by youth leader Shannon Toonen. All members recited the 4-H pledge and answered the roll call.

We held our election of officers with results as follows: president, Julia Deeke; vice-president, Andrea Bridges; press reporter, Sara Howse; secretary, roving. The members decided on a fun name which is The Ormond Notorious Knitters.

Our leaders then showed us how to cast on, the knit stitch, the pearl stitch and the stocking stitch. All members started sampler number one.

Our third meeting was held later the same day. Members continued on sampler number one, learning ribbing over four stitches and ribbing over two stitches, joining new yarn at the beginning of a row, changing color and casting off. These techniques completed sampler number one.

Members will continue knitting the legs of their teddy bears for Alzheimer patients following the pattern donated by the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia.

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OFA takes stock following ice storm

by Alvin Runnalls
OFA Director, Dundas County

TORONTO — While I am writing this report, the majority of people in Dundas County have power, but many eastern Ontario residents are still waiting. We laud the hydro workers who have been working up to 16 hours a day to restore damaged lines. We are also thankful for the assistance given by the military, and all those volunteers who gave many hours of their time. It's heartening to think of the countless people who donated generators, supplies and money to aid us during this disaster.

Most of the eastern Ontario provincial directors made it to the board of directors' meeting in Toronto on Jan. 21. Of these, only Martin Lang, director for Glengarry, still didn't have power restored to his family farm. Our directors appreciated the concern shown from across the province and most of the morning was spent discussing the ice storm situation.

From the beginning of the crisis, the OFA head office was in contact with local directors, obtaining first-hand reports and lobbying strongly for action by the governments. President Ed Segsworth, accompanied by executive member Gary Davison and public relations director Marion Smith, toured much of the affected area. As a result, western Ontario field staff were dispatched to the east to assist the beleaguered eastern staff in visiting as many farms still in need of aid as possible, and coordinating aid. A daunting task, considering that there are approximately 10,500 census farms in the affected area.

I'm now listing eligible costs for compensation announced by federal Minister of Agriculture, Lyle Vanclief and hope that there will be sufficient flexibility if some major item has been missed.

— costs incurred by farmers forced to dump their milk during the crisis— reimbursement of the value of milk;

— the cost of renting generators;

— animals that died as a result of the storm;

— clean-up costs in maple bushes including those for pruning and replacement of pipelines;

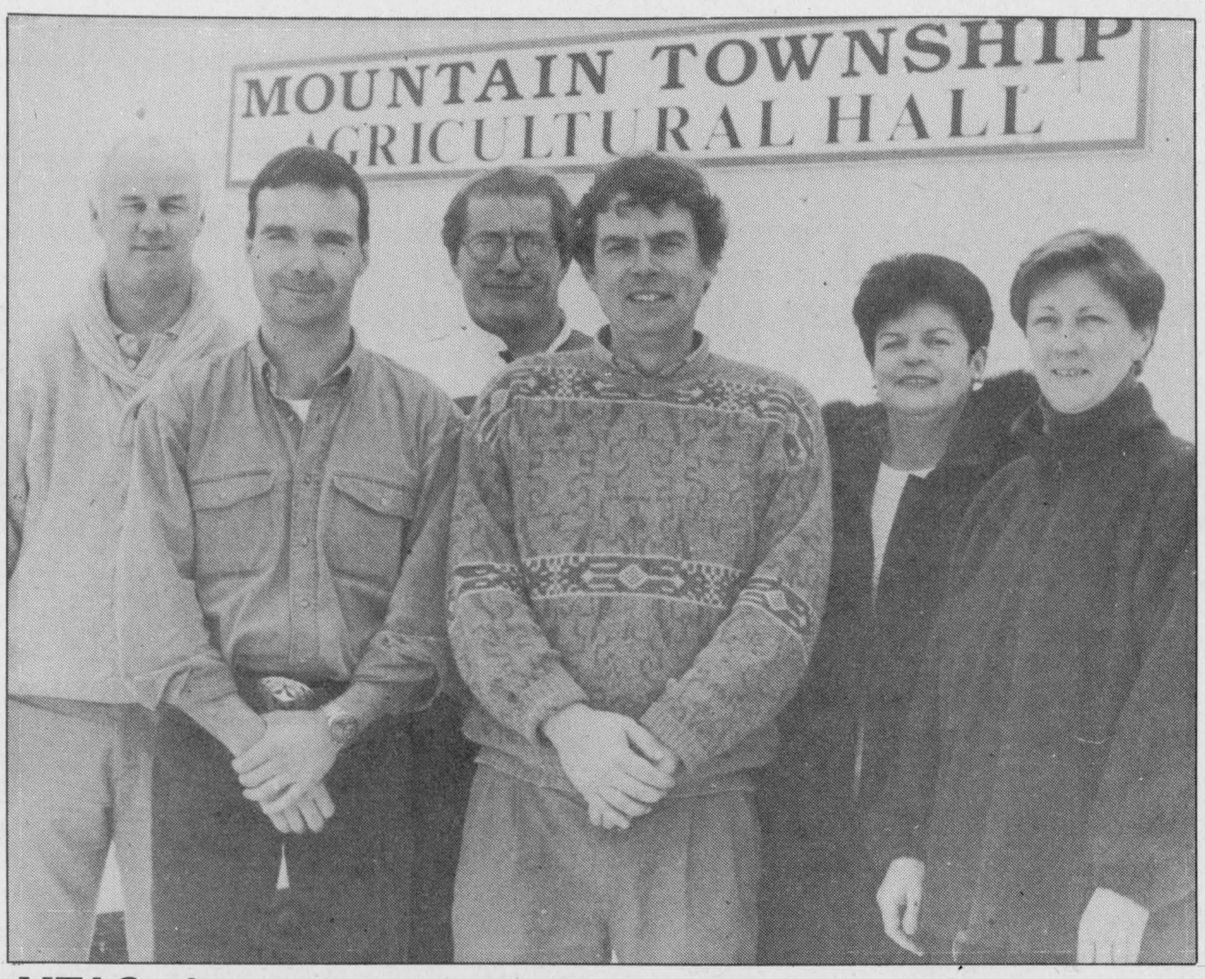
— costs associated with moving agricultural products out of affected areas for urgent processing;

