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Vol. 16, Issue 43, June 30, 2012

Ecumenical Worship to be part of CHS Reunion

By Tom Corston art of the planning that has gone into this weekend's high school reunion has been added planning of an ecumenical Service of Worship to take place on Sunday morning, July 1st at the arena. The planning committee for the event has managed to elicit the participation of a number of Chapleau High School students and graduates as well as local citizens to provide musical

The Sunday service will begin will include the First Nations communities. Marjorie Lee of the Chapleau Cree First Nation will sing two Drum Songs, at the

leadership.

THE **CHAPLEAU** HIGH **SCHOOL REUNION** is **HERE**

Long Term Forecast

Friday High 26 Low 15

Saturday High 27

Low 14



Monday High 24 Low 12

Tuesday

High 25 Low 12

Wednesday High 23 Low 11

opening of worship and again at the conclusion of the service.

Two community choirs will provide uplifting musical leadership. A special Children's Choir, under the direction of Pastor Dan Lee of the Chapleau Pentecostal Church has been formed for the reunion. Some twenty local children will be an important part of the worship event. Also, a men's choir known to the community as "Men of a Chord" will also provide leadership under the direction of Velma Schmidt.

The planning committee is pleased that a number of former graduates of Chapleau High School will be sharing in the leadership of the Sunday service.

Bishop Tom Corston of the Anglican Church, who was preacher at the 75th anniversary reunion, will be the Master of Ceremonies. The special reunion preacher will be the Reverend Jennifer Broomhead who graduated from Chapleau High in 1993 and who today is the Minister at Front Road and Melrose United Churches in Belleville, Ontario. The scripture readings will be read by Michael Morris, well known in Chapleau for his weekly historical columns in the "Chapleau Express", Mr. Morris is a CHS graduate as well as a former member of the teaching staff. Today he lives in retirement in Cranbrook, BC. Mr. Robert Fife, well known across Canada as the Ottawa Bureau Chief of CTV news will also be a reader as will Pastor Paavo (Bob) Korpela, a resident of Island Lake as a youth who today is

Pastor of Toronto's Finnish Pentecostal Church.

An important feature of the reunion service will be a special prayer created for the event that will include the leadership of local citizens from various cultural backgrounds. Each petition will be prayed in the language of the cultures of our community.

During the reunion weekend a large "Board of Memory" will be available for everyone to inscribe the names of those former friends whom we know at

Chapleau High School who have passed on since the last reunion. On Sunday morning those old friends will be remembered in a special tribute led by Betty Broomhead who will also give a tribute to the late George Evans who passed away during the planning of this reunion.

Our hope is that everyone will attend this worship event fore they depart home after the reunion events, Sunday morning at 11 am.

See you at the

Velcome Home to all C.H.S Alumni

By Mario G. Lafreniere he long awaited week-end by the CHS Reunion Committee is finally here. committee members and volunteers will finally breath a sigh of relief Sunday evening as the weekend comes to an end.

Months of preparation will finally pay dividends.

CHS Alumni totalling well over 450 have made their way home this weekend to attend the 90th Chapleau High School Reunion.

Former friends will once again renew friendships. Some friends are gone

forever but they will undoubtedly be part of conversations.

New friends will be found and old friends may not be recognized. "You look good!" will be resonating in the halls as one tries to read the name tag with a slight rise of the head to get the bifocals lined up. All in all, a lot of laughs will be heard along with the resurrection of events that you may or may not want to hear.

The last reunion was held 15 years ago. Hopefully you will all have fond memories of Chapleau for years to come.

Once again welcome home.



ement mixer theft solved?

Tt seems like the solved. The mixer was found to be in the possession of the Township of Chapleau.

cement mixer theft picked up by Township Monuments of has been partially employees and stored at Chapleau. the municipal garage site. Reasons were still unclear at press time.

The mixer

The mixer was belongs to R.F.

This occurrence is still being investigated.



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Canada Day – Enjoy!



