

FREE
Take one

Sitting short in the saddle. A chilly day did not cast a cold blanket on Rotary Park Family Day activities. More pictures on page 24.



ROYAL LEPAGE

WHITECOURT
Advisor

MARCH 2006 — VOL. 4 NO. 3 — CIRCULATION 5,250

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Conflict resolution ideas

By Dan Parker

The excessively confrontational political atmosphere in town remains serious. Town administration morale has been described by one highly placed source as having gone from one of enthusiasm to a feeling that they are “doing time”. Un-

professional behaviour at Town Council meetings is leading to a more restrictive policy for observers.

On the other side of the coin, representatives from Whitecourt Woodlands Action Committee had their

(Cont. page 5)



Recreation Booms in the 1950's and 60's



The amenities Whitecourt could offer were significantly improved during the area's original oil boom.

Terry Meunier arrived as a bride in 1957. She recalls being near despair several times. She had no washer or dryer, nor for that matter even a clothesline. There was also no water or power

(Cont. page 4)

This Month

Recreation Booms

50's & 60's history.....p. 1

Media Bias

Another look at the effects of mainstream media bias on democracy. The new Conservative government is the target this time.....p. 2

March Events

This and that of happenings and events in town.....p. 21

Heritage Park Additions

Our history showcase continues to take shape.....p. 31

And the usual bad jokes, Kid's Page, Recipes etc.



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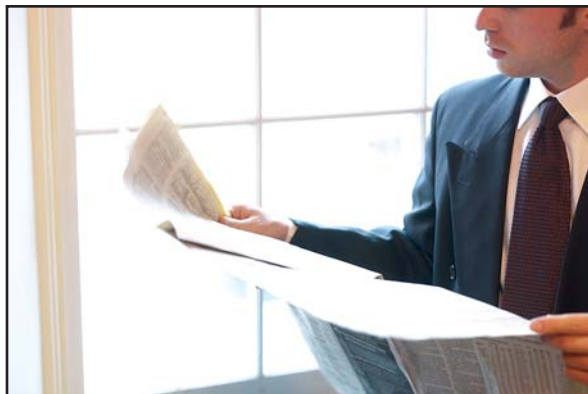
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Mainstream media spin on Conservatives

One of the earlier pronouncements of CanWest media on the new Conservative government is instructive for those interested in mainstream media bias. The owners of CanWest, the Asper family, have been multi-generational staunch backers of the Liberal Party. The overall editorial direction that has emerged from the ownership can be described as masterful in its multilayered approach to misrepresentation of conservative issues. Straightforward and earnest politicians such as Stockwell Day were quickly ensnared within the saccharine web spun by the organization. Whether Ste-

phen Harper will fare better, without severely compromising his conservative ideals, remains to be seen.



Of course, no media, including this one, is free from bias. (See January and February 2005 issues of the Whitecourt Advisor online at www.WhitecourtWeb.com for a two part feature story on mass media manipulation). However, it is the line

that separates bias from inaccuracy that is of concern here. The politics page in the February 11, 2006 Edmonton Journal, summing up the Conservative's cabinet choices, provides a good example of the tactics that can be employed by CanWest.

The main story on the page in question is headlined 'Harper's choices seen as "bad sign"' with a subtitle in block capitals of "New Players on the Hill Still Using the Same Old Book". The two blurbs bracket a large, and one can be sure, carefully selected photo of Harper. In the

(Continued on page 12)



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Every time the man next door headed toward Robinson's house, Robinson knew he was coming to borrow something or other.

"He won't get away with it this time," muttered Robinson to his wife. "Watch this."

"Er, I wonder if you'd be using your power-saw this morning," the neighbor began.

"Gee, I'm awfully sorry," said Robinson with a smug look, "but the fact of the matter is, it looks like I'll be using it all day."

"In that case," said the neighbor, "you won't be using your golf clubs, mind if I borrow them?"

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Expressway to Heaven

St. Peter is very busy in Heaven, so he leaves a sign by the Pearly Gates: "For Service Ring Bell." Away he goes; he barely gets started when BING! the bell rings. He rushes back to the gates, but no one's there. Twice more this happens!

"Okay, that's it," St. Peter says. "I'm going to hide and watch to see what's going on." So St. Peter hides, and a moment later, a little old man walks up and rings the bell.

St. Peter jumps out and yells, "Aha! Are you the guy who keeps ringing the bell?"

"Yes, that's me," the little old man says.

"Well, why do you keep ringing the bell and going away?" St. Peter asks.

"They keep resuscitating me," he replies.

Dear Tony

I have been unable to sleep since I broke off your engagement to my daughter. Will you forgive and forget?

I was much too sensitive about your mohawk, tattoo and pierced nose. I really should not have reacted that way to the fact that you have never held a job.

Sure my daughter is only 18 and wants to marry you instead of going to Harvard on full scholarship. After all, you can't learn everything about life from books.

I sometimes forget how backward I can be. I was wrong. I was a fool. I have now come to my senses, and you have my full blessing to marry my daughter.

Sincerely, Your future father-in-law

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Unplugged 2

A man and his wife were sitting in the livingroom and he said to her, "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all of his beer.



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(Continued from page 1)

hookups, and still only one public telephone away downtown. She and her husband Leonard were living on top of the hill in a trailer "in the bush" which left her feeling isolated from the community. It was quite an experience for a newlywed who grew up with the conveniences of late 50's city life.

" Alberta Government Telephones provided telephone service to most houses in town during 1964."

However Terry soon discovered the "pioneer spirit" and rolled up her sleeves and got to work. The couple made a good life for their family in the area. Terry became so used

to the country, she enjoyed a later move out to an acreage, albeit one with all the modern facilities.

In 1960 the water and sewer plans were going full steam ahead. New lots were being serviced daily. After New Town status and the incorporation of the hilltop into the town proper, services were quickly extended to that area as well.

In September, 1964, Northwestern Utilities opened natural gas facilities for the residents of Whitecourt. Mrs.

(Continued on page 18)

Words to live by

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

A snooze button is a poor substitute for no alarm clock at all.



March is epilepsy month

(NC)-For the third year, the Lavender - Think Epilepsy campaign features the lavender ribbon and the lavender flower nationally as symbols to identify with the cause and the disease.

"The lavender flower is traditionally associated with solitude and this seems fitting, as often isolation is one of the primary difficulties facing people with epilepsy, and seizure disorders", explained Executive Director of Epilepsy Canada Denise Crépin.

- News Canada



Back row left to right, Walter Warchalo, Allan Wood, Glen Reed, Soupie, Joe Cymbala, Eddie Reed, Stan Wood. Front row left to right, clarence (Scottie) wagner, Gordon Brown, Harry Johnson, Nick Nykolyszyn, Percy Baxter, Floyd Restad batboy.

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Proper barter planning yields better management control

By Stephen E. Webster

(NC)-If you are considering incorporating barter into your business, you will want to have a plan for not only spending your trade dollars, but budgeting for barter revenues as well.

Barter allows you the flexibility to purchase goods and services you need without using cash. Most modern trade exchanges are quite sensitive to the everyday needs of businesses like yours, and they are always looking to offer several vendors in each expense category to respond to ongoing member needs.

Should you require something unique to your business, or an item not typically offered by the exchange, your trade broker will reach outside the current trade membership to locate a highly desirable vendor eager to strike a deal. With the advent of the internet and interagency networking, a local exchange has the capability of conducting a national and even international search for just the right product and vendor.

Establishing Your Barter Budget

Understanding the nature of your business as well as how and where you would spend your barter dollars is critical for setting your barter goals and establishing a barter budget you can live with. Here are some guidelines:

- Typically, a business should allocate about 5 percent of its annual gross revenues to barter.
- The type of business you operate may also play into how much barter you can process in a year.
- Involve your accountant to ensure that barter is truly integrated into your overall annual business plan.
- If at any point in time, you feel that your expenses have not kept pace with revenues, you have the option to slow down and even stop all trading activity temporarily until sales pick-up. How much or how little you trade is always up to you.

More information on barter is available online at alliance-barter.com, or at 1-888-202-5689.