— additional costs for farmers related to the storm such as diesel fuel bills, the costs of repairing any asset damaged by the ice storm, such as a barn or the loss of inventories because of power outages;

— costs for the pruning and repair of fruit trees and any additional administrative costs due to the disaster.

Please note that you should carefully document costs related to the storm.

Although the ice storm itself is now over, the effects will be with us for a long time. I have already heard of people falling off roofs, and in some cases, breaking limbs. Falling ice has caused some injuries. The danger of falling ice will be with us for some time, therefore it is paramount that persons stay away from possible danger areas. There are tons of ice ready to fall and it takes only a small chunk to maim or even kill. Animals as well can be in danger.



MTAS chooses executive

Members of the Mountain Township Agricultural Society elected their slate of officers for the upcoming year during the society's annual meeting held Sat., Jan. 24 in South Mountain. The new executive includes, front, left to right: Andreas Jampen, first vice-president; Peter Buck, president; and Brenda Simpson, secretary. Back: Marlyn O'Connor, treasurer; Darryl Workman, second vice-president; and Annette Turner, past president. Press Photo — Fetterly

Seniors meet

by Jean Casselman

WILLIAMSBURG — On Tues., Jan. 20, 23 members and one visitor enjoyed a potluck dinner at the new temporary quarters for the Williamsburg Township Seniors Group at the Park Lane Seniors' Support Centre.

President Ed Thompson welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with O Canada. Hilda Garlough played piano.

Reports were heard and the correspondence included a thank you from Evelyn Whitteker, an appeal for funds from the Heart and Stroke Foundation and a thank you from CHEO. Ruth Casselman expressed her thanks to all, having been absent from meetings for several weeks.

A motion was made to send $200 to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Cards were played for the remainder of the afternoon.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Recent deaths highlight risks

GUELPH — The Farm Safety Association Inc. is cautioning farmers about the dangers associated with manure gases after two Ontario farmers died as a result of contact with hydrogen sulphide gases produced in liquid manure.

The victims were transferring liquid manure from a holding tank to mix with older manure to loosen it up, then drain it back into the liquid manure holding tank. The area to where the liquid manure was being pumped was poorly ventilated. The two persons and a third person who was assisting them were overcome by the gases produced during agitation of the liquid. One victim died several days later while the second victim died in hospital two weeks later.

