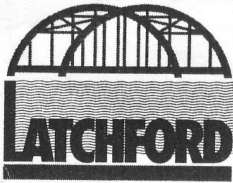


33 YEARS!!!

Issue Price **FREE**



**THE BEST LITTLE TOWN
BY A DAM SITE!**

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Just passin through	2
Dianna's Recipes	3
Legion news	4
Charlie from the lake	5
Rhonda's	6
Subscribers report	7
Letters to the call	9
Life in the 20's	10
Short stories	12



THE LATCHFORD AND AREA

MOOSE CALL



April 2021



PUBLIC NOTICE

~ **ALL** dogs must have current year tags per By-law 639/04. The cost per dog is: \$20.00

~ **Remember to Poop & Scoop** ~

Animal complaints can be reported to the Town Office @ 676-2416

COUNCIL MEETING FOR APRIL TO BE HELD ON THE 15th TO BE HELD ELECTRONICALLY. AGENDA WILL BE POSTED.

LEGION MEETINGS WILL BE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

LATCHFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETINGS WILL BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

Just Passin Through Again

We got a little help with our efforts to obtain natural gas services for Latchford when Josh Sherman, an Associate Editor at TVO, put together an excellent column which appeared on the TVO.org page on March 29. It can be viewed at this link <https://www.tvo.org/article/one-ontario-towns-battle-for-natural-gas>

What amazed me was the amount of research that was put into writing this article and who Mr. Sherman reached out to build the accuracy in the story. While I, like everyone who has lived here in Latchford since we had to sell the assets of the Latchford Hydro Electric Commission in 2000 have lived with the increases, would never have realized that our hydro rates have climbed by 480% since that date. His story really supports the need to bring natural gas to the residents and businesses of Latchford.

We have been made aware that there are in the area of 200 applications for this round of natural gas expansion and that only 20 will be successful. The successful applicants are to be notified this spring but then again, the first time was supposed to be last August and that was postponed to November and now spring and that is where a young man's hope springs eternal, as the saying goes. I wish I was young again.

It was brought to Council's attention that the manholes were again becoming depressed on the west side of Highway 11 between Bradley and Mortson Avenues. This in turn increases the noise emitted by transports passing over them and during the winter dislodging large chunks of ice and snow on the highway. This area of the highway is where the centre line has been broadened directing traffic to the west of the travelled portion hence causing vehicles to pass over the manholes. Council is requesting the MTO to realign the centre line to draw the traffic to the east and away from the two manholes which should, hopefully, reduce traffic over the problem area.

Take care and stay safe.

George L.



McAlpine Mill Site

SMC (CANADA) LTD.

www.smccanada.com

Coleman Rd., P.O. Box 710

Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0

Tel: (705) 679-5600

Fax: (705) 679-5657

Highway 11
Latchford ON
P0J 1N0

(705) 676-2096
www.northlandmotel.info
NorthlandMotelLatchford@gmail.com

NORTHLAND MOTEL

CONTACT ROSS BURNS FOR RESERVATIONS
"Latchford- the best little town by a Dam Site"

TV/TSN WIFI
TOP TRAIL OFSC

INDIVIDUAL/GROUP/JACUZZI
RATES BY DAY/WEEK/MONTH

Sabin Metal Worldwide Companies

From the kitchen of Diana

Page 3

IT IS MAPLE SYRUP TIME

Ontario Maple syrup producers are hoping that customers will buy more of their product this season. A lot of their sales normally come from annual spring maple syrup festivals but because of COVID, this is the 2nd year they will not be able to hold these events. This year Ontario producers are experiencing warmer than usual temperatures since the start of the sap run. This has resulted in a reported sugar content that is a bit lower this season. That just means the first syrup that is normally light in colour and a creamy buttery-flavoured syrup may be a caramelly-coloured syrup, but will still have that wonderfully delicious flavour so many of us have come to enjoy. The main concern producers have around temperatures now is that if it stays in the double digits, it may shorten the season. I noticed online that Clapperton's Maple Syrup in Loring, Ontario was in the North Bay Nugget a couple of years ago. Clapperton's won an award for the category Canada Grade A, Amber/Rich Taste but was also chosen by the judges as the overall maple syrup champion and recipient of the John David Eaton World Championship Cup in 2019 at the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair in Toronto. Being the lover of maple syrup that I am I have contacted Clapperton's to find out where I can buy their wonderful product in the Toronto area, and of course, New Liskeard, North Bay to Temiskaming Shores, but will have to let you know what I find out in the next issue of the Moosecall.

