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*North Hero News and World Review ….*

 *……. Mostly stuff no one else would print.*

January 27, 2009 :/wklylt9.9wc02 (2009 NHN&WR letter/story/poem/card #02)

**Winter ‘09**

 Well, … one might say that we have settled in for the Winter. And, Good Grief, … as we inserted the above date we realized our first ‘Baby Boomer’ is entering their sixties today. Seems impossible!

 As per Pierre Trudeau, Canada is very busy sending forth one of its two famous exports*, “Cold Fronts*”\*. We’ve taken to using centigrade. A reading of -24 C seems to fit the situation better than -11 F. It is COLD, however we are surviving. In addition to ‘Rounding Up the Usual Disciplines’ \*\* we are falling back on ‘support groups’ In some instances the level of ‘Trash Talk’ within these ‘friendly’ competitive groups is the antithesis of support, but it’s all in fun right? Well, we guess so. (Can’t wait to get off a few zingers at some of those so and sos this year.) We will pen a few remarks re these Groups but first a cultural note.

 *“North Hero News and World Review”* is adding a new member to the staff. In addition to CEO, Editor & Gopher, we are adding a Poet Laureate. Yes indeed, … should really lend a touch of class for this old rag. From time to time, whenever the P.L. should deign, this bard will receive ink space. Getting a little ahead of ourselves, but since she is also an Abstainer, Gamester and Trivia Nut we may just get *“Trash Talk”* in a different genre, poetry.

 The Support Groups in alphabetical order.

 **Abstainers.**

 Addicts anonymous. Losing control over some indulgence? Alcohol, Beer, Wine, Potato Chips, Chocolate? Join up for peace of mind, weight loss, increased energy and the wonderful feeling of being able to say*, “Hey. I* ***can*** *be in control for a period of time, great”* Even better, … when the period is over one can resume the addiction with a clear conscience.

Open enrollment, January 1st thru March 21st.

 **Ashmoleans**.

 Or to be more specific*: “The New Ashmolean Eating Society and Friendly Get Together Band.”*

 A new support group this year, … but we already have a theme song.. All good chefs and trenchermen, members rotate preparation of get together, randomly scheduled meals. We’ve had our inaugural meal: Italian Sausage and Tortellini Soup, French Beef Bourguignon, Boiled New Potatoes, International Salad, Swiss Pastries. Great. Since the Ashmolean song from the play *“Where’s Charley”* was also used in the movie *“Arsenic and Old Lace*”, where nice old ladies poisoned guests, we thought it apt for an eating group.

Enrollment, considered upon application, but there is a dining space limitation. . If you don’t like to eat & cook, don’t apply. Menus forwarded upon request.

 **Gamesters**.

 A bunch of over competitive sports nuts who compete in; Contests based on major sporting events and, Efforts to get in the best insults directed at fellow players.. Last years Fall events were cut short by roofs blowing off and a heart attack. The biggest casualty was*, “Footballs Annual Rivalry Tournament,*” better known by its’ acronym. Ah, but there’s a big double-header coming up early this Spring, NCAA BB and The Masters. Caustic comments have already begun.

Enrollment: closed, we’ve 18 and that’s as many as rotating score keepers care to deal with.

 **Psychoparts**

 Yes, that’s Psychoparts not Psychopaths. We are taking part in a case study in concert with a psychology class at a local College. Good Grief, … what if we are judged insane? A little crazy okay, … but insane? Opening salvos of student/psychopart internet communication are imminent. This could make a doozer of a future Letter if it gets by the CEO. Incidentally, since we now have a Poet Laureate we will capitalize all references to our Letters.

Participation by official solicitation only.

 **Sherman Sufferers**.

 Sherman is a diabolic, clever, fiendish devil who designs convoluted puzzles of all shapes and sizes. All difficult. A very small group of dedicated ‘Puzzlers’ has just hung in there by their toes over a two year span and emerged triumphant with the location of Sherman’s Treasure. This entailed solving a series of about 20 puzzles, all inter-related and inter-dependent. Fortunately, at the moment, Sherman is somnambulant, but we never know when he might awaken. When he surfaces with a new series, it is about 10 hours a month, down the drain, but nevertheless a good mental challenge during Artic Winters.

Enrollment: Open for all masochists.

 **Trivias**

 On Holiday till next Fall. However, a World Class Trivia participant never totally rests. It’s always*, “Bone up for next year. We’ll do better than ever”*

Enrollment thru audition only.

 End of Support Groups

\* The other: … Hockey Players.

\*\* The usual disciplines: Crossword puzzles, Dog walking, Emailing, Exercise, Piano playing, Reading, Soap operas, Watercolors, Wine making, Writing.

From Ottawa, basking in Global Warming, … RIGHT,

Lucile, Bailey & Ken.

Reg..Dist; 91

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