The Farm Safety Association wants to warn farmers of the potentially deadly gases which may be present in manure handling facilities and barns. Many liquid manure tanks will lack oxygen because other gases will displace it. Methane gas may also be present in manure holding tanks and spreader tanks as well as the deadly hydrogen sulphide gas. Hydrogen sulphide gas is released when the manure is agitated and concentrations can build very quickly to toxic levels. Even empty manure tanks may contain dangerous levels of these gases. If inhaled in high concentrations death can be instantaneous.

No one should enter a manure tank, spreader or other confined area without wearing a self contained breathing apparatus and follow confined space entry rules.

Flexible payments

OTTAWA — The Farm Credit Corporation (FCC) is proposing flexible repayment arrangements for customers who have suffered ice storm damage to their operations.

Customers are being advised to contact their credit advisor to discuss arrangements. FCC says it is ready to work with its customers to solve cash flow problems and financing for larger generators, building repairs or other equipment.

For information contact the FCC at 1-800-387-3232.

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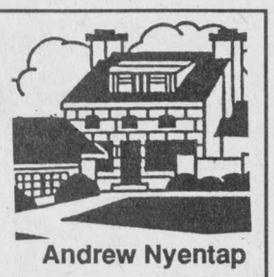
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GRADE 8 STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS
are invited to an
OPEN HOUSE
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St. Joseph's Secondary School
1500 Cumberland Street, Cornwall
on
Tuesday, February 10, 1998
from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
PROGRAM
7:00 p.m. Short presentation in the auditorium
7:45 p.m. Tour of school facilities
Teachers will be available to answer questions on the school's programs and activities
For more information telephone 932-0349
Nancy Kirby, Chairperson of the Board
Charles Adams, Vice-Chairperson of the Board
Frank Musca, Director of Education

Farmer breaks hip trying to fix barn

by Jeff Brownlee

VERNON — It's gone from bad to worse for Vernon-area dairy farmer Peter Raats.

After coping with a barn roof cave-in last week that virtually crushed his livelihood, he's now in the Riverside Hospital recuperating from a broken hip he suffered after falling off the building's roof last Sunday afternoon.

Raats underwent an operation the same night and is expected to remain off his feet for a period of three months.

His wife, Mary can't believe the couple's twist of bad luck.

She never expected that the weight of ice and snow would send the roof of their four-year-old barn crashing to the floor, only to find out insurance wouldn't cover the estimated repair bill of $500,000. She never imagined that their future in the dairy industry would hinge on government support.

So far, the couple has received only $2,000 in emergency funding and haven't had any more financial support from either the province or the feds.

Now this.

"You just never know (what lays ahead)," said Raats, who along with a handful of volunteers, have taken over her husband's chores.

With the cattle in a makeshift shelter in another building on the family farm, repair work is expected to take a couple of months, if the government comes through.

But the community is hoping to fill, at least some of the void. A trust fund for the family has been set up at the Royal Bank in Metcalfe. Donations can be made at any branch.

"All you can do is hope for the best," said Raats.

New agricultural program to bridge gap for students

CORNWALL — An ever-widening gap between city and country, and between producers and consumers, has accompanied the decline of farm populations. This demise has prompted various attempts by farm groups and educators to bridge that gap.

Convinced that a better-informed student would be more supportive of Ontario agriculture, the SD&G Public (now Board #26) and Separate School Boards have initiated a program to raise the profile of agriculture and encourage a better understanding of food and livestock production.

The Bridges program has been developed to assist the growing number of students who are not planning to go directly to university and may not intend to go to college. Over 60 per cent of the area's graduating students (1997 statistics) intend to go directly into the workforce.

Representatives in the agriculture and agri-business industry have been working closely with the Bridges team in identifying key skills that are necessary for youth to successfully enter into the agricultural workforce. This program has been designed by a team of educators and industry leaders to ensure that students who enter the program have a high level of opportunity for success.

The Bridges program in "Agricultural Technology", which begins February 9, 1998 (second semester), allows a student to take agricultural courses at the secondary school level so that he/she may undertake a career in agriculture, either on a farm or in other related areas.

The in-class session lasts for approximately three months (February, March and April). Some of the areas covered include soils and fertilizers, livestock nutrition and production, farm mechanics and insects, weeds and pesticides. Community specialists such as agronomists, bankers, veterinarians and company representatives will assist in workshops. Classes in "Agricultural English" are also a necessary component of the curriculum. Emphasis will be placed on business transactions, letter writing and oral and written presentations.

Since many farmers belong to commodity groups, a portion of the course will be devoted to conducting meetings and parliamentary procedures.