MAPLE BAKED BEANS

1 16-oz bag dried navy beans, soaked overnight and drained
6 cups water
1 cup cubed salt pork
1 onion, chopped
1/2 cup pure maple syrup

1/4 cup ketchup
2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
2 teaspoons dry mustard
1 1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper

In a large, ovenproof pot, add beans and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Add pork, onion, pure maple syrup, ketchup, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper. Stir to combine. Cover and transfer to oven. Cook 2 hours, stirring every 30 minutes. Remove lid. Cook another 45 minutes. Serve immediately or at room temperature

Preheat oven to 350° F.

In a large, ovenproof pot, add beans and water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

Add pork, onion, pure maple syrup, ketchup, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper. Stir to combine. Cover and transfer to oven. Cook 2 hours, stirring every 30 minutes. Remove lid. Cook another 45 minutes. Serve immediately or at room temperature.

MAPLE SALMON

1/2 cup maple syrup
2 tablespoons soy sauce
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 teaspoon garlic salt
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
1 pound salmon

In a small bowl, mix the maple syrup, soy sauce, garlic, garlic salt, and pepper. Place salmon in a shallow glass baking dish, and coat with the maple syrup mixture. Cover the dish, and marinate salmon in the refrigerator 30 minutes, turning once. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Place the baking dish in the preheated oven, and bake salmon uncovered 20 minutes, or until easily flaked with a fork.

While Branch 629 has been able to remain open, as all of Temiskaming is now a "Red Zone", regulations with respect to social distancing have changed in so far as numbers at a table (now 4) and our capacity has been reduced to half of the licensed occupancy, a number that we never attain. As the weather warms and we can return to the horseshoe patio area that will be less relevant.

All in all, our Branch has survived the pandemic in relatively good state to date and it is our hope that we can see ourselves through to the end and return to some degree of normalcy. Lest we forget

Comrade Sheila Belanger

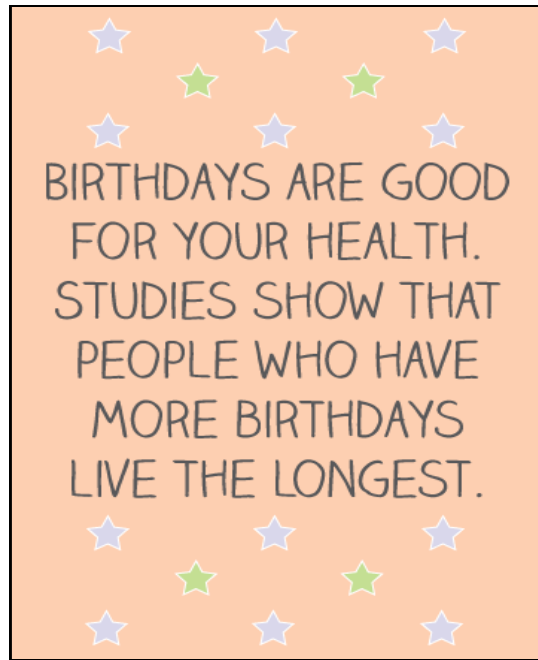
1st Vice Ladies Auxiliary

President George Lefebvre Branch 629



It's an educational service. Tutoring, virtual lessons, one - on-one lessons. Respectfully ,

Leslie-Ann Thomas
(Montessori, OCT)
Ontario, Canada



White Mountain Publications

New & Pre-Loved Books
50 Silver Street, Cobalt, ON
705-679-5555

Open Tuesday through Saturdays 10 am to 5 pm
Online 24/7 at wmpub.ca

IS ONE DAY A YEAR REALLY ENOUGH?

