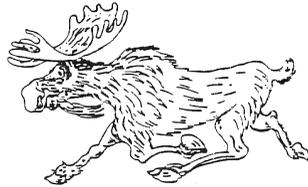


THE BEST LITTLE TOWN BY A DAM SITE!

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35 YEARS!!!



THE LATCHFORD AND AREA

MOOSE CALL

Issue Price FREE



# February 2024



**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 FEBRUARY TO BE HELD ON THE 13th VIA ZOOM AT 6:30PM AND WILL BE POSTED TO THE TOWN OF LATCHFORD WEBSITE AND FEBRUARY 27th AT THE LATCHFORD RECREATION CENTRE IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS @ 6:30PM. EVERYONE IS WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**

**LEGION MEETING TO BE HELD THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION IN LATCHFORD.**

# Mayors Report

Well hoping all have enjoyed the January weather. Somehow, I think we are going to get something nasty soon.

We now have our rink up and running and we are also going to try and open the canteen on Saturday and Sunday afternoon skate. That will make it nicer for the parents that would have to stand out by the ice surface. Also, it lets all warmup better. The canteen has never been open since I have been on council, and it was an idea to try it and see if will be worth it. If we don't try it will never know and it actually has the rec centre being used.

The rink is open on Friday nights too. Let's hope the weather doesn't make ice go soft.

TMA had their meeting on Jan 25th. Clayton Seymour was there to speak on the Community Risk Assessment, and they will have webinars for council as this will have to be done by June.

Jeff Barton also was there to speak on the Jack Munroe Documentary.

Cobalt, Coleman and Latchford food bank food services remain suspended as the wait to get into their new location. They are providing food voucher support to clients in need from the St. James Anglican Church on Wednesdays for the time being.

I will be having a meeting on Feb. 2nd with Bridget Cherry from Association of Municipalities of Ontario. Let's hope something good comes from that meeting.

I would like to take the time and thank a few people that were missed in the donations of the apple pie vouchers for the senior's deliveries. The others that helped with the donation are Candace and Aaron Flannigan, James and Robin Mckewin, Mike and Brenda Garton, Scott Dinel, and Ryan and Megan Campsall. Thank you to you all for being so generous. I have heard from many they really did enjoy the pies.

I would also like to show appreciation to our local volunteer fire dept. They all deserve to be appreciated. They have to get up at all times of the night and in any weather.

Well all have a great February and let's hope we don't get hit to hard with nasty weather making up for January.

**Thanks**

**Sharon Gadoury-East**



**Dan's Snow Removal**  
**Reasonable Rates**  
**705-676-2126**  
**705-622-9039**



# From the kitchen of Diana

Page 3

## THE ULTIMATE MEAT LASAGNE (12 servings, 365 cal. each)

There are a lot of amazing lasagne recipes, but if you like a very meaty one, this may be the one for you. It makes 12 servings, 365 calories each.

2 pounds lean ground beef  
2 teaspoons dried basil leaves  
2 teaspoons dried oregano  
1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds  
2 teaspoons Kosher salt  
12 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes  
6 cups marinara sauce  
1/4 cup chopped parsley  
1 box lasagne noodles (flat, no boil noodles)  
16 ounces ricotta cheese  
1 egg  
1/2 Kosher salt  
1/2 pund Provolone cheese, sliced  
1/2 pound mozzarella cheese, sliced  
1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. In a large pot, brown the beef in one large piece until it is browned on the bottom, 2-3 minutes, breaking apart the beef into slightly larger chunks. Cook until the beef is browned and add in the basil, oregano, 2 teaspoons Kosher salt, crushed red pepper flakes and fennel seeds. Stir until you start to smell the fennel seeds starting to toast then drain the fat and add in the marinara sauce.

In a separate medium-sized mixing bowl mix the ricotta egg and 1/2 teaspoon Kosher salt and mix well. Add your no boil noodles to the meat sauce (you are not looking to cook them, just coat them in the sauce to ensure they don't get dry in the oven).