Stephen E.. Webster is past president of the International Reciprocal Trade Association (IRTA) and is presently chairman of the Certification committee - *News Canada*

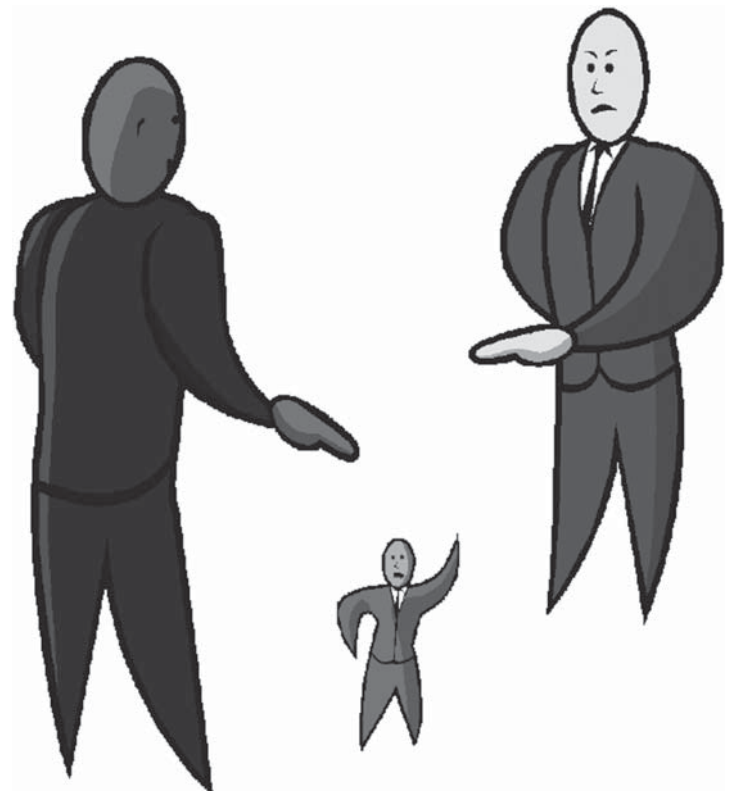
(Continued from page 1)

right to make a duly scheduled presentation to Woodlands County threatened. A cartoon in the weekly paper depicted the rapidly escalating costs of the multi-use project as being the result of delays, which are generally held to be created by those opposing the current location and scope of the project. However, the reality is that a good chunk of the cost increases came from errors made in assessing the state of the current pool.

As always, perceptual differences can lead to an escalation in the differences of opinion. Any student of history can appreciate the levels such dynamics can reach.

In the charged atmosphere, even organizations, which by all accounts should remain neutral in the dispute, have been politicized. This has the effect of dragging those into the fray who would prefer to look at both sides, while staying relative-

(Continued on page 6)



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(Continued from page 5)
ly uninvolved.

One bright spot on the horizon would seem to be Council agreement in contracting with highly respected municipal consultant George Cuff. A corporate review by someone of this stature would provide an objective and valuable perspective regarding both sides of the current debate. The long term effects of the review might depend in part on an informed and active citizenry making sure any serious shortcomings highlighted became a priority for candidates for office.

A potential second bright spot is a proffered donation of 35 acres by Jim Rennie Sr., the better to bring the sides together in regards to a possible agreed on location.

Engineering and other considerations would need to be explored as to the feasibility of this generous offer.

The importance to the political process of creating a healthy atmosphere can not be overstated. In a Leger poll announced on February 27, 2004, in the Toronto Star, Canadians and Americans ranked firemen the most trustworthy with a trust level of 99%. The second highest level of trust, at 97%, was in nurses. The third level, at 91%, was in physicians, and the fourth level, 89%, was in farmers. Used car dealers,

at 19%, were deemed more trustworthy than politicians at 14%. The opinions are somewhat unfair, given the harsh spotlight shone on even

minor political incidents. Still, the Leger poll results are very troubling in a society that has succeeded so well because of its democratic institutions.

Perhaps the best place to start examining reasons for a breakdown in trust and respect in leaders is at the

local level. Here we can meet our politicians and see that they are essentially everyday citizens who have volunteered to do a difficult job that needs doing. The usual motivation is a desire to better the community. The pay is low for what is often a thankless task. It is also easy for a critic to run for the job themselves if they think they can do better.

In any case, whatever the organization, those most hurt by a dysfunctional atmosphere are those the organization is supposed to serve. The immediate reaction for many

(Continued on page 28)

“ A bright spot on the horizon would seem to be Council agreement in contracting with highly respected municipal consultant George Cuff. ”



Immunization?

The classic experiment in Intergroup Conflict and Cooperation: The Robbers Cave Experiment (Muzafer Sherif, et al.; 1954; full text at <http://psychclassics.yorku.ca/Sherif/>).

In 1949, Sherif divided 22 boys into two groups and took them to a 200-acre camp surrounded by Oklahoma's Robbers Cave State Park. The groups were set up in competition with one another and soon resorted to fighting and negatively stereotyping each other.

Hating an 'out-group' seems to make it easier for an 'in-group' to function together. Moreover inciting hatred can be beneficial to leaders. - *Internet*

Whoops

Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who just couldn't control himself during a lineup.

When detectives asked each man in the lineup to repeat the words, "Give me all your money or I'll shoot", the man shouted, "That's not what I said!"

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Where Angels Fear to Tread

A man appeared before St. Peter at the pearly gates.

"Have you ever done anything of particular merit?" St.Peter asked.

"Well, I can think of one thing," the man offered. "Once, on a trip to the Black Hills of South Dakota, I came upon a gang of bikers who were threatening a young woman. I directed them to leave her alone, but they wouldn't listen.

"So, I approached the largest and most heavily tattooed biker and smacked him on the head, kicked his bike over, ripped out his nose ring and threw it on the ground. I yelled, 'Now back off, biker boy, or you'll answer to me!'"

St.Peter was impressed. "When did this happen?" he asked.

"Just a couple of minutes ago," the man replied.



Anita Krewusik and Hannah Jones clown around the Midtown Mall with some fancy headwear. On a more sombre note, the event is a close-out sale for a downtown store, one of a few in the last month.

Famous Sport Quotes

Pat Williams, Orlando Magic general manager, on his team's 7-27 record: "We can't win at home. We can't win on the road. As general manager, I just can't figure out where else to play." (1992)

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Illegally Blond

A blonde walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. She says she's going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce. The car is parked on the street in front of the bank, she has the title and everything checks out. The bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan.

The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the blonde for using a \$250,000 Rolls as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then proceeds to drive the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the blonde returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The blond replies....."Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

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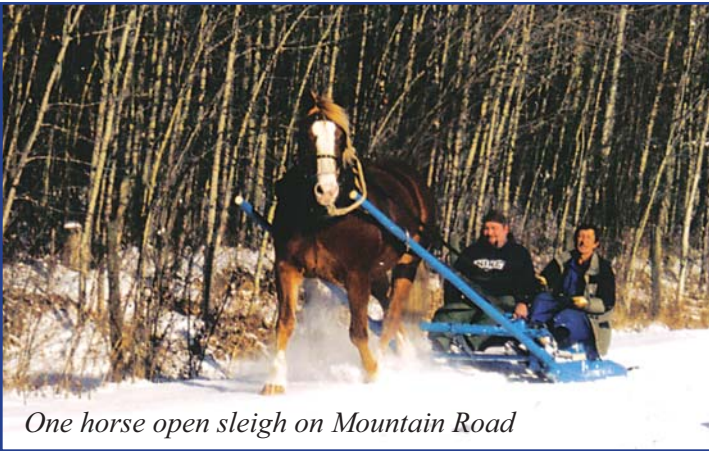
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Downtown Plan

International housing expert Avi Friedman and a team of seven housing students from McGill University are contributing to revitalizing Drayton Valley's downtown.

The idea for the group is to make the downtown more friendly and accessible. It is hoped that attractions can turn the area into a meeting place.

Drayton Valley faces many of the same challenges as Whitecourt since both towns recently had big box shopping arrive outside of their downtown cores. It is possible there will be some benchmarking opportunities from the Drayton Valley work

To date, MLA George Vanderburg and the Rotary Club of Whitecourt have both expressed interest in extending Main Street through Rotary Park



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Healing the Family Heart: Time-out sucks away your child's emotional security

By Bryan Post

(NC)-One of the most commonly used parenting techniques in current day use throughout schools, homes, and day cares is "time-out". "Time-out" is based primarily on a way of thinking that implies children act out for attention. Therefore, if a child is acting out 'for' attention, you don't want to reward the child but rather give the child 'time-out' to think about their negative behaviors, thereby making better decisions next time.

Considering that educators and professionals are still teaching and writing about this technique as though it were a 'new' alternative behavior discipline method. Let's ask the question: What makes "time-out" any different than standing with your nose in the corner, sitting on the dunce chair, being sent to your room, or having to sit in the naughty chair?

Can someone please tell me the difference?

Bishop T.D. Jakes says, "If you always do what you've always done, you will always be where you've already been!"

If the dunce chair or standing with your nose in the corner didn't work when we were children then why do we think by dressing it up as something seemingly more contemporary, that it is going to work now? Many of you may be saying, "but it does work. All I have to do is start counting to three and my child stops their behavior to avoid time out" or maybe you're saying, "if it's good enough for Super Nanny, it's good enough for me." Have you seen the new King Kong flick? Well, to a two-year old, an adult looks something like Kong did to the blonde, an utter giant. Wouldn't you sit in a chair for two or three minutes if King Kong told you to do so? Wouldn't you stop your behavior if you knew that if you continued you would lose the loving support of your most

secure attachment figure? Help me understand how it makes sense to send a child whose behavior is clearly communicating that they are unable to manage their current emotional state, to go sit by themselves to sort through their upset emotions, alone.

