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CHAPLEAU EXPRESS

Vol. 9, Issue 9, October 31, 2004

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



No snow - no tickets decides Township Council

By Jim Prince

With winter in the air, but no snow on the ground, municipal council moved last Monday to prevent a situation which has plagued it in past years.

It developed when vehicles parked overnight on streets after November 1st were handed ticketed under the winter time on street parking

bylaw, even though there was no snow.

"In the past we've had people ticketed when there as no snow," declared Deputy Mayor Bud Swanson when he raised the issue at last Monday's council meeting. "I hope this won't happen this year" added the deputy Mayor.

In further discussion on snow

removal, Councillor Richard Bignucolo called for improved communications between snow removal crews and the bylaw enforcement officer.

In calling for an end to the practice of early season ticketing when there is no snow, Mayor Earle J. Freeborn said "if there is no snow, then people should not get a ticket."



Reconstruction of highway 101 near Chapleau is underway

22-km section between Westover Lake and Shawmere River

By Jim Prince

Work has commenced on the reconstruction of a section of Highway 101, east of Chapleau.

Workers and machines from Leo Alarie and Sons limited from Timmins have moved on to a site at the west end of the 22 kilometer section of highway between the Shawmere River and Westover Lake.

The contract to improve and resurface the highway, which is the only direct

overland connection between Timmins, Foleyet and Chapleau is worth an estimated \$7.5 million.

The project will require six detour locations, redirecting traffic around rock excavation areas. "I'm very pleased these improvements are going ahead," said Algoma-Manitoulin MPP Mike Brown. "Chapleau residents and the Northern economy benefit when are roads are safe and accessible," he said in

a news release. "This is certainly good news for our area."

Northern development and Mine Minister Rick Bartolucci said a reliable highway system is critical to economic development in the North.

"These upgrades will improve driving conditions and road safety for residents and visitors in the Chapleau region."

Fears expressed provincial government moves will shut local lumber mills

By Jim Prince

Proposed changes to provincial legislation which could have a dramatic effect on the Chapleau economy are being strongly protested.

Mayor Earle J. Freeborn and the township council have fired off a letter to Premier Dalton McGuinty on his government's proposed Bill 106, which is an amendment to the Forestry Development Act.

Mayor Freeborn says if passed, it would allow logs to be hauled outside local areas for milling, with the obvious result being the closure of smaller mills in favour of supermills.

The Bill is the

result of a request by the American Commerce Department.

The Chapleau letter to the premier maintains that same American Commerce Department has shown little concern for the Canadian softwood lumber industry as witnessed by the long-standing cross-border billing issue.

Chapleau has two lumber mills owned and operated by Tembec and Domtar which provide jobs for its citizens and solidifies the local economy.

"Should the passing of the proposed Bill 106 become fact and results in the closure of one or both of these vital mills, the resultant job losses would be devasta-

ting to our community," states the Mayor.

The letter goes on to state: "Your government has taken some positive steps to revitalize the Northern Ontario economy and the passage of Bill 106 would quickly undo all of this good work if it is allowed to proceed."

Mayor Freeborn asks the Premier to consider the negative impact that this legislation would have on the Northern Ontario economy and take steps to cancel the proposed amendment to the Forestry Development Act.

Work of ATV club to be revived

By Jim Prince

Local residents have been invited to the annual meeting next week of a group which intends to capitalize on the latest outdoor sport.

The popularity of All Terrain Vehicles (ATV'S) has been rising rapidly and is

expected to out pace snowmobiles in the near future.

The Chapleau ATV Club, which has been gathering research since it was formed approximately two years ago, appears ready to become active once more. A meeting has been

scheduled for this Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the conference room at Aux Trois Moulins to elect a new executive for the club and develop plans for its future.

In addition to people who now use ATV's, organizers of

...Continued on page 4

OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, November 6, 2004
Trinity United Church Hall
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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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 40 Richard Street Cozy, 2 + 2 bungalow sited on a 50' 150' lot. Built-in Jenn-Air range, rec room, paved drive, two car detached garage insulated with woodstove and large rear deck. \$76,900.00	 <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">SOLD</div> 38 Adele Street Executive, three plus one bedroom bungalow that is R-2000 rated. Main floor laundry, oak kitchen, central air, full basement with rec room, two baths, and more. \$147,500.00
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In loving memory of a dear husband, father, and grandfather, who passed away 18 years ago November 4, 1986.


