

Fall Edition Reporting

~ Val Trotter

THE REAR VIEW MIRROR

At least two months have flown by since my last report on our club activities. We will soon enter the winter solstice, which occurs on Sunday, December 21st, the day with the fewest hours of sunlight throughout the year. It is also known as the shortest day of the year. I look forward to this day, as once we reach the 21st, our days begin to grow longer and longer until we arrive at the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. I hope you are looking forward to more sunlight, as it only gets brighter from here. I actually read an article a week or so ago about the most north

ern place in Alaska, where it plunged into darkness for 66 days. This place experiences 24 hours of darkness for two months of the year due to its high northern latitude. The sun will not rise again there until January 23rd, 2026. Approximately 4,300 residents in that area bundle up during these two months as temperatures can plummet on numerous days. Even on our coldest, snowiest days in Calabogie and the area, I cannot imagine feeling that cold or being that far from the light. Yes, I know, I am often in the dark (lol), so let's take a trip down memory lane over the last two months to see what club members have been doing.

ROAD TRIPS

Our last trip was to Almonte, Ontario, as mentioned in our September report. This trip turned into a rainy-day drive home, and we didn't get to take the downtown tour. It was a great trip nonetheless. My chocolate purchased at the Hummingbird Chocolate Factory has since been devoured, even though I learned from Linda C. to savour it and eat only a small piece each day. (Ya, right). I am also curious to know if those who purchased Vodkow cream liqueur at Vodkow still have any left. I heard many say they were buying it for Thanksgiving, but I often wonder if it was all gone by then. Come on, fess up.

I am looking forward to learning about more club road trips in the forthcoming months. If you haven't been on one in a while, it is well worth the time to experience this trip.

A lot of effort goes into planning these excursions, and our thanks go to Jean and the entire executive for coming up with ideas and then making all the necessary plans.

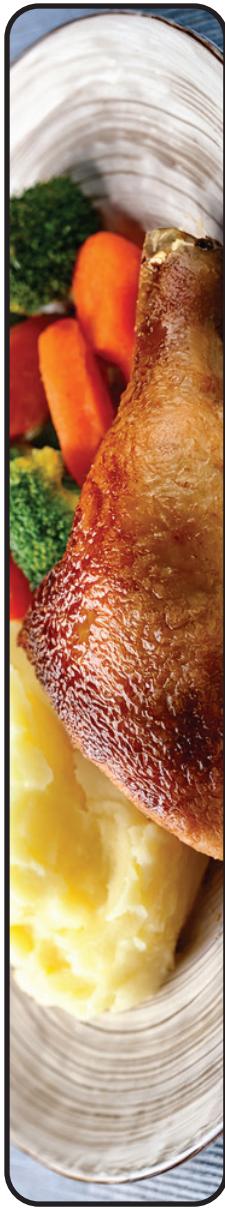
The club is still looking for help in our Social department. Jean has not only been handling the dining activities but also doing double duty, leading the social activities. This position has been vacant for the past year.

If you would like to lend any assistance, even just helping to organize a trip, please get in touch with any executive member.

HIKES

We had only one hike this year, as I reported earlier (see [2025 Activities box](#), and click the October Hike article). To recap, it was held on October 24th at the Calabogie racetrack. Ten active members, who love the outdoors, met at the entrance to the track at 10 am on that cold and dreary morning. We walked approximately 5.2 km along the track, with a mix of sun, drizzle, and cold air. This weather did not get in the way of our enjoying the walk and each other's company. The hike/walk was followed by a tour of Power Sports Garage, where some of the most unique race cars are stored and worked on. Then some went for lunch at the Calabogie Social House.





PAST DINNER MEETINGS

September – Our dinner meeting was held a week early and at the Calabogie Highlands Social House.

October – This meeting was also the club's AGM and our traditional Halloween party. The food was catered by the Calabogie Brewery and consisted of “all you could eat” tacos. All enjoyed appetizers prepared by Jean and dessert made by Cathy. I was surprised to see how many of us still came dressed up to this dinner. It amazes me that, even as we get older, we can still be young at heart. I still recall seeing Marie at one of these events years ago, when she was wearing her famous “teeth.” Well, as luck would have it, she still brought them along just because...

There were so many great costumes from that evening. The winners of both the men's and the ladies' events came from the same household. Congratulations to John and Brenda Hominski. We will never look at them the same way again, always with a smile on our face, remembering the “bad a\$\$.” Speaking of which, I have to give kudos to Phyllis for her artistic outfit. If you want to know what she wore, ask her, as I can't describe it here due to the X-rated nature of her costume. Well done to all who chose to come out in a Halloween costume. We all deserve a round of applause.

Speaking of a show of appreciation, tables were asked to create a flower arrangement using supplies provided by the club. Many table arrangements were striking, but my table took the coveted prize, mainly due to Laurie O's take-charge direction. Susan and I did help, but only after most of the work was done. We all received a bag of Halloween candy. Thanks, Laurie, for feeding my candy addiction.

