

# Log cabin donated to Maidstone museum

BY MARIAH VIZI

A sturdy 180-year-old log cabin will soon be joining the Maidstone Bicentennial Museum, Lakeshore Councillor Victoria Beaulieu revealed July 27.

Standing in front of the log cabin at 708 West Belle River Road, Beaulieu beamed at the donation Elizabeth McInnis made to the museum. It could be moved to the museum site at 1093 Puce Road as early as this fall, if members of the community come forward to assist in the project.

"We are so fortunate to have this treasure, which will tell another part of our story," said Beaulieu. "It will be another window on who we are, where we came from and what we have accomplished over the years."

Beaulieu said about a year ago McInnis approached her about making the donation.



Lakeshore Councillor Victoria Beaulieu, left, and Elizabeth McInnis stand in front of the McInnis family log cabin on Belle River Road. McInnis is donating her childhood home to the Maidstone Bicentennial Museum. The log cabin is estimated to be around 180 years old.

McInnis and her family had built another home on the property, and because municipal regulations would not permit two homes on the lot, the cabin was slated to be demolished. The log cabin had been in the McInnis family for five generations and was used by her father, Laurent St. Pierre, who was once the clerk for the Township of Maidstone.

"He and my mom, Bernadine, raised 16 children in this log cabin," McInnis said. "I was the ninth child and the first to be born in a hospital. My older brothers and sisters were born right in that corner bedroom."

McInnis was happy to make the donation and save the building that housed so many of her memories. She planned to join the committee being formed to research the history of the log cabin.

Beaulieu said plans are underway to form a French

Heritage Committee and to apply to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for restoration funding once the log cabin has been moved. It will be furnished with artefacts from the Maidstone Bicentennial Museum.

"The Crown deed was registered for the property in 1806 by Jacques Marentette," Beaulieu said. "The property has never left Francophone hands so it is a substantial find for the French community."

Beaulieu has secured volunteers to move the log cabin to the museum grounds, but is still looking for people to help with the excavation work under the building. As a result fundraisers have been planned, including a fiddle concert scheduled for Sept. 17. Anyone needing more information is asked to contact the Maidstone Bicentennial Museum at 519-727-8388.

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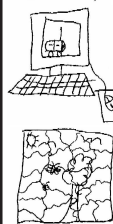
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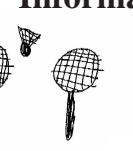
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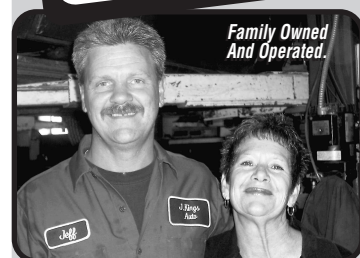
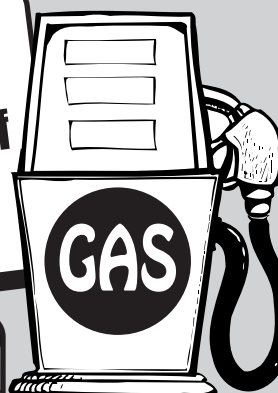
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