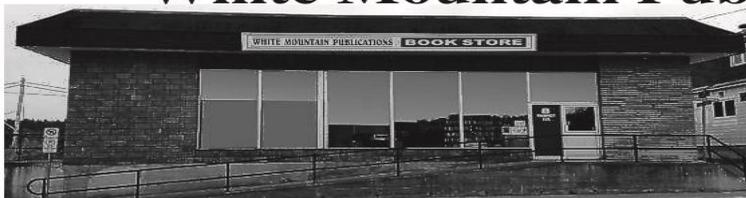
Put 1 1/2 cups of meat sauce in the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking pan (use one with straight sides for easy assembly and for added height. If you are using a glass baking pan with curved sides it may not be large enough to fit this quantity of food). Add the dried no boil noodles in an even layer, for this pan it was 5 noodles per layer, four across and one broken in half lengthwise to go down the side of the pan.

Add 1/3 the provolone slices, another 1 1/2 cups of the meat sauce, 1/4 of the mozzarella, 1/4 of the parmesan and 1/3 of the ricotta in spoonfuls dotting across the pan. Repeat with the same noodle/cheese/meat sauce process.

Finally, add a top layer of lasagna noodles and cover with remaining Parmesan and mozzarella. Cover with foil. Bake for 40 minutes, then remove foil and bake for an additional ten minutes to brown the cheese. Let cool for 20-25 minutes before serving. Garnish with parsley.

**Diana Pearman**

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**Hello everyone!**

Wow what a beautiful winter so far. Yes we have had a few cold days, but that's January.

On January 6th, George and Sharon Lefebvre, Larry and Vicky Wilks attended the Zone Cribbage and Euchre card games in Englehart, BR 104. For Cribbage, they came in 3rd. For Euchre, they came in 5th. The team moves on to play at District on February 3rd in Hailybury BR 54. Good luck!

Upcoming events are: Sunday February 11th Super Bowl Party at the Legion. Doors open at 3pm. Come out and cheer on your team! Saturday February 17th The Ladies Auxiliary are having a spaghetti supper at the Legion from 4-6pm. Come out and enjoy a great meal!

Our Legion has a pool table now. We also have dart boards and a shuffleboard table for your enjoyment. Thanks to everyone that has been supporting Branch 629!

The Legion is open Friday nights, 7 pm to ??? Open Saturdays 2 pm until ???.

If anyone has any suggestions, ideas, comments of what they would like to see or do in the Legion, such as dart nights, bingo nights, shuffleboard tournaments, pool tournaments etc.... Please let me know.

The next Branch meeting will be February 14th at 7 pm. Please note that on February 25 and 26th, Sgt Aubrey Cosens V.C. Branch 629 will be lowering their flag to half staff in commemoration of the 79th anniversary of our namesake's death and his being awarded the Victoria Cross. One of only 16 Canadians to be so honoured in World War 2. Plans will be shortly launched for a more formal recognition ceremony in 2024 to commemorate

the 80th anniversary of this significant event. Lest we forget.

If anyone would like to become a Branch member, please contact me or stop at the Legion for an application form.

Here is my contact information: forvic2@gmail.com

705-679-4062

Have a great day! Stay warm!

Lest we forget.

**Vicky Gray-Wilks  
Branch President**

**Latchford Legion Branch 629**

**Is pleased to be hosting a Spaghetti Supper  
Saturday, February 17th - 4:00 to 6:00 pm**

**Menu**

**Spaghetti with meat sauce, ceasar salad,  
garlic bread, coffee, tea and desert.**

**Cost is \$15.00 per person, \$8.00 for children**

**Home delivery will be available.**

**Please call the Francine to place your order  
647-927-9757**

**We are looking forward to seeing you.**



## Letter to the call

I truly cannot believe the moment is here! The time where I retire and leave "the perfect job". For 29 years I have been your Postmaster and I've loved it all. It's been a joy to serve you all. I feel i cannot put into words how I'm feeling writing this note, only that the tears are falling down my face. How fortunate i have been to have this career, I've known it and valued it all along!

The truly wonderful people I've met along the way. Every single day I get to greet or meet people coming into my Post office. I see them at their happiest, at their worst, be it grieving or celebrating a huge milestone in their lives. I've seen it all!! I get to share it with them. Grieving is certainly the hardest to see. In a small town like Latchford, we all feel the loss deeply. While working here, I too, lost both my parents as well as my little co-worker "Cooper". My customers truly helped me through it all. The kindness shown to me and my family was simply "overwhelming". Be it through, flowers, tons of cards, many hugs, meals delivered to my home, and sweet treats. Or simply, being there to listen. It was AMAZING! Christmas as well, people spoil the heck out of me. So kind and thoughtful. I'm so grateful!!!!