"Time-out" does not recognize the developmental and regulatory struggles a child is demonstrating in the midst of their behavior acting out. Consider for a moment, that rather than a child acting out 'for' attention, he is in fact acting out

because he 'needs' attention. Read that sentence again. It can make all of the difference.

Instead of sending the child off to sit in a chair or be isolated, bring the child into you for a period of time. Have him sit next to you, hold your hand, stand beside you. Say to the child, "When you are feeling better you may go back and play." In other words, allow the child to determine how much time-in that he needs. Important point: It is not imperative that you touch the child during this time. A child that does not want to be touched, or reacts violently, should not be touched. In that moment the child is in survival mode and feels very threatened. Keep your distance, but indicate to the child that



you are nearby and will stay so, until the child feels safer.

"Time-in" can be a very effective alternative to "time-out". "Time-in" teaches compassion, regulation, the ability to create internal calm in the midst of stress, and understanding. Before providing "Time-In" for your child, give some to yourself. Take a moment, find a quiet corner, take four deep breaths, and find your calm, peaceful self. Now you are ready to help calm your child.

-B. Bryan Post, PhD, LCSW is the co-founder of Beyond Consequences Institute www.beyondconsequences.com. - News Canada

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Stalking victims to gain better protection with new legislation

Vulnerable Albertans also recognized under proposed amendments

Edmonton... The Protection Against Family Violence Amendment Act (PAFVA) was introduced today in the Legislature. This proposed legislation will better protect stalking victims and vulnerable family members, such as seniors and individuals with disabilities.

"Family violence tears apart families and communities throughout our province, and we're committed to ending this devastating cycle of abuse," said Children's Services Minister Heather Forsyth. "The changes we are bringing forward will make us more responsive to this issue and will protect even more people plagued by family violence."

If passed, the proposed changes will add stalking to the definition of "family violence." This will help protect those who have left violent relationships. Alberta is only the second jurisdiction in Canada to make this provision.

These amendments will also provide a more comprehensive explanation of family violence. This will give frontline case workers, police and judges an increased understanding of the dynamics of family violence and help them make more informed decisions about Emergency Protection Orders. Under the proposed legislation, these orders can be granted even if the offenders say they did not mean to hurt anyone.

The amendments also protect vulnerable people who are being abused by a family member who does not live with them.

"Albertans have told us we need to think outside the box when understanding who can be a victim of family violence," said Mary Anne Jablonski, MLA for Red Deer - North, who introduced the bill in the Alberta Legislature on February 23. "This legislation is a response to a disorder within our society that must be healed."

The amended act also proposes that children who need counselling should only need the consent of one guardian. This will ensure that an abusive parent does not need to be consulted about whether the child receives counselling.

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(Continued from page 2)

image chosen, the new prime minister is not looking at the camera and has a tight half smile on his face.

The first paragraph of the story is as follows: "A 63-year-old white man is responsible for the status of women, an anglo Albertan looks after the French at home and abroad, a Liberal floor-crosser must solve the softwood lumber dispute, but cannot have dealings with the country's largest forestry firm and a Manitoban convicted under the provincial elections act is the minister of law and order in Primer (sic) Minister Stephen Harper's Canada." The next paragraph reiterates the Senate appointment of Quebec loyalist, Michael Fortier. In total there are five appointments questioned.

The piece goes on to intersperse comments by the main Conservative dissident to emerge, Ontario MP Garth Turner, with self-critical statements made by other Conservatives endeavouring to be straightforward. A routine, and groundless, complaint laid by the NDP to the Ethics Commissioner is given play. Throughout the

story there is the usual sprinkling of small points given in the target's favour, the better to give the appearance of neutrality. Journalist Allan Woods writes that the appointments "left many party faithful shaking their heads in lament of their weekus horribilis", the better to highlight the apparent seriousness of the issue.

The choices as related in the opening paragraph of the story do indeed seem to be a 'bad sign'. However, later on there is a recap of the survey wherein the 'bad sign' option was suggested. It turns out that three of the four names in the opening paragraph were not even a part of the survey. As will be seen, there is a good reason for this. However, by having all the names immediately follow the 'bad sign' headline, the illusion is created that all are seen as bad choices by the survey respondents.

Also, it was only a minority of Canadians who saw

the two appointments actually cited on the survey as a 'bad sign'. As stated, the deception, subconscious or otherwise, is multilayered. A more accurate headline would have read "Most Canadians do not see Harper's choices as bad sign". Then, an appropriate first paragraph following the headline would not have high-lighted three people who were not even mentioned in the survey.

"A more accurate headline would have read 'Most Canadians do not see Harper's choices as bad sign'."

The third layer of misrepresentation concerns the three people who were not mentioned in the 'bad sign' survey. Jim Abbot, a veteran British Columbia MP is the "63-year-old white man" who is given as "responsible for the status of women". This is not accurate. Beverly J. Oda was chosen as minister of Canadian Heritage and Status of Women. She is the one truly responsible for the portfolio and is nowhere mentioned in the story. Fancy titles aside, Jim Abbot is Oda's assistant.

A subtext to the Abbot's deceptive job description is

the label that is hung on him. It is worth pointing out that in inferring Jim Abbot is inadequate for the job because he is a 63-year-old white man, the journalist has managed to be sexist, racist and ageist in five short words, all in the name of ending discrimination. Was it in 1984 that such doublethink became so commonplace as to be unremarkable?

Given that labels are still an issue, no small thanks to a mass media that constantly harps on the differences between people, one could keep in mind that Beverly Oda is the first Japanese Canadian, man or woman, ever elected to Parliament. Harper has gone above and beyond the demands for diversity in his cabinet, by giving her a cabinet position. Yet by hiding Oda and putting the spotlight on Abbot, the story suggests Harper has done the exact opposite of what really took place in regards to this position.

Such a tactic has been described as 'the capacity to astonish' by American author Kurt Vonnegut. How it works is that rather than downplay
(Continued on page 13)

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(Continued from page 12)

or ignore something good that an opponent has done, the practitioner of this technique will suggest they have done the exact opposite. Most readers cannot imagine doing such a thing themselves, and so tend to believe the false impression created.

To get back to the story, the “anglo Albertan” who ostensibly “looks after the French at home and abroad” is Ted Menzies. Further into to story we are informed Menzies is parliamentary secretary for La Francophone and Official Languages. It is not mentioned that this is but a small part of the portfolio Menzies works on. The full title of the portfolio in question is International Co-operation Minister. So yes, the minister does look after the French abroad, along with every other nationality. And no, Menzies is not the minister, or the person who can be honestly said to look after the portfolio. That is Quebec MP Josee Verner, who again is not mentioned in the story.

In each case the backgrounds of the ministers, Verner and Oda, are very different from that of their assis-

tants, Abbot and Menzies. In other words, Harper has done a masterful job of matching up people from diverse backgrounds, the better to have diverging perspectives that can see all sides of an issue. At the same time, the person in charge is about as politically correct as can be. The Edmonton Journal story misses the diversity angle, and then grossly misrepresents the politically correct aspect by suggesting the assistants are the ones in charge.

It might be worthwhile to recap how this tangled web was woven, as mass media awareness is not the easiest of subjects. This is partially because our formal education system is only now twigging to the importance of the issue in a country that wishes to be democratic. In the case of Menzies and Abbot: they are described immediately following a headline that it turns out was not related to them; the headline itself was mis-

leading in that the majority of Canadians thought different than the ‘bad sign’ viewpoint; and it was inferred that both men were responsible or looking after portfolios, when such is not the case. Further to this, the men were discriminated against due to their backgrounds and ethnic makeup, in the name of ending discrimination.

“*The Edmonton Journal story misses the diversity angle, and then grossly misrepresents the politically correct aspect by suggesting the assistants are the ones in charge.*”

The next person mentioned in the first paragraph actually was a subject of the ‘bad sign’ survey in question. The “floor-crosser [who] must solve the softwood lumber dispute, but cannot have dealings with the country’s largest forestry firm” is erstwhile Liberal David Emerson. Forestry is but one small part of the portfolio of the person responsible for the Ministry of Industry, which in this case actually is David Emerson.

What is not mentioned is that anyone with the experience necessary to be Minister of Industry is going

to have some conflict with some company in regards to some industry in the country. The only alternative is to hire someone who has never held a responsible position in Canadian industry. That silliness aside, it is actually a good thing that Emerson’s area of expertise happens to be forestry. This is an area of great importance in the portfolio at this time of course. Where Emerson’s knowledge will be needed is not in dealing with a certain Canadian forestry company. Anyone with least bit of knowledge of the software lumber dispute would know that the primary sticking point is getting the American opposition to adhere to the international trade rulings on the software lumber matter.

