

Talk about good coffee!

Miss Muggins Coffee and Fresh Donuts



CHAPLEAU EXPRESS

Vol. 9, Issue 15, December 12, 2004

PIZZA HUT & KFC
There's a Reason We're Number 1
864-0911



Community remembers with annual tree of lights

By Jim Prince

There was a larger than usual turnout to witness the tuning on of the Tree of Lights at Chapleau high school last Tuesday evening.

In the glow of

hundreds of lights, each in commemoration of a community resident passed away or still living, the Chapleau High School Students' Council and guests sang several holiday melodies

before enjoying hot chocolate and cookies.

A gentle snowfall added to the moment.

The donations of money pledged towards the Tree of Lights event will be divided by the Students' Council and Services de santé de Chapleau Health Services which will put it towards the Court Yard Project for senior citizens who reside at the Bignucolo Residence.

"It's very thoughtful to think of our senior citizens in their golden years," said Ron Martel, Chair of the Board of Services de santé de Chapleau Health Services.



Largest group of carolers in recent memory gathered beneath this year's Tree of Lights.



Plugging in the Tree of Lights at the Chapleau High School are LtoR James Petrosky, President of the Students Council, Ron Martel, Chairman of the Board with the Services de Santé de Chapleau Health Services, and Cheryl Boucher, Students Council Advisor.

The Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation was thanked for updating the lights and setting them out on the

towering Pine tree near the school's entrance. This is the 9th year the High School Students' Council has conducted the

Christmas campaign. Each year it shares the donations with a community minded organization.

Holiday delivers good will and food for the needy

By Jim Prince

While many residents, young and old, of this community were attracted to the arrival of CP Rail's Holiday Train and its stage with top Canadian artists, many came carrying bags of

groceries collected by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for the needy.

The special train, adorned with 10,000 Christmas lights, arrived carrying Santa Clause right on time and opened its

doors to a stage where several top Canadian Artists performed.

The 30 minute show was enthusiastically received by a large crowd at the CP Rail yards.

The arrival

here marked the sixth year that Canada's largest rolling fund raiser has made a stop in Chapleau.

Tyler Bertrand, representing Missinabie Lodge 266 of the Odd Fellows thanked the CPR and its employees for bringing the train to Chapleau again this year. He said with the support of the Canadian Food banks and that of local residents, the Odd Fellows are able to distribute food hampers to the needy.

He thanked everyone for being so generous.

"We are extremely pleased that once again this year Chapleau has been chosen as one of the stops where our

citizens will be privileged to witness and hear a live performance," said Mayor Earle J, Freeborn.

Renowned Canadian Country Music Association Hall of Fame member Tracey Brown, Continued on page 10



Renowned Canadian artists Tracey Brown, The Ennis Sisters and the Moffats headlined the show from a stage in a renovated rail car.

The Chapleau Express will not be published the weekends of December 26 and January 2.

The last publication before Christmas will be on December 19. The deadline for articles or advertising will be Wednesday, December 15 (4:00 p.m.)

The staff and carriers of The Chapleau Express wish our readers, families and friends a most joyous Christmas.

Dr. Allan MacIvor
OPTOMETRIST
 Chapleau Medical Clinic, Broomhead Rd.
Tuesday, December 21, 2004
10:00 a.m. to 8:15 p.m.
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The Chapleau Express is published every Sunday.
 Box 457
 Chapleau (Ont.)
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Deadline for receiving ads is Wednesday at 4 p.m.

The Chapleau Express is delivered free of charge to every household each Sunday. If you have any comments, please feel free to contact us.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. Editor,
 I was shocked the other day to see snowmobile tracks on the river.

I ask this to the person or persons responsible for this irresponsible act: "What were you thinking? Surely you must realize that you put yourself at great risk doing this. Not only did you put yourself in danger, but also those people responding to the rescue call had you broken through the ice. Obviously your snowmachine was fast enough to make it across the ice without breaking through, but what would've happened had there been a mechanical failure? Did you think about how cold this

water would be and the difficult time you'd have trying to stay afloat?"

I urge everyone to use a little common sense when it comes to ice safety. Our community doesn't need to deal with a traumatic event just because someone didn't use their head.

Thank you, Mr. Editor, for the space in your paper.

Brandy Wilcox



Chapleau Public School Food Drive

Students and staff at Chapleau Public School under the direction of Mrs. Stinson collected over 10 boxes of food for the needy in Chapleau. The boxes were delivered to the Oddfellows at the CPR Train of Lights.



In the picture Alexis Doyle-Evans and Zoe Weber co-ordinate the food drive.

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Make every occasion Ultra-Special Prints 8.5" by 11" or 8.5" by 14" EDIBLE PAPER - EDIBLE INK
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CHRISTMAS SEASON OFFICE HOURS

For Christmas and New Years, the Law Offices of Weaver, Simmons will close at noon on Friday, December 24, 2004 and remain closed for the Christmas period from December 27 through December 31, 2004, opening on Monday, January 3, 2005 for normal Office hours. Kindly contact the Sudbury Office at (705) 674-6421 during this period should you require our services.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year
 From the Partners and Staff of
 Weaver, Simmons

Help us, Help heal



Help Make the holidays special for our residents.

As Christmas approaches, the Chapleau General Hospital Foundation would like you to consider making a donation to the Christmas Card Courtyard Campaign. Nothing reflects the true spirit of Christmas more than giving to someone in need. Your donation is a great way of reminding our long-term care residents that the people in our community truly care.



GRAND OPENING MONDAY, DECEMBER 13
THE RUSTIC CUPBOARD
 17 Lorne Street N. Unit 1

Sew Machines, Notions, Craft Supplies, Hand Crafted Items, "Meggans" Guardian Angels

Opening Special : 10% off all items (except the sew machines)

DOOR PRIZE
 Come and have a beverage and a treat. You may find that special something that you seek.

Amazing Race meets Fear Factor at Gus's II Family Restaurant

Rules and Regulations

1. You must be 19 years of age or older to participate.
2. You can participate individually or as a team (2 people per team). There is no cost for the passport.
3. As the customer(s) make(s) their purchases they will accumulate points for their passport. If you do not wish to come in every week and try out the international specialties then you can answer trivia questions pertaining to the country.

You must answer the questions immediately upon receiving them - sorry no research allowed.

So the more you eat and/or drink, the more points you accumulate, and the more chances to win a quarterly prize or even better the grand prize. There will be no eliminations so you can play all year long.

4. Your passport will be updated as you come into the restaurant for your 'journey'.
5. A schedule of destinations will be available for your convenience. Join early. Come in and try the delectable goodies we will be offering, and don't worry about the jet lag.