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 What it meant to love you
 No one will ever know.

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 Upright and just to the end of days
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 What a beautiful memory you left behind.

Forever loved by all
 Wife Hilda, sons Lark, Darryl, Allan, Brian, grandchildren, and friend George.

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Ovila, Harvey, Stéphane & Mikël



Mikël Brilliant born Oct. 20, 2004 at 5:15 pm in Timmins, weighing 8lb 9¹/₂oz. Measuring 19¹/₄in.

Proud parents: Stéphane Brilliant & Melanie Chenier
 Little brother for Breanna (5) & Destiny-Jade (4) Mohr

Grandparents: Harvey & Monique Brilliant (Chapleau), Diane Pelletier (Hearst) & Denis Chenier (Kapusksing)


Great Grandparents: Ovila Brilliant (Timmins) Bernadette Brilliant (Chapleau), Alice Charlebois (Kapusksing) & Rollande Chenier (Kapusksing)

Obituary

The Family is sad to announce the passing of John Joseph (Joe) Perpete. Joe was born in Chapleau on December 27, 1906, and died in Woodbridge Ontario on October 16, 2004. Joe was predeceased by his wife Rita Marion (Brunette) in 1969. Rita was sister to Terry (Brunette) Green. Rita was from Chapleau as well. Joe was also predeceased by his parents Beatrice and Victor, who were owners of the Perpete General Store, which was located across from the CPR Station. Joe was also predeceased by his Sister Bernadette and her husband Vern Murphy of Chapleau. Joe is survived by His Daughter Patricia and Husband Don Bellasario, Grandchildren Loraine, David and Christopher, as well as many Great Grand-Children. Joe will be sorely missed by all.

Congratulations

Lani O'Hearn & Kevin Green
 August 14, 2004 Sacred Heart Church



To Meaford, from Chapleau, wishing the newlyweds lots of love, good health, wealth and happiness, from all your family and friends.

Ludie and Pat, along with Raymond and Pat, would like to thank everyone who traveled from near and far to celebrate this happy occasion.

**Public Review
 of the Boundaries
 of New Protected Areas**

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) invites the public to comment on the proposed boundaries for the following proposed protected area site in the ministry's Hearst District.

Name	Location
Groundhog River Waterway Provincial Park (P1569)	Townships of Clay, Tucker, Beardmore, Machin, Stringer, Hicks, Griffin, Poulett, Montcalm, Strachan, Erid, Melrose, Reeves, Keith, Penhorwood

Information describing this proposed area and detailed mapping of the proposed boundaries are available by contacting:


Pat Burrough
 Resource Analyst
 Ministry of Natural Resources
 P.O. Box 2
 R.R. #2
 Kapuskasing, ON
 Tel.: 705-337-9314
 Fax: 705-337-9345

All comments must be received by **November 29, 2004.**

The Ministry of Natural Resources is collecting comments and information regarding this boundary review under the authority of the *Public Lands Act* and the *Provincial Parks Act* to assist in making decisions and determining further public consultation needs. Comments and opinions will be kept on file and may be included in study documentation that is made available for public review.

Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1987)*, personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent is obtained. However, the Ministry of Natural Resources may use this information as public input on other resource management surveys and projects. For further information regarding the Act, contact Roger Carrière 705-372-2217.

Renseignements en français : (705) 372-2217.



**For a wedding
 announcement, birthday
 wish, graduation...**

**Call Diane 864-1126,
 or drop at the
 Cultural Centre.**

Thank You !

We, the family of the Late Donald Jardine, would like to express our deep appreciation to our friends in the community, Archdeacon Tom Corston, Pastor Bruce Roberts, the Ladies of the Anglican Church Aux, Mrs. Wilma Schmidt & choir, Andre Joly, Dr. Bill Fellow & the Masonic Lodge, the Members of the Royal Canadian Legion, & to Sam Diccsare of the Gilmartin Funeral Home for supporting us through our time of bereavement.