As I write, yesterday was International Women's Day. About time, I say. You see, when my mother was born, she didn't exist in any real way. She was considered a chattel at best, the property of the nearest man. She was not allowed to vote, or own anything or, poor lady, have any opinions of her own. Even the Church of England's marriage ceremony involved transfer of ownership of the bride from one man to another. Possibly this was the reason she wedded in a Quaker Meeting For Worship.

Due to the persistence of women like Mrs. Pankhurst who went to jail to gain the right to vote, likely run by (not-so-gentle) male jailors, the vote was granted piecemeal to women in England. In Canada, there was a famous case in the Nineteen Twentys known as "The Persons' Case," where finally women were deemed to be actual persons. Before that, as I say, they weren't.

So to today. Women are only allotted one day a year? Are we men so scared of the female gender that we can only afford less than three percent of the year to them? The thought that it's better than nothing is surely insulting to half our population. Perhaps a better idea is that all odd days be dedicated to them and even ones to us, except for leap years, which are confusing enough as it is.

Now I believe the reason why we tend to be afraid of women is that they are generally smarter than us, in my observation at least. I struggled as to why this is for a long time, before concluding that the two halves of their brain join up when they have their first period, whereas men usually have to operate with only the left half, the "How to do it" half.

Some connectedness between the intuitive half and the logical half of the brain in men does develop when we undergo extreme stress,

like in intense battlefield conditions. This gives a sense of awareness otherwise denied to the uninitiated. Take me, for instance. As some of you know, I was bombed while in the womb, a stresser indeed. I always thought I was merely good at reading body language, but it may well have been more than that. Not to say that I'm psychic, as the jury is out on whether this exists.

Women-dominated societies have been routinely wiped out over the centuries by paternalistic ones, principally because men will use violence to assert themselves, where women will talk rather than fight. Take the Minoan Civilisation on Crete. There, women were free to dress as they pleased, had no weapons of war and everyone lived in huge interconnected compounds. They didn't stand a chance when the patriarchal Greeks came along and put them to the sword.

This domination happened all over the place, I believe. The Romans couldn't stand the Tuscans, likely for the same reason and I suspect the Norse were also a free-thinking society that the paternalistic Catholic Church couldn't tolerate.

Sadly, I believe that Churchill was right when he said that the English Parliamentary system was not very good, but I disagree with him when he says it's the best one available. I suspect the best government for us all is the one that the James Bay Cree have. They run themselves by the dictates of three grandmothers, all of whom have been around for a long time and know what is the best thing to do for the tribe in any situation that comes up.

Anyway, there's my idealism coming to the fore, for what it's worth.

**All the best from
Charlie by the lake.**

Rhonda's Garden Tip

Page 6

Rise and Shine April!

Spring awakens from its sleep; migrating birds will fill the air to welcome a new season. Anytime now, we will see the early risers; tulips, crocuses and daffodils pushing their way through the soil or maybe even the snow to visit us again. Then creeping phlox (pink, purple and white), grape/blue hyacinths, and two tone irises will all announce their arrival with a colourful springtime sight. Oh, let's not forget the spectacular display that a large group of brilliant tulips will bring to dazzle the senses.

Springtime is the season to pick up the mess and clean up the damage that winter has left behind, like broken branches, leaves, pinecones and other tree droppings that our lawnmower's would not like to mulch. Left over wet leaves and debris may smother our delicate plants if not removed. Leaves can be a great insulator to protect from frost, but once spring arrives, it's wise to take them away to avoid losing the plants. Edge your garden beds and pull weeds early this season to stop them from seeding and spreading. Plump up flowerbeds and plants with a triple mix –compost, peat, and loam to add nutrients back into your flowers, so they continue to grow bigger and healthier. You may need to trim cedar hedges and shrubs, if you didn't get it done in the fall. It's a good idea to get proper gloves for those raking jobs to avoid getting blisters on your hands, which seem to take forever to heal. Work gloves or garden gloves both work well. Find some rubber boots or shoes that are comfortable for your feet to work in wet and muddy areas too.