Good Luck
&
Bon Voyage

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Back in 1997 my partner and I bought the "Pink Palace", the pink building at the bottom of the bridge. The price was very cheap but the building was uninhabitable so we borrowed an extra 30,000 dollars and spent six months of hard work renovating.

Things were good, the place was full, tenants were happy, and we would wait until we had a few dollars saved and then renovate some more. Since then the economy of Chapleau has slowly deteriorated to where we have a very hard time getting tenants.

The price of water hydro, insurance, and taxes has tripled on average and we had to lower our rent in order to attract and keep tenants... Things are not so good

anymore, in fact we are now forced to pay for bills out of our own pockets.

A few years ago the township gave a big push to improve the looks of the town by forcing people to clean up their properties. Not a bad idea and it worked for the most part. They approached us and we explained to them that we needed time because we had more work to do before we could side the entire outside of the building, and that we somehow had to find the money for this project.

With the current economical difficulties in Chapleau, barely any tenants, and the banks not willing to lend us any more money, the job cannot get done unless we take money from our kids' college funds. Now the township is taking us to court and it looks like we will be fined one thousand dollars and still have to spend \$20,000 to side the place.

What do we do?
Do we side the place and

keep losing money, or do we tear the place down so we don't have to deal with the town anymore and save us from going further in debt? Now, if the township would back off a little we may be able to survive these tough times.

It would be a shame, after 7 years of hard work, time and money invested in a good strong building, to tear it down because its looks don't meet property standards.

I don't like airing my dirty laundry in public but I feel the people of this community should know what's going on. If we do tear the place down then we will be selling doors, windows, and anything else we can salvage to pay for the dump fees.

Thank you Mr. Editor for this space.

Yvon Gauthier



Dr. Shapiro's office hours for the month of December 2004 *Les heures de bureau pour le mois de décembre 2004*

Month/mois-Day/jour	office hours/heures de bureau	on call for emergency dept. sur appel en cas d'urgence
December 13-Monday/lundi	1:45-4:30 p.m.	No/non
December 14-Tuesday/mardi	10:15-11:30 a.m.+ 1:45-4:30 p.m.	No/non
December 15-Wednesday/mercredi	9:00-11:30 a.m. + 1:45-4:30 p.m. (Dr. Dressler)	Yes/oui
December 16-Thursday/jeudi	9:00-11:30 a.m. + 1:45-4:30 p.m. (Dr. Dressler)	No/non
December 17-Friday/vendredi	closed/fermé	No/non
December 18-Saturday/samedi	closed/fermé	No/non
December 19-Sunday/dimanche	closed/fermé	No/non
December 20-Monday/lundi	closed/fermé	No/non
December 21-Tuesday/mardi	8:00-11:30 a.m. + 1:45-4:30 p.m.	Yes/oui
December 22-Wednesday/mercredi	1:00-4:30 p.m.	Yes/oui
December 23-Thursday/jeudi	8:00-11:30 a.m. + 1:45-4:30 p.m.	Yes/oui
December 24-Friday/vendredi	8:00-12:00 noon	Yes/oui
December 25-Saturday/samedi	closed/fermé	Yes/oui
December 26-Sunday/dimanche	closed/fermé	Yes/oui
December 27-Monday/lundi	1:00-4:30 p.m. (Dr. Isenberg)	Yes/oui
December 28-Tuesday/mardi	8:00-11:30 a.m. + 1:45-4:30 p.m. (Dr. Isenberg)	Yes/oui
December 29-Wednesday/mercredi	8:00-11:30 a.m. + 1:45-4:30 p.m. (Dr. Isenberg)	Yes/oui
December 30-Thursday/jeudi	8:00-11:30 a.m. + 1:45-4:30 p.m. (Dr. Isenberg)	No/non
December 31-Friday/vendredi	closed/fermé	No/non

During the month of December Dr. Shapiro may have a locum physician working in his office during some of the above days.
Durant le mois de décembre, Dr. Shapiro sera remplacé par un médecin visiteur pendant les journées ci-haut.

Dr. Shapiro will be doing minor procedures such as mole removal at the hospital emergency department on December 15, 2004. If you have requested or require such an appointment, please contact Odette at the office from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on days when the office is open.

Dr. Shapiro s'occupera des chirurgies mineures au département d'urgence de l'hôpital de Chapleau le 15 décembre prochain. Si vous avez besoin d'une intervention, s'il-vous-plaît appelez Odette au bureau du médecin, de 8h00 à 15h00, les jours d'ouverture de bureau.

If you have a true medical emergency, always go to the Chapleau Hospital Emergency Department.
En d'urgence, présentez-vous au département d'urgence de l'hôpital de Chapleau.

If you need phone advice, call Telehealth Ontario at 1(866) 797-0000.
Si vous avez besoin simplement d'un avis, appelez télé-santé Ontario au 1(866) 797-0000.

The Chapleau Ski Club is looking for an AREA MANAGER

This is a full time seasonal position (32-35 hours/week) for the duration of the ski season.

Duties will be varied and may include tasks as:

- opening and closing the chalet and tow buildings.
- operating the rope tow.
- ensuring that the slopes and trails are safe.
- ensuring that members are respecting the skier's code and the rules.
- selling day passes for skiing and Snowboarding.
- reporting to the board of directors.

This position will require the successful applicant to work evenings and weekends and to have first aid certification.

Salary will vary, depending on experience.

Please send your resume along with first aid certification and covering letter to:

Chapleau Ski Club
P. O. Box 1447
Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0

before december 15th, 2004.

If you are high risk, don't wait to get your flu shot.

The flu is a serious infectious disease. Especially if you are high risk. So it's important to get your free flu shot now. If you are over the age of 65 or have a chronic medical condition, you are at increased risk of flu-related complications. Infants between 6 and 23 months of age are also at increased risk. Talk to your doctor or local public health unit. Ask your pharmacist. Or call for a clinic near you.

1-866-FLU-'N-YOU TTY 1-800-387-5559 www.health.gov.on.ca

Let's Beat the Flu!

Protecting your health. 

If Life's A Party.... Why Does My Head Hurt?

By Brian Edwards

Every day we see them: Advertisements that tell us how much more fun we could be having if we would only drink that certain brand of

alcohol.

It seems that as soon as we "crack that bottle", the whole world changes to a big party with everyone having a great time dancing, singing,

celebrating.... who wouldn't want to be a part of that?

What the ads don't show is that each year approximately 80,000 Canadians are admitted to the hospital for alcohol related injuries and psychoses with just fewer than 10,000 of these being motor vehicle related accidents.

