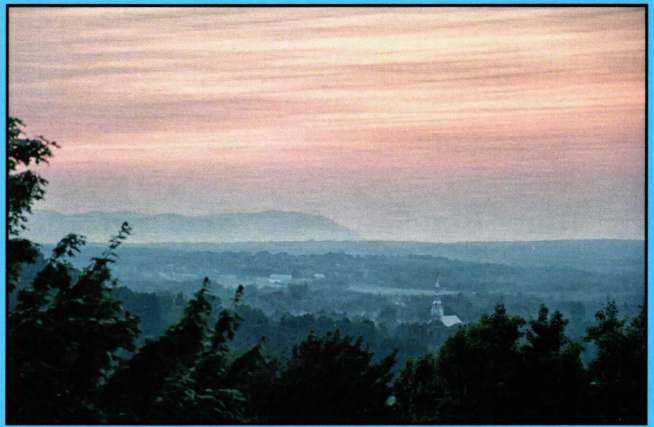


# The Townships Sun

*Townships Life & Culture: Past, Present, and Future*



Vol. 44, No. 1

July 2016

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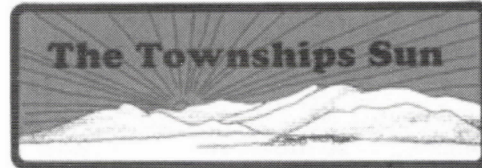
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**\*Front and back covers designed by Tom Standish**

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**Publisher**

Tom Standish

**Senior Editor**

Barbara Heath

**Layout Supervisor**

Alanna Fernandes

**Accounting**

Marion Greenlay

**Advertising**

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# Can Money Buy Happiness?

By Samantha Smith

Presented to the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) by Samantha Smith, a grade 8 Stanstead College Student, in a speech given May 5, 2016.

Happiness is hard to define and has different meanings for different people. In many parts of the world, people live happy, fulfilling lives with very little money and few possessions. This is less true in my world.

In today's consumer culture, some acquire fame and fortune. In fact, most of the wealth is now in the hands of a small percentage of the world's population. However, everywhere we look there is advertising that pressures us to want things we don't really need and often cannot afford. The media make you think that the more you consume, the happier your life will be.

Buying things makes you temporarily happy. Once this wears off, people go out and buy more, repeating a cycle of temporary happiness. Most of us in this room have our basic needs fulfilled. We know that we are going to eat and have a safe place to sleep. We are lucky to have access to doctors, dentists and education.

If your basic needs are not met, then yes, money can buy you a degree of happiness. You can see it on the faces of refugees arriving at airports all over Canada. They are grateful to be welcomed into a safe and secure environment where their basic needs will be met.

Psychologist Abraham Maslow conceived of a "pyramid of needs". People cannot be truly happy unless their basic needs are met. But ultimate happiness, according to Maslow, is when a person feels healthier and wealthier by investing in others. This is altruistic or selfless behavior.

Prosocial spending makes us happier than personal spending, according to behavioral scientists Elizabeth Dunn and Michael Norton. In fact, they say, "The most satisfying way of using money is to invest in others." Examples of investing in others can be donating money to causes like cancer, or buying a friend some donuts at Tim Horton's.

Bill Gates and Warren Buffet asked billionaires like themselves to invest 99% of their money in foundations or charities. Warren Buffet decided to follow this pledge to give away the majority of his wealth. In his exact words, "I couldn't be happier with that decision."

Happiness comes from the heart. It is a feeling, and it lasts a long time. "Your life can grow richer the more you give, that is true happiness." This quote is from the book, *The Wisdom of Gratitude*.

Some people believe that if they win the lottery they will be better off. A study published in *The Journal of Personality* reports, that while happiness spikes as soon as a person wins the lottery, it returns to pre-winning levels after a few months.

In the end, money cannot buy you happiness. In order to feel a lasting wellbeing, I would suggest you spend time with people you love, pay attention to your health, your employment or education, respect others, be true to yourself and find inner purpose. Donate your time or money to people or causes that matter to you. Even though you may not have much money to give, it doesn't mean you can't contribute to charity. You don't need to be wealthy to acquire riches in life. Be happy and live well.