Remember to work slowly back into gardening, stretch before you start. Your muscles need a little time to wake up and get moving too! Gardening is an excellent way to keep up on the exercise and get some work done at the same time, double bonus. It's also the perfect time to check over all your gardening tools and accessories, so they will function at their best for the season ahead. Lawn mowers and tractors included in this maintenance check. Spring is here, let's suit up with the proper gardening gear and tools to welcome all the beauty that spring has to offer us this year! Happy gardening!

Bye for now,

Rhonda's Cards



rhondas_artstudio



Subscribers news!

Wow! They say that if March come in like a lamb then it goes out like a Lion and they sure weren't far off here in Latchford this March. After being lulled into thinking that winter was well back in our rear-view mirrors with bare ground all around, we got hit with one nasty March storm on the 28th! The highway was closed for several hours and we ended up with very close to 8 inches (20 cms) of snow when all was said and done. While it may not have measured up to some of the March storms I have endured, it sure jolted me back to the reality of the month we were living in. The results of this late month storm are well on there way to melting as this is being written. More good spring news is that Alice Livingston's two robins made it through the winter!

Renewals for the month were led off by one from Roger and Lucienne Johnston out in Penticton, BC for 2 more years. Roger was born and raised here in Latchford and I always enjoy pointing out that he was our first resident to graduate from the Haileybury School of Mines and he has had a career that has taken him to many parts of Canada. Next in was one from May Graham of Windsor for 2 more years and may suggested a new option for reading the Moose Call by going on line which is how TVO found out about us which resulted in a very positive tory about the 'Call and Latchford.

Next in was Marg Larente of Welland who also opted for 2 more years and she was joined by Patsy (Parliament) Sancarrier of Thunder Bay who also stays for 2 more years. Rounding out the month was yet another 2-year subscription from long time seasonal residents, Don and Doris Messenger of Hudson Township. Thanks to all for your continued interest and support as well as the extra so many insist on sending.

On the health and fitness front I have to admit to being out of the loop on the current state of wellness for residents of Latchford as I was distracted by all the good weather and out walking my dogs when I should have been checking on the well being of others. To all who may be under the weather in any form, a speedy return to good health is wished by all!

Please take care and stay safe! **George L.**

FOR ALL YOUR BACK HOE NEEDS

CONTACT DAVE PECKOVER:

705-679-3001

LATCHFORD

Stump Removal, Land Clearing, Excavating & snow removal

Brownlee Equipment, Now in Latchford!

For all your rental needs & sales call

Brian: 705-544-3493 or Dave: 705-679-3001

NOTICE

The Latchford Recreation Committee would invite residents to consider joining their group, as several members have resigned and some are moving away, so very few members will remain. Should they not be able to recruit more people, this organization could very easily fold and this would be very detrimental to the children and adults of Latchford as they provide many activities for all ages throughout the year. Call Sharon @ 705-676-1115 Town Office @705-676-2416 to join up!

Advertising

Contact: Sharon Lefebvre @ 676-2129

Card Size 1.5"x 2.9"
1 year - \$100.00
6 months - \$50.00
3 months - \$25.00
1 month - \$10.00

C l a s s i f i e d s

Announcements, Want Ads, Employment, etc..... 2.00

Submission Deadline

All ads must be in by the 23rd of each month to be published in the following month's newsletter. Articles may be edited for space

C i r c u l a t i o n

Sharon Lefebvre 676-2129 or write to Circulation Manager at P.O. Box 10, Latchford, ON P0J 1N0.

S u b s c r i p t i o n s

1 year - Large Print \$10.00
1 year - Regular Print 8.00
U.S Subscriptions \$15.00

The Latchford & Area Moose Call is published monthly by the Town of Latchford.

CONTRIBUTURS: Sharon Lefebvre, George Lefebvre, Monique O'Shaughnessy, Edith Rabillard, Sheila Belanger, Bill Vandenhooogen, Laurel Gadoury, Jaime Allen, Frances Lefebvre, Rhonda

Editorial Policy

: We will not print any news, items, letters, or otherwise containing slanderous, defamatory, or injurious information in reference to the character of any person or entity. The writer of all articles must be identified when items are submitted but may request to remain anonymous in print. All such requests will be honoured.