By Michael Levesque

What more to say? We reviewed all the Canada Day activities in articles over the last three weeks. Response was

positive which we hope will translate into great public attendance, and a few offers to assist. It seems true that volunteers are hard to find. Without

OBITUARY

Harry "Hal" George KOHLS

Born February 6, 1935 – Biscotasing Ontario Died June 20, 2012 – Chapleau, Ontario



Son of the late Harry Erik and late Catherine Eliza Kohls (nee Phillips). Beloved husband of Yvonne Kohls (nee Fournier) of 56 years. Loving father of Kimberley of Manitoulin Island, Diana (Barry) and

Frederick both of Chapleau, Gregory of Biscotasing and Randy of Sudbury. Dear brother of Carl (Cathy) of Chelmsford. Predeceased by his sisters Irene (Theo) Fitzgerald, Gladys McCormick (Lila) and Patricia Maciui. Hal worked for Lands and Forest (MNR) for 25 years in Biscotasing, Missanabie and Chapleau. When Hal retired he returned to his birthplace, purchased and ran "Kohls Country Store" in Biscotasing. Years later Hal worked at Inco also in Biscotasing. Needless to say Hal knew many people through the years and his door was always open. Grandpa Kohls will be sadly missed by 15 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. Family and friends will come together to celebrate his life at a later date this summer, in Biscotasing. Arrangements entrusted to the Cooperative Funeral Home, Sudbury. Donations (by cheque only) to the Canadian Cancer Society would be greatly appreciated. Thanks to friends and family for their support.

volunteers nothing gets done!

In general we were surprised by citizen support and also by the financial support given by local businesses and organizations.

Canada Day activities were planned to appeal to as many age groups and interests as possible. So far, so good! Our effort to include booths has ten responses ranging from arts and crafts to recreational organizations promotions. The amateur talent advertisement attracted a teen band from Sudbury and an acoustic guitarist and singer. Both are interested in performing a variety of music for several thirty minute sets.

So far, so good!

Let's finish with our one major concern – the Children's Parade. One can either sink or swim with a new idea. How about reviving a new idea? The Children's Parade is an attempt to revive some of the community spirit once common with past town parades.

We chose to focus on children because they are the next generation which will sustain local events. This activity causes great nervousness because we have received little feedback. Once again we appeal for your participation.

To quote from a previous article, "We haven't had a Children's Parade for years. The parade is for school children, but does not exclude parents or other family members. Participants are encouraged to dress up. They may bring bicycles, tricycles, scooters, baby prams, wagons, and pets. All must be decorated!" Prizes are awarded for best costumed participant. Those interested meet in front of Cedar Grove by 11:30 am. Remember, go to the Arena should it rain.

Thank you and have a great Canada Day!

The Chapleau Express

P.O. Box 457 Chapleau (Ont.) P0M 1K0 Telephone - Fax: 705-864-2579

e-mail: chaexpress@sympatico.ca Published every Saturday/Sunday Deadline for receiving ads is Wednesday at 4 p.m.

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GOING TO CHURCH

Catholic Church SACRED-HEART OF JESUS PARISH

26 Lorne Street North 864-0747 New Schedule Effective Nov. 7/09 Nouvel horaire à compter du 7 nov/09 Sat/sam 7 p.m. (E or F)

Sun/dim 9:30 a.m. (F or E) Weekdays/Semaine lun-ven 9:30 a.m. Wed/Mer (Hosp) 11:30 a.m. Fr. Sébastien Groleau

ST. JEAN DE BRÉBEUF (Sultar

Lituray of the Word Liturgie de la parole Mass 3rd Sunday Messe 3e dim 12:00 Noon (B) Permanent Deacor Diacre Permanent Ted Castilloux

ocese of Moosonee Anglican Churc of Canada

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH 4 Pine Street West 705-235-5556 The Rev. Iris Montague

78 Devonshire Street 864-0909 Sunday Service 10 a.m

9 Elm Street (P.A.O.C.) 864-0828 Sunday 10:30 a.m.& 7 p.m. Wed. Family Night 7-8 p.m Fri. Story Hour 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor Dan Lee INITY UNITED CHURC