Based on findings from a 1992 study, it is reported that alcohol accounted for more than 7 Billion dollars in cost to the Canadian public. The bulk of this cost (\$4.14 billion) is found in lost productivity at the workplace.

As Canadians, we love our recreation. Getting out to the cottage or camp or snowmobiling on a freshly cut trail is a great way to take advantage of the



natural beauty we enjoy in and around our community.

Unfortunately 40% of boating fatalities are attributed to alcohol consumption.

Meanwhile, in over 70% of fatalities involving a snowmobile, the operator had consumed alcohol prior to operating the machine.

Drinking responsibly means limiting the intake of alcohol to 2 drinks per day or a maximum of 14 drinks over a 7 day period for men and up to 9 drinks over a 7 day period for women.

Of course, 0 drinks present a person with the lowest risk of alcohol related problems.

It has been shown that persons who consume more than what is recommended by the low risk drinking guidelines are more likely to suffer adverse consequences related to alcohol. Are you at risk? Take this little test.

Have you ever tried to cut down on your drinking and been unsuccessful?

Have you ever become annoyed when others suggest that you may be drinking too much?

Have you ever done something while under the influence of alcohol and felt guilty about it?

Have you ever had an "eye opener" the next day?

If the answer is yes to one of these questions, there is a possibility that alcohol abuse is present.

If any two of these questions are answered yes, help is available at your local mental health clinic or from various community support groups.

For more information regarding alcohol facts and strategies to address abuse and addiction please contact Brian Edwards, Substance Abuse Counsellor, at the Turning Point Clinic at 864-1919 or come to the clinic located at 8 Lorne Street South, Chapleau. All inquiries are confidential.

The information was taken from MADD research paper published Aug. 2002 (www.madd.ca)

Holiday stress: How to cope

- Don't set your sights on the "perfect" holiday. Unrealistic expectations can lead to pre-holiday stress – and post-holiday disappointment.
- Set a budget and stick to it. Show your loved ones you care with meaningful, not expensive, gifts.
- Set achievable goals for what you can accomplish around the house. Delegate chores – and then accept that family members may tackle them differently than you would.
- Look after yourself. Eat lots of fruit and vegetables and remember to drink lots of water every day. Regular exercise will also help keep stress levels down.
- Remember that holiday stress can trigger or worsen the more serious conditions of depression or anxiety. If emotions like sadness or worry persist, cause significant distress and interfere with your life, it's time to seek help. Visit www.mypeaceofmind.ca for more information.

- News Canada

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À Chapleau, composez le 1-800-361-6673 poste 4010 pour faire un rendez-vous.

Are you unemployed? Career Link Centre can help you.

- One on one career counselling
- Testing
- Job search support

Funded by **Canada**

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career link ► centre
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- Return to work programs
- Workshops
- Results

To schedule an appointment in Chapleau, please call 1-800-361-6673 ext 4010

NO, NO, NOT THE BUSH!

Chapter Ten (final)

To Julie's amazement, her cousin Marc has produced important clues and been commended by the police for his detective ability.

A commotion in the outer office grabbed everyone's attention. A woman's voice, shrill with excitement, could be heard.

"Oh, No!" cried Julie. "Just when I thought we were safe!"

"What do you mean?" asked the policewoman.

"It's my Mom! And now she's going to kill me for talking to those strangers!" The door flew open. Both of Julie's parents stood there. Despite Julie's fears, her mother had no word of blame for her, at least for the present. Julie was embraced by both parents at once. Everyone was talking, laughing, and crying, except Marc. He hung back, wondering where his stepfather was.

Julie's dad, Jack, noticed his nephew's silence. He reached over and patted his shoulder. "I drove up here yesterday," he told Marc. "Rob stayed in Sudbury, to wait for news of you there, but I had to get home." He leaned closer and whispered, "Your Aunt Mona was pretty freaked out." He added, more loudly, "The police called him, and us, when they knew you had been picked up by the trucker. He knows you're safe."

"Can I call him?" asked Marc eagerly.

"We have been trying to reach him for over an hour, but no luck. We really don't know where to reach him. I'm sure he'll get in touch soon. But now we have to get you two bedded down." Marc nodded, disappointed.

With the official statements signed, and all other police business finished for the present, the family climbed into Jack's car and headed into town. Julie was yawning again, but suddenly looked around at the houses they were passing. "Aren't we going home?" she asked.

"We're all going to Grandma's place. I have a feeling we might be hassled by the media. It will be hard to hide from them, but at least we can have a night of peace."

"Thanks, Dad," said Julie tiredly, "I have had enough of seeking fame!"

Before long they were seated at the dining room table with Julie's grandmother. A capable woman, she delighted in organizing her guests to make beds and find towels. She fed Marc and Julie, doctored their blisters, then shocked Marc by demanding their clothes. She handed each of them a robe.

"Put these on while I wash your things," she told them firmly. "It looks like you were in the deepest mudholes in the North."

Arguing was no use. Marc found himself in a bed made up on the couch, wearing a flower-print bathrobe. Julie, her parents, and grandmother had all gone upstairs to bed. The dryer thumped as the load of clothing and running shoes tumbled. There came a quiet knock on the door. Clutching the robe around him, Marc tiptoed to the door and opened it a crack. Rob was standing on the steps with a gym bag. Marc opened the door wide. "How did you get here?" he asked, delighted. "I thought you were in Sudbury!"

"I chartered a plane, then the police helped me track you down," replied Rob. Stepping inside, he dropped the bag and gave Marc a crushing hug. "My son," He said. He stepped back and looked him over. "Why are you disguised as an old lady?" he laughed.

"Because Granny insisted on washing our clothes," explained Marc. "Everyone else is asleep."

"Give me one of those blankets and a couch cushion. I'll sleep on the floor beside you. We'll leave talking until tomorrow." With that, they turned out the light. Marc fell into a dreamless sleep.

Julie and her grandmother were the first up the next day. They set to work in the kitchen. The others awoke much later to a delicious combination of aromas.

They gathered in the dining room for a gigantic brunch of pancakes and sausages. Miraculously the phone and doorbell remained silent. Jack claimed he had outfoxed the reporters by hiding his car in a neighbour's garage. Over a second pot of coffee, the adults told how they had discovered the kidnapping, and had sweated and paced the floor waiting to be contacted by the criminals. The police manhunt had begun three hours after the disappearance. Then they listened as Marc and Julie repeated the tale of their capture and escape.