The Latchford Volunteer Fire dept. would like to thank everyone who has donated pop cans and aluminum products over the years. We will no longer be accepting any more of these donations. Please put your pop cans out with your regular recycling. Thank you again for your support.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STORAGE AVAILABLE

Winter Storage available for boats, cars, trailers, ATVs etc.
Fees are \$15.00 per foot



Diane Armstrong's book *Over the Hill III - \$20 Mud, Muskeg & Mosquitoes* \$20 soft cover, \$33 hard cover

Diane Armstrong 705-235-5918
74 Powell Avenue South Porcupine, ON
P0N 1H0 armstrong.diane6@persona.ca



John Vanthof MPP/Député Timiskaming-Cochrane

New Liskeard Office/Bureau



247 Whitewood Ave., Box 398
Pinewoods Ctr., Unit 5
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

Phone: (705) 647-5995
Toll Free: 1-888-701-1105
Fax: (705) 647-1976

Email: jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca



www.johnvanthof.com



Letters to the Moose Call

Note of Thanks!

I would to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who took the time to send cards, make calls and to just let me know that my 91st birthday on March 30 had not been forgotten. Each and every one of you helped to make my day special.

Sincerely,

Helen Larose

The Town of Latchford;

Please renew our Moose Call for two more years for us.

Thank you,

Don and Doris Messenger

Hudson Township

year subscription to the Moose Call, regular print.

Thank you,

**Roger and Lucienne Johnston,
Penticton, B.C.**

Sharon

Thanks to everyone of the Moose Call workers.

I look forward to reading and hearing what is happening up there and here is a cheque to cover two years.

Don't' mail me a copy of the Moose Call, just text me or email when it is online. If that is okay with you guys.

**Thanks,
May Graham**

Please find enclosed a cheque to cover a two-



MRG
MILLER
REALTY GROUP

Laurie Christo
Sales Representative

Buy | Rent | Sell

Contact Me:
Mobile: (705) 648-0011
Main Office: (705) 647-6444
Email: lchristomrg@gmail.com
Fax: (705) 647-6419
Website: www.mrgi.ca

THE DAM DEPOT

FRIENDLY FULL SERVICE GAS STATION AND CONVIENCE STORE

LCBO AND LOTERY

32 MAIN ST. LATCH-

PREMIUM, REGULAR

LCBO AND LOTERY TICKETS AGENCY STORE

Life in the 1920's

The following was shared with me by Sheila Keenan Godby, the youngest daughter of Fred and Ida Keenan. Mr Keenan, being the long time Principal of the Latchford Public School with that school (and the present Medical Centre) being named after him. The story relates to his time teaching in Echo Bay where he met and married Ida. Sheila has given me permission to share it with our readers as I find it very interesting in that it depicts a very different way of life and especially transportation. Here goes:

"Life at Echo Bay became very pleasant. I was a pretty fair hockey player and Echo Bay spent all winter engrossed with the exploits of the EB team. We travelled by train, cutter and "caboose" (a shack on a sleigh with a team of horses to pull it) to various places like Desbarats, Hilton Beach, Richard's Landing, Bruce Mines, Thessalon and Blind River, sometimes staying overnight, sometimes getting back home at 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning. It was a lot of fun. And of course we were always accompanied by as many supporters as the caboose would hold. And there was nearly always a dance after the games.

The matter of transportation was always a problem. Sometimes Ida and I would rent a horse and cutter at the livery stable and drive out to her place, returning to Echo Bay late at night. I did not like horses and never learned in spite of Ida's best efforts to keep the cutter in the middle of the built up snow road (highways were not kept open for cars in the winter). So we had more than one upset and runaway and I resolved to get a car in the spring. I saved my money, borrowed \$100 from Annie by mail, went down to Toronto, and with Gil Bird's help, bought a Ford Model T Coupe, one ear old for \$350. It speaks well for the sturdiness of the good old Tin Lizzie that I drove it all the way to the Soo, stopping overnight at Hamill's in North Bay, and had no trouble at all, in spite of sand and mud roads, terrible hills around Trout Creek, and almost no pavement at all.