If there were to be a change in Canadian forestry policy, it is telling that the paper would suggest that it is a drawback not to be able to deal with one individual company in making such policy. To follow the procedure apparently advocated by the story is an avenue to blatant conflicts of interest. Whether the industry be forestry, mining or mushroom

(Continued on page 14)



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(Continued from page 13)

picking, the relevant industry association is the proper body for any minister to liaise with in setting policy. The routine matters that would involve any one particular company are precisely those that should be handled by junior staff, the better to keep an arm's length distance from the chief policy maker.

To comment briefly on the other two appointments mentioned in the article, Michael Fortier's Senate appointment is a pragmatic, rather than principled, move in the view of this author. The likely goal is to use Fortier's high profile in Quebec to further heal the outrage of that province caused by the Liberal sponsorship scandal.

As for new Justice Minister Vic Toew's conviction for spending beyond the limits for an election, he claimed it was a result of miscommunication between his office and party headquarters as to how costs would be accounted. He did not contest the charges and pleaded guilty. Although this writer strongly opposes some of Toew's views, it is reasonable to assume that the spending is-

sue was an oversight. Toews was a veteran politician who knew the amount would be subject to audit and who had also won election previously by staying within the campaign spending limit.

This writer believes in progressive cause, such as a negative income tax to create a guaranteed income, equal individual rights for all and an end to the senseless and criminal generating activity of marijuana prohibition (while using the freed resources to more effectively combat hard drugs and other crime). In attempting to run such an extreme double standard, CanWest is both discrediting some progressive causes in an age where the Internet does an end run around any such shenanigans, and in the process smearing many decent and hardworking Conservatives. In the experience of this writer, the most well thought out progressive policy proposals are more likely to come from what has been

termed the 'right wing' than from what has been termed the 'left wing'.

For example, the mainstream media will not emphasize, nor even mention, that the primary proponent of the negative income tax is 'right winger' Milton Friedman, with a group of former Reaganites among those leading the charge to bring this concept to fruition. The negative income tax would greatly alleviate poverty, but then it would downsize the huge government bureaucracies that have been set up to control the poor.

It is worth pointing out that a certain level of destitution is guaranteed by our current money system wherein 95% of money is created as debt, with compound interest payments due on that debt. The money to pay the compound interest is not created as fast as the payments become due, leaving a perpetual shortage of enough money for all to meet their

basic needs. Given the choice between actually helping the poor and keeping them enslaved to growing government bureaucracies, the powers that be have so far opted for the latter.

To change this situation, the progressives on each side of the largely artificial political divide between left and right must join together to bring economic and monetary systems into the 21st century. Much like the emphasis on the different ethnicities by mainstream media, the false dichotomy between right and left is promoted with a view to dividing and conquering people. The good news is that less and less Canadians trust the mainstream media. Even better news is that it is younger Canadians who trust it least. §

“Progressives on each side of the largely artificial political divide between left and right must join together to bring economic and monetary systems into the 21st century.”

Not Helpful

Harry and Esther are out shopping one morning when Esther says, “Darling, it's my mother's birthday tomorrow. What shall we buy for her? She said she would like something electric.”

Harry replies, “How about a chair?”

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Many of today's homeowners think of a pool or hot tub as an essential upgrade to their home. A pool or hot tub adds value to your home by extending your living space to the backyard, where you can spend quality time with your family. It creates an attractive setting for relaxation, entertainment, fun and exercise.

Homeowners with a pool or hot tub already know that a well-landscaped yard incorporating a pool or hot tub always attracts potential homebuyers. It builds on the appeal of the house as a place to live and raise a family, as opposed to just a place of residence.

More and more Canadians have also been looking to bring the cottage lifestyle into their backyard. As a result, many more homebuyers are interested in, and attracted to homes that have a pool or hot tub already installed. A well-landscaped yard with a pool or hot tub brings all the benefits of a relaxing cottage retreat with none of the drawbacks, creating a home away from home.

So, when thinking about doing some home renovations, remember that your yard is just as much a part of your home as the building is. A handsome washroom is nice, but when you want to relax and spend time with your family, nothing beats sitting poolside in your own backyard.

For more information on swimming pools and hot tubs, contact the Pool & Hot Tub Council of Canada at 1-800-879-7066, or visit www.poolcouncil.ca.

Another Day in Heaven

40 Liberals went to heaven and were standing outside the pearly gates. One marched up front and said to Peter "Can we come in?"

Oh no thought Peter we only have 12 places for Liberals, and only those because of affirmative action. I'll go and check.

So he told God and He said just tell them that we only have the 12 places and the rest will have to elsewhere.

Peter informs the elected officials of the dilemma and says he will come back in ten minutes when they have decided who will get in.

Fifteen minutes later Peter goes back to God and says "Well they're gone"

God - "What the Liberals"

Peter - "No the pearly gates"



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More deconstructing mainstream

On February 19, 2006, the Edmonton Journal offered its opinion on the new environment minister's plan to only proceed with those aspects of the Kyoto accord that improve air quality for Canadians. Following the opening sentence, the lead Journal editorial opined: "Perhaps this means Stockwell Day, Harper's minister of public safety, will soon announce he'll

“ Given the Stockwell Day example, it would not be out of line to comment that the Journal editorial is suggesting Ambrose’s potential policy is incredibly ill-informed. ”

The final paragraph of the editorial snidely remarks "But it would be helpful if Ambrose told us:

Q. What air quality has to do with greenhouse gases?

A. The answer here is that, as the Journal itself states, Ambrose is suggesting no such thing. As plainly stated, she is advocating adopting some of the policy for emissions reduc-

only preserve those aspects of the gun registry that improve the flavour of beefsteak tomatoes". Given the Stockwell Day example, it would not be out of line to comment that the Journal editorial is suggesting Ambrose's potential policy is incredibly ill-informed.

Just to make sure we have got the message about how idiotic the potential policy is, the Journal asks four rhetorical questions that are an attempt to heap more ridicule on Ambrose. In the interests of fairness, the Whitecourt Advisor will answer these questions.

In so doing, it will be shown that the Journal is accusing Ambrose of that which the paper is guilty of.

tions, not that green gases and air pollution are the same thing. Someone with a very basic knowledge of such matters would know that reducing some of the emissions would naturally reduce what is known as particulate matter, which indeed affects air quality. A U.S. Senate committee is not citing an ob-



scure fact about some of the Kyoto policies when it writes: "There are also ancillary benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions -- in particular, the corresponding reductions in conventional air pollutants like sulfur dioxide and fine particulate matter." This

concept is widely discussed and acknowledged as obvious by serious pro-Kyoto and anti-Kyoto forces alike.

stream media mind management

The editorialist is ignorant of them, and compensates by suggesting Ambrose is silly, simply because she knows the basic facts concerning her portfolio.

Q. How the government plans to keep the domestic air she's going to worry about from leaving the country?

A. By inference, the editorialist, in suggesting that Ambrose's policy is moot because the air will leave the country, fails to take into account the health benefits of breathing clean air, before the air circulates out of Canada. To follow the above question to its logical conclusion, one would surmise that it matters not how dirty the air is, because it is leaving the country anyways. Again, this is extremely basic stuff Ambrose is talking about; and which the Journal editorial seemingly cannot catch on to. The editorialist then concludes that it is Ambrose and not herself, which is uninformed.

Q. How it will convince foreign nations such as China and India to improve their air before it heads over here to become

part of her mandate.

A. First, China and India have refused to sign the Kyoto accord; period. It would be better to ask why Canada would implement Kyoto, when greenhouse gases truly do not matter in regards to distance from the source. For particulate matter, or the air quality Ambrose is concerned about, distance is indeed a factor. The Journal editorial writer might try standing downwind five feet from a smoky fire and then downwind from the smoky fire a few houses or blocks away. Repeat as necessary until the difference can be realized.

Q. Whether her policy means the government doesn't believe human contributions to global warming are a problem.

A. At last a question that has the semblance of some rationality. If the Journal deigned to actually publish all relevant research findings on the matter, it would know Kyoto opponents and proponents alike are aware human activity can raise earth temperatures; albeit insignificantly



“The editorialist is ignorant of them, and compensates by suggesting Ambrose is silly, simply because she knows the basic facts concerning her portfolio.”