"Julie was awesome!" said Marc. "When we got to that old cabin she pretended to know nothing about the bush or using a wood stove. Maybe she laid it on a bit thick, though, when she was talking about bears and wolves, in a tiny little scaredy-cat voice! Then she went and set fire to the place so quick you'd think her hobby was arson! It was the perfect cover for our escape!" Julie blushed and stared into her plate.

"Marc did all the technical work," she said, "and kept me going when I was ready to quit. His mother would have been proud." Grandmother had gone to the kitchen to take a cake from the oven. She called out to them.

"There's an OPP car in the lane!" At that moment an officer rapped at the back door and was led in.

"Since you had told us you didn't want too much media attention, I thought it best to come the back way." The young officer was grinning. "You'll want to hear the news." He placed two faxes on the table. They were mug shots. Julie and Marc confirmed that these were indeed the men they had called Blue-Eyes and Baldy. "They were picked up about 6 AM today just outside North Bay," continued the policeman. A cheer rose from the family members. "And, thanks to the information retrieved from the cell phone, we have their alleged boss in custody. Louis Azores was apprehended in Sudbury. The two fake reporters remain at large, but we're closing in on them."

"Ha! Louis Azores!" exclaimed Rob. "So that creepy phone call about handing over everything to get the

kids back was from him! He was a co-worker on a prospecting job in South America. I told him about my invention one night after a few beers and he seemed to get awfully nosy about it. I should have kept quiet."

After the OPP officer had gone, the family gathered around the TV, waiting for the news to come on. Would their story be reported? Somehow Julie wanted to get away from all reminders of it. She joined her grandmother in the kitchen. "Let me ice the cake," she begged. When she had finished, she went to sit down with the others. "Is it over? Were we on?"

"Yes," answered her father. "Just enough detail to make other reporters want to do an in-depth story. We were saying you and Marc should stay out of reach for a while. Your uncle has a good idea. He suggested taking you and Marc on a short wilderness camping trip. You both can afford a few days off school. What do you think?" Julie thought for a moment about great trips she had taken with her uncle in the past. She smiled at the memories. Then she shook her head.

"Thanks, Uncle Rob," she said, "But I think it would be better as a father-and-son trip." She looked at Marc. "Wouldn't it?" Marc looked at Rob, who grinned at him. Marc nodded. "Anyway," Julie continued, "I'd really love it if Mom and Dad took me back to Science North. I really didn't get to see everything last time. We were in a hurry," she laughed. Just then her grandmother entered with a tray. On it was a large cake with fancy icing.

"I don't understand why you put this on the cake," Grandma was saying, puzzled. She put it on the coffee table and everyone bent close to see it. On the white icing, big, slightly wobbly red letters spelled out "I DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING". Under that was a squiggly signature. "JULIE."

"If it's a joke," said Julie's mother, "I don't get it."

"Oh, I get it," said Marc. He patted his cousin affectionately on the head. "But you kind of had to be there to understand it."

THE END

**This Christmas season,
support Chapleau jobs
by shopping locally.
It's well worth the
investment.**



FOR SALE
Scotch Pine
Christmas
Trees

Available at
Valentine Farms
(On Broomhead Road,
just past the Hospital)

Weekdays
4 to 9 p.m.
Weekends
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Christmas Karaoke

(at the Legion)

Dec 17/04

5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Come & sing your favorite Carols
and Have(a)glass of



egg nog on us.

Also High 'n Low.

Then dj till 2 a.m.



Efforts to cooperate towards developing ATV tourism

By Jim Prince

Laws governing the operation of all terrain vehicles in municipalities were outlined at a meeting in early December.

The fledgling Chapleau ATV Club invited Ontario Provincial Police Sergeant Dave Fletcher

to speak to a meeting organized by the club and was well attended by municipal politicians and business people.

The bylaw, to be written by the township, would define the rules of the road and areas where the increasing popular vehicles would be allowed.

Chapleau already has a bylaw governing snowmobiles, which has few restrictions on their use other than the main downtown thoroughfares, the general hospital and a few other areas.

"We are trying to cooperate with the Township to work together," said Kathleen Johnston, the president of the ATV Club at the outset of the meeting.

In his one hour long outline of "ATV'S and our Road," Sergeant Fletcher, who is the OPP's provincial coordinator for off road safety, pointed out the big differences between ATV's and "Off Road

Vehicles," and noted the regulations covering ATV's came into effect in Ontario on July 1st, 2003.

While the proposed bylaw is wide ranging, the municipality would also have the opportunity to write in regulations affecting its own local needs. Enforcement would be provided by the Ontario Provincial Police when operating with the municipal limits. Chapleau has a contract with the OPP for its policing.

While explaining the regulations governing their use, Sergeant Fletcher said "most ATV drivers don't want to be



O.P.P. Sergeant Dave Fletcher visited Chapleau to explain regulations governing ATVs. He is pictured here with the president of the Chapleau ATV Club, Kathleen Johnston.

on the roads at all," adding if ATV's are on the roads "it's not a great place to be."

The rules of the road are consistent with those for other motor vehicles. They are allowed to operate on the shoulder of the road, in the same direction as traffic, although if there is no shoulder, they are allowed to be driven on the roadway portion.

Municipal officials are concerned over their use on the community's laneways after receiving numerous complaints about

snowmobiles using them.

In response to a question by Deputy Mayor Bud Swanson, Sergeant Fletcher said lane ways are covered under the highway traffic act.

Approximately 30 persons attended the December 3rd meeting held in the township council chambers.

The ATV Club is laying the ground work in preparation for what many tourism industry watchers say is the next great boom.

It's looking a lot like Christmas



Looking in or out of the windows at Aux Trois Moulins restaurant, patrons enjoy a picture perfect view of the Holiday season. The caricatures were painted by staff member Chelsea Wood.

The Chapleau Express would like to take this opportunity to extend its appreciation to the young carriers who have worked all year delivering the newspaper.



HOLIDAY GIFT & ENTERTAINING GUIDE

It's the most wonderful time of the year – Safety tips for holiday decorating inside and out

(NC)—With the holiday season now upon us, brightening hearth and home with fun and festive holiday decorations tops the to-do list for many of Canada's holiday revelers. However, it's easy to get caught up in the spirit of the season, and forget that many household decorations also can pose risks of fire or injury.

