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RESIDENTS MEET TO 'SAVE THE HOSPITAL'



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CLOSE TO 120 RESIDENTS from across the Matthews Memorial Hospital (MMH) area from Echo Bay to Bruce Mines, Desbarats and St. Joseph Island met for more than three hours Saturday morning to discuss how to deal with the Sault Area Hospital (SAH) Consultants' recommendation to close MMH as of April, 2010.

The workshop was organized by MMH Association member Martin Van Boerdonk with the help of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 374, who donated the use of their meeting hall.

"This workshop was announced at our public meeting with SAH and LHIN officials at the Desbarats Community Centre," said Johnson Township Mayor Edith Orr, one of the participants. "There has been a lot of opposition to this recommendation and we wanted to

channel the passion people feel for their health care into developing strategies on how best to deal with it."

Facilitator Jody Wildman asked participants to begin by identifying health care services they saw as necessary to remain available in the rural area. The consensus was that the minimum standard of 24-hour emergency care, with outpatient services presently offered at the Matthews Memorial site should be maintained.

The group also recognized that the issues involve much more than the Consultants' recommendation alone and that the SAH is merely another victim of the current healthcare funding crisis. This is as much a political issue as it is an economic issue. The challenge is to get the focus back where it belongs on the **Healthcare issue.**

Continued on page 2



The Real Estate Stop

David Nelson
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Jack Priest, Connie Witty, Jody Wildman and Lavera Crack just as the meeting gets started

Participants began developing short term strategies to convince the SAH and Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) Boards to reject the recommendation to close MMH. They also discussed longer term needs and goals for an integrated and holistic health care system for the area.

It quickly became clear that many residents (both in the Soo and in the rural areas) are unaware of the many services currently available through MMH - much more than simply 'emergency' services. This fostered a discussion on several potential opportunities to assist SAH in meeting their goals by promoting and enhancing what can be done at the Matthews Memorial site.

The residents then broke into several committees that will continue to meet and work on areas such as public relations, clarifying of information, ideas on integrating with SAH needs, and long term possibilities.

Although each committee will focus on a specific area or issue, they will also co-ordinate and share information with



Dale Kingsley presenting ideas of the Public Relations committee

each other, to ensure that nothing important 'slips through the cracks', and that every good idea gets acted upon.

"There was a real desire among the participants to find solutions and work with SAH officials," said MMH Association Chair Connie Witty. "But they also made it clear that the present level of service provided by Matthews is a necessity for our area."



Connie Witty

Further developments will be reported through the news media, including the Island Clippings, as they occur.

It's a big challenge to overcome, and the key is to get ourselves organized and all moving in one direction towards our common goal. Can we really do it? To quote another recent victor of what started out as an uphill battle south of the border: "Yes We Can!"

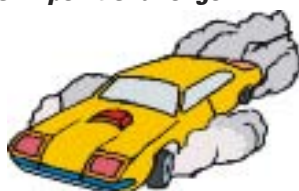
Or, closer to home – in the words of Jocelyn Reeve Mark Henderson, "*we can start with a mob, and make them into an army!*"

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(Edited and abridged for space)

We are currently seasonal residents of St. Joseph Island; however, we intend to retire to the Island and the beautiful way of life there within the next 3 years. We look at all the renovations we have made and the plans for further extensive work to prepare our new home for retirement and wonder, "should we be spending further funds?"

The people on these [hospital] committees should live in rural communities for at least 5 - 8 years before they are allowed to make recommendations for the rural areas. They seem to have no concept of how long it may take to get to the larger centres or for getting an ambulance to you. It has been proven that the sooner medical aid can be received, the faster the recovery and to a closer degree of normalcy. The time a person spends in the hospital, on home care, or in therapy after a stroke or heart attack would be much longer if initial treatment was delayed - IF the person survived.

Has anyone calculated the additional cost to the health care system for each one of these cases or the additional cost to train and RETRAIN ambulance drivers to a

higher level to administer more emergency room-like services? Most committees do not look this far down the road.

Having worked in the health care system for many years (I am a former Registered Nurse), I know that the earlier the intervention, the greater the success with the least amount of residual issues and the sooner one can return to a more normal way of life. I have also worked in industry as an occupational health nurse and know that the old adage of "PAY NOW OR PAY MUCH MORE LATER" is a reality in ALL aspects of life, which most committees seem to ignore (they only care about the short term effects).