Corner of Beech and Lorne 864-1221 Sunday Service and Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Anna Chikoski Soup Kettle every 2nd Wednesday of the month ww.angelfire.com/on/trinityuc

OUR LADY OF SEVEN SORROWS PARISH PAROISSE NOTRE-DAME-DES-SEPT DOULEURS (Foleyet)

Liturgy of the Word Liturgie de la Parole Mass 2nd-4th Sunday Messe 2e-4e dim 12:00 Noon (B)

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



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Chapleau High School Grade Nine students chose between Latin or typing in 1961 as plans made for 'dazzling new building perched on a hill'

Chapleau Moments

by Michael J. Morris



When en Chapleau High School held its graduation exercises in the Town hall in 1961, secondary school education was 39 years old in the community, and planning had just begun for the new school on the hill.

In an article for the 75th anniversary of CHS in 1997, George Evans, wrote that in 1961 the school was still located in the building beside St. John's Anglican Church, "but plans were afoot, and five years later, it would move to a dazzling new building perched on a hill..."

G e o r g e recalled the school as it was in 1961 as he began his teaching career in September of

that year.

"There were five regular classrooms, each equipped with a row of desks bolted to the floor, a large teacher's desk and blackboards.

"In addition, there were two labs, one of which had large working desks supplied with water and gas. Another room was equipped with typewriters.

"In 1961 the teachers' room on the second floor had been turned into a small classroom. In the basement of the building were the cool but fragrant latrines and a gymnasium with a 10-foot ceiling.

"The school's equipment included a record player, a movie projector, a duplicating machine that used methyl alcohol, and a library of about 500 geriatric books hidden in a narrow closet on the second floor.

George added that a student entering Grade Nine had to make one choice: Latin or typing. The rest of the timetable was filled with English, mathematics, science, history, geography, French and physical education.

Effectively, the student had no subject choices to make until Grade 13, and in order to advance to the next grade, he or she had to pass all subjects or repeat the whole grade.

As an aside, when I entered Grade Nine in 1955, and had to make the choice, I took Latin and never learned to type, even though I have typed something almost every day of my working (and retired) life. I still use my own hunt and peck, two finger method. I don't even think it was me



Teaching staff of ESCHS in 1981-82 at time of 60th anniversary. From left front D. Laughland, M.R. Fortin, E. Jardine, S. Devine, D. MacLean. Back J.B. Walsh, S. Kujtan, C. Knowles, G. Cameron, L. Schneider, W. Guest, A. Dubois, T. Collins, G. Lalonde, MJM. Absent G. Evans, R. Dell

who made the Latin/typing choice. I seem to recall that someone told me I would be going to university and have no need for typing as a secretary would do it all for me.

That actually worked when I was editor of the student newspaper at university for two years. I had a secretary, but when I arrived at The Daily Press in Timmins to start my newspaper career, I quickly adapted to a life as hunt and peck typist.

Back to CHS and the 1961 graduation exercises.

Held in the Town Hall auditorium a feature of the evening was 'Chapleau High Entertains' provided by the French Club under the direction of teacher Yvon Charbonneau. The club sang The Marseillaise, while Charles Tremblay

recited two of Verlaine's poems, 'Chanson d'Automne' and 'L'Heure Exquise' and Alvina Beaudry sang 'Au Claire de Lune'. Robert Lemieux received the Austin McClellan Award while the Allan Austin Memorial Award went to Frank Bucciarelli.

Cont'd on P.4



John McClellan, teacher and principal for 30 years. Mrs. McClellan in background. Oldtimers will be telling "Old Mac" stories at this reunion.



Margaret Rose (Payette) Fortin and Alex Babin, co-chairs of the 60th and 75th reunions of CHS.





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Safe Kids Day and Open House a Success



Smokey the Bear and representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources Fire Management team.