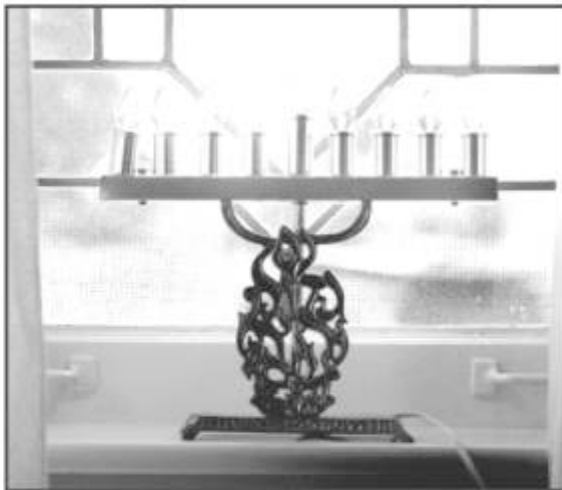
"We want to help families and friends enjoy a safe and happy holiday as they gather to celebrate the festive season," says Grant Carter, vice president, marketing and communications, CSA Group. "Whether decorating the home or simply enjoying each other's comfort in front of a warm fire, our priority is to ensure product safety. These tips are designed to remind everyone to be proactive this holiday season when it comes to safety."

According to the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, faulty cords and plugs on holiday lighting are the number-one cause of indoor fires during the holiday season.

CSA and the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs encourage Canadians to practice safety both inside and outside their homes this holiday season by adhering to the following straightforward tips for indoor and outdoor safety.

For more information, visit www.csholiday.com.

- News Canada



May your days be merry and bright – lighting safety tips

Save the box: Store lights and decorations in the original packaging, as they likely contain manufacturer's instructions on replacement bulbs and details for proper product use.

I can see the light: Carefully inspect holiday light strings each year and discard any frayed cords, cracked lamp holders or loose connections.

Check for the CSA Mark: When purchasing light strings, extension cords and electrical decorations, look for the CSA Mark, which provides assurance that the products comply with applicable standards for safety and performance.

Unplugged and not too snug: Unplug light strings before replacing bulbs and check to ensure replacement bulbs match the voltage and wattage of the original bulb.



One size does not fit all: Ensure that bulb reflectors are the right size for the light string.

Lights out: Always turn off holiday lights when you leave the house unattended or when going to bed.

For more information, visit www.csholiday.com.

- News Canada

Home for the holidays – indoor safety tips

Gas fireplace

Put the gas in glass: Do not use your gas fireplace if the glass panel is removed, cracked or broken. Glass panels and frame assemblies should be replaced only by a qualified service person.

Buy the Blue Flame: When purchasing or installing a gas fireplace, make sure that it carries the mark of an approved certification agency such as CSA indicating that it meets applicable National standards.



Carbon-monoxide alarms

Be on the level: Install at least one carbon-monoxide (CO) alarm at knee-height near the bedrooms. Use more than one CO alarm if sleeping areas are located on different levels of your home. **It's OK to peek...at instructions:** Follow the manufacturer's instructions for installing and maintaining your CO alarms.

Basement and garage

Filter friendly furnace: To help prevent CO hazards in your home, have a qualified heating contractor perform a yearly maintenance check of your furnace and venting system, and clean or replace your furnace filter frequently during the heating seasons.

Clean the clutter: Do not store combustible materials such as gasoline, propane, paper, chemicals, paint, rags and cleaning products near your gas furnace.

Users beware: Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids or vapours in the vicinity of your gas furnace or water heater. **Find the Blue Flame:** Look for the familiar CSA Blue Flame mark on your gas-fired furnace or water heater to ensure it has been tested and certified to the applicable standard.

For more information, visit www.csholiday.com.

- News Canada

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow – outdoor safety tips

Turn off, plug in: Before working with outdoor wiring, turn off the electricity to the supply outlet and unplug the connection.

Look for the CSA Mark: Ensure that light strings, cords, spotlights and floodlights are CSA certified and marked for outdoor use or wet locations.

Up, up and away: When hanging lights outdoors, keep electrical connectors above ground, out of puddles and snow, and away from metal eaves troughs.

Use friendly fasteners: Use insulated fasteners rather than metal nails or tacks to hold light strings in place.

Pack away for another day: Remove outdoor lights within two weeks after the holidays so that they are not damaged by extended exposure to harsh weather conditions.

Timing is everything: Use a CSA-certified outdoor timer to switch lights on

and off. Lights should be turned on after 7 p.m. to avoid the electricity rush hour. **The right receptacles:** Whenever possible, connect all outdoor lighting into receptacles protected by weatherproof ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI).

These can provide protection from electric shock by sensing ground leakage and cutting electrical power.

For more information, visit www.csholiday.com.

- News Canada



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Shake the dust off of that sled 'cause it's time to go riding! And at Camille's, we've been busy slashing prices. All ski skins at **\$59.99**, BR9ES plugs **only \$2.99**, and carbide runners **starting at \$49.99**. Also in stock is a large selection of **CKX helmets** starting at **\$69.99** - At Camille Robitaille Services you know you'll always get fast reliable service with the largest selection of parts and accessories for your snowmachine.

Check out our great gift ideal...
The Doctor says "Let it snow,
let it snow, let it snow!!!"



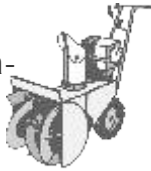
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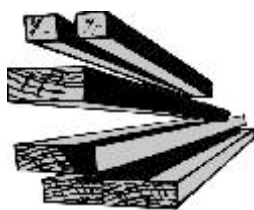


At Camille's, we have the largest inventory of genuine replacement parts to service your snowblower. We are your local authorized dealer for SERVICE & WARRANTY... MTD, Noma-Murray, SEARS, Briggs & Stratton, and Tecumseh.



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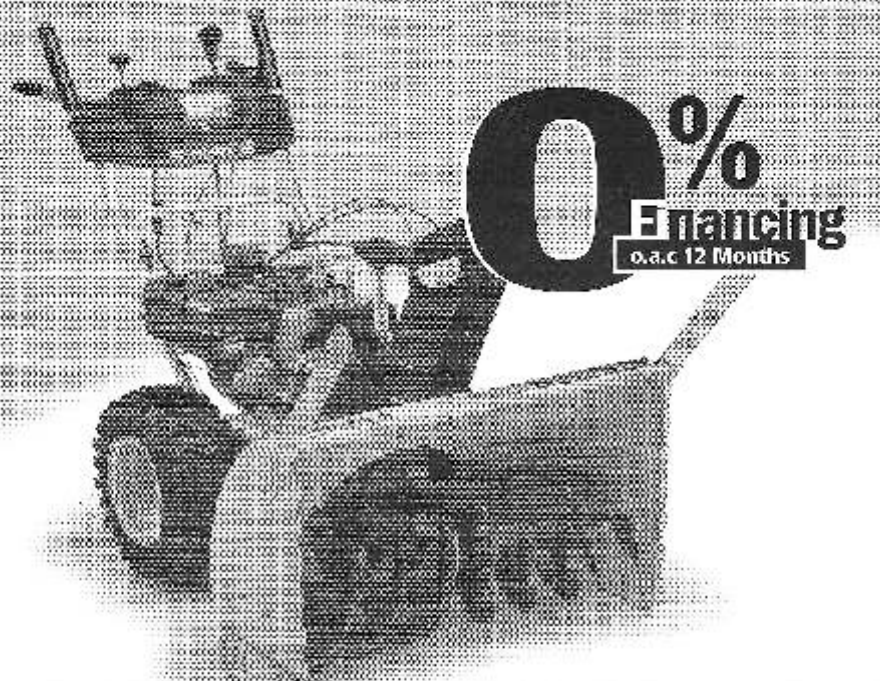
Membership Prices:
Early Bird / After March 1st.