It is not just in our community there on St. Joe that we are seeing the necessity of early medical intervention being threatened. We are facing the same issue where we currently live with the threat of closing our Sydneham hospital (in Wallaceburg, Ont.). Again, the committees do not seem to feel "small town" Ontario is important and the health of these residents do not need the same treatment that they do.

Sincerely,

Brenda Jones, Chatham, Ontario.



Breaking news from Kentucky:
Two men tried to pull the front off a cash machine by running a chain from the machine to the bumper of their pickup truck. Instead of pulling the front panel off the machine, though, they pulled the bumper off their truck. Scared, they left the scene and drove home ... with the chain still attached to the machine...with their bumper still attached to the chain ... with their vehicle's license plate still attached to the bumper.

Maybe it's time to add some chlorine to the gene pool?

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Rural Hospitals are in Critical Condition

IT SEEMS THAT OUR FIGHT to save Matthews Memorial Hospital is only a symptom of a much bigger disease – an epidemic that seems to be quickly spreading out of control!

Like us, residents from across Ontario are faced with similar closures or reductions in services from their local hospitals. And it seems to be most contagious in rural areas! The following excerpt is re-printed, courtesy of the Toronto Sun, from its February 20, 2009 issue. Does it sound familiar?

(Please note that bold facing was added by the Island Clippings, for emphasis, and is not part of the original article)

Rural mayors are bringing the fight to take their emergency rooms off life-support to the big city next week.

Politicians from Petrolia, Lambton County, Port Colborne and Fort Erie will be in Toronto Monday to hammer out how their alliance will grab Queen's Park attention to help stop the closing of ERs in their areas and the rampant cutting of hospital beds.

Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin has watched his town's hospital go from being in the black nine years ago to having an ER on the verge of closing in favour of an urgent care clinic.

"There's a problem and we need answers," Martin told the Sun yesterday.

One of the main objectives of the group will be to pin down the government on its rural hospital policy, he said.

As far as he can tell, the unstated objective of most of the province's local health integration networks (LHINs) seems to be to eliminate rural hospitals.

"We've done our due diligence, followed the rules ... and yet our local emergency rooms are still in grave jeopardy," Martin said in a press release. "The other communities in the southwest of Ontario have only just begun the uphill battle.

"When I last met the minister of health, I asked what the government's policy on small and rural hospitals was and received no response, which is simply unacceptable."

If hospitals do close their ERs and cut other services, rural residents will be travelling further for the same services they once had in their backyard.

"Taxpayers have been paying more taxes for health care since the health-care tax came in, and yet we're seeing less service and cuts," Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley said. "It's really destabilizing rural and smaller communities in a very painful way." He called yesterday's commitment by the province to reduce ER wait times Monty Python-like considering what's happening to rural hospital ERs.

STOCK SPLIT – When your ex-wife and her lawyer split your assets equally between themselves.

MARKET CORRECTION – The day after you buy stocks.

PROFIT – An archaic word no longer in use.

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Interested persons should contact the Algoma District Services Administration Board in Little Rapids (842-3370) or the St. Joseph Township Administration Office (246-2625).

PC DOCTOR



by George Skardis

QUESTION: I plan to take my laptop computer with me on Spring Break. Is there anything that I should do to prepare my computer for a safe holiday?

ANSWER: Whenever you travel and take along your trusty laptop computer heed the following words of advice. Most importantly, a laptop computer requires a suitable travel case, not a slip-cover. A travel case with extra compartments, Velcro straps, and padding is ideal. The larger 17 inch laptop models will not fit into a smaller 15 inch case. Even for short trips, always show your laptop computer proper respect by using a travel case for transporting. Always shut the laptop off completely. Placing a laptop in stand-by mode for extended periods might be OK at home but not packed in an insulated bag. A popular urban myth jokes about a business traveler's surprise finding his laptop keyboard melted after an extended continental flight. Yes, his computer was in stand-by mode and was packed in a well-padded case. Theories acknowledge that the thermal sensor switch failed to detect the gradual increase in temperature. Whoops! It's always a shock to find that the travel case is missing a few critical items. Remember to pack the power adapter including all the necessary cords. The battery charge will only last so long. Disconnect your laptop's power adapter and store in bag compartment. If you use a wireless laptop mouse, locate the power on/off switch and turn the mouse off to conserve internal dry cells. Remove the USB antennae for your wireless mouse and attach to mouse base. Even low profile USB mouse adapters might interfere with safe packing and unpacking. Remove any protruding USB adapters including memory sticks. Pack a full set of computer recovery disks. Whether you created these disks yourself or obtained them from the manufacturer, recovery disks will correct a multitude of computer problems but only if you have them with you. If you own a digital camera and you plan to unload your photos into your laptop computer daily, include several blank DVDs. Record your photos on DVDs as a backup in case your camera or computer is lost or stolen. An alternative would be backing up to a memory stick. Never store backup DVDs and memory sticks in the laptop travel case. Arriving at your destination, place the laptop on a hard working surface away from direct sunlight. Quilted bed spreads, soft couches, and deep carpets might cause your computer to overheat. Sand, salt, and water are you laptop's worst enemy; so, please do not take your computer to the beach. Enjoy your Spring Break and return safely.