More on the AGM later. Scroll down for further information.

November – Pizza was ordered from the Calabogie Pizzeria. Kevin Lentz, aka the Calabogie Weatherman, entertained over 40 diners at this dinner meeting. He mostly played the Beatles songs during the appetizers and dinner portion of the meeting. Kevin (and his agent) said in a telephone interview that he likes to play to a crowd that may have first enjoyed the Beatles back in 1964 when they appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show. Kevin was introduced to them on that show at a very young age and has loved them ever since. How many of you remember seeing that show? It was after my bedtime, so I can't recall it, but I'm sure it was good. Kevin, we will have to have you back, and if you love the Beatles as much as the Weatherman does, make sure you attend.

Sharon also mentioned that it was a perfect pie kind of day... pizza pie, apple pie, and peach pie. What more could you ask for?

FUTURE DINNER MEETINGS

The club's next dinner meeting will be our annual Christmas Dinner Extravaganza. It will be held a few weeks early as well, since we cannot have it on Thursday, December 25th. Tickets are now on sale, and the party will be on Saturday, December 13th, at the Calabogie Community Center. Traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be catered by Charbonneau's. We are not sure what Mother Nature has in store for that day, but it had better be nice, as members have waited all year to party in style. Who will be the winner of the “spot dance”? Who will spill gravy all over themselves? Who will dance the entire evening until their shoes or socks wear a hole in them? I want to hear stories about the dinner/dance, so, as I mentioned to several people, Zoom me in so I can share some laughs too.

As a reminder, please bring some socks to donate to the food bank. This will be greatly appreciated.





PAST SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our senior winter games returned to District 5 in October. The two main activities that seniors participated in were curling and contract bridge.

Curling was held on Saturday, November 2nd, at the Renfrew Curling Club (RCC) with eight teams participating. The majority of participants were from the Calabogie area and Calabogie Club 55+. To proceed with these games, we accepted two teams from outside our district. Two teams from the Ottawa area supported our OSGA games and played with us in District 5. We were also lenient with the term “mixed” and allowed teams consisting of one man and three women, or all-women teams, to participate, provided they agreed to take part in a mixed event. The day was enjoyable, even though we could not fit all six ends into our time slot. The RCC prepared a nice, warm soup-and-sandwich lunch. Gold medals were awarded to the mixed Ottawa team (Burke, District 6). They play out of the Ottawa Curling Club. Silver medals were awarded to the Arnprior team, Team Gordon. As they were from our Renfrew County district, they automatically qualified for the upcoming provincial games, to be held in Huntsville on February 3rd – 5th, 2026. Bronze medals were awarded to two teams, as the scores were tight, with a five-point differential. The Clark team from the Granite CC in Ottawa, and our Calabogie team consisting of Leslie Jones, Louise Armour, Sue Lanthier, and club member Dave Anderson, were given the Bronze medals. Thanks to Larry and Sue Beaton, who helped bring this game to life and secured the venue for this fun and challenging winter sport. We also thank all club members who came out to participate in this game. We sure make this sport fun, and I am confident that one of our club teams will win a medal next year. As seniors, we take safety seriously, and I am pleased to announce that no one was injured during the play of this sport. In 2026, we look forward to this game being played at the Arnprior Curling Club.

On November 4th, at St. Andrews United Church hall, the next senior game—Contract Bridge—was held. Once again, we had a full house with five tables competing. For these games, you needed to sign up with a partner and play with said partner for the duration of the six games. As with curling, the majority of players were from the Calabogie Club 55+. Refreshments were kindly provided by our club and its members, Cathy, Lori, Denise and Val. Six rounds

were played altogether with a small break following the third round. Robert was the master scorer, and Denise was the official master of the games, handling any disputes or inquiries. Denise, of course, was always diplomatic with her responses, which made the card games that much more enjoyable. Four club members received medals in these games. The first place went to Lorna Johnston and me, who won each of their six rounds to receive the Gold Medal. Silver placement went to a team from Pembroke (noting that Carmen is a master bridge player/teacher), and the bronze medal went to Ann Anderson and Dan Trotter. We were excited that participation was as high as it was and are considering holding this event in both our summer and winter games in 2026.

For more information on how to participate in either the summer or winter senior games, please get in touch with either Denise Lavallée, Lori Armour or Val Trotter.

MIXED BRIDGE WINTER

Mixed Bridge has now moved to the winter schedule and is organized by Dona Lamoureux and Lorna Johnston. This community “Big” bridge is not only for club members but also for the community at large. The first game of the season took place on October ??, where a large number of people came to play this popular senior pastime. It was followed by an afternoon of fun on November 14th. The balance of the Bridge will take place on December 19th, January 23rd, February 27th, March 27th, and April 24th. These afternoons take place at the Calabogie Community Center from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. For more information, please call or email Dona or Lorna.