Adult \$280.00 / \$385.00
Couples \$445.00 / \$545.00
Families \$550.00 / \$650.00
Seniors \$195.00 / \$295.00
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Students \$145.00 / \$245.00
Juniors \$115.00 / \$215.00

Remember Early Bird prices are only in effect until March 1, 2005.

You may purchase your memberships at Collins Home Hardware

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The Intrepid Snowmobiler #1: Snowmobiling by the Numbers

by Craig Nicholson

Many people are surprised to learn that snowmobiling is big business. Sure, it began over 40 years ago as seasonal recreation operated out of the garages and basements of a few local snowmobilers.

But today, what's known as "organized snowmobiling" is Ontario's premier winter tourism product, with snowmobile trails that generate \$1 billion in economic impact annually.

Because of its predominantly snowbelt location, snowmobiling primarily benefits small town and rural Ontario. In many regions, snowmobiling sustains the hospitality industry through what would otherwise be a dormant season.

So it's not surprising that organized snowmobiling posts other big numbers too. The 43,000 km. snowmobile trail system operated by the non-profit Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Club

(OFSC) is the world's largest recreational trail system.

These unique winter transportation routes link most snowbelt communities and allow travel by snowmobile from Manitoba to Quebec.

There are more kilometres of snowmobile trails in Ontario than there are kilometres of provincial highways, yet they are largely out of sight to the public, being located mostly in the back woods and hinterlands.

It costs OFSC clubs about \$22 million to keep trails open and maintained each winter, even though revenue from the trail permit required to enter the trails tops out at about \$15 million.

The \$7 million shortfall is made up by volunteer contributions and fundraising. It's estimated that club volunteers donate over 750,000 hours annually to maintain and operate the system.

Funny how there's not enough from that \$1 billion impact or the associated \$75 million or so in

provincial tax revenue for the government to make up that annual shortfall!

Since 1985, OFSC clubs have invested over \$342 million into trail development, improvements and operations, making Ontario a premier snowmobiling destination.

A fleet of 330 industrial sized groomers, similar to those found on ski hills, resurfaces these snowmobile trails. At a cost of about \$150,000 each, they log well over 100,000 cumulative hours on the snow each winter, using about 700,000 litres of fuel.

Sixty per cent of OFSC trails are on private land. Over 15,000 generous property owners donate the use of a portion of their land for a snowmobile trail each winter to help their local club and contribute to the betterment and well being of their home communities.

Last winter, about 170,000 family



snowmobilers enjoyed this OFSC trail network, riding a total of about 150 million km. Yet with all of this activity, only eight fatalities occurred on OFSC trails. That's .000000053 fatalities per kilometre, a number so low as to be statistically insignificant, despite public perception about snowmobile safety.

So who are these snowmobilers? They are your friends and neighbours, working family folks just like you. In fact, 75% of snowmobilers are married, a higher proportion than the

general population. Their average age is 42, but 37% of riders are over 50. While 44% have children under 16, overall, snowmobilers have .08 children still living at home. Snowmobilers are outdoor enthusiasts: 76% enjoy swimming, 70% participate in boating and fishing, while 65% go camping.

While all this data is interesting, what's more amazing is that snowmobiling exists primarily because snowmobilers make it

happen. They formed the clubs, they volunteer to help, they buy trail permits to support the clubs and they get out on the snow each winter to enjoy the trails.

But all of this support and enthusiasm begs the question: is snowmobiling, as we know it today, sustainable? My guess is no, without some form of secure government funding and lots more community and business support. But then who would have imagined that it would even have come this far?

Until next time, remember that snowmobilers care about the environment too. For Trail Condition Reports check out <www.ofsc.on.ca>.

Local Seniors will view Christmas decorations on Transit Bus



Pictured is Mme. Estelle Lavoie, the driver of the Transit Bus.

By Ashley Larocque

On Monday, December 20th seniors from the Bignucolo Residence will board the Transit Bus and depart from the Chapleau General Hospital at 6:00pm to view all of the decorated houses around Chapleau. The Transit Bus holds 12 people, including 2 seats for those in a wheelchair. This is an event that has been taking place for many years and is a very enjoyable experience for the seniors. Although it has been taking place for years, it is the first time for

Estelle Lavoie, the driver of the Transit Bus. It is a Pleasure for her to be taking part in this event, and believes that it is a great opportunity for the seniors to get out and see how people have decorated their homes. The tour of Chapleau lasts about an hour and the bus goes around to all of the places that have decorations. This time of year everyone is getting into the holiday spirit, and this tour of Chapleau is great opportunity for seniors to get out and see all of the beautiful decorations around our community.

Public Notice Statements of Conservation Interest Six Conservation Reserves

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Hearst District wishes to inform you that we are initiating planning on the following six conservation reserves:

Dubé Creek Iceberg Keel Marks Conservation Reserve	Irish Township
Ste. Thérèse Ground Moraine Conservation Reserve	Hanlan and Casgrain Townships
Shanly Creek Drumline Conservation Reserve	Shanly Township
Bennet Lake Esker Kame Complex Conservation Reserve	Guilfoyle and Boyle Townships
Ballantyne Lake Drumlins Conservation Reserve	Mowbray and Howells Townships
Northern Claybelt Forest Complex Conservation Reserve	Watson, Belford, Hicks, Poulett, Montcalm, Oke, Aitken, Fortune, Moberly and Byers Townships

The conservation reserves have been established through regulation under the *Public Lands Act*. Planning will now result in a management plan that will take the form of a statement of conservation interest (SCI). The SCI will identify the values associated with the area; provide direction on resource management activities and appropriate land uses.

A one-month public review period is anticipated for all six sites. Draft SCIs for the six conservation reserves noted above will be available for public review in January, 2005.