With a car, of course, we were able to

get around a lot better and had some enjoyable trips. Roads were gravel and rough but the Model T was made tough. If anything went wrong it could be easily fixed. Every Model T owner got to be an expert on the breed. Eaton's catalogue was filled with every conceivable gadget you could use to maintain or improve your Ford. Tires were the chief problem. They were 30 x 3 ¼ in. and inflated to about 50 lbs. pressure. Punctures were common, so were blowouts. Everybody carried complete tire repair kits, tire irons to get the tire and tube off the rim and a hand pump to inflate the repaired tire. Hard work. But if things came to the worst you could always stuff the tire with rags or hay or anything handy and proceed on your way. The ride wasn't soft for sure but it didn't hurt anything.

That summer I got a job selling Chautauqua Desks. They were educational desk-black-board-chair combinations with rolls of educational pictures and instructions that you turned on a roller to the subject you wanted. Actually it was a pretty good product and I (along with the sales manager who came up from Toronto to teach me the trade) did sensationally well in the Soo-Bind River area where I was pretty well known because of the hockey. But after he left and after I got out of my own territory things weren't so good I only lasted a month. It was a high pressure selling job and I just didn't fit that very well. The rest of the holidays I spent at Kahshe Lake with the family.

The next year 1927-28 went just as well and in the following spring Ida and I became engaged. We decided that I would leave Echo Bay and seek another job. When school ended in June, 1928, I drove the car down to Toronto and started applying for jobs. It was no trouble at all. In a week or two I had been accepted at a place called Latchford, 80 miles north of North Bay. Learning that there was no completed road (the Ferguson Highway was just being built) I sold the Ford for about the same as I had paid for it, repaid Annie her \$100

Continued on page 11.....

Life in the 1920's continued....

which I had in the meantime invested in Hollinger Gold Stock, received a present of \$100 from dad and mother, hied back by CPR to Echo Bay where Ida and I were married, as related back a piece in the mixed-up autobiography. Ida and I spent a week or two in Toronto and then went up to Kahshe Lake where we stayed until it was time to hit north. This brings us to another chapter entitled LATCHFORD WHICH FOLLOWS IMMEDIATELY."

I hope Sheila can locate and share the story about her parent's arrival in Latchford so that it can be shared with the readers. I well remember a very cute story that Mr. Keenan shared with me about moving to Latchford but I will refrain from printing it until first sharing with family members and hopefully it will be included in the Latchford arrival chapter.

How one tiny Ontario town makes the news When the Town of Latchford saw local media coverage drying up, it launched its own monthly news publication — the "Moose Call"

By Josh Sherman - Published on Sep 21, 2020 (Assistant editor at TVO).

When George Lefebvre made stops at a favourite breakfast joint back in the '80s, the menu wasn't the only thing he'd read: the South River restaurant, which he'd pass en route to Toronto, laid out copies of a local newsletter on the tables. "We thought the idea would work for Latchford," says Lefebvre, long-time mayor of the northeastern Ontario town.

Lefebvre, who has been active in Latchford politics for about 40 years as a councillor, mayor, and treasurer, felt that his town, home to about 300, lacked media attention. "The weekly newspapers were in transition where they used to have columns from each of the municipalities in their coverage area," he says. "They sort of transitioned out of that." Think-

ing the community could use another platform for local voices, he and his wife, Sharon, set about creating what he describes as a "promotional handout" in July 1988, recruiting several volunteers from the seniors' club. Dubbed the Moose Call, it was distributed for free to local gas stations and restaurants and handed out at his wife's gift shop. "After two months," he says, "people were appealing for it to continue."

Since the beginning, the publication has taken a light-hearted approach. Flipping through recent issues — each of which is 12 pages long and photocopied on folded legal-sized paper — readers will find Lefebvre's regular update, titled "Just Passin Through Again," followed by recipes, a gardening column, jokes, and puzzles. "We just want to lighten it up," explains Lefebvre, who credits past and present volunteers for the publication's warm reception and longevity.