On Friday, June 8th children's service providers and community partners came together at the Moore arena to offer an Open House/Safe Kids Day event. Children's service providers gathered in the community hall

and shared displays, information and some giveaways to families. Every adult and child had their names entered in a draw to win a Blackberry Playbook or V-Tech Inno Tab donated by the Chapleau Child Care Centre. The Chapleau Child Care Centre organized the event with the support of the Chapleau Children's Service Provider Network. They want all families in Chapleau to be aware of the services in their community, as they want families to

information or support. At the same time as the Open House, Safe Kids Day was being held on the ice surface. O. P. P. officers organized a bike rodeo and the Sudbury and District Health Unit checked children's helmets to

know where to go

when they need

ensure they fit properly. Every child that participated in the bike rodeo had their name entered in a draw to win a new bike donated by the Chapleau Best Start Hub and Collins Home Hardware. Smokey the Bear was there with MNR fire handing out information bags and

balloons. Winners of the door prizes were Chantal Pullen and Tyson Noel and the winners of the bikes were Tessa Kydd and Jenna Rioux. We want to thank everyone that attended the event and a huge thank you to all partners for their support in making this event such a success.



Young participant testing her skills in the bike rodeo.

Chapleau

Cont'd from P.3

Ian Clegg won the Grade 11 award while Shirley Petrunka won the Grade 10.

Receiving Secondary School Graduation diplomas were J.J. Edwin Beynon, Frank Broomhead, Frank Bucciarelli, James Cockburn, Robert J. Fortin, Marguerite Joyce, Ruth Ann Madigan, Gordon McKnight, Wayne Poynter, Lawrence Pullen, Charles Purich and Helmut Fischer.

In his comments, Luther P. Emerson, the newly arrived principal said, "With your help we can make Chapleau High School a cheerful and happy place..."

So many changes have occurred in the 51 years since George wrote about the plans for "the dazzling new building." Whenever we attended and/or taught at CHS we can share Midkiff, Bruce memories as we celebrate the 90th anniversary reunion.

Let me

conclude by remembering the great contribution that Margaret Rose (Payette) Fortin and the late Alex Babin who co-chaired the 60th and 75th anniversary celebrations made. Both were graduates of the school and returned to teach at CHS. In 1961, Alex received his Intermediate Certificate at the graduation exercises for successfully completing Grade 10. My email is mj.morris@live.ca

Great Business Opportunity

Owners want to retire

A well established corner store business as well as the Starlite Building.

> Please see Diane at the corner store for more details



The Chapleau Child Care Centre de Garde d'Enfants is currently accepting registrations for the summer session

Our French and English programs will be offering a fun-filled variety of activities to keep your children busy over the summer months.

Make sure they won't miss out on the fun by enrolling now.

For more information or to register please stop by the Centre at 28 Golf Road or call 705-864-1886. Mark this one on your calendar and plan to join us!!

Township of Chapleau launches new website

by Janet Broomhead, **Economic Development Specialist**

Just in time for Chapleau's big weekend of celebrations, the Township of Chapleau is pleased to launch the new Chapleau website on June 29, 2012.

Why a new website?

We wanted a website that is easier to use. Visitors to the site should be able to find the information they are looking for in three clicks or less. created a logical site map, and streamlined the content on the site.

The website needed to be easier for

Township staff to use as well. We wanted to be able to update content and pictures more easily and in less time. The old website, which was created in We 2005, was difficult to change and required a high level of expertise. What can we expect to find on the new website?

> The website is a place to find information. It gives details on the Township and its services, including Council Minutes, By-Laws, Recycling Services and Refuse Collection Schedules.

> It provides general information on the community of Chapleau.

> It has a Business Directory that

details what Chapleau has to offer, including services and amenities, service clubs, schools, and lessons. We tried to reach out to all businesses, artists, groups and clubs known to us who could benefit by being part of the website.

What are the main changes?

Visitors will find a modern, dynamic design that is bursting with local images. One of the things we are most proud of is that every image on the site is taken by a Chapleau resident. We feel it is very important to give a good first impression of our town to visitors and investors, and we feel we have met that goal.

Website photo contest

A picture can convey meaning more directly than words, and is the reason we worked hard to source local pictures. held a photo contest earlier this year to find images that tell the

story of the community – be it through landscapes or people involved in community events. We built up a visual inventory of Chapleau's cultural assets.