Comments and personal information regarding the draft Statements of Conservation Interest are collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* to assist in making decisions and determining future public consultation needs. Comments and opinions will be kept on file for use during the plan's operating period and may be included in documentation, which is made available for public review. Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* personal information will remain confidential. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other resource management surveys and projects. For further information on this Act, please contact Roger Carriere, Information Officer, at 705-372-2217.

Respondents will be notified when the draft statements of conservation interest are available for review. At that time a copy of the draft would be provided to interested persons or organizations upon request. If you would like additional information, or would like to supply background information or viewpoints to be considered during planning, please contact:

Ministry of Natural Resources
Patrick Burrough, Resource Analyst
Hearst District, Kapuskasing Area Office
R.R. #2, Postal Box 2
Kapuskasing, ON P5N 2X8
Tel.: 705-337-9314
Fax: 705-337-9345

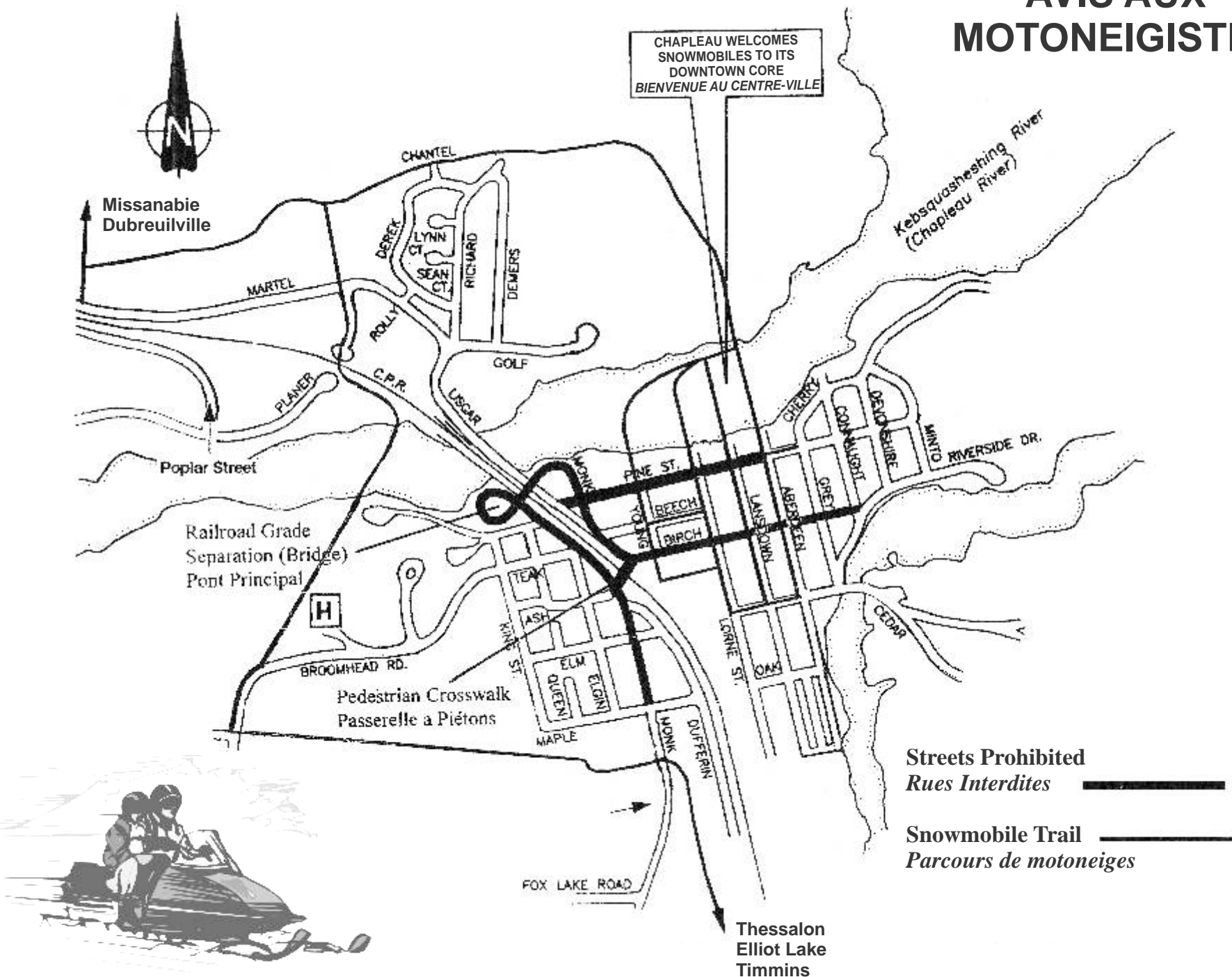
All respondents will be placed on the mailing list and will receive direct notices throughout the remainder of the planning process.



GET READY FOR SNOWMOBILING

NOTICE TO SNOWMOBILERS

AVIS AUX MOTONEIGISTES



STREETS PROHIBITED TO SNOWMOBILES

Monk Street from Maple to Birch Street;
 Birch Street from Monk Street to Riverside Drive;
 Pine Street from Aberdeen Street to Lisgar Street;
 The railroad grade separation (bridge) and pedestrian crosswalk.

Snowmobilers may cross prohibited streets at 90°s only.

Snowmobilers are prohibited from driving on all streets within the Township of Chapleau between the hours of 12:00 Midnight and 7:00 the following morning.

Driving on sidewalks, parks, ball fields & waterfront pavilion is absolutely prohibited. Please respect private and public property.

For further information, please call 864-1330.

RUES INTERDITES AUX MOTONEIGES

La rue Monk de Maple jusqu'à la rue Birch;
 La rue Birch de Monk jusqu'à l'avenue Riverside; La rue Pine, de Aberdeen jusqu'à la rue Lisgar;
 Le pont principal ainsi que la passerelle à piétons passant par dessus la voie ferrée.

Les motoneigistes peuvent traverser les rues interdites à un angle de 90° seulement.

Il est interdit de conduire sa motoneige dans les rues de Chapleau entre minuit et 7h du matin.

Il est absolument interdit de conduire sa motoneige sur les trottoirs, les parcs et les terrains de jeux. S'il-vous-plait respectez les propriétés privées et publiques.

Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'il-vous-plait appelez 864-1330.



Happy Snowmobiling from Mayor and Council
Joyeuses Randonnées - le Maire et le Conseil



Continued from page 1

Chapleau welcomes the CP Railway Holiday Train



One of the largest ever crowds turned out for the Holiday Train. It included a large group of youngsters who sat on the snow to enjoy the the sound and light show.

Canadian Country Music award winners, the Ennis Sisters and the famous Moffats were the headliners of the musical presentation on the Holiday Train.