"Agricultural Mathematics" will also be a very important part of the program. The most common aspects of mathematics, as it might be used on the farm, are studied. The use of computers for farm applications is also introduced. Emphasis is given to the use of the metric system in ration balancing and pesticide applications. A substantial part of the course is devoted to basic farm accounting, credit calculation and cost of production.

During the peak months of May and June, students will obtain practical experience on a farm or in an agri-business situation (feed or fertilizer company, machinery dealership, etc.).Workplace training, along with agricultural academics, is an excellent way for students to obtain hands-on experience in this industry.

Students will obtain four secondary school credits after completing this program. All high school students are eligible for the program, although the target at the present time is those students in Grades 11 and 12.

Space is limited, with a maximum of 20 students able to participate in the program for the second semester. The deadline for registration is February 3, 1998.

For more information about the Bridges program in Agriculture and Agri-business contact Ed Turpin, Bridges Co-ordinator at 937-0120, ext. 378, or Tracy Myers, Bridges Facilitator at 937-0120, ext. 378 or 527-1403 (residence).

Mountain Musings

by Shirley Mills

The annual fundraising event for the Inkerman School Committee is coming up. On Sat., March 7, this dance, with the theme of backyard barbecue, will be held in the South Mountain Agricultural Hall. It runs from 8 pm to 1 am with the cost of $8 per person which includes a lunch.The main door prize is a gas barbecue. This is a very popular event and so with advance ticket sales only, (or to arrange babysitters) we are advising you in plenty of time. Tickets can be purchased through Cheryl Fawcett at 774-0007 or Judy Baldwin at 989-5274.

The Stor-Dun Seniors group advises that the weekly lunches have started again. These events take place at the IOOF Hall in South Mountain on Thursdays, with the actual lunch being served at 12:30 pm. All seniors are welcome and they can look forward to guest speakers, entertainment and euchres following the meal.

A reminder that the youth group for high school students has resumed at Nationview Public School. These meetings are held on Tuesdays with the fun beginning at 7:30 pm. Many young people have been enjoying these events and everyone is invited.

A final word on the ice storm. One gentleman said it all. "We managed, but we didn't enjoy it."



Keenan–Enright

Maria Enright and Timothy Keenan were united in marriage on October 11, 1997. The traditional, double-ringed ceremony was held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chesterville. A delicious meal and enjoyable reception followed at the Operating Engineers Training Institute. From our new home in Richmond, Quebec, we would like to extend sincere thanks to our families and friends for all your support and good wishes. A special thank you to Mom and Dad for the lovely brunch held on Sunday; to Margaret Link, our photographer; to Beat Schraner for driving us to and from the church; and to our wedding party for all the extras! Everyone's presence helped to make it a perfect day.



Carscadden–Dametto

Mrs. Heather Carscadden and Mr. Barry Carscadden are pleased to announce the marriage of their son, Brian, to Linda Dametto, daughter of John and Maria Dametto of Guelph, Ontario. The wedding took place June 7, 1997 in Guelph, where the happy couple now reside. Proud grandparents of Brian are Fred and Mildred Carscadden and Leila Twiname.

Love and best wishes to Brian and Linda from your family and friends.



Happy 50th Anniversary

Ross and Margaret Hoople

February 7, 1998

With love from your family



Happy 50th Anniversary

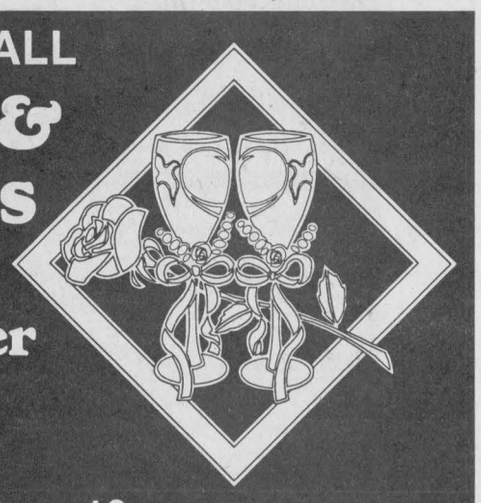
Johnny & Audrey Whitteker

Please join us for a celebration at the Morrisburg Civic Centre,
Saturday Feb. 7, 9 pm - 1 am
Best Wishes Only