The contest was proudly sponsored by Bignucolo Incorporated, Denise's Flowers & Such, and Full of Fitness who generously donated prizes. We are excited to announce the winners of the contest on the site, and in the next edition of the Chapleau Express.

Website is a place

We hope you visit the new website at www.chapleau.ca.

Submit your pictures to our Photo Gallery and share your memories of the Chapleau High School 90th Reunion and Canada Day celebrations. Update your business contact information if you haven't already done so. And please fill in our feedback form -- we need your input.

The website is a place that will change and evolve over time. It is far from finished. In fact, it should never be "finished" as Chapleau continues to evolve.

www.chapleau.ca



Chapleau Public School converted to become CHS in 1920s

Pimii Kamik Gas Bar & Gift Shop

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Are You Interested In **Quitting Smoking?**

If so, you are invited to an information evening where we will discuss Smoking Cessation, FREE Nicotine Replacement Therapy products and Individual or Group Counseling!

> WHERE: Royal Canadian Legion Hall 33 Young St, Chapleau WHEN: July 4, 2012 at 6:30pm

For more information please call the Medical Clinic at 705-864-0210

FREE Nicotine Replacement Therapy products (patch, gum, lozenge and inhaler) are now available!



Aimeriez-vous cesser de fumer?

Si oui, vous êtes invité à assister à une soirée d'information où nous discuterons de l'abandon du tabac, des produits de remplacement de la nicotine GRATUITS et du counseling individuel ou collectif!

> LIEU: Royal Canadian Legion Hall 33, rue Young, Chapleau DATE: Le 4 juillet 2012, à 18 h 30

Pour obtenir des renseignements supplémentaires, veuillez appeler la Clinique médicale de Chapleau au 705 864-0210.

Vous pouvez maintenant vous procurer des produits de remplacement de la nicotine GRATUITS (timbres, gomme à mâcher, pastilles et inhalateurs)!



NEW FROM THE PARK BY Mike Mantha

Mike Mantha
Provincial Member of Parliament

for Algoma-Manitoulin

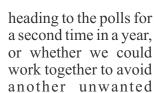
Leading up to

the budget vote last

week, there was plenty

of speculation as to

whether we would be





REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Chapleau Association for Community Living is seeking tenders for the following repairs and replacement:

- remove old shingles
- repair any damaged roof
- install new shingles.

Tenders are to include labour and materials and are to be submitted no later than **July 6, 2012**. Site can be seen at 92 Lorne St. South.

Sealed tenders will be accepted at:
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for Community Living
P.O. Box 1377
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Canadian Red Cross Croix-Rouge canadienne

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Fax: 705-268-6421
e-mail: raili.spehar@redcross.ca

We thank you for your interest. Only candidates being considered for an interview will be contacted. Red Cross, Community Health Services is an equal opportunity employer election. New Democrats worked tirelessly with the other parties and in committee and we were able to deliver real results for Ontarians in Ontario's first minority government in decades.

NDP leader Andrea Horwath captured the moment perfectly when she said that the Premier learned a valuable lesson: the NDP doesn't work for him. We work for the people of Ontario, and we will work hard to get results for them.

M y N D P colleagues and I were sent here to get results this spring and we are proud of what we've accomplished.

We delivered for parents worried about losing childcare, patients worried about losing access to their local hospital and basic assistance for people stuck in poverty. We made the Budget better with a Fairness Tax on the very wealthy, prevented short-sighted changes to labour laws and brought in oversight measures to protect us from another ORNGE.

New Democrats have delivered for everyday Ontarians: people who are worried about their jobs and the rising cost of living, and people who want to build a better healthcare system. We stood up for people trying to buy their first home, and hardworking servers who are getting ripped off on their tips.

While we were trying to make the budget a little fairer for Ontarians, the Liberals were busy calling us names and attacking our reputation. But name-calling, ultimatums, and election-threat-bullying don't work. These tactics didn't sway us on the budget vote, and they won't intimidate us next fall.