In contrast to some previous years when the appearance of the train was greeted by extreme temperatures, the weather this year was seasonable.

Since its

launch in 1999, the Holiday train program has raised close to 213 tons of food and over \$1.5 million for North American food banks. All donations in a community remain in that community for distribution.

It brings with it the spirit of giving to those in need throughout our country and our community by those who are able to give in

response to this renewed spirit. It also brought along a \$3,000 cheque from the Canadian Pacific Railway towards the local needy.

"Thank you to Canadian Pacific Railway for this opportunity for Chapleau to join in this years Spirit of Giving," stated the Mayor.

Sudbury and

White River were also stops for the train in this region.

The special 14-car freight train began its spirited Canadian journey from Ste. Thérèse, Quebec and will visit more than 50 Canadian communities, concluding its 10,000 mile trek in Port Moody, B.C. on Sunday, December 19th.

In addition to



Clutching just a few of the bags of food residents brought to the holiday train are Odd Fellows Mike Fortin, Chad Byce, Ron Blais, Shawn O'Riley, Syd O'Riley and Larry Donovan.

the Canadian Holiday Train, a second specially decorated Holiday Train is traveling across six states in the U.S Northeast and Midwest, stopping at 30 Canadian communities.

At the back yard feeder



It's the largest bird to arrive at our feeder this year and she consumes as much. The female pileated woodpecker is a daily visitor to our suet log.

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<p>ST. JEAN DE BRÉBEUF (Sultan) Liturgy of the Word Liturgie de la parole Sunday/dimanche 11 a.m. Bilingual Mass every 3rd Sunday of the month at Noon PERMANENT DEACON Mr. Ted Castilloux MANDATED Mrs. Marguerite Castilloux</p>	<p>TRINITY UNITED CHURCH Corner of Beech and Lorne - 864-1221 Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Sunday School Kindergarten to Grade 8 Nursery Pastor Rolly MacLean</p>
<p>Diocese of Moosonee Anglican Church of Canada ST. JOHN'S CHURCH 4 Pine Street West 864-1604 Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Rev. Bruce Roberts</p>	<p>OUR LADY OF SEVEN SORROWS PARISH PAROISSE NOTRE-DAME-DES-SEPT-DOULEURS (Foleyet) Liturgy of the World Sundays 11 a.m. Liturgie de la Parole Dimanche 11h Mass every 4th Saturday at 7 p.m. Mess le 4e Samedi 19h</p>
<p>ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 78 Devonshire Street 864-0909 Sunday Service 10 a.m. Rev. William P. Ivey</p>	<p>COMMUNITY BIBLE CHAPEL Corner of King and Maple 864-0470 Communion Service 9:30 Family Bible Hour 11 a.m. Including Sunday School Evening Bible Study and Ladies Bible Study during the week Transportation available Al Tremblay</p>

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BRING THIS AD EACH DAY TO OUR STORE FOR 100,000 PRIZE POINTS.
FIND THE SPELLING MISTAKE, PRESENT THIS FLYER ON WEDNESDAY
FOR DOUBLE POINTS. Contest ends Sat. Dec 18 - 1p.m. sharp!

Mayor Freeborn present at McGuinty announcement in Sudbury

By Jim Prince

Ontario's Northern Prosperity Plan means the Premier has announced more dollars to the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund.

And, Chapleau Mayor Earle J. Freeborn, who was among northern municipal leaders who gathered two weeks ago in Sudbury for the announcement said he is familiar with the members of the Board of NOHFC. "It is nice to know we can give them a call to see if they can help us," he added.



In making the announcement, Premier Dalton McGuinty said it was a major step toward the investment, jobs and opportunities that northerners want and deserve.

"For Ontario to be the place to be for years to come, we must work to ensure all Ontarians have the opportunity to grow and prosper - that's what our plan for the north is

all about," said Premier McGuinty.

"It's a plan to create jobs in the north by ensuring that northerners, their fellow Ontarians, and people from across Canada and the world invest in the enormous potential of this region."

Premier McGuinty announced new details on the three key parts of the plan:

-A revamped Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation will once again work with northern entrepreneurs, companies and business organizations to create private-sector jobs with a focus on new enterprises, young entrepreneurs, community development, emerging technologies and energy conservation.

-A proposed Northern Ontario Grow Bonds program would, if passed, fund loans, generally of up to \$1 million, to small- and medium-sized businesses in the north by targeting provincially guaranteed bonds to northerners, with the first issue expected as early as this spring.

-A new GO North program, designed to aggressively inform, attract and land major

investors from outside Ontario, including \$19 million over this year and the next three years to promote northern Ontario to the world

Premier McGuinty, joined by Minister Rick Bartolucci and several Northern municipal leaders, said the participation and contribution of northerners and their representatives continues to be the key to the success of the plan.

"Our Northern Prosperity Plan will create real opportunities for all northerners and lay the foundation for our future," said Bartolucci.

"It is about empowering northerners and asking them to lead the way in our efforts to bring lasting prosperity to the north."

McGuinty stressed the importance of northern Ontario - not just to the government, but also to the province's future.

"Our province can't reach its full potential until the north realizes its extraordinary potential," said Premier McGuinty.

"This plan will empower northerners so they can build a stronger north."

Chapleau High School Annual Tree of Lights

The Chapleau High School Students' Council will be having a Christmas "Tree of Lights." This tree will give everyone an opportunity to remember their loved ones (deceased and living) as well as friends and family members in a special way during this Christmas season.

This 2004 tree is being donated by Students' Council in honour of and in memory of war veterans. This tree will act as a symbol of unity between Chapleau High School and the community it supports, wishing everyone Christmas peace, joy, and lasting happiness. The proceeds will be split between the CHS Students' Council and Chapleau General Hospital Courtyard Project at the local hospital. Lights may be purchased for \$5.00 each from members of the Chapleau High School Students' Council.

All of the lights on the tree are new this year. Chapleau High School Students' Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Chapleau Public Utilities Corporation and the employees who helped us with the lights.

The entire tree will be lit on December 7, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School. Area residents are invited to join in the celebrations. Christmas carols will be sung and hot chocolate and cookies will be served.

Donation forms are available at CHS. You may also fill out the attached form and return it to Chapleau High School with your cash, cheque, or money order.

I, _____

Would like to purchase _____ bulb(s) at \$5.00 each in
honour/memory of _____

Cash _____ Cheque _____ Money Order _____ for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Return to: C.H.S. "Tree of Lights" P.O. Box 880, Chapleau, ON P0M 1K0

For more information contact Chapleau High School at 864-1452.