Charlie Johnson, who joined the Moose Call's roster about two years ago, pens a monthly column under the sobriquet "Charlie by the lake." Like the other contributors, he doesn't have a formal journalism background. However, before moving to Latchford five years ago, he put out his own newsletter, Charlie From the Bush, about living "off the grid" in the Lorrain Valley. "I guess the object of that paper and the object of my articles is really entertainment, you know?" For the September issue, the 77-year-old jotted down his thoughts about coffee. For Rhonda Legault, her gardening column is a chance to spark creativity at home. "That's the whole point of it is to give ideas, to give tips — or what I've learned along the way — to inspire people to go out in their yard." before moving to Latchford five years ago, he put out his own newsletter, Charlie From the Bush, about living "off the grid" in the Lorrain Valley. "I guess the object of that paper and the object of my articles is really entertainment, you know?"

Continued on page 12.....

One tiny town continues.....

For the September issue, the 77-year-old jotted down his thoughts about coffee. For Rhonda Legault, her gardening column is a chance to spark creativity at home. “That’s the whole point of it is to give ideas, to give tips — or what I’ve learned along the way — to inspire people to go out in their yard.” The bulletin has also played a small-but-significant role in northeastern Ontario’s local-media landscape. John R. Hunt, who wrote for the North Bay Nugget for 67 years, sometimes cited it in his own columns. “There wasn’t much coverage of Latchford,” says Hunt, 95, of the publication’s relevance. “The Moose Call provided some local coverage of what was going on in Latchford.” He remembers at least one occasion on which it broke news, beating all the other publications in the region to a story. “There was a big fire — a gas line caught fire — and George [Lefebvre] actually scooped everybody,” says the long-time Cobalt resident, who penned his final piece for the Nugget last year. “He had a report on it before anybody else knew about it.” Lefebvre remembers it well: “We got some attention for that.” The bulletin has also played a small-but-significant role in northeastern Ontario’s local-media landscape. John R. Hunt, who wrote for the North Bay Nugget for 67 years, sometimes cited it in his own columns. “There wasn’t much coverage of Latchford,” says Hunt, 95, of the publication’s relevance. “The Moose Call provided some local coverage of what was going on in Latchford.” He remembers at least one occasion on which it broke news, beating all the other publications in the region to a story. “There was a big fire — a gas line caught fire — and George [Lefebvre] actually scooped everybody,” says the long-time Cobalt resident, who penned his final piece for the Nugget last year. “He had a report on it before anybody else knew about it.” Lefebvre remembers it well: “We got some attention for that.” The shortage of local news has only intensified in the 32 years since the Moose Call’s launch. Ryerson journalism professor April Lindgren, who founded the Lo-

cal News Research Project, which is tracking newspaper closures during COVID-19, says that puts towns and cities in a tough spot. “Municipalities have increasingly been concerned about the loss of news coverage of what’s happening in their communities, because it just makes their jobs more difficult,” she says. If locals can’t get information about upcoming council decisions, they may not have the chance to get involved, she notes. The city may want to get word out about roadwork, she says or politicians may want the opportunity to say, “Hey, look what I did — pat me on the back.” Other municipalities, she notes, have been trying to address local-news shortages through their own initiatives. “In Brampton, for instance, I did a study of their efforts to produce press releases in more than just English to reach their more diverse population,” she says. Though she considers efforts such as the Moose Call “admirable,” she believes they’re no substitute for traditional journalism. “My concern is that people who live in any community should not mistake information for journalism,” she says. “And we need to make a distinction between being supplied with information versus being supplied with news that we know ... has been verified, independently produced by identifiable people, and is timely.” As papers have shuttered, the Moose Call has survived recessions, the rise of the internet, and a global pandemic. Does Lefebvre see it living on indefinitely? “No,” he says. “It was the flavour in the day that outlasted its life expectancy considerably.” For now, though, editor Bill Vandenhooogen is doing what he can to keep the publication — which he calls “part of Latchford” — alive. He took on the role 11 years ago, when the previous editor fell ill, and hasn’t looked back. “I really didn’t want this paper to die, and I don’t think there was anyone else available to do it,” he says. “So many things have been and gone ... but this is the only thing that actually has been over 30 years, and it’s still going. Let’s just keep this thing going. It’s a nice little paper.”