

James P's Runway:

James P's Runway is part of the Icy Hill chase, but is sometimes watched on The Root chase in case the deer gets through up at the Rock or at Dave's. That's just what happened in the early 1980's when a nice big doe came out to Mike and Jason (Jason didn't have his licence yet) up at



The Rock. They weren't prepared, and the deer got past them and then past the watch at Dave's. James P was watching at the little knoll on the corner, just before the stretch where the Swamp watch is located. The doe came out and was running down the road. He made an excellent shot; hit it on the head. It was the last deer he shot; he had a stroke at Christmastime in 1985, and then another about a year later, in 1986, and died April 29, 1987.

James was always renowned for his 'crack shot'; often you'd hear guys say, "I wouldn't run through the bush in front of him." He'd often challenge the other guys to "hit 'em on the head, now, we don't want any spoiled meat!" He lived up his reputation on this, his last deer.

Today, the James P Memorial trophy is awarded annually to the hunter who makes the best shot, and generally the basic definition of that, is a 'head' shot. Now, with the



legal emphasis on watching twenty metres of the road, unless the deer stops, it's unlikely that the James P Memorial will be won at James P's runway any time soon.

Obituary: (Eganville Leader, May 6, 1987)

James P. Madigan, a life-time resident of Lyndock Township, died at the age of 78 in St. Francis Memorial Hospital, Barry's Bay, on April 29, after being afflicted with his second stroke on December 22, 1986.

As a young man, James worked for Paddy Dillon on the timber drive on the Madawaska River from Palmer Rapids to Arnprior. For several years he worked as a skilled teamster for Jim Taylor, Jack Drohan, and Henry Fleguel. He loved to reminisce about those younger days and the competent men with whom he worked.

On August 15, 1933, James was married to Gertrude Helferty in St. Francis de Sales Church at Latchford Bridge by Rev. Patrick Dwyer. He took over his father's farm and by hard work he became a successful farmer. He was an ardent hunter, and loved to repeat stories of his successful deer chases. James was always much in demand for playing his violin. One of his greatest pleasures when his family grew up, was to have them accompany his violin music on the piano or guitar.

James was predeceased by a younger brother, Leo, in 1922, by two older brothers, John Joe and Eddie of North Bay, and, also, by his youngest sister, Eileen (Mrs. Leonard King) a few weeks before his own demise.

James leaves to mourn his wife Gertrude and six sons: Donald, Denis, Vincent, Bryan, and Michael, all of Toronto, and John of Barry's Bay; also two daughters, Mary Huene (Mrs.

Otto Cohn) of Ottawa and Teresa (Mrs. Gerald Smith) of Pembroke. Also surviving are his three sisters, Mrs. Mary Alice Sullivan and Mrs. Johanna Byrnes, both of Latchford Bridge, and Mrs. Leona Mahon of Combermere.

Pallbearers were six grandsons: Kevin, Robert, Mark and Sean Madigan, and Stephen and Scott Smith with James' six sons as honorary pallbearers.

Interment was in the parish cemetery.