Samantha Smith and Carmen Campbell

# Sixty Years of Injustice

## *The Wilbert Coffin Story*

By *The Townships Sun*

---



*Coffin*

committed the murders on his own, alone in the woods. There were witnesses that saw 2 Americans in a Yellow Jeep, who were taking part in deer hunting. Yet these witnesses never testified to this. Two vehicles were both from Pennsylvania, thus connecting suspects and victims. The suggestion arose that possibly the murders were committed in Canada to avoid suspicion at home, most likely stemming from illicit dealings.

Coffin's case casts a shameful shadow; long and shameful over the province's history even 60 years after the hanging. Duplessis hand-picked the prosecutor and lead detective, who interrogated Coffin in vain for 16 days. Coffin's own lawyer, proved to be his biggest liability. The hastiness of the arrest was thought to keep good relationships between Quebec and the United States. The government wanted a quick resolution. According to senator Jacques Hebert, Maher was grossly incompetent, a drunk and quite likely mentally deranged. Maher believed his client was guilty. (Note: The Duplessis regime was law-and-order obsessed.)

Coffin told Maher where his borrowed rifle was located, the lawyer drove to the location, collected the rifle and disassemble it, then threw the weapon in the St. Lawrence River. Not having the weapon, Coffin was unable to use it as evidence to clear his name and there his fate was sealed.

Roger Rail, a juryman could not give Alton Price one shred of evidence on which points that convicted Coffin. Alton Price is the author of the book *To Build a Noose* (book written in 1996 on the Coffin case.) Price is from Richmond, Quebec, a retired teacher. Prosecutors knew the Americans were killed with a .38 calibre pistol and not a rifle. The clothing had entry holes and no exit holes, indicating the use of a low calibre weapon.

Fred Clarr had 5 bullet holes and Richard Lindsey had 2 bullet holes and yet no bullets were found. The police and prosecutor knew Coffin's 32-40 Marlin was not the murder weapon. Coffin's rights

**T**he year was 1956, Wilbert Coffin was executed by hanging at the Montreal Bordeaux Prison, for the murders of 3 American hunters, three years earlier in the Gaspé.

*The Montreal Gazette*, February 11, 2016 headline reads "Lawyers work to exonerate Quebecker hanged 60 years ago." Coffin always claimed his innocence. His family had a long fight to have his 1954 conviction overturned. He was a gentle man, who had never been convicted of any crime.

Two lawyers, suggest there might be enough new elements proving Coffin's innocence. One lawyer is working on a book and the other has studied the case for a decade in conjunction with "The Association in Defence of Wrongly Convicted."

The hope has always been there, but the family has always been haunted by the case, says Judith Reeder, Coffin's niece. The Crown's theory was that Coffin

were violated right from the start in the denial of an English speaking jury; the claim was that not enough Anglophones could be found. However, according to records, 71 Anglophones were examined for jury duty and 35 Francophones. Only 3 of the jury could claim English as their mother tongue.

In 1992, a 39 year old man confessed to his sisters that their father had murdered the Pennsylvanian hunters. He spoke of this only once and refused to speak of it again. Cabot's father was described as a dominator and always in control. He was known to have some very questionable dealings. A boyfriend of one the sisters went to the police. The alleged witness was contacted by phone and when he refused to go on record the investigation was dropped.



*Cabot*

Coffin's family never gave up on his innocence. I corresponded with his sister Marie Coffin Stewart. I still have her letters. I felt there was an injustice served on Wilbert Coffin. I, like many others, offered assistance. I sincerely hope that someday Wilbert Coffin receives an innocent verdict.

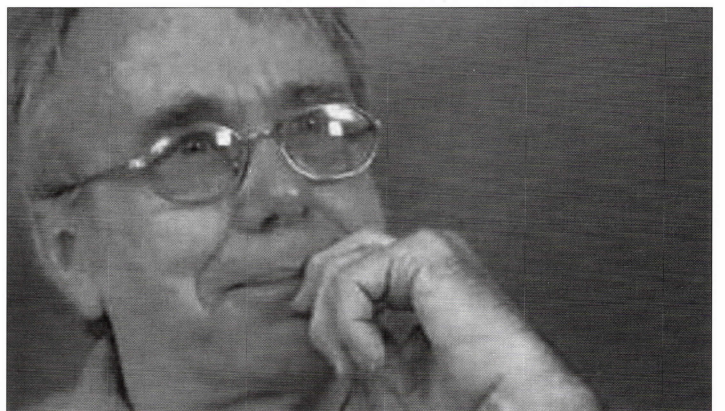
Marie Coffin Stewart, "I have often wondered what went through my brother's mind when they came and took him out of his cell to take that last walk to be hanged. You cannot imagine what it's been like to live all these years. It is like a black, black hole

that never ends." "My gentle, fun-loving brother was incapable of murder. He was a person who could not stand to see even a little rabbit caged up."