The Jardine Family

Local businessman keeping up with the times

By Jim Prince

If there has been one key element in the ongoing success of a business in Chapleau which specializes in small engines and marine and outdoors equipment, it's been the ability of its owner keep up with change.

For Camille Robitaille, who has been repairing small engines, mostly outboard motors from his shop at 27 Beech Street, and

serving as a dealer for most major suppliers of boats and motors, it's also meant a part of his business has evolved and is poised to become a leader in local tourism.

The business, known as Camille Robitaille Services has been doing just that, serving local residents and tourists for over 12 years and intends to continue long into the future. "Many people have been asking asking

about my future plans with the tourism side growing, and I tell them I fully intend to keep my shop open," said Robitaille, although relocation, perhaps to the main street, is a strong possibility.

Sitting at the sales counter below a wall covered with the many certificates Robitaille received upon completion of extensive training, he reflects on how the early business was built.

"We went after dealerships. Echo, Jonsered for chain saws and power equipment. Briggs and Stratton. Went after Johnson and Evinrude and Mercury for outboard dealerships. Naden for boats which is a good Canadian name. Built and manufactured in Ontario matter of fact. It's the worlds finest aluminum boat."

While sales was and continues to be a large part of the business, word spread about

Robitaille's expertise in the mechanical area, and soon residents relied on him to keep their engines in running order.

Although a sharp drop in industrial chain saw use has occurred, there continues to be a strong demand from individuals who clear brush and cut their own firewood.

Over the years, Robitaille has kept pace with evolving technology. "Went to schools in Timmins, North Bay, Sudbury, Peterborough,. Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa for courses and updates. To get certified. Still go back every year pretty much."

And now with strict government regulations on exhaust emissions, there have been more advances in technology however this time keeping up to date is done with a lap top computer.

While operating a small business kept him busy, Robitaille maintained a strong interest in the



community is hoping to build a part of its future on.

Eco tourism may be ready to come into its own here, and he wants to be a part of it. "Most of my customers now just want to eat fish once a week. The rest of them want to catch and release, they want to see a moose, they want to see the beaver, they want to see the loon, want to see blue jays. They want to know why the bear does this, why the Pine Marten does that."

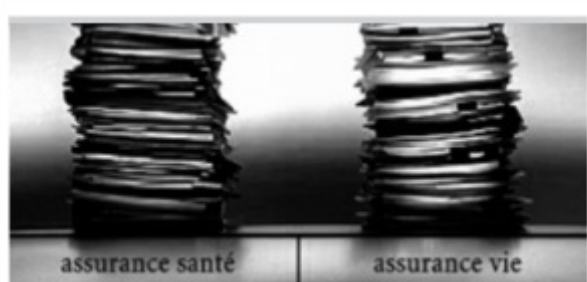
While the business, like the community has experienced its ups and downs, Robitaille says that over the past 12 years, the community of Chapleau has been very supportive.

"I've been happy with local support," he said, adding: "Chapleau has supported me and my family 100 percent for twelve and a half years now and I hope it will sustain us for years to come," he concluded.

surrounding forest and looks to it to sustain both him and the community into the future.

In a partnership with the Chapleau Regional Development Corporation, he is about ready to open a pilot project, which he and local officials hope will lead to a number of wildlife viewing stations in the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve.

After 20 years as a professional hunting guide from a camp on Big Pine lake, 25 miles west of Chapleau, Robitaille is ready to embark on a new venture which he is positive will appeal to the large numbers of tourists this



C'est bien normal si... vous n'êtes pas tout à fait sûr des protections d'assurance santé et d'assurance vie dont votre famille a besoin. Ou encore si vous n'êtes pas certain de la solution qui vous convient le mieux. Si vous recherchez la clarté, je peux vous aider. À titre de conseiller Clarica, je peux travailler avec vous pour déterminer vos besoins et vous expliquer clairement vos options. Si vous voulez avoir l'esprit tranquille plutôt que des papiers qui s'empilent, n'hésitez pas à communiquer avec moi.

Nous serons au bureau de la Municipalité de Chapleau le 5 novembre 2004, entre 16 h et 21 h et le 6 novembre 2004, entre 9 h et 18 h. Vous êtes tous les bienvenus!