My motto has always been since getting this job to be kind and smile at everyone because I may be the only person they see that day. Who knows who may need it the most.

It was sometimes very difficult to say goodbye to those who were moving and leaving our little Town of Latchford. You sometimes become friends with people without doing social things with them outside the post office. Although, I have made many some amazing friends here over the years

I still miss many of those we have lost, Teddy and his jokes, Bridget and Robert Frank's, Edith Rabillard, Roger Hinds who wore his summer shorts summer and winter, Joey Mejaki and many, many others. Of course there are those who moved away, my Aunt Irene Ranger, Helen Derksen who spends most of her time in her the south and of course, the wonderful Rita McDermid. All these people I saw almost every day, they were part of my life. It leaves an empty feeling. They are truly some of the best people I have Ever Met!!!!!!

Mostly, I will miss all my "counter chats" with many special people. It's been said about me, "man, that girl can talk" and they are totally right. I'm quite good at it!!!! I'm truly interested in people and how they are doing. Work has always been my "solace". No matter what was going on in my life at that time, it was good for me. It's where I wanted to be.

I'm not sure how this "retirement thing" will go but I am going to do it. I feel I deserve it after 29 years. I'm turning 60!!! It's time!! People have asked me numerous times why now? I keep repeating, I do not want to be sorry. I've seen it too many times where people wait then something happens and they do not get the chance to enjoy it!!!! I don't want that to be me!!!! As it gets closer to my date, I feel I'm ready. I can hear my Mom as she always said, everything in life is a phase or a stage.. do it!!!! So here I go.

I'll pursue new and old hobbies, hang with my family and friends more and hopefully travel more with my hubby. I'll hang out with my co conspirator and sister in law Sheila a lot more too!!!! And spend more time with my adorable, light of my life granddaughter, "Isabella". In the summertime, you can find me at the beach, that's where I'll be!!!!!!

Continued on page 10.....

## Valentine's Day Plants and Activities in the Garden

While specific plants may not be directly associated with Valentine's Day in the way that flowers like rose are, you can choose plants that show love and affection to celebrate the occasion. Plants like; Roses (especially red roses), Lilies, Orchids, Tulips, Daisies, Carnations, Lavender, Camellias, Azaleas, and Heart-shaped succulents. All these plants represent beauty, admiration and emotion. Here are some activities that you can do with loved ones, including children in the garden to celebrate Valentine's Day. For all of you who live in the north with snow covered terrains, just replace the summer landscape activities for winter activities, and dress accordingly. Here are some ideas for a garden-themed Valentine's Day celebration:

1. **Create a maze in the Garden:** Set up a cozy sitting area under a favourite tree. Pack a basket with delicious snacks, chocolates, and your favourite drinks. Enjoy a meal together, surrounded by the beauty of nature. For all the wintertime folks, pick days that are warmer, sunny, and dress warmer to share activities outside.
2. **Candlelit Play:** Arrange lighting in and around the garden. Use fairy lights and lanterns to create a magical atmosphere, even during the winter. Prepare a special homemade dinner or favourite take-out to add to the fun. For the wintertime folks, replace the summertime drinks for hot chocolate, teas, and hot beverages.
3. **Winter Camping:** For the more adventurous, winter camping can provide a unique experience. Be sure to have the right gear to stay warm and safe.
4. **Photography:** Capture the beauty of winter landscapes with photos. Snow-covered trees, frozen lakes, and winter wildlife can make great pictures.
5. **Stargazing:** If you have an open area in your garden, set up a cozy spot for stargazing. Use a stargazing app to identify constellations and enjoy the night sky together.
6. **Snow Sculpting:** Get artistic by creating snow sculptures or snow art. This could range from simple snow angels to more elaborate sculptures.
7. **Building Snowmen:** A timeless and family-friendly activity, building a snowman allows for creativity and outdoor play.
8. **Snowshoeing:** This is a great way to explore snowy landscapes on foot.
9. **Sledding/Tobogganing:** Grab a sled and find a hill in the garden, or make one.