(Continued on page 27)

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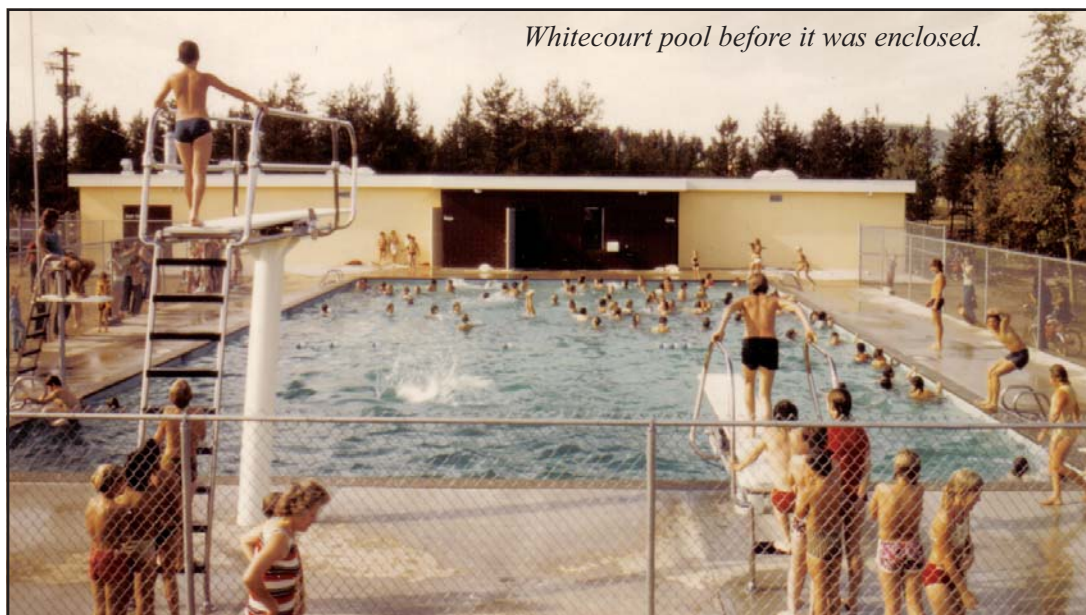
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Whitecourt pool before it was enclosed.

(Continued from page 4)

Anna Olson, Whitecourt's oldest resident at that time, turned on the gas to light the giant flare at the official opening.

Alberta Government Telephones (AGT) provided telephone service to most houses in town during 1964. One advantage of being late in receiving this service was that residents of Whitecourt were among the first to have the modern long distance "direct-dial" service. The telephone switchboard operator period was bypassed through the new method.

The improvement and

paving of the highway meant that many more cars came to town. This in turn led to the rapid development of gas

“When it left the next day there was little fanfare compared to the reception given the first train to pull into town forty years earlier.”

stations and service outlets. With the proliferation of cars came the death of passenger railway service. In 1961 the C.N.R. decided that this

was no longer feasible for Whitecourt. The last passenger train came in on April 27, 1961. When it left the next day there was little fanfare compared to the reception given the first train to pull into town forty years earlier.

To recap, Whitecourt, like most of the North American west, had its genesis in a railway line. Frank Selleck drove in the first squatter's stakes in 1904 while surveying for a railroad. Early settlers such as Alex McDougall, Frank Chaisson and Ernest Hinkleman, came because they surmised Whitecourt was the logical spot for a railway

(Continued on page 19)

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(Continued from page 18)
divisional point. Many other early settlers arrived for this reason also. However, it was fifteen long years before Dan Powers finally drove the first train into Whitecourt in 1921. Unfortunately, the town lost the old railway station, which would have been a great heritage building to preserve.

After 1961, Freight trains continued with the line extended to Windfall in 1962. In the late 60's and with the building of the Kaybob plant near Fox Creek, the spur line was extended there to accommodate more sulfur shipments.

The Legion made renovations on their hall in the late 50's at a cost of \$6,000. The improvements included water and sewer services as well as a kitchen. Their major

project during this time was to build up the ball diamond on the Recreation Grounds. A description in a 1958 Edmonton Journal article about Whitecourt says: "The Legion recently completed a new baseball diamond and grounds on a thirteen acre plot. There are few baseball diamonds in much larger centres as smartly laid out as the one established here. The ball park is completely fenced in and the fence painted a smart green. The diamond is well above average and there are also new and painted bleachers, dug-outs and other requisites of ball parks."

The Legion continued to show movies in their Hall on a contract basis. In 1957 Larry Carroll had the movie "franchise" with the Legion.

(Continued on page 20)

“The diamond is well above average and there are also new and painted bleachers, dug-outs and other requisites of ball parks.”



Curling Team 1963, Bonnie Zutz - Lead, Linda Hill - 3rd, Beverly Pederson - Skip, Thelma Hoey - 2nd.

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If Men Ruled the World

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Nodding and looking at your watch would be deemed an acceptable response to "I love you."

Hallmark would make "Sorry, what was your name again?" cards.

If your girlfriend really needed to talk to you during the game, she'd appear in a little box in the corner of the screen during a time-out.

Breaking up would be a lot easier. A playful tap on the behind, and a "Nice hustle, you'll get 'em next time" would pretty much do it.

Birth control would come in ale or lager.

You'd be expected to fill your resume with gag names of people you'd worked for, like "Heywood J'getlost."

Each year, your raise would be pegged to the fortunes of the NHL team of your choice.

The funniest guy in the office would get to be CEO.

"Sorry I'm late, but I got really wasted last night" would be an acceptable excuse for tardiness.

At the end of the workday, a whistle would blow and you'd jump out your window and slide down the tail of a brontosaurus and right into your car like Fred Flintstone.

Tanks would be far easier to rent.

Garbage would take itself out.

Instead of beer belly, you'd get "beer biceps."

(Continued from page 19)

Larry brought in plush seats from his old theatre in Gleichen and from then on movies were seen in comfort. Reg Heward operated the projector for Larry.

The Curling Club continued to be very active through the fifties. Joff Hill relates: "Then in 1959 it was decided to install artificial ice and so on June 25, the Whitecourt Recreational Co-op Association was formed and chartered. Ed Zutz was President, J. Volk volunteered for Secretary while Billy Olson, Ted Hubner and R. Reeves were committee members. Shares were sold for \$100 each to assist in purchasing the ice plant, matched rocks and other necessities for the

project. The present building was then raised approximately four feet so that the third sheet could be added and in order to give more head room. Lumber was donated for this and for a new fence around the skating rink by all of the local lumber mills. All members took part in nailing on the new additions. We had our grand opening that fall, in late November, by having Mr. Art Skinner from the Alberta Curling Association saw a one by four in two, nailed across the present benches going onto the ice surface."

In 1957 it was felt that a service club should be

formed to assist the growing community financially and give leadership on projects to improve the community. The Lions Club was chosen as the vehicle by the group of men who were interested in the project. Walter Ball, the

1974-75 Lions Club President, writes:

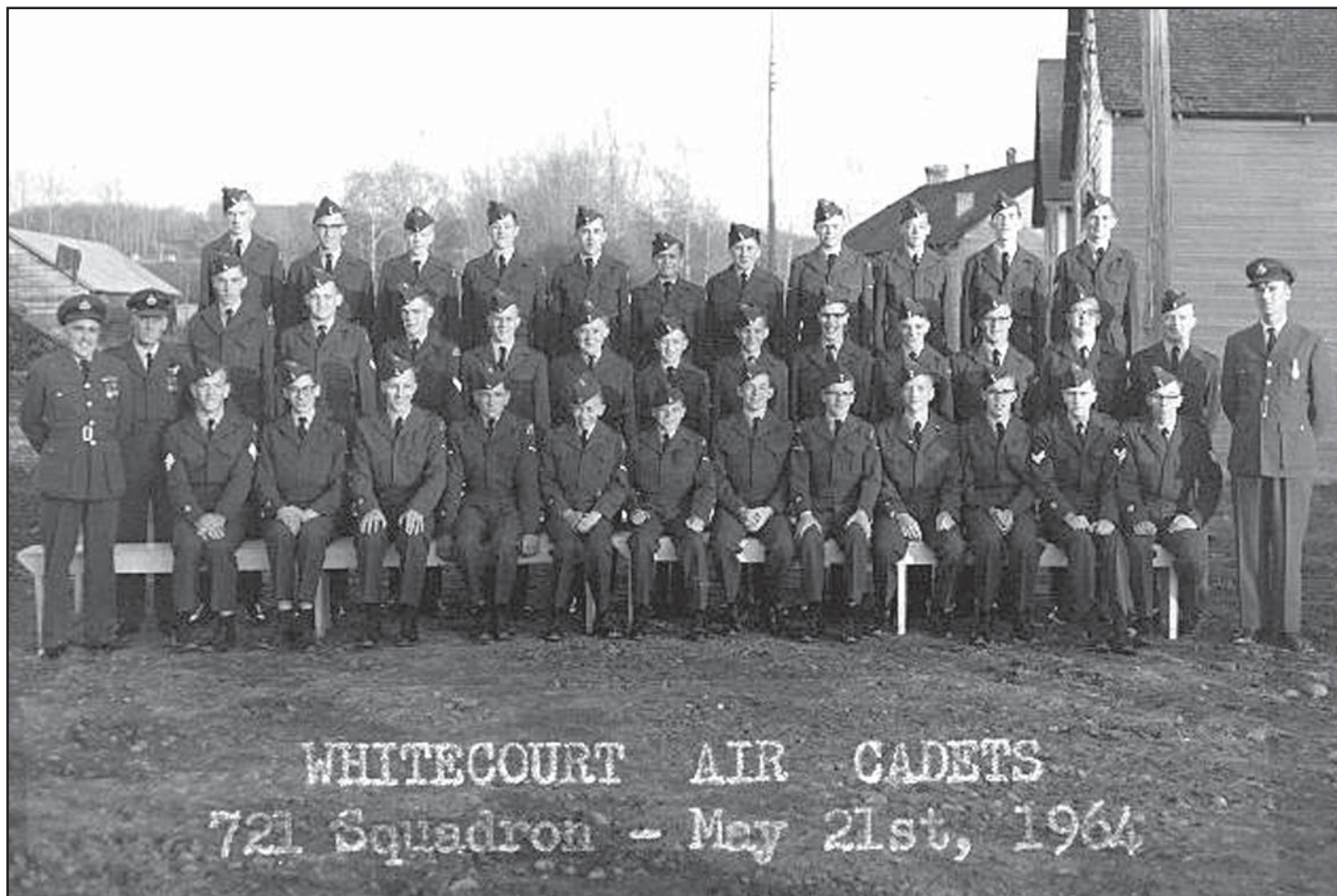
“The Lions Club formed the Air Cadets in the early 1960’s.”