These undignified tactics and games damage the reputation

of politicians and of what we've democracy, and it achieved, but we have dissuades people, much more to do. I especially women, look forward to continuing the fight from entering politics or even becoming for Ontario when the involved at any level. legislature resumes in the fall. Our leader Andrea Horwath made it clear that while New Democrats didn't force

an election over the

budget, we still have

serious concerns about

the direction of this

Liberal government.

This budget is not a

blueprint for Ontario's

future. There is no job

plan, and important

government services

like ServiceOntario

are now under threat of

privatization. The

NDP caucus is proud

The legislature has wrapped up until September, but that doesn't mean I'm on vacation. The summer is an important opportunity for me to reconnect with my riding and constituents. I am looking forward to spending the next few months touring the riding and attending community festivals and events. I am eager to spend time with constituents and hear from you about issues that matter and challenges you face.

If you have any events I should know about, please contact my office. While my summer is busy, I will always try to make time to attend as many community events and meetings as possible.

As always, please feel free to contact my office about the budget, summer events, or any other provincial matters. You can reach my constituency office by email at mmantha-co@ndp.on.ca or by phone at 705-461-9710/1-800-831-1899.

Moments from the Past



Chapleau High School Teachers 1957. Left to right:Mr.G.Mino, Mr.G.Lemon, Mrs. J.Riordan, Mrs. Gladys Bowles, Mr. Clarence Fiaschetti, Dr.Karl Hackstetter.

Moments from the Past



September 1955 high school initiation. The two in the back are Gail Mercier and Dorothy Honda. The three in the front are Mabel Doyle, Sharon Swanson and Helen Telik.

THE LOCAL MARKET PLACE

CHADWIC HOME, FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE Offers shelter, emotional support, and information for women and their children who are in crisis situations. We have a Toll Free Crisis Line which is staffed 24 hours a day. We can arrange for free transportation to the Centre for women who live in the Algoma/Chapleau area. We also offer support to women who live in the communities of Chapleau, White River, Dubreuilville, and Hornepayne through our Outreach Program. Our Outreach Worker travels to those communities to meet with women who need emotional support as well as information about their rights and options. If you need to speak with the Outreach Worker when she is in your community, you can call the Centre at any time to set up an appointment. You do not need to be a resident of the Centre in order to use our services. If you need someone to talk to or if you just need someone to listen, call our Toll Free Crisis line at 1-800-461-2242 or you can drop in at the Centre. We are here for you.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Offers help to anyone who
desires to stop drinking. Open
discussion meeting on
Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Trinity
United Church basement.
Telephone contacts: 864-2786

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Offers help to anyone who has
the desire to stop using
drugs/alcohol. Open discussion
meeting on Saturday at 7:00
p.m. Pentecostal Church. Call
705-860-9769 for support.

Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A). Open discussion meeting every Monday evening. Brunswick House First Nation Band office lounge 7pm. Narcotics Anonymous (N.A) every Tuesday same place same time. NNADAP Worker @ 864-0174 info.

Societe Alzheimer Society meetings will be held at the Chapleau Hospital every 1st Monday of each month starting from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Do you need a one bedroom all furnished apartment. Do you need a non smoking all inclusive one bedroom apartment. Do you need a two bedroom including major appliances for September. Do you need a 3 bedroom house. Do you need 1000 sq. foot of commercial space on the first floor, right on main street. If you do, we have it. Call or leave a message 705-864-9075, June30

CAR FOR SALE

One Chev Lumina 4 drs. 1995 LLS as is, only 92,829 K. Can be seen at 193 Cherry St. call 705-864-1434. Asking \$1500.00 or best OFFER.

FOR SALE

2001 Jayco Eagle trailer with 14ft. pullout and jacks. AC cover, solar panel with new interior controller, 2 batteries. 8'x20' add-a-room with skirt and carpet. Variety of camping supplies. Asking \$14500.00. Telephone Maureen 705-942-1334. Jul7

Fridge and Stove. Miscellaneous household items for sale. Call Todd Woods.705-864-0640.Jun30

Cottage at Mulligan's Bay. 1997 car 25,000 kms, A-1 condition, stove, fridge, furniture. Phone 705-864-0673 or 12 Lorne St. South.