ATTENTION ALL

Brides & Grooms

1998-99 Winchester Bridal Showcase



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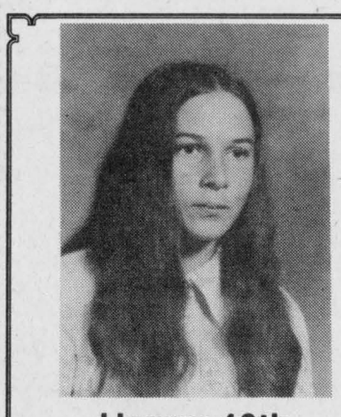

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OBITUARIES

Raymond Hilton Earl

Raymond Hilton Earl of Winchester died at home on Sun., Jan. 25. He was 82.

A retired cheesemaker with Ault Foods, Mr. Earl was born in Athens, Ontario on July 13, 1915 to the late Wellington Earl and Margaret Richards.

He was the loving and dearly loved husband of Orma Earl (nee Acres). He is sadly missed by son Larry of Burnaby, B.C., daughter Wendy (Peter) Kemp and grandchildren Jeffrey and Alison Kemp, all of Ottawa. He is also survived by brother Kenneth Earl of Athens.

Mr. Earl was predeceased by brothers Wesley, William, Clifford and Charles, and sisters Luella Howe, Alma Alguire, Hazel Fulford and Mabel Haystead.

He was a member of Winchester United Church.

Friends were received by family at the Daniels Funeral Home in Winchester. Funeral services were held in the funeral home chapel on Wed., Jan. 28. Reverend Carol Poley Delisle officiated. Interment was at Springhill Cemetery in Vernon.

Pallbearers were Cecil Earl, Bryce Earl, Raymond Howe, Roger Fulford, Hilton Earl and Robert C. Earl, all nephews of the deceased.

Roma McLean

Roma J. McLean of Chesterville died on Tues., Jan. 27 at the Winchester District Memorial Hospital after a lengthy illness. She was 73.

Mrs. McLean was born in Chesterville on June 21, 1924 to the late Fred and Ida (Watson) Fawcett. She was the beloved wife of Hilton McLean whom she married in Chesterville on July 12, 1946.

She was the dear mother of Beverly (Robert) Barkley of Winchester Springs, Linda (Donald) Helmer of RR 4 Winchester, and Joanne (Brian) McMahon of Crysler. She will be lovingly remembered by her grandchildren Kim (Victor) Koa, Kathy (Steve) Garrah, David (Kim) Barkley, Scott (Angela) Helmer, Lisa Helmer, Kevin Helmer, Todd (Kim) McMahon, Troy (Joanne) McMahon and by great-grandchildren Brittany Koa and Taylor Garrah.

Mrs. McLean will also be remembered by her sisters-in-law Eva Fawcett, Alice Fawcett and Florence Fawcett. She was predeceased by brothers Lyle, Ed and Lloyd.

Family and friends were received at the Daniels Funeral Home, Chesterville, for visitation. Funeral services were held there on Fri., Jan. 30. Reverend de Bruijn officiated. Interment was at Maple Ridge Cemetery.

Pallbearers were her grandsons Scott Helmer, Todd McMahon, Troy McMahon, David Barkley, Kevin Helmer and Victor Koa.

Memorial donations to the Winchester District Memorial Hospital or the Arthritis Society would be appreciated by the family.

William Moyes Sr.

William Fredrick James Moyes Sr. passed away peacefully at the Ottawa Civic Hospital on Jan. 13 at the age of 66.

He was born in Ottawa on Feb. 9, 1931 to the late Fredrick and Elma Moyes.

He is survived by his wife of 18 years, Pierrette Caron. Mr. Moyes was the loving father of Wendy (Tim), William (Debbie) and Jeffrey (Sandy). He was the dear stepfather of Serge (Diane), Johanne (Carl), Steven (Kathy), Ronnie, Brenda (Steve), Billy (Marie), David, Dennis (Bonny) and Luc.

He is also survived by his sister, Barbie, and by 29 grandchildren.

He was predeceased by one great-grandchild.

Visitation was held at the Grant Brown Funeral Home, Rolston Chapel in Kemptville on Jan. 15 and 16. A funeral service was held in the chapel of the funeral home on Sat., Jan. 17.

Spring interment will be held at Springhill Cemetery.

Memorial donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Lung Association would be gratefully acknowledged by the family.