“Lion Joff Hill and Lion Frank Ogden did a great deal towards getting the club started. The Lions Club of Devon offered to sponsor the Lions Club of Whitecourt. The Charter Banquet was held in the Central School in September, 1957. The Charter President was Elmer McQuitty and the Secretary-Treasurer

was Joff Hill. There was no banquet catering service in Whitecourt so the food was transported in a van from Edmonton by Frank Ogden and Joff Hill!”

The Lions Club formed the Air Cadets in the early 1960’s and took on the Lions International project of collecting for the C.N.I.B. Their major contribution to the town in the sixties included financial donations to various local groups and building three children’s playground areas, which were then turned over to the town for maintenance. The Lions also supported the Arena building program. In the 70’s they sparked the drive for the swimming pool.

(Continued on page 21)



(Continued from page 20)

By 1958 there was enough oil and gas and supporting service families in town to warrant the setting up of an Oilwives Club. Oilwives International had been started by Mrs. Dean Hunter of Edmonton, as a social organization for women whose husbands in the oil industry were often away for long periods of time. The local organizational meeting was held on September 30, 1958, at the Central School. Pat Sherriff was the Charter President and the Secretary was Betty Wahl. Besides their many social activities, their chief function and motto is to foster friendship. Oilwives helped with Red Cross Drives and Blood Donor Clinics, the Christmas Hamper commit-

tee and donated a painting to Whitecourt General Hospital as their Centennial project.

Back in 1955 Joff Hill and Frank Ogden found the summers long without their curling rink to occupy them and took to battling a golf ball around on the town airstrip. Interest grew in golfing and several areas were picked out to consider developing as regular golf courses.

“Interest grew in golfing and several areas were picked out to consider developing as regular golf,”

In the spring of 1959 the group decided to act and approached Jerry Graham about buying his land near the Athabasca, about a mile northeast of town. Mr. Graham did not sell, but leased the land to the newly formed club for a nominal fee.

(Continued on page 22)



Aerial view of downtown Whitecourt in 1968.

Be all You Can't Be

Several weeks after a young man had been hired, he was called into the personnel director's office.

“What is the meaning of this?” the director asked. “When you applied for this job, you told us you had five years experience. Now we discovered this is the first job you've ever held.”

“Well,” the young man replied, “in your advertisement you said you wanted somebody with imagination.”



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Sports Conditioning Classes

Tuesdays, March 7 - April 11 - 5:00 - 6:00 PM

RCMP Century Swimming Pool - Racquetball Court
Cost: \$24.00. Contact Whitecourt Community Services at 778-6300

Event Description: Build stamina and endurance through intricate levels of fitness conditioning consisting of aerobic and anaerobic training, boxing/kickboxing, core strenghtening and pyramid training. This is a high energy class with diverse instruction guaranteed to give results. If you want to increase your fitness level, improve your conditioning, and increase your sport performance - this class is for you. Join Trish Young, CanFitPro certified for this great workout!

“Pub Night” An ECHO Fundraiser

Friday, March 17 - 8:00 PM

Whitecourt Community Centre - Cost: \$20.00 per person

Contact Name/Number: Natalie Jendrick at 778-2660

Event Description: ECHO Society is hosting a PUB NIGHT Fundraiser on St. Patrick's Day - March 17th. There will also be a raffle and door prizes along with a silent auction. ECHO is a charitable, non-profit organization where fundraising to generate revenue is a yearly event. Community support enables us to provide quality support services.

Triathlon Training

March 25 - June 8

Times: Swim Training: Tuesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 PM or 8:30 - 9:30 PM • Bike Training: Thursdays, 6:00 PM • Run Training: Saturdays, 8:30 AM. Variety of locations

Cost: \$60.00. Contact Community Services at 778-6610

Event Description: If you've ever wanted to complete a triathlon, but never knew where to start, this course is for you. Perfect for novice triathletes, this clinic can help you attain both your triathlon and overall fitness goals. This clinic will provide safe, fun, and non-intimidating training environments for the beginner triathlete. Registration includes 3 coached workouts per week. Clinic participants are invited to compete in the Westlock Triathlon on June 11th. The cost of pool training is not included in the course fee. Training schedule available upon registration.

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(Continued from page 21)

Work went ahead quickly with much volunteer labour and donated equipment. Ralph Hawes planted grass over the fairways and sand “greens” were constructed. Many a game was played on this golf course over the next few years. The Grahams donated their former log home for use as a club house. In 1966 this was renovated inside and officially opened as the clubhouse for the Graham Acres Golf Course. A tennis court built next to the club house in 1968 was operated by the club for some time.

In 1968, grass greens were put in and the course became one of the most picturesque and interesting layout for many a mile. Club tournaments were held regularly. In 1968 the companies in the oil industry joined together in sponsoring the Whitecourt Oilmen’s Tournament. This has become an annual event and has grown from a small, almost local, affair to a huge three day competition, with participants from around the province.

The “Whitecourt Imperials” Hockey Club originated in 1959, made up of a group

of young men, all local, who simply wanted to play hockey for the love of the sport. They entered a league which consisted of clubs from Calmar, Spruce Grove, Wabamun, Onoway, Sangudo and two Edmonton teams. All games were played under conditions that were far from ideal. Wind, snow, and below zero temperatures became a part of the game. Not only the players loved hockey, but so did the “fans” in Whitecourt. The Imperials often had a hundred or more people cheering them on from the snowbanks outside the rink boards despite the freezing weather.

The “league” changed in participating teams from year to year. Some years only pick-up games were to be found. Albert Jocksch tells of one such arrangement:

“The people of Whitecourt always liked hockey, and in the fall of 1962, the Imperials were trying hard to get some games. One Sunday morning we heard that Spruce Grove and Mayerthorpe were playing in Spruce Grove. So without any prior arrangements, we picked up a team and



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The ice piled to a point two feet below the McLeod Bridge in 1963 when the McLeod thawed before the Athabasca.

headed to Spruce Grove to see if someone would play us. When we reached Spruce Grove we made arrangements to play Spruce Grove, when they finished their game with Mayerthorpe, and we made arrangements with Mayerthorpe to play them on our way home, after we played Spruce Grove. So the team left town that morning not knowing if we had a hockey game and ended up playing two games, winning both.”

The last season before the indoor arena was built (1968-69) the Imperials played twenty-three teams all on the road. Nobody would come to Whitecourt and play on an outdoor rink.

By 1963 an Edmonton firm, Aiken Brothers, had

built and were operating a Drive-in Theatre just north of town near the Athabasca River. The Drive-in was purchased in 1965 by John Tymchuk who also began building the downtown Vista Theatre in July of that year. The theatre opened for business near Christmas time. The Legion movies had ceased that fall.

Residents happily welcomed a bowling alley in 1963 and it was not long before leagues of all sorts were well underway. Whitecourt bowlers often made their way into provincial and even national level roll-offs.

The Whitecourt Library was opened in the old District Nurses’ Home in 1963.

(Continued on page 23)

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(Continued from page 22)

A government grant was available for this under the conditions the town match the government a dollar per head of population. The first librarian was Lucia Hoey, followed by Gerry Jocksch a few years later. Library affairs were governed by a Library Board.

In April 1963, the last really big flood occurred with a major ice jam occurring on the McLeod River. The Athabasca was still frozen when the McLeod really began to break up and problems resulted. Water began pouring in between the rivers once again, flooding the Gateway Tourist and Royalite station areas and farms along the Peers road. Farms on the southeast side of the McLeod River were flooded as well as the McLeod River Tourist Service station area and the Western Construction yard. The present day businesses occupying the area affected would have included The Ritz Hotel, the new Esso and Millar Western.

Thirty-five families were affected, mostly in house trailers but all were safely evacuated. The river reached its peak when the ice piled to a point two feet below the McLeod Bridge. The ice

stayed in its heap for two days until army demolition experts could make a channel in the Athabasca and up the McLeod. They then blasted the ice jam to get it moving and life returned to normal although somewhat soggy for several people.