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From the Lions Den

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When was the last time you did something for yourself? Something that made you feel wonderful? Something that made the world around you a better place? Volunteering your time not only helps those in need, but also gives you a sense of pride and accomplishment that comes from deep within. There is nothing like that feeling in the world.

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Do you want to pursue a leadership role? Would you rather lend a helping hand when needed? Lions clubs offer extensive opportunities for the kind of volunteer experience you desire. You have the alternative to work on projects that interest you, get on the leadership track or engage in both, all while enriching lives.

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For information concerning Lions Clubs in general and the possibility of becoming a member contact markers44@sympatico.ca or call 246-1963

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With Enron, you would have had \$16.50 left of the original \$1,000

With WorldCom, you would have had less than \$5.00 left.

If you had purchased \$1,000 of Delta Air Lines stock you would have \$49.00 left.

But, if you had purchased \$1,000 worth of wine one year ago, drank all the wine, then turned in the bottles for the recycling REFUND, you would have \$214.00.

Based on the above, is the best current investment advice to drink heavily and recycle?

WHY USE A REALTOR?

Surveys show that many homeowners and house buyers are not aware of the true value a REALTOR provides during the course of a real estate transaction.

At the same time, regrettably REALTORS have generally assumed that the expertise, professional knowledge and just plain hard work that go into bringing about a successful transaction were understood and appreciated.

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Vicky Shaw's Cinnamon Apple Cake

Wet ingredients:

- 1 C. vegetable oil
- 2 C. white sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/4 tsp. vanilla
- 1/4 C. milk

Dry ingredients:

- 2 C. flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. baking soda

3 C. peeled and diced apples

Mix wet ingredients together. Blend dry ingredients together and mix into wet ingredients. Fold in prepared apples. Bake @ 350 F for 60 minutes (check after 50 minutes)

Caramel Topping:

- 1/2 C. butter or margarine
- 1 C. brown sugar
- 1/4 C. milk

When cake is almost done, heat topping ingredients over medium heat until it begins to boil. Boil for 3 minutes. Pour onto hot cake.

Let it rest for a couple hours to fully saturate cake. This cake is very good with vanilla or butterscotch ice-cream.



Things that make you say "Hmmm" ...

- If you ate pasta and antipasta, would you still be hungry?
- Why do they report power outages on TV?
- Is there another word for synonym?
- Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?

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A Word About Snowmobile Safety

It seems that some riders are bent on pushing their luck – and the luck of others.

There were several near-collisions this past weekend, caused by riders ignoring STOP signs placed at private driveways that are crossed by trails. In one instance, the riders involved not only didn't stop to yield the right of way, they didn't even slow down!

Let's all remember that it's only by the property owner's kindness that the rest of us can ride a trail across their property – or their driveway. They and their property deserve your respect, your consideration and your common sense.

Stop signs and other trail signage are there to warn and protect you – and the property owner. The Voyageur volunteers go to a great deal of trouble and do their best to ensure everyone's safety. Those signs are put there for a good reason.

So don't push your luck. Pay attention to trail signage. It might save you from meeting another rider - or a property owner's vehicle - the hard way!

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ITEMS WANTED

Child's snowmobile helmet, suitable for visiting 6 year old. Call 246-1635

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers urgently needed! The SJI Cancer Society is in need of volunteers to canvass for their April residential drive. Students welcome to get involved and collect your volunteer hours. Call Joan 246-2387 - for info. Watch for our fresh daffodil sale the end of March!