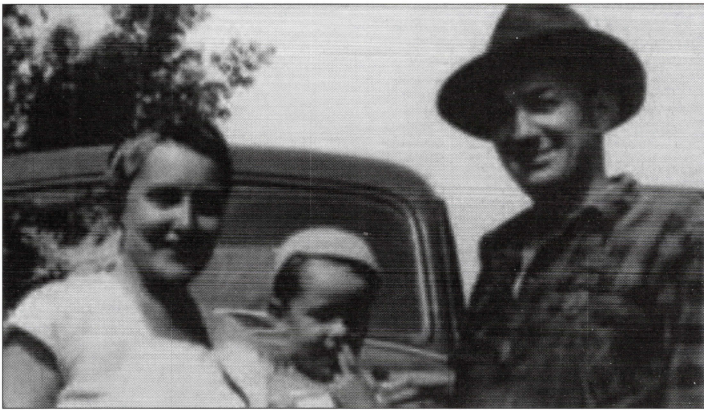


*Marie Coffin*

Jim Coffin, Wilbert's son, was 11 when his mother explained that his father, Wilbert, a Quebec woodsman who divided his time between Gaspé and Montreal, had been executed for the murders of three American hunters. "The things that bug me is there is no going fishing. There was no playing baseball. That whole existence with a father was gone," said Jim. "He was hung for helping a man. And I do not think that is right." Jim can barely picture his father's face, but a conversation or song about the man who disappeared from his life more than 50 years ago brings this son to tears. Coffin's common-law wife Marion Petrie was left to care for her son. Wilbert, as a final wish had requested permission to marry Marion, the mother of his 8 year-old son James. His request was denied.



*James Coffin*



*Coffin, wife and son.*



*Coffin*

The family has spent over half a century coping mostly in silence.

“The controversy over Coffin’s hanging galvanized opposition to capital punishment, culminating in Canada’s abolition of the death penalty in 1976.”

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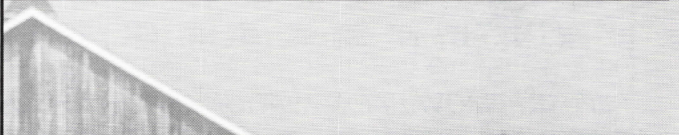
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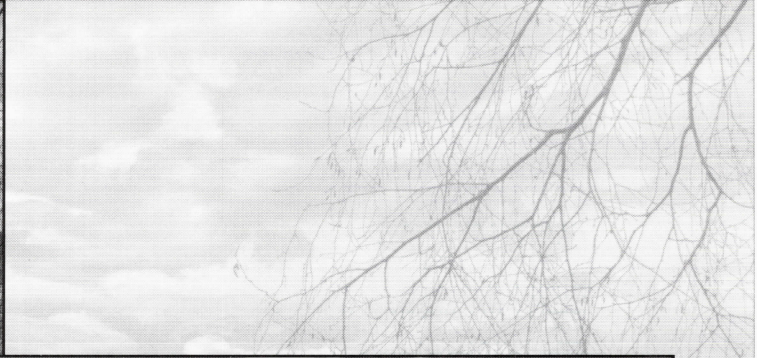


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# Summer Scenes from Around the Townships