The early sixties, as elsewhere, were a time of great social change. Whitecourt's development during this time took place when the rural population was shrinking, with a migration from the countryside to towns and cities. The Alberta Social Credit Party was nearing the end of its long reign.

Next various town developments to the end of the 1960's will be covered.

The preceding is from the book Sagitawah Saga. This book, with many photographs of early Whitecourt, is available at the Forest Interpretive Centre just west of the Royal Oak Inn or the Once Upon a Time book store next to the Vista Theatre.

Special thanks to the Whitecourt and District Heritage Society for some of the photographs. §

Snowmen fall from Heaven unassembled.



Whitecourt endured many floods over the years. One contributing cause that has since disappeared, was an ice road across the Athabasca, at the end of 47 Street. This compacted the ice and delayed the breakup of the Athabasca. Ice from the MacLeod and further up the Athabasca would hit this spot and jam.

A man at the airline counter tells the rep. "I'd like this bag to go to Berlin, this one to Rome, and this one to London." The rep says, "I'm sorry sir. We can't do that." The man replied: "Nonsense. You did it last time I flew with you."

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Family Day Fun

Various groups and the town came together to provide for a fun filled Family Day. Indoor events included

a very successful magic show with Houdini award winner Ron Pearson, family movies, family bowling, swimming

and a well attended family skate put on by the Rotary Club. 12 dozen hot dogs with hot chocolate went quickly.





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(NC)-Bright red salsa, green pepper strips and circles of sliced jalapeno lend an appetizing splash of colour and edgy Mexican flavour to this nutritious, creamy dinner favourite. If you want to decrease the heat slightly, omit the pickled jalapenos and you will still end up with a tasty side dish. Sprinkle with fresh coriander to garnish before serving.

Spicy Scalloped Potatoes

- 2 tbsp (25 mL) butter
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) all-purpose flour
- 2 1/4 cups (550 mL) warm milk
- 1 cup (250 mL) shredded jalapeno havarti cheese
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt and dried oregano
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) each ground cumin and pepper
- 2 lb (1 kg) round red or white or long or potatoes (about 5), scrubbed
- 1 cup (250 mL) chunky salsa
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) drained pickled jalapeno pepper slices

In saucepan melt butter over medium heat and add flour and cook, stirring for 1 minute. Whisk in milk and cook, whisking constantly for 3 to 5 minutes or until beginning to boil and thicken. Remove from heat and whisk in cheese, salt, oregano, cumin and pepper until smooth; set aside.

Peel and thinly slice potatoes. Arrange one third of the slices into greased 8-inch (2 L) square baking dish. Spread with half of the salsa. Repeat layers once and layer remaining potato slices on top. Pour cheese sauce over top and around sides to cover evenly and reach bottom of dish. Sprinkle with pickled jalapeno peppers, if using.

Cover with foil or lid and bake in 375 F (190 C) for 1 hour. Uncover and bake for 30 minutes or until lightly browned and potatoes are tender. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Makes 6 servings. - News Canada



(Continued from page 17)

in relation to natural forces. 400 years ago, farmers had an easier time in Greenland, and treeline traces still extend far north of that of the current treeline during this medieval warm time. All of this was before the industrial age and any measurable effect of human activity on greenhouse gases. Supporters of the Kyoto accord admit that a successful and full implementation of the accord will drop temperatures by less than one degree. Non-signatories, such as China and India would make full implementation impossible.

So, to give another example from the editorial, it is

not Ambrose's proposal that can be compared with foreign minister Peter Mackay telling "the Bush administration that Canada will negotiate to join only those aspects of missile defence that help preserve migratory flight paths for Canadian Geese." One must thank the editorialist for providing an Alice-in-Wonderland illustration of the rationality of the Journal editorialist's argument, not that of Ambrose.

On top of it all, the Journal stays silent on a primary cause of all types of pollution. As the July 2005 Advisor details, ancient monetary and financial policies spur extensive, and completely un-

necessary, destruction of the environment. A compound interest driver — interest on interest — is not sustainable on a finite planet. There is a growing body of environmentalists, and erstwhile bankers such as Bernard Lietaer, one of the designers of the European monetary unit, and ex-World Bank economist Herman Daly, who detail the mathematical problems with the exponential driver that is compound interest. The issue in question is online at www.WhitecourtWeb.com.

Rather than focus on obvious causes, the Journal editorial indulges in a deeply flawed analysis of a proposal to heap yet more needless

controls and constraints on individual freedom. It would not be unfair to characterize the Journal editorial on Ambrose's proposal as lacking in knowledge, rational analysis and finally an appropriate tone, given the subject matter involved. §

Beer Story

Yesterday, scientists in the United States revealed that beer contains small traces of female hormones.

To prove their theory, they fed one hundred men twelve pints of beer and observed that 100% of them started talking nonsense and couldn't drive.

EU sets maximum levels for dioxins and PCBs in feed and food

Good News Agency - Brussels, 3 February - The European Commission has today adopted new implementing legislation setting maximum levels for the sum of dioxins and dioxin-like Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in food and feed. Maximum levels for dioxins in food of animal origin and all animal feed have been applicable since July 2002. However, due to lack of sufficient data and scientific information at the time, no levels were set for dioxin-like PCBs. Since 2002, new data on dioxin-like PCBs has become available, and the legislation adopted today lays down mandatory limits for the combined level of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs. From November 2006, any food or feed in which the sum of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs exceeds these maximum levels will not be allowed to be marketed in the EU.

The reduction of persistent chemicals such as dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in the food chain is an important part of ensuring the health and safety of EU consumers. Dioxins and PCBs are toxic chemicals that can provoke serious health effects such as cancer, hormone disruption, reduced ability to reproduce, skin toxicity and immune system disorders. They are extremely resistant to any degradation process, which means that they persist in the environment and accumulate in the food chain.

Since 2002, new data on dioxin-like PCBs has become available, and the legislation adopted today lays down mandatory limits for the combined level of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, based on World Health Organisation (WHO) toxic equivalency factors for these substances. Food and feed operators have primary responsibility for ensuring that the maximum levels are complied with, while Member State authorities must carry out checks and report to the Commission on their findings.

The Commission intends to further review the maximum levels by 31 December 2008, with a view to significantly reducing them further. <http://europa.eu.int/>



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(Continued from page 6)

people in situations where rancor reigns is to avoid the dynamics altogether. However, some involvement, by all those affected, is usually the best course of action to resolve the matter. Continuing to turn to substantive outside help could also go some ways in making an organization more effective by minimizing unproductive conflicts.

Overall, Whitecourt is having problems that would make the town the envy of many areas in the world and even Canada. It's important to keep in mind all that is going right, even while working on continual improvement in problem areas. An appreciation for what we have could go some way in helping us look for possible synergetic solutions for the inevitable differences in opinion. §

Early Childhood Development Initiatives Program expanded

Town Press Release - At the February 27 Regular Meeting, Whitecourt Town Council approved the expansion of the Early Childhood Development Initiatives (ECDI) Program to allow for additional counseling services, a greater number of parenting and community programs and a greater presence in the community. To assist in achieving enhanced programming and services, the ECDI Coordinator position has been expanded and will assist with developing new initiatives, such as the re-introduction of a daytime parenting and play group, and the initiation and coordination of a family resource centre. For more information on this program and services, please contact Yvette Fowler at 778-2004.

Whitecourt Town Council reviewed a letter from the Whitecourt Community Council suggesting a number of pedestrian and traffic safety enhancements. The items will be discussed during 2006 Budget deliberations.

Whitecourt Town Council discussed a number of policies and procedures that could be initiated to ensure that a respectful and productive business environment is maintained at Council Meetings. Council has directed Administration to draft meeting decorum statements and guidelines that will be read prior to each Council meeting, public hearing, and visitor and delegation presentation.

Hilltop East Industrial Phase IV is proceeding and 15 acres of land will be available for sale this fall. Phase II and III of the Hilltop East Industrial area brought 81 acres of serviced land into the market in August of 2005; all of which has been sold. Currently, the Hilltop East Industrial Area, located north of Highway #43 and east of 35th Street, consists of 140 acres of industrial land, and includes oilfield service shops, truck repair facilities and general service industrial buildings. For more information on industrial land for sale in the Hilltop East Industrial Area, please contact the Town Administration Office at (780) 778-2273 or visit the Town's website at www.whitecourt.ca.



A Quality of Life

An American businessman was at the pier of a small coastal Mexican village when a small boat with just one fisherman docked. Inside the small boat were several large yellowfin tuna. The American complimented the Mexican on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took to catch them. The Mexican replied, "Only a little while, Señor."

The American then asked, "Why didn't you stay out longer and catch more fish?"

The Mexican said he had enough to support his family's immediate needs.

The American then asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

The Mexican fisherman said, "I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, take siesta with my wife, Maria, stroll into the village each evening where I sip wine and play guitar with my amigos. I have a full and busy life, Señor."