Ann Sabourin
877-613-4176
ann.sabourin@clarica.com



En association avec Services financiers Clarica Inc. et de Clarica Investco Inc.

Public Notice

Your Rights Under the Personal Health Information Protection Act

The privacy of your health information is important.

On November 1, 2004, the Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004 (PHIPA) comes into effect.

The act:

- Creates rules for the collection, use and sharing of personal health information by doctors, hospitals, pharmacists and other healthcare providers;
- Gives you the right to request access to your own health records from your healthcare provider;
- Gives you the right to determine how your personal health information can be used;
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If you believe that any individual or organization that provides you with healthcare is not following the rules of PHIPA, you may complain to the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

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Info: André ou Louise au 1-800-361-6673, poste 4030.

ATV club to be revived

...Continued from page 1
the new club hope
tourist operators and
others interested in 4-

wheeling in
general will
attend the
meeting.



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#2754 Cassandra Woods	#2773 Irène Yanta
#2771 Sasha Doyon	#2770 Danielle Prusinowski
#2780 Robert Parent	#2807 Tina Hayden
#2814 Elizabeth McKenzie	#2827 Sandra Raposo
#2843 Betty O'Shaugnessy	#2878 Robert Parent
#2888 Josée Babineau	#2914 Huguette Marchioni
#2935 Lucille Lingenfelter	

Merci à Doris Riopel, Rachel Pressé, RGM Hauling, RBLogging, Aux Trois Moulins, UCFO, Le Salon, Country Gift & Flowers, Gus's II Restaurant, Rosanne Turcotte, Annie Lessard, FormationPLUS, Lise Ayotte, Alyne Fortin et Diane Jean pour votre générosité.



Le Centre culturel Louis-Hémon

"There is so much potential," said one of the supporters of the local efforts, adding "we want to pick up and move ahead with what the previous club members started."

Organizers hope enough local people will let their names stand to form a new executive and get the organization up and running with renewed enthusiasm.

Musical group *Minute Switch* coming to Chapleau

Minute Switch is a band made up of three young men from Waterloo, ON. Joe Bauman is on guitar/lead vocals, Bernie Martin is on bass/background vocals and Scott Martin is on drums/background vocals. On their website they describe their style as "somewhat aggressive, yet [with a] smooth, melodic punk rock sound."

They began playing for fun and then progressed to performing at many

youth events and putting on concerts in their home area. They now have a 4 song, self-titled demo cd and a 9 song album called "Still Moving, Still Breathing." As stated on their website, "their music can also be found in numerous record stores and on radio stations throughout ON."

In the last two weeks they have been on their first tour. They are playing at various sites throughout Northern Ontario and also in Manitoba. They will be coming through

Chapleau on Tuesday, November 2 and will be playing at the Chapleau Arena in the Community Hall.

All three of the young men have worked at Wildwood Bible Camp and are known to many campers here in town.

The concert will begin at 7:30pm until 9:00pm. Admission will be free; however, there will be a free-will donation to help cover their costs. They will also have their CDs, T-shirts and other items for sale.

If teens 12 and under attend, they are asked to be accompanied by an adult.

For more information about their band and music please look up their website: www.minuteswitch.com



Le Conseil scolaire catholique
du Nouvel-Ontario

AVIS PUBLIC

Le Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario initie une démarche visant à combler un poste de conseiller ou de conseillère scolaire. Les personnes intéressées sont donc invitées à poser leur candidature.

Les candidats et candidates sont priés de fournir une lettre décrivant leurs intentions, ainsi qu'une copie de leur *curriculum vitae*. Les candidats et candidates présélectionnés seront ensuite rencontrés lors d'une entrevue.

N.B. Seules les candidatures provenant de personnes répondant à toutes les conditions d'éligibilité seront retenues lors de l'étape de la présélection. Pour obtenir des précisions quant aux modalités de la Loi sur l'éducation, veuillez communiquer avec Kim Morris au numéro (705) 673-5626, poste 294.

Les candidatures seront acceptées jusqu'à 16 h, le 10 novembre 2004.

Les demandes confidentielles doivent être envoyées par courrier à l'attention de Hélène Chayer, au Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario, 201, rue Jogues, Sudbury (ON) P3C 5L7 ou par télécopieur au numéro (705) 669-1270.