Remember, the most important aspect of celebrating Valentine's Day is spending quality time together and expressing your love in a way that is meaningful for both of you. Enjoy the beauty of your garden and the company of your loved ones. Check out my painting sites for gift ideas and valentine cards. Happy Valentine's Day!!

**Bye for now, Rhonda**



## Subscribers news.

I am hoping to arrange a book burning ceremony (with the LVFD's blessing) down at the covered bridge. Before anyone gets too excited, the only book that will be burnt will be the Farmer's Almanac. They have been so far off base with their prediction for this winter that we should try to pick a cool day to get some kind of value for our money! Then again, winter is far from over so I may end up having to eat my words which, of course, wouldn't be the first time.

I have lived through 84 January's, granted I do not have a clear recollection of some of the early ones but this 2024 version is one for the record books! Ice conditions are all over the place and they haven't been able to open the winter road to Bear Island which I believe is a first. Lake ice thicknesses are variable and forever changing based on comments attributed to our resident ice guru, Rob Godden. I am probably being generous by saying that we have approximately 8 inches of snow on the ground here in Latchford.

Needless to say, I have not been able to my new battery powered snow blower a proper test but I consider it fortunate that I took the time to read the operator's manual. Thanks to that I now know that I shouldn't operate it in bare feet or wearing sandals! Honest! That is in print, in the manual!

On the renewal front, we had one from Rob Godby of Laramie, Wyoming who renewed for another year for himself and his mother (and my former classmate) Sheila Godby of Peterborough. Following that was from my former neighbour from my childhood days, Norman Faulkner of Larder Lake for another 2 years. Then came one for another year from former resident, Marg Larente of Welland.

Bob Livingston rounded out the month when he renewed for daughter Liz Livingston of Guelph and grand daughter Crystal Livingston of Cambridge. Thanks for the continued interest and thanks for the extra so many insist on including!

On the health and fitness front, I have to admit to being a little out of the loop on the state of well being health wise for the community but can tell you that Frannie continues to progress, be it ever so slowly, and Jackie Adshead is doing likewise. Jim McRae is holding his own according to wife Theresa. To Frannie, Jackie, Jim and all others who may be ailing or infirm, a speedy return to good health is our wish for you from all readers and contributors.

I am attempting to put together a series of short columns on the contributions of the men and women from Latchford in service to Canada during WW2. The communication with their families (for sake of accuracy) has sidetracked me a bit so please forgive me **if I miss someone.**  
**George L.**

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Give me a call, I can do it all from new kitchens, baths, decks, docks, windows just to mention a few.

I have space on my calendar this winter if you would like an idea of cost we can come have a look and work out an estimate for you.

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**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

**Circulation**

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

**Subscriptions**

1 year - Large Print \$10.00  
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**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.



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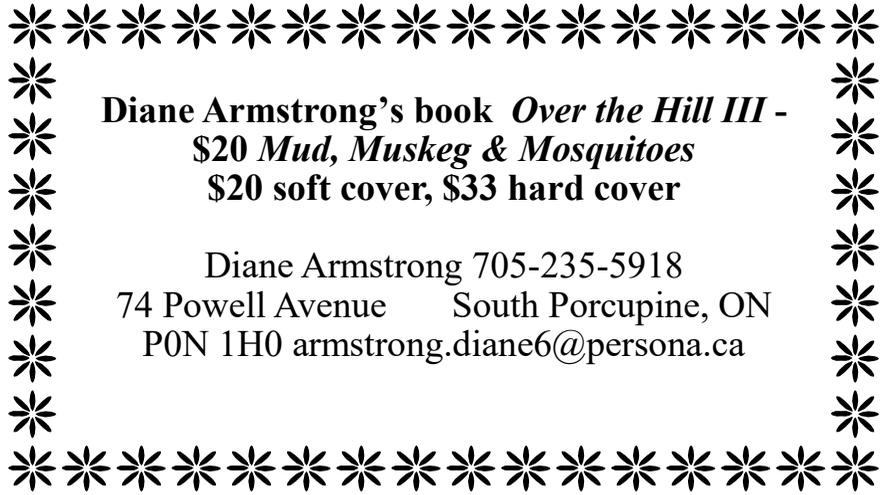
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**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***  
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**74 Powell Avenue South Porcupine, ON**  
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**My view from OVER THE HILL January 19, 2024**

