

# Local News

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## Fond farewell to wrestling legend Paul “The Butcher” Vachon



### THE SCOOP

#### MABLE HASTINGS

Wrestling legend Paul “The Butcher” Vachon died Friday morning at the age of 86. For the past few years, Paul has resided in Mansonville with his loving wife and true companion, Dee. A real showman and amazing storyteller, Paul could warm a heart with his smile and spin a yarn that left you wanting more. A wrestler yes, but his talents extended beyond the wrestling ring. Many may not know that like many members of his family, Paul could sing, and in his day he recorded a few songs.

The Vachon Family had 13 children

raised in the Glen Sutton area just a short distance from Dunkin on the Pottton municipal line. Paul is predeceased by his wrestling brother, Maurice “Mad Dog” and sister Diane “Vivian” Vachon. Mad Dog died in 2013 and Vivian in 1991. While the three had separate wrestling careers, Paul did tag team with his brother Mad Dog and the two won the AWA World Tag Team championship. Vachon retired from wrestling in 1985.

After his wrestling career, Paul joined the NDP and ran as a federal candidate in 1988, 1993 and 1995. A real people person, Vachon enjoyed running as a candidate as it also gave him the opportunity to exchange with fans and meet new people.

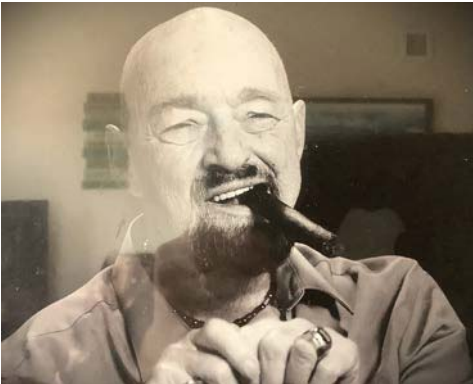
In 2019 a documentary “The Last Villains” was released after Director Thomas Rinfret had followed Paul for five years across North America. Paul shared a first-hand account of his wrestling years and his adventures with Rinfret. In 2020 Paul won a Gemini award for the film.

Vachon was inducted in the Nebraska Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2023 as well as the Official Wrestling Museum Hall of Fame along with his stepdaughter, the late Luna Vachon.

Paul was a strong man who battled through bouts of cancer including throat cancer that reduced his once boisterous voice to a weak whisper, however this never deterred his willpower nor his humour. With Dee by his side life always seemed a gift.

As kids we always gathered around the black and white television set on a Saturday to view “wrestlin” with various members of our family. Mad Dog and the Butcher were hometown boys and not cheering at full voice was frowned upon. “Rope a dope” and camel clutch as well as several sorts of chin locks, those boys had all the moves. The more Mad Dog spit and The Butcher stood with arms firmly folded, the more we kids cheered them on.

I recall as an adult, my sister Mary got married to Paul’s son. One afternoon I had Paul and Mad Dog over for a family barbecue. Paul and Mad Dog lined us kids up to teach us their winning move, “the flying toe hold.” In our 20’s but suddenly ten again, the two men walked over, stepped on our feet, lifted their legs behind them, flapped their arms like birds and started to tweet. “That,” they proclaimed “is the famous flying toe hold that won us the championship.”



COURTESY

We bought every word they said as Mad Dog laughed like a crazy man at how gullible we were.

We’ve lost a legend. We’ve lost a storyteller. We’ve lost a friend. Thank you Dee for sharing Paul with us and for being such a wonderful companion.

For those who’ve left us for another place, I suspect most are seated around a wrestling ring this week somewhere in the great beyond waiting for The Butcher, Mad Dog, Vivian, Luna, Andre the Giant and so many more to put on one heck of a show!

## Eclipse

CONT’D FROM PAGE 1

About 3:26 p.m. and lasting for 3 minutes and 26 seconds.

Student volunteers will be available to guide visitors on campus and provide tours throughout the day. BU plans to be ready for eclipse enthusiasts as early as 9 a.m.

Because parking is limited, eclipse-viewers are strongly encouraged to

walk to Bishop’s to avoid traffic getting on and off campus.

Visit the webpage [www.ubishops.ca/eclipse2024](http://www.ubishops.ca/eclipse2024) for more details about the upcoming eclipse, and click on the ‘register for your glasses’ tab to reserve a pair of safety solar viewers.

#### Additional activities

The week before the eclipse, as part of the Donald Lecture Series, Bishops

will host a talk, Fantastic Eclipses, From Fear to Reason, by astronomer Jean-Louis Heudier on Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. at Centennial Theatre.

Dr. Heudier is an internationally respected astronomer and author of Astronomical Photography, Eclipses of the Moon and Sun, Book of the Sky, Book of the Moon, and Astronomy for All.

The event is free.

## Snowmaker

CONT’D FROM PAGE 1

From \$60,000 to \$1.5 million.

Pinard said the Games provided \$30,000, and grants from the conseil des sports et loisirs paid for the balance of the \$60,000 snow cannon they decided on.

Sponsors helped with the other costs, which included a network of above and underground piping and hoses, so that the cannon can be moved up to 500 ft from any water outlet and provide maximum coverage to different areas of the ski trails.

Pinard said the cannon has been making snow on the course since Jan. 5 in preparation for the Championnats de ski de fond de l’Est, held on Feb. 2,3 and 4.

He estimates about 7,000 metres squared was produced, and the snowbanks amounted to around 4,000 square metres.

There are around 2,500 metres left, Pinard said on Wednesday afternoon.

There was not a soul on the course on Wednesday. Normally the young skiers would be out in full force the day before getting warmed up and used to the trail.

All the snowbanks were covered with tarps, and the yetis were waiting patiently for sundown. At 7 p.m. Pinard said they would remove the tarps, head out with the snowcat, and push the remaining snow out across the course, get as thick a layer as possible, and then the groomer would go over the trail.

He expected to see the young skiers on the course by 8 a.m. to warm up.

The competitions will begin at 9:15 a.m.

And yes, if they could make more snow, they would.

Unfortunately, Pinard said the temperature must be minus 5 degrees to


use the snow cannon.

The yetis were watching and knew their last opportunity to make snow was last week over night Wednesday to Thursday, and into Friday afternoon. And they made every snowflake possible before shutting down the cannon.

Pinard was confident that even though conditions were not ideal, the Jeux du Québec athletes would have a decent course for their competitions.

He added that the snow cannon didn’t just save the day for the upcoming Games. “This contribution is permanent,” Pinard said.

Next year, once the mercury hits minus 5, that cannon will be up and running again, not just for ski competitions, but for the benefit of whole Townships community that frequents the trails of the Old Lennoxville Golf and Ski.

**Parkland**

**À vendre**



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La plupart des emplacements incluent un actif immobilier.

**80 emplacements au Québec!**

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