2002 Hi-Lo 22 foot trailer, asking \$8000. Cell phone 705-690-7166 or 690-4095.

HOUSE FOR SALE

16 Elgin St. Move in condition. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms. This 1 ½ story home has one bedroom and senior friendly bathroom on the main floor, two bedrooms and full bath on the second floor. Forced air oil furnace with a complete dual electric baseboard heating system throughout. 200 amp service. Fridge, stove washer, dryer, over the range microvave and air conditioner and all included. Phone 807-577-5710 for details. July14

SEPTIC SERVICES

Chapleau Septic Services available. Call 864-1114 to arrange time.cont.

TRAILER SITES

Seasonal water front trailer site available on Mulligan's Bay. With Hydro \$1095.00. Without \$895.00. Call Lloyd 705-864-1846.June30



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The Story Hour will begin Wednesday, July 11 and will continue each Wednesday at

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The aging of the high school reunion

By Renee Fisher

Sometimes aging can make us feel like we are naked, smeared with bacon grease and deposited near a den of rabid grizzlies who have just completed a research project involving the effects of a prolonged vegan diet.

While it might seem that there is no way out, know this: There is no way out. OK, now that we have dispensed with the fantasy of escape, we can move on to something that, while not technically in the category of "reality," is a step closer to it than the fantasy of escaping aging (or rabid bears): the high school reunion.

The high school reunion is a phenomenon that occurs with alarming regularity after one has graduated from high school. It is most often organized by people who have gained no weight or lost any hair since graduation, or who are vampires and so don't cast reflections in mirrors.

Herein lies the beauty of the class reunion: Unlike our hair, reunions do get better with age. Here are the reasons why:

We start by being defined by our ability to achieve the items on the I'm-An-Adult-Now Checklist: Are we married? Check. Have we produced offspring? Check. (or Check. Check. Check.) Have we become successful in our jobs? Check. OK, we pass. We also remain defined by the successes we were in high school. The athletes are supposed to still look like athletes. The cheerleaders like cheerlead-

After awhile,

as the decades pass, as children grow older and leave, and as some marriages also grow older and leave, the focus becomes more on us. We may, for the first time since graduation, actually connect as people, rather than owners of marriage/children/career appendages. This is an amazing thing. People who used to intimidate us have aged exactly the way we have. The cheerleader now looks like a 50 or 60 year old woman, and we can throw our arms around her and revel in the squishy-soft feeling of

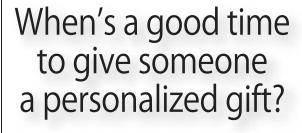
her upper arms.

And, ah, the other benefits of the high school (or college) reunion. Like love. There are reasons why so many people find love at reunions. There is a built in level of comfort and of trust. These are the people who knew us before we made such complete messes of our lives. These are the people who take us back to the time when life was something to look forward to, rather than a series of choices to regret. And the ability to look at this person at age 50 or 60 and to see them as they were, knowing they are looking at us and seeing us how we used to be.

Like reinvention. For those of us who did manage to lose the weight/the buck teeth/the Coke bottle glasses/the dorky clothes, the reunion is a way to flaunt our reinvented selves to the world. We revel in statements such as "How did you ever get your eyes to uncross?" or "I was told you were living in a cabin in the mountains and running a shelter for pit bulls." I guess I was wrong."

Like friendship. Without the trappings of life, we get back to who we were with the people who we wanted to be with. We laugh like we used to. We are silly and irreverent and subversive. We tell secrets and we reveal. We eat bad food. Only now there is no teacher casting a baleful eye on our behavior, no parent to tell us we should be doing our homework and not fooling around. We are the adults now. It's just us, being exactly who we want to be.

Here's to the high school reunion.



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- Bride and Groom
- Groomsmen and Bridesmaids

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- Mother's Day
- Father's Day
- Get Well
- Valentine's Day
- Baby Shower

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