

The South Frontenac Environmental Committee is a going concern, with a list of helpful activities slated for late winter and early spring. This month's Environment Speakers Series features an information session by Dr. Mary Jane Conboy and Mara Shaw on "Our Well Water: Is It Safe and Sustainable?" Dr. Conboy is a hydrogeologist with the Ontario Federation of Agriculture with particular expertise in wells and well water. She's co-authored a consumer guide for private wells and written a children's book on the water cycle. Here in Portland, nearly all of us depend on wells for our water supply, and it's way too easy to take that supply for granted. Head over to Sydenham Town Hall Wednesday Feb. 27 at 7:00 to learn more about the most important feature on your property.

This same committee is the group who sponsor the annual tree sale each May. This year's offerings are 3 year old bare root stocks of white pine, spruce, cedar, birch, black willow, jack pine, dogwood, butternut (!) and cranberry. To order 25 or more at \$1.50 a tree, call 374-1311 or e-mail jacq.brown@sympatico.ca. For fewer than 25, go to the Farmer's Market on May 3 and hope for the best at the first come, first served sale.

The Environmental Committee welcomes new volunteers – particularly for the tree sale. If you're interested, call Penny at 613-353-6687 to volunteer.

In a time of zip, speed, and fast turnover, it's comforting to know that the Harrowsmith Women's Institute is going strong – so much so that they've had to begin meeting in a larger venue. Not long ago, Godfrey, Parham, and Verona were among the dozens of villages boasting a Women's Institute, but they have had to fold. Harrowsmith welcomes members from all over – and indeed has a number of Veronites in the fold – Eileen Manson, Ruth Brown, Millie Cuthill, Barb Stewart, Inez Code and Anne Brandley are among the 20-30 members who meet the last Tuesday of each month at St. Paul United Church in Harrowsmith. Call Eileen at 374-2626 or any other member you might know to be welcomed into one of Canada's most venerable clubs.

Mark your calendars for Verona's best spring fun. This year's annual Verona Lions Club Theme Night is "Pirate Rendezvous" Theme Nights are known for their zany fun and delicious food, and this year promises to be a dynamite evening. Great music from Bauder Road and friends, Caribbean style food, costumes, decorations, and audience participation all based on swashes & buckles. March 29 at the newly renovated Lions Hall. Tickets \$25 per person on sale soon at Verona Hardware.