William George Tuttle

William George Tuttle of Morrisburg died on Tues., Jan. 27 at Winchester District Memorial Hospital. He was 72.

A retired seaway captain with Pitts International, Mr. Tuttle was born in Dundas County on Oct. 19, 1925 to the late William Lee Tuttle and Essie Jane Shennette.

He was the loving father of Lee of Kingston and Larry (Carole) of Gloucester, and the best friend of Betty. He will be missed by grandchildren Tammy (Brian) Moore of Cardinal and Brent of Kingston. He is also survived by great-grandchildren Madison and Brittany Moore, both of Cardinal.

He was the beloved brother of Irene (Rupert) McMillan of Ottawa.

Mr. Tuttle was predeceased by one brother, Charles, and one sister, Betty (Earl) Wellesley.

He was a member of the Morrisburg Legion Branch #48 and Lakeshore Drive United Church, Morrisburg.

Visitation was held Thurs., Jan. 29 and a Legion service was held that evening.

Funeral services were held at Parker Funeral Home on Fri., Jan. 30. Reverend Donald Smith officiated.

Interment will take place in the spring at Spruce Haven Cemetery in Brinston.

Memorial donations to the Lung Association will be gratefully acknowledged.

Dorene Pearl Whitteker

Dorene Pearl Whitteker of Morrisburg died peacefully on Sun., Jan. 25 at Winchester District Memorial Hospital, surrounded by her family. She was 68.

Mrs. Whitteker was born in Smiths Falls on Nov. 9, 1929 to the late Alec and Lillas (nee Chambers) McLaren.

She was the dear wife of Rex Whitteker, whom she married at Morrisburg United Church on June 18, 1949.

Mrs. Whitteker was the loving mother of two children, Greg (Angie) Whitteker of RR 1, Williamsburg, and Brenda (Ken) Benoit of Morrisburg. She will be sadly missed by grandsons Tyler and Jesse Benoit and Curtis and Braiden Whitteker.

She is also survived by brothers Raymond (Beryl) McLaren and Earl (Janice) McLaren, both of Brockville, as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a daughter, Dawna, and a sister, Alice McLaren.

Having spent her lifetime in the Morrisburg area, Mrs. Whitteker worked at several jobs, including a tack factory, a hosiery mill, Automatic Electric, Odonto and as a Red Cross Homemaker. She was also a devoted wife and mother while she worked at these jobs.

A member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Morrisburg, Mrs. Whitteker spent her final years as a housewife who enjoyed knitting, baking, travelling and visiting with her family and friends.

Visitors were received by the family at Marsden and McLaughlin Funeral Home, Williamsburg, on Mon., Jan. 26, and funeral services were held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Morrisburg, on Tues., Jan. 27. Reverend Joachim Barkley-Probst officiated. Spring interment will take place at Sprucehaven Cemetery, Brinston.

Pallbearers were Bob Schell, Doug Schell, Rick Whitteker, Jason Mosher, Dale Whitteker and Steve Coligan.

Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

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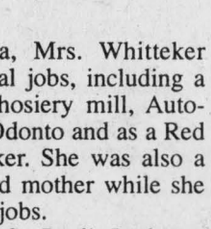
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Hockey time

Greely children were able to take advantage of a beautiful day on Sunday during the Greely Winter Carnival. An outdoor hockey game and horse-drawn sleigh rides were all part of the festivities. Sunday marked the wrap-up of the week-long carnival that helped to put smiles on the faces of Greely residents after last month's ice storm crisis. Press Photo -- Culliton

Junior prom planned for Valentine's Day



NDDHS NOTES
by Sam Cullen

MAPLE RIDGE — Things are finally returning to normal at Dundas. With upcoming dances and trips, students are ready to wind up the old semester and bring in the new. And as we welcome in semester two, we all remain hopeful that this will be a politically and meteorogically uneventful one.

As February 14 rapidly approaches, so does the annual Junior Prom to be held on Fri., Feb. 13. As one of the only opportunities to get dressed up, enjoy a nice meal and have a fun night of dancing for those in Grades 9, 10 and 11, no doubt there will be an excellent turnout.

The 1997-1998 skiing and snowboarding club is up and running again. This year's president, Sheena McBean, and the teacher supervisors, Mr. Lapierre and Mlle. Waddell, have already organized their first trip. On Dec. 22, the group had a fun-filled day at Vorlage with great weather. Their next trip is planned for Feb. 20 to Mont Tremblant. At an excellent price, this is a great chance for skiers and snowboarders of all levels to have a great day on the slopes. Everyone's encouraged to come out.