BOGIE LIGHTS

Bogie Lights was held on Friday, November 14th, at 6:30 pm at Heritage Point. The Christmas lights had been strung on the tripods, creating a small forest that was magical when lit. It was a wonderful mild evening with approximately 120 people in attendance. We sang Christmas Carols, led by Peggy Williams and Alison Fay, and enjoyed hot chocolate & apple cider, and homemade cookies donated by club members. The fire pit attracted lots of carolers. Thanks to all who helped make this a great community event. (Submitted by Marilynn Luce, Club Secretary)

FUTURE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Bowling – The bowling league has started. I will obtain an account for our next article and report on this sport. For more information, contact our new coordinator, Dan Ventresca.

Nine n' Dine Golf - Nine & Dine will resume in May 2026. Doug Jordan has stepped up to organize this popular event.

Santa Claus Parade – Our annual Santa Claus parade will soon be here, with club members dancing and laughing as the float glides around downtown Calabogie. Sunday, December 7th, is the place to be if you are in town and not already participating in the Calabogie Club 55+ float. We need you to be out there cheering on our fantastic group of seniors as they sing to the tunes of the good old days. The club purchased a new sound system for the float, and we are anxious to try it out. Our photographer, Rick Brown, will hopefully be out and about snapping photos of all the fun our members are having.

What will the weather bring for this activity? Hopefully, it will not rain or freeze, as our float committee members do not need the added stress of having our creations turn into a soggy mess. Much of our float material is cardboard, and cardboard doesn't always mix well with rain.

Hint on this year's theme---who is the Ottawa RedBlacks CFL Mascot? Also, Stompin' Tom Connors made this person famous in his song about a French Canadian folk hero. The song was recorded in 1999 and describes "tall tales" with many references to the Ottawa Valley, including the Calabogie Lake. The verse about Calabogie is "He jumped in the Calabogie Lake real fast ad swam both ways to catch a cross eyed bass, but he threw it to the ground and said 'I can't eat that,' so he covered it up with Mount St. Pat" Not to worry though, the club members will not be singing these lyrics, unless of course you give them a bucket of gin!! Again, come out and support your club.

Senator's Hockey Game – He shoots, he scores. Or as Stompin' Tom sings, "*Oh, the good ol' hockey game, is the best game you can name. And the best game you can name is the good ol' hockey game.*" Yes, it is still a few months away, but plan now to get some hockey action in over the Easter long weekend. Our Ottawa Senators will be playing the Minnesota Wild on Saturday, April 4th, 2026. The puck drops at 1 pm, and tickets are available for \$107 pp. Dinner follows at PJ's in Arnprior. Tickets must be paid for and ordered by December 5th. Contact Bob Lomas for more details.

OTHER

AGM – Following the dinner and costume judging, the executive and subcommittees provided reports on their respective 2025 activities. The most important thing for any club/association is its financial situation. Doug reported that we are in good financial shape. A constitution revision was also voted on and accepted. The revision to this document is simply that the financial budget will be presented in January. The proposed budget will be sent to the membership at least two weeks in advance of the January meeting and will be subject to approval at that meeting. The AGM will now be held in January of each year. The selection of officers will remain in October. There was no need for an election this year, as all current executives agreed to stay in their positions. Note: We are still looking for a social convenor as this position has been vacant for well over a year. Social activities may diminish if we do not have someone to organize hikes and road trips.

The meeting then mentioned the criteria for recognizing exceptional service to the club and community. A memory tree nomination has been submitted to honour former member Don Strachan. The executive asked for volunteers to form a committee to review nominations for "awards of excellence". Both Gill Wilson and Val Trotter agreed to serve on this committee, along with Dave Larabie, who nominated Don for this award.

A brief discussion on the Remembrance Day service was led by John Watts, who is instrumental in organizing this yearly service at the Cenotaph in Calabogie on Sunday, November 9, at 2 pm.

The 50/50 draw was then held, followed by our singing of our national anthem, O Canada. The meeting was then adjourned.

CLUB AUTHOR IN THE NEWS

We have in our midst an experienced author who has won the “editors’ prize” for the second year in a row. Proud spouse Cathy Jordan first broke the news in a Facebook post (November 21st), saying, “Wooooohooo.” Doug woke me up at 6:30 this morning to tell me he won the editor’s choice – fiction writing contest in the local Greater Madawaska Highlander. What a nice way to wake up in the morning, Cathy. I hope you made Doug breakfast and treated him to a nice dinner, too.

The title of Doug’s story is “*My First Shot*,” and it appears on page 14 in the Madawaska Highlander. You can read it yourself by getting a copy of the October 2025 edition or accessing it at:

https://www.madawaskahighlander.ca/_files/ugd/384118_612d8fe624a94ad98aa54354df3ad967.pdf

Doug was awarded a \$200 prize. Way to go, Doug. We are super proud of you.