**DISMISSING THE MYTH**

**By Diane Armstrong**

Early Northern Ontario has often been described as a wild, untamed haven for brawling prospectors, loose women and other undesirables. Some have claimed the north has only produced precious minerals and hockey players. Little attention has been given to its culture, yet even in the earliest days, there was always a strong interest in the arts – in music especially. Probably the most prominent musical instrument that played a role in our “wild, untamed” northern towns was the piano. In 1907, my grandmother saw to the loading of furniture, boxes of clothing, kitchen utensils, sewing machine and her piano, on to a train in Quebec with a stop in North Bay. She changed trains to a T&NO train, with her final destination being Dane, where she, 3 children and a baby joined her husband, the new station agent in Dane. Their accommodations were too small, so her piano was stored in the freight shed, only to be brought to life when she taught the school children Christmas carols and songs. The family was later posted to Latchford in 1909 and grandmother Belanger saw to it, that the piano would again be put on the train with all their other worldly goods. In Latchford, she played at dances and for church services. The next move was much more complicated, as

this time, my grandfather had been posted to Elk Lake before the completion of the railway. Then it was a town only accessible by steam boat, up the Montreal River. This trip involved rapids and transfers to different steam boats, but her beloved piano arrived safely. It was not the only piano in town. Besides private homes, there was a piano in the Elk Lake Opera House where silent movies, vaudeville acts and local drama productions were held. The famous prospector/pianist Caroline Mayben Flower held a “Grand Concert” on November 24, 1905 at the Opera House in Cobalt, performing musical numbers by Chopin, Brahms and Liszt, closing the evening with ‘Lullaby’, one of her own compositions. July, 1911 saw the opening of the Grand Opera House in New Liskeard. It was described an impressive building with plush seats and even a curved balcony which overlooked the stage. This was certainly not a venue which would appeal to a “wild, untamed” populace. James Fera built the Majestic Theatre in South Porcupine, just after the 1911 fire. The building served as movie house and a centre for both visiting and local musical presentations. They also had a very unique piano. I was told that when the range of a singer’s voice did not relate to the musical score, all the pianist had to do, was move a lever under the keyboard, and the keys would shift right or left, producing a new higher

**Continued on page 11.....**

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**Letter continued.....**

Mostly, this much longer than planned note is to simply say, Thank you!!!!!! To you all for making my job here certainly "one of the greatest gifts of my life". I will miss you all. But, I'll be in to get my mail, like you all and visit.....only I'll be on the other side of the counter.

A very special thank you to the Town of Latchford for granting me the space here to house my Post Office. The years since 2014 have been just great! Much appreciated.

I truly hope that my term, Niana Good, does indeed move into my position as Postmaster, as she deserves it. Please make her feel "most welcome".

**All my best,**

**Monique O'Shaughnessy**

**"Just a Postal Worker"**

A job that holds no significance,  
to those who read the title,  
I deliver the mail, send your parcels,  
And greet you with a smile.

Not much thought is ever granted,  
to the job i do,  
It's much more than selling stamps,  
If only you all knew.

I see people at their happiest times,

they've purchased their first home,  
And others in grief and despair,  
now facing life alone.

I see people enduring life's wrath,  
Unsure of where to turn,  
And first time parents sharing,  
What their baby has just learned.

I watch people change,  
Whether for better or for worse,  
I celebrate their triumphs,  
And hug them when it hurts.

I listen to them attentively,  
And help the best way I can,  
Some days I wish I could do more,  
But a Postal Worker is all I am!!!

**Letters to the Moose Call:**

**Dear George;**

Please find enclosed my renewal for another year of the Moose Call plus one for my mum (Sheila Godby as if you wouldn't know - but must be official!)  
I know it is a little early but if I don't beat mum...

Hope you have had a wonderful year and here's hoping I can get back to Latchford in 2024 – it's been a while!

**Take care**

**Rob**

**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 Pam @ 705-679-3093 Town Office @705-676-2416 to join up.**

## **DISMISSING THE MYTH continued**

or lower key. There were only two such pianos in Canada like it, and South Porcupine had one.