Marcel Montpellier, Président

Hélène C. Chayer, Secrétaire-trésorière



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We will be at the Municipal office in Chapleau on November 5 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm and on November 6 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Ann Sabourin
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Let Us Know How Tembec Is Doing on the Superior Forest

The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance will conduct a forest management assessment of the Tembec forestry operations on the Superior Forest in the Chapleau area in December of 2004.

From December 6th-10th, 2004 third-party auditors from the SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance will be on-site at the Superior Forest to evaluate Tembec's forest management practices relative to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) draft National Boreal Standard for Canada. Your input is welcome through the entire assessment period from November 6, 2004 to January 13, 2005.

FSC is an international organization created in 1993 by representatives from environmental and social groups, Aboriginal organizations, industry, and certification bodies from around the world. Certification allows companies to demonstrate their compliance to FSC's strict principles for responsible forest management which include: environmental protection, Aboriginal rights, forest management planning, community development and employee relations.

Public input is an important part of this certification process. Individuals and organizations can provide comment about Tembec's forest management practices by:

Providing comments about operations on the Superior Forest to SmartWood Assessment Team leader Nick Baggs, by e-mail to nbaggs@sympatico.ca, by fax to (613) 634-9775, or by phone at (613) 634-9002; or

Talking or meeting with the assessors during the audit period to provide information. This can be arranged by contacting Riki Burkhardt, team member by e-mail at rburkhardt@sympatico.ca or by phone at 416-203-6286.

For more information on the draft National Boreal Standard for Canada see the FSC Canada website at www.fsccanada.org

Further information about SmartWood can be obtained at

www.smartwood.org or by contacting Richard Donovan at 802-434-5491 or by e-mail at rzd@smartwood.org.



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

The Chapleau Express is your partner in community awareness and education



NOTICE

to ALL RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CHAPLEAU

The Council of the Township of Chapleau wishes to advise that it recently reviewed and updated it's by-law prohibiting the discharge of guns or other firearms within the Township of Chapleau.

Section 1 of the new by-law specifically states:

That the discharge of guns or other firearms, paint ball guns, air guns, CO2 guns, pellet guns, spring guns, sling shots, cross bows, long bows or any other weapon thereof in the Township of Chapleau is prohibited.

Section 3 of the new by-law specifically states:

That special events may include the demonstration of paint ball guns, cross bows and long bows subject to the prior written approval of Council.

Copies of Council's new By-law 2004-31 are available free of charge at the Township office, 20 Pine Street West during regular office hours.

For further information or clarification please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Allan Pellow
CAO/AMCT
864-1330

**AVIS
AUX RÉSIDENTS ET
CONTRIBUABLES DU CANTON DE
CHAPLEAU**

Récemment le conseil municipal a ré-examiné et mis à jour le règlement municipal qui concerne l'interdiction de tirer une arme à feu dans les frontières municipales.

Le chapitre 1 du nouveau règlement est énoncé comme suit:

Le tir de fusils ou autres armes à feu, pistolets à paintball, fusils à air, fusils à plomb, fusils à ressort, frondes, arbalètes, arcs ou n'importe quelle autre arme à feu, est interdit dans la municipalité de Chapleau.

Le chapitre 3 du nouveau règlement contient la stipulation suivante:

Dans le cadre d'événements spéciaux, la démonstration de pistolets à paintball, d'arbalètes et d'arcs est sous réserve d'un consentement préalable du conseil municipal.

On peut se procurer sans frais une copie du nouveau règlement 2004-31 en en faisant la demande à l'Hôtel de ville, 20, rue Pine ouest au cours des heures ouvrables.

Pour de plus amples renseignements ou des clarifications, prière de communiquer avec le soussigné.

Allan Pellow
Greffier/administrateur municipal
864-1330



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Nous serons au bureau de la Municipalité de Chapleau le 5 novembre 2004, entre 16 h et 21 h et le 6 novembre 2004, entre 9 h et 18 h. Vous êtes tous les bienvenus!

Stephan Beaulieu
800-344-4921
stephan.beaulieu@clarica.com



En association avec Services financiers Clarica Inc.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Assurance Wawa General Insurance is looking to expand it's team of professionals in the Wawa area.