The American scoffed, "I am a Harvard MBA and could help you. You should spend more time fishing and with the proceeds, buy a bigger boat with the proceeds from the bigger boat you could buy several boats, eventually you would have a fleet of fishing boats. Instead of selling your catch to a middleman you would sell directly to the processor, eventually opening your own cannery. You would control the product, processing and distribution. You would need to leave this small coastal fishing village and move to Mexico City, then LA and eventually NYC where you will run your expanding enterprise."

The Mexican fisherman asked, "But Señor, how long will this all take?"

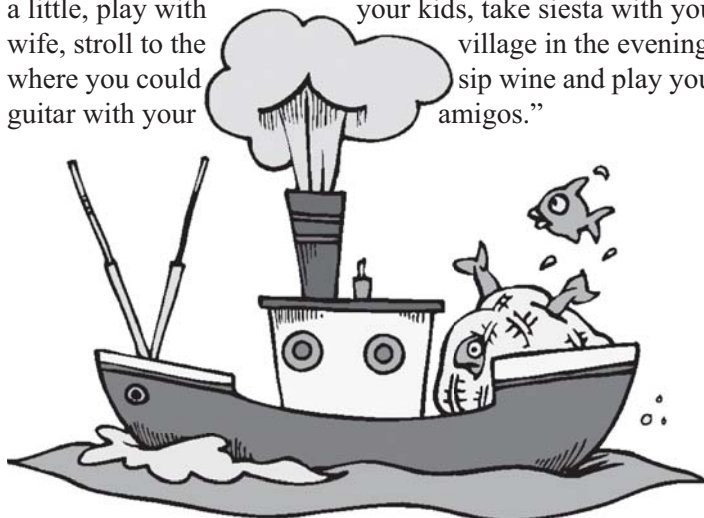
To which the American replied, "15-20 years."

"But what then, Señor?"

The American laughed and said, "That's the best part. When the time is right you would announce an IPO and sell your company stock to the public and become very rich, you would make millions."

"Millions, Señor? Then what?"

The American said, "Then you would retire. Move to a small coastal fishing village where you would sleep late, fish a little, play with your kids, take siesta with your wife, stroll to the village in the evenings where you could sip wine and play your guitar with your amigos."



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Norma's New Adventure

One day on her day off, Norma decided to do something she had never done before.

She had always heard the regulars at the bar where she worked talking about ice fishing. On this fine winter day, not having much else that she had to do, she figured it was as good a time as any to give it a try.

She went to an icy area, diligently cut a hole, and started fishing. All of a sudden, she hears a booming voice: "THERE ARE NO FISH THERE!"

She jumps and looks around, but sees no-one. However she heeds the advice and moves to another area, again perserving to chop a hole in the tough ice, and beginning to fish again.

But again she hears the booming voice. "THERE ARE NO FISH THERE!!"

She is starting to get really nervous now. There is nothing she can recall hearing about this situation from the people at the bar

"Lord? Is that you?" she quietly asks.

The voice from above shouts back "NO, THIS IS THE RINK MANAGER!"

Words of Wisdom

"Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful."

Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784)



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St Patrick's Day Word Search

Ireland

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in _____

an _____

and _____

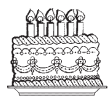
- Q. How do sailors get their clothes clean?
A. They throw them overboard and they're washed ashore
- Q. Where do hair colorists sit when they go to baseball games?
A. In the bleachers.
- Q. What happened when the teacher ties all the student's shoelaces together?
A. They went on a class trip



- patrick saint green parade
- lucky rainbow irish pot
- gold



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Heritage park taking shape at the Forest Interpretive Centre

Slowly but surely the history of Whitecourt and area is being showcased at the Forest Interpretive Centre.

In the large photo below, the buildings are, left to right, the Blue Ridge United Church, which was restored just in time for its 50th anniversary this year; the old Leary Cabin; Leo Baxter's lumber house built in 1921; and a replica of Leo McMahon's trapper's cabin.

The new location of the former Leary and Baxter residences is interesting in that the Learys' daughter Josephine ended up marrying the Baxters' son Percy. Percy's brother Ernie is constructing furniture for the inside of the cabin as he remembers it from his

boyhood. Heritage Society president John Dahl has a line on an original 'Winnipeg couch', one of which was in the Baxter house and had wings that came up to make the furniture function as a double bed at night.

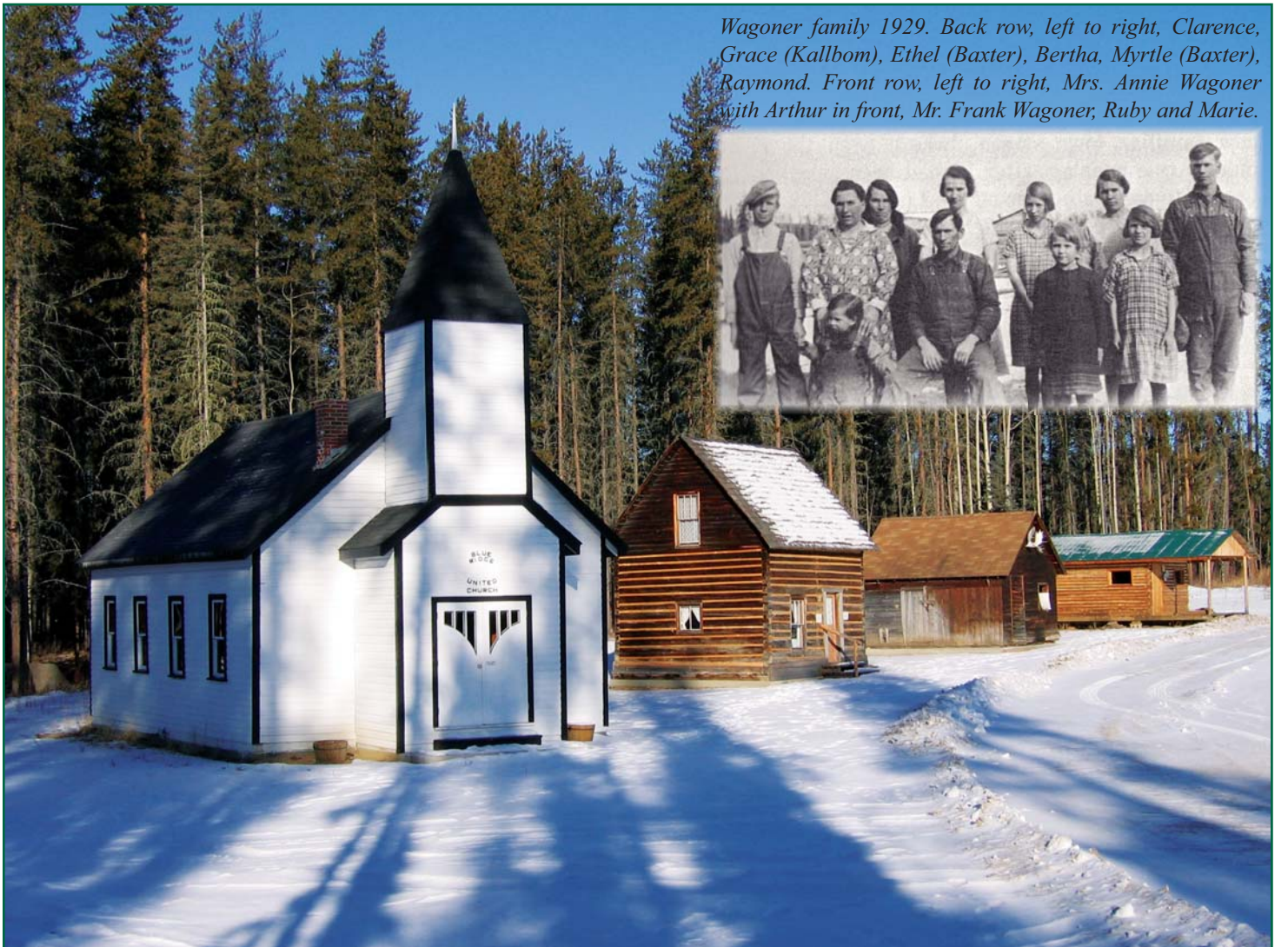
Leo Baxter was a WWI survivor of Vimy Ridge battle. He came to Whitecourt in the summer of 1919, after hearing that Axel Olson had caught 80 trout in Beaver Creek. He married Myrtle Wagoner, while his brother Harold married Myrtle's sister Ethel. The third Wagoner sister married Oscar Kallbom.

Streets and a school bear the names of these pioneers. Many of their descendants live in Whitecourt and area today.



The square footage of the Leary cabin, where four children were raised, contrasts greatly with the square footage of today's houses. Old newsreels and stories show happiness was not adversely affected.

Wagoner family 1929. Back row, left to right, Clarence, Grace (Kallbom), Ethel (Baxter), Bertha, Myrtle (Baxter), Raymond. Front row, left to right, Mrs. Annie Wagoner with Arthur in front, Mr. Frank Wagoner, Ruby and Marie.





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