Our March meeting is Tues. March 17th - 1:30 pm Harmony St. Marks Fellowship Hall. All welcome

Were you born in the Matthews Memorial Hospital? Do you know someone who was? Let's make a list. Call Wilma at 246-2495 or Mary-Kay at 246-2661

St. Joseph Twsp. Public Library will be closed Friday March 13th. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

Just a reminder the St. Joseph Twsp. Public Library is open daily 9-12 and 1-4. Come in and check out the many services. High speed internet, wireless, latest novels & DVD's including *Fireproof* for example.

The St. Joseph Island Hunters & Anglers Association will be holding their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 12th at 8 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

St. Patrick's Day Tea to be held from 12 pm until 3 pm on Sunday, March 15th at the Legion Hall in Richards Landing. Event sponsored by the Ladies Legion Auxilliary Branch 374. No admission fee - soup, sandwich, dessert and beverage available for only \$5.00. Tickets will be sold for a chance of winning door prizes. Everyone Welcome

QUILTED WALL HANGING COMPETITION 2009

Sponsored by the St. Joseph Island Women's Institute Quilt Show Committee July 31 & August 1 & 2, 2009. At the St. Joseph Island Public School, Richards Landing. This year's theme is "Island Colours". Finished size should be 22 inches by 22 inches.

Hand or machine quilted. Rod pocket on back. Envelope fastened on back with your name, address and phone # inside. Bring your entry to the Richards Landing Public School July 30, 7-9 pm. Pick up - August 2 at 5 pm. Prizes will be awarded. For info call Maria at 246-2483.

The **Children's Library** is having a full week of activities for **March Break** with the help of the Katimavik students.

Monday 16th: Alice in Wonderland Tea Party (ages 8 & up), Tuesday 17th: St. Patrick's Day Party (all ages), Wednesday 18th: Pirate Day (all ages), Thursday 19th: Hawaiian Party (all ages) and Friday 20th: Wild West Party (all ages). These parties are from 1-3 pm, Feel free to dress up for them. Also, we will have regular Story-Time Wed & Thurs. at 10:30 am. Call the library for more info 246-2877.

Do You Love THE PAMPERED CHEF? Me Too! Come and join me on Saturday March 14th to celebrate my Grand Opening as A PAMPERED CHEF Consultant! Our home will be open to you and your family from 2 pm - 6 pm. We will be sampling new PAMPERED CHEF recipes and products! For more information please call 257-9140. We hope to see you @ 1723 Lucy Street, Richard's Landing.

Amy Robert,

Your Independent

PAMPERED CHEF Consultant

Norah McGuire will be demonstrating a "Fractured Nine Patch" Quilt on Tues. March 24th, 10 am to 4 pm at Hilton Hall, downstairs. Material will be supplied, so just bring your machine and lunch. It should be a good project for beginners and will add to our supply of Community Quilts. If interested call Norah at 246-1084, or Janet at 246-0847 or see Diane at the Hilton Library.

The Township of St. Joseph invites applications for appointment to the Township's Public Library Board. Interested persons should submit letter of application and resume to Township Office by Tuesday, March 17th, 2009.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Gord & Gloria Hawdon for providing the professional recommendations and for processing the 'Save Matthews Memorial Hospital' signs for free. Also thanks to Pauline and Horst Rait for transplanting the signs from garage to Desbarats before the SAH presentations.

Jack & Dale Kingsley

OBITUARY

BOOKMAN, Florence Madaline Died March 5, 2009 - Born April 14, 1925 on her beloved St. Joseph Island to Alice (Grextion) and David Bookman. She was sister to the late George (late Stella, late Amy), late Edward and the late Clifton; and aunt to the late Robert Brownlee (Lorna), George (late Ivy), Barbara Davies, Garry and Joyce Brownlee. Cousin to Peter Fields, Gordon and Joyce Adcock, Ray and Ethel Bruce, Ken and Alice Ward and others on St. Joseph Island and in the Sault Ste. Marie area. Florence was a long time employee of Astin's Ladies Wear and Slattery's Drug Store. Later at Virene's, working in the children's department, she outfitted many Sault children for the Girl Guide and Boy Scout programs. She enjoyed her worldly travels with friends and with the Sunshine Travel group, but most of all she loved to visit with family and friends on St. Joseph Island. Funeral services were held at the Arthur Funeral Home on Monday March 9, 2009; and interment in the Mountain Maple Grove Cemetery will take place in the spring. Memorial donations to the Richards Landing Children's Library or the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