Two years Office or General Insurance experience is required, interpersonal skills and capability of working unsupervised are a must, will be expected to meet specific projections. Being bilingual and having computer skills would be preferable. Previous sales experience would be an asset. Salary, to be negotiated.

Send resume to:
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Beginning Monday September 12, our WINTER HOURS will be from 7a.m. - 9p.m., 7 days a week

Drop by and check out our line of Authentic Native Crafts, Unique Gift Ideas, Jewellery, and Gift Certificates TOO!

We also carry road trip snacks, which includes Subs, Chips, Pop, plus a whole lot more.

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Ann Sabourin
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TRINITY UNITED CHURCH FUNDRAISER
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Approx. 8" - \$7.50; approx. 5" - \$3.50
Place your order before November 5 by phoning 864-1306 or 864-1301.
To be picked up at Trinity United Church after 10:00 a.m. on Saturday December 11.
(Delivery available if necessary)

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Tuesday, Nov. 2
Chapleau Arena (Community hall)
7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

12 and under, bring adult

For info 864-2365

THE LOCAL MARKET PLACE

THE LOCAL MARKET PLACE

ALL ADS ARE ACCEPTED AT Louis-Hémond Cultural Centre (69 Birch Street)
DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING ADS IS WEDNESDAY 4:00 p.m.
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 First 25 words or less \$6.00
 Each additional word \$0.15+GST

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.

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 Ladies call 864-0138

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Chawn



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 G. P. S. J. S. D. Y. D.

Dr. Allan MacIvor OPTOMETRIST

Chapleau Medical Clinic, Broomhead Rd.

Tuesday, November 9, 2004

10:00 a.m. To 8:15 p.m.

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 Rev. Bruce Roberts

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 Rev. William P. Ivey

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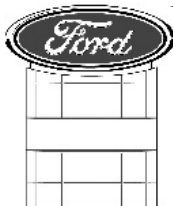
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BRUNSWICK HOUSE RECREATION BINGO

EVERY THURSDAY
START TIME - 7:15 p.m.

Under New Management

It has sometimes been the custom for a newspaper or a magazine to present a story in serial form, similar to television mini-series. Therefore we are introducing this story, the work of a Northern Ontario author, whose pen-name is L. Martin. The story relates to our area. Enjoy.

NO, NO, NOT THE BUSH!

Chapter Four

In last week's episode, Julie found inspiration in the outhouse for a plan to escape the kidnappers.

Julie picked up a roll of toilet paper and began unwinding it. She folded several meters into a flat wad and stuffed it into her sock. Three more wads pretty well filled the sock. She drew the cuff of her jeans down to cover it. She did the same with her other sock. More wads went inside her jeans waistband and up her sleeves. She'd used three rolls by the time she stuffed the last paper into her sweatshirt's kangaroo pocket. She patted herself to make sure there were no obvious bulges. She put the can of fly spray in her pocket as well. Dropping the empty toilet paper rolls down the outhouse hole, she opened the door and stepped out. She kept her hands in her pocket and tried to look casual as she passed Baldy, who was just stubbing out his cigarette.

Indoors, Marc was stacking firewood near the stove. He kept his eye on Blue-Eyes, who had taken out the cell phone and sat down at the table. Baldy joined him. Marc guessed they were about to contact Louis, their boss. Julie happened to walk near the table and Blue-Eyes turned and gave her a warning look. She took the hint and moved away into the bedroom. "Hey! Boy!" growled Blue-Eyes, "Get outside and split more kindling!"

Marc obeyed, glad to get out unsupervised. He had never chopped kindling before but thought he could manage it. That was not all he intended to do. As he went to the

door his right hand flicked out, snatched a fork from the kitchen countertop, and slid it up his sleeve. The move went unobserved as the men whispered together.

The cabin window was partly obscured by tree branches. Marc hoped the men couldn't see the van from their seats at the table. He walked to the woodpile, placed a log on the chopping block, and swung the axe. Thunk! The split halves fell aside. He picked these up and crept behind the van. He knelt and removed the valve cover from the rear wheel farthest from the cabin.