In 1915, Caroline Mayben Flower had an advertisement in the Porcupine Advance where she offered piano lessons in the Goldfields Hotel in Timmins. In the days before television, it was amazing that almost one in three northern homes had a piano in their tiny living rooms. It also indicates the number of children who likely took piano lessons. Making making music was a part of our lives.

Recently, I have researched the stories of 3 Northeastern Ontario pianists who exemplified the cultural aspect of growing up in this so-called, 'wild and untamed' north. In the next few weeks, I'll tell you the stories of Bill, Tom and Paul – all famous, and of whom we are justifiably proud. Do you know their last names?

**That's my view from Over the Hill.**

### **Latchford Families Service to Canada**

During the Second World War all communities and areas of Canada contributed greatly to serving our Country. Latchford was a bit of an exception as just shy of 20% of our total population enlisted to serve Canada. Few were the families that didn't provide at least one member in service to Canada and our allies. There were 3 members of several families, 2 of others and numerous instances of a solitary family member, which in some cases was an only child.

To better illustrate these contributions I will try to put together a series of stories about the Anderson's, Livingston's, Prest's and Ritchie's who each contributed 3 service personnel as well as the many others who provided lesser numbers of family members.

I will start with the Emerson and Josephine Ritchie family who provided their only 3 sons for the war effort as, thankfully, their daughter Marguerite was under aged and re-

mained home.

Their eldest, Raymond, enlisted in the Queen's Own Rifles, the same Regiment as Aubrey Cosens, and landed during D Day actions and was wounded on the beach. Once recovered, he continued to serve for the rest of the war in the European theatre.

Duncan and John both enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) where they served as air frame mechanics stationed in Great Britain. As Duncan recounted, while he didn't fly any of the aircraft he serviced, which I am sure included many bombers, they all made it back to him and he never lost one!

With the return of their 3 boys, the Ritchie family's involvement in WW2 didn't end as a young lumberjack by the name of Pat Saunders went to work in Emerson Ritchie's lumber camp, met and married their daughter Marguerite! That added yet another military element to the family as "Pat" had served with the Irish Regiment of Canada in Italy! His story varied from other Latchford veterans in that Pat had fought in battle at Ortona, Italy, was taken "Prisoner of War" at St Mauro, Italy on September 27, 1944 and spent the balance of the war as a POW until being liberated.

Another interesting (for me) facet of this event was that Jim Anderson, also of Latchford who will be included in a future story, witnessed all of the action and knew that Pat was either captured or killed. Jim told me he only found out the former was true when he met up with his brothers, Norman and Art, in the Netherlands in the latter stages of the war.

While there are no longer any members of this once prominent Latchford family residing here, their presence and contributions to Latchford are fondly remembered by all of us privileged to have known the Ritchie's and the Saunders.

**George L.**

## Latchford Fire department Safety tips

### Winter Fire Safety Tips

More fires happen in the winter months than any other time of the year. During the cold months, we spend more time indoors and use different methods to heat our homes. It is important to keep fire safety in mind when you are heating your home.

#### If you are using a portable heater:

- Make sure the heater has an automatic shut-off so if it tips over, it shuts off.
- Keep anything that can burn such bedding, clothing and curtains at least 3 feet from the heater.
- Plug portable heaters directly into wall outlets. Never use an extension cord or power strip.
- Turn heaters off when you go to bed or leave the room.

#### If you are using a fireplace:

- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out and starting a fire.
- Do not burn paper in your fireplace.
- Before you go to sleep or leave your home put the fire out completely.
- Put ashes in a metal container with a lid. Store the container outside at least 3 feet from your home.

#### If you are using a wood stove:

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned each year by a professional.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from the stove.
- Do not burn paper in your wood stove.
- Before you go to sleep or leave your home, put the fire out completely.

When heating your home, you need to be aware of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide, also known as CO, is called the "invisible killer" because it's a colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas. More than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental CO poisoning from generators or fuel-burning appliances such as furnaces, stoves, water heaters and fire places. Breathing CO at high levels can kill you. Put CO alarms inside your home to provide an early warning of increasing CO levels. These alarms should be placed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.

As always, make sure you have a smoke alarm on every level of your home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Test your alarms every month. Have a home fire escape plan and practice your plan at least twice a year. Make sure everyone knows how to escape your home if there is a fire.

Highway 11  
Latchford ON  
POJ 1N0

(705) 676-2096  
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