**Support your Island
Businesses**

Deadline is noon Tuesdays for all material

BRUCE MINES INSURANCE

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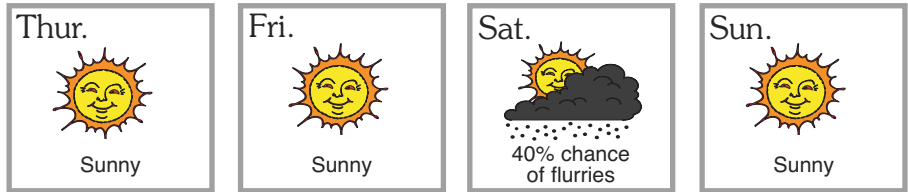
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Weather



WHAT'S HAPPENING ON ST. JOE

Friday 13	Hens & Stitches, Dr. Trefry Centre - 10 am to 12 pm Island Cast-a-Weights, Calorie Watchers, Hilton Community Hall (rear door, basmt) - 8:30 am Friday Foods Menu available at the Legion - 5 pm to 9 pm AA Meeting, United Church (new addition, side door) - 8 pm Seniors Walking at the Legion 10 am until noon St. Joseph Twp, Public Library - 9 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 4 pm
Saturday 14	Nordic Walking Group, Meets at Tranter Park 10 am Childrens Library - 10 am to 3 pm Hilton Union Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm Free pool all day in the Legion lounge Irish Stew Supper, Jocelyn Township Hall - 5 pm to 8 pm
Sunday 15	
Monday 16	Bridge, Dr. Trefry Centre - 1 pm to 5 pm (Open to all seniors) 60+ Exercise Program, Dr. Trefry Centre - 10:30 am Euchre, Legion Hall - 8 pm (\$3.00 per person) Carpet Bowling for Seniors, Legion - 1 pm Children's Library - 6 pm to 9 pm St. Joseph Twp, Public Library - 9 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 4 pm Seniors Walking at the Legion 10 am until noon
Tuesday 17	Women's Physical Activities, Public School Gym - 6:30 pm to 8 pm Cribbage (singles), Legion Hall - 7:30 pm (\$3.00 per person) St. Joseph Twp, Public Library - 9 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 4 pm MPAC Public Meeting, Legion Hall, Richards Landing - 6:30 pm
Wednesday 18	Pool, Legion - 7:30 pm St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 9 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 4 pm Food Bank, United Church, Richards Landing (side door) - 1 pm to 3 pm Children's Library - 9 am to 12 pm Story time - 10:30 am Dr. Trefry Centre's Day Out Program - 9 am to 4 pm Hilton Union Public Library - 1 pm to 5 pm Seniors Walking at the Legion 10 am until noon Ski/Snowshoe Social, Mountainview Centennial Grounds - 1:30 pm
Thursday 19	St. Joseph Twp. Public Library - 9 am to 12 pm, 1 pm to 4 pm and 7 pm to 9 pm Dr. Trefry Centre's Day Out Program - 9 am to 4 pm Children's Library - 9 am to 12 pm Story time - 10:30 am 3 pm to 5 pm

The Anglican Parish
of St. Joseph
& St. George

EVERY SUNDAY:
9 am
St. Georges, Echo Bay

11 am
Holy Trinity, Jocelyn
Sunday School during
service

Rev. Rosalie Goos
945-7043

**Grace United
Church
Hilton Beach**

246-0159
246-2578

**WORSHIP SERVICE
9:30 am**

Rev. Eun-Joo Park
st.joseph.is.uc@bellnet.ca

**Free Methodist
Church**

Worship Service
11 am

Bible classes for all
ages at 9:30 am

Corner of Hilton Rd.
& 10th Side Road

246-2081
email: sjfmc@explornet.com

**Welcome
to the
Island Bible
Chapel**

Richards Landing
SUNDAY SERVICES

Lord's Supper
10 am

Family Bible Hour
11:15 am

**Harmony
St. Marks
United Church**
Richards Landing

246-2578
11:00 am

Sunday School
during service

Child Care Provided

Rev. Eun-Joo Park
st.joseph.is.uc@bellnet.ca

**St. Boniface
Catholic Church**
Hilton Beach

MASS TIMES:

July and August
Sat 4:30 & Sun 12:30

Sept to June:
Sat at 4:30

Contact
253-8191 or 246-2866