He probed the valve with the tines of the fork and was rewarded with a hiss as air was released. Praying the men couldn't hear that, he picked up one of his pieces of wood with his free hand, and tossed it at the woodpile, where it made a clattering noise.

Would it cover the sound of escaping air? Would the men think he was working? He threw the second piece. More stacked wood tumbled off the pile. Almost there! Marc was sweating with apprehension by the time the tire was flat. With trembling fingers he replaced the valve cover and tossed the fork into the bushes. Scrambling quickly back to the woodpile he began, clumsily, to split wood into smaller and smaller pieces.

Julie, from her post in the bedroom, strained to hear the kidnappers. Some kind of argument was taking place, but in whispers. They had tried to use the phone, but it hadn't worked. Oh! It was frustrating trying to hear them! She caught something about "Rendez-vous point B", and then, "move them after dark." She slipped into the

kitchen just as Blue-Eyes banged the phone down on the table, swearing. Both men jerked as they realized she had come in. "What do you think you're doing? Snooping?" asked Baldy.

"I just wondered if I should help carry in the kindling," Julie replied meekly. Blue-Eyes wordlessly pointed to the door. As soon as she stepped outside she heard the men's urgent, whispered discussion resume. She rushed toward Marc and stooped to pick up sticks of kindling. "Something's wrong in there!" she told him in a low tone. "Their phone is dead. They can't call the boss. They're freaked out and talking about moving us someplace after dark. They called it 'Rendez-vous point B'!"

"We need to do something quick, then," answered Marc, "before they find out I gave them a flat tire!" Julie looked up at him and grinned.

"When we go back inside," she told him, "take a good look around for anything that looks useful. Get any fly spray for sure. You'll have to grab things and run."

"Why run?" asked Marc, as he placed more kindling in Julie's arms.

"Things are going to get exciting. I'll see to that. Be ready." She looked around. "We'll go that way," she said, nodding toward the van, "Back down the road where the trees are thick."

As Julie turned toward the cabin, the door opened. Baldy stood there, scowling. Julie edged in past him with the kindling. Blue-Eyes was moodily drumming his fingers on the table. He looked up as Marc entered with the rest of the wood.

"Slow enough at THAT job, eh? See if you can be faster at cooking. Get over there with the girl

and make us something to eat."

The cousins looked over the rows of supplies, selecting canned potatoes, ham and baked beans. Marc busied himself with the can-opener and pots. Julie filled the woodstove with birchbark, kindling, and wood. She lit it, then turned to fill the coffeepot at the pump. Marc caught her eye. He had something hidden in his hand. Chocolate bars. He winked, and slipped them into his pocket. Marc crossed to the table and began setting out plates. Baldy and Blue-Eyes sat silent, each reading a section of an old yellowed Sudbury Star. Julie was very busy beside the stove as ham began to sizzle in the pan.


Keeping one eye on the kidnappers, she pulled a cardboard box full of kindling toward her. She took a tin can from the counter, filled with congealed bacon fat from breakfast. Her fingers scooped out gobs of fat and dropped them into the box. Kneeling beside the stove, she rattled the damper as though adjusting it. Swiftly she pulled her wads of toilet paper from their hiding places and tucked them in the box among the greasy sticks. Wiping her hands on the last bit of paper, she glanced over her shoulder. Good. Get some birchbark off the larger chunks of firewood. Pause to clink a spoon in a pot, look like a cook. Drop the birchbark into the box. She stood up, nudging the box behind the stove with her foot.

As Julie made her preparations, the men were visibly relaxing. The smell of the food was occupying their attention. Marc hovered, glancing from table to counter to windowsill, searching for the most useful items. What should he grab? How much time did he have?

No time. Julie dropped a burning strip of birchbark behind the stove. It fell on her box of fuel and within seconds, flames began to lick up behind the stove. Smoke rolled up in clouds.

"Fire!" screamed Julie, as loud as she could!

...TO BE CONTINUED

Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board 

invites you to attend the

DINNER/DANCE

IN HONOUR OF 25-YEAR CLUB MEMBERS AND RETIREES

to be held at the **Marconi Club**
450 Albert Street West

Saturday, November 6, 2004

Cocktails 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Presentations, Entertainment and Social to follow
Tickets \$25.00 per person

For tickets and/or information contact
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945-5610

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