And on a final note, good luck to all on their final examinations.

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5:15 pm Circuit		5:15 pm Circuit			10:40 am Toning
7:00 pm Low Impact	7:00 pm Step	6:30 pm Interval	7:00 pm Circuit		
7:40 pm Toning	8:00 pm Intro to Fitness	7:15 pm Toning			

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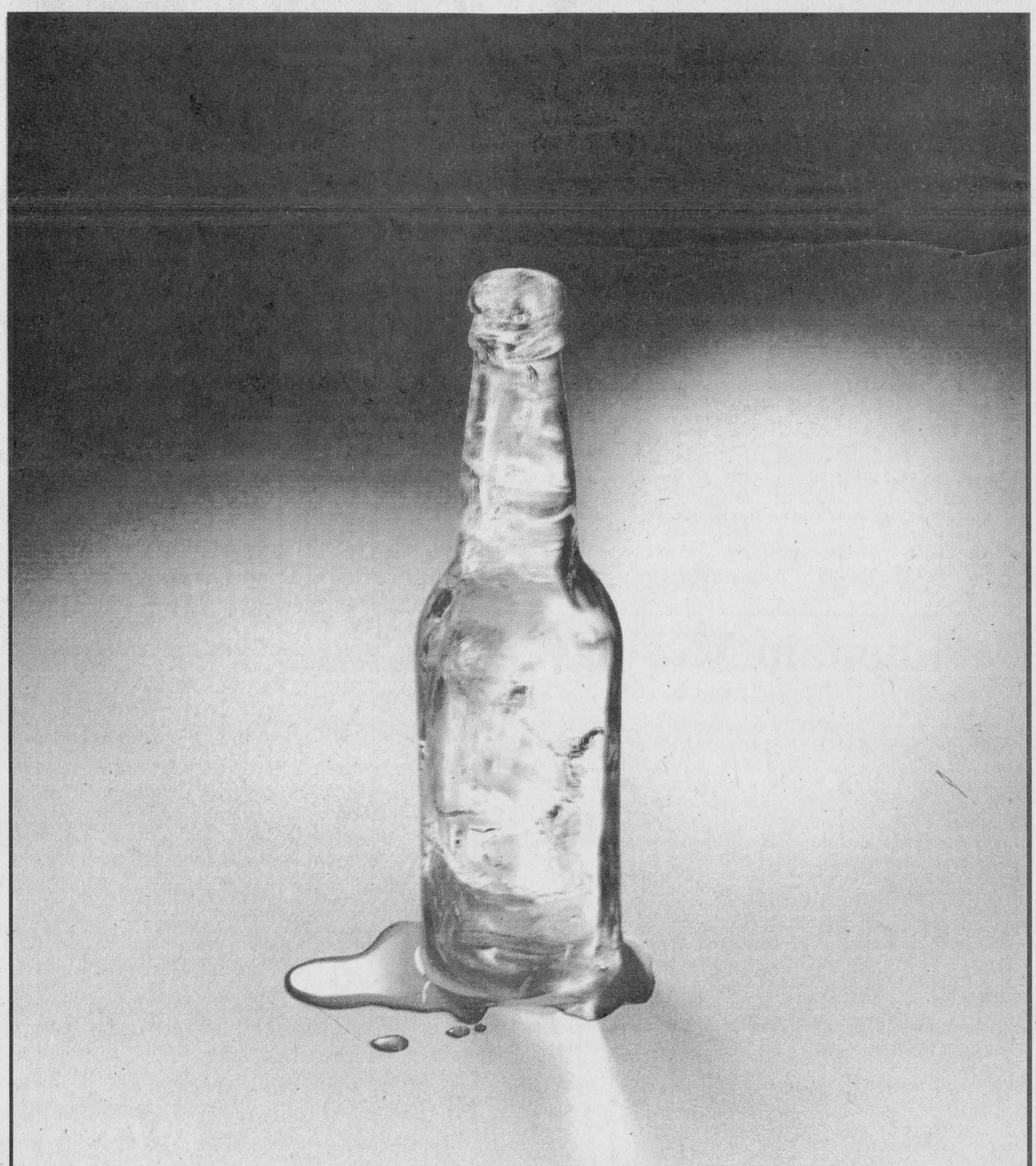
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