*By Brenda Goodsell*





# Part 1: Dr. Gilles Bouchard

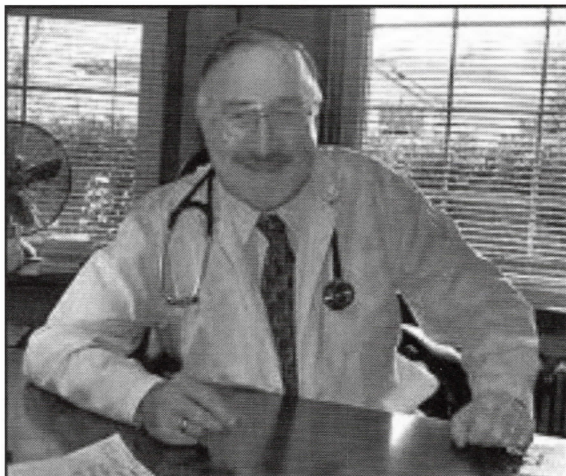
## A Tribute to a Small Town Doctor

By The Townships Sun, with a note from Merrick Belknap

*For over 50 years he served this community with a deep compassion for each of his patients. I am an example of this caring. I stopped by his office one Friday afternoon, as I was not feeling well. Doctor Bouchard examined me and said, "You need to go to the hospital." I was experiencing heart problems. I replied, "On Monday, Doc." "No," he quickly replied immediately. I followed his advice, was admitted to the hospital, where an operation followed. If I had not stopped in to speak with Dr. Bouchard, and he had not been so quick in a diagnosis, I may have not been alive much longer. He made many diagnoses in his office, without a lot of fancy equipment and no assistant. I know Gilles truly made a difference in my life and due to him I have been able to go on with a good life.*

-Merrick Belknap

“No one must pay, if you are short of money. Just say, ‘Thanks Doc!’ You won’t be billed.” Taking care of his patients was, first and foremost, Dr. Gilles Bouchard’s philosophy. Anyone who entered the small waiting room of Dr. Bouchard was familiar with this sign and familiar with his drive to take care of the medical needs of the community.



*Dr. Gilles Bouchard*

For Dr. Bouchard, there were no borders between our two countries. There was never a question of the patients as to citizenship, ethnicity, gender, creed, or financial status. He was there for whoever needed him. There were no appointments necessary; you simply walked into his waiting room and waited for your turn. There was no receptionist, no fancy furnishings, just a good space to care for his patients.

Dr. Bouchard was a licensed practitioner in Quebec as well as the United States, and legally able to prescribe drugs which could be purchased at the local pharmacy. Many U.S. citizens took advantage of the lower cost of medicines which they could purchase at the pharmacy in Stanstead. The Vermont Senate and House of Representatives, on Thursday, January 25, 2007, passed a resolution honouring the career of Dr. Gilles Bouchard of Stanstead. This is a rather remarkable honour, the United States recognizing the contribution of a Canadian doctor. The recognition was given in consideration of the following elements:

Dr. Gilles Bouchard of Stanstead, Quebec is a truly international physician who has treated patients on both sides of the United States–Canadian border;

A sign at Dr. Bouchard’s office reading “No one must pay if you are short of money. Just say ‘Thanks, Doc!’” epitomizes his commitment to caring for his patients’ medical requirements;

He is a native of Stanstead and the oldest of eight children;

Dr. Bouchard attended classes through the eighth grade in Stanstead before matriculating at the Sherbrooke Academy for his secondary and college education and then proceeding to the University of Montreal where he earned his medical degree;

In 1963, after completing his internship training at five hospitals in the Montreal area, Dr. Bouchard returned home to Stanstead where he established a

family medical practice;

He and his wife, Madeleine, are the parents of four sons and a daughter;

In the course of his career, Dr. Bouchard has treated nearly 500,000 patients and delivered 1,000 babies, occasionally in his office, but mostly at Newport (North Country) Hospital, enabling those newborns whose parents were Canadians to claim dual citizenship;

Throughout his career, Dr. Bouchard has placed a premium on keeping current with new health care innovations by taking postgraduate courses, both at Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal and at Temple University in Philadelphia;

During his long and illustrious career, Dr. Bouchard, who is now semi-retired, earned the respect and admiration of many individuals who reside in the Northeast Kingdom;

Dr. Bouchard is a truly great humanitarian; now therefore be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes Dr. Gilles Bouchard for his role as a caring and compassionate health care provider for patients in southern Quebec and the Northeast Kingdom.

Dr. Bouchard was 65 years of age when he entered semi-retirement. The retirement was primarily due to the Quebec medical system and a forced buy-out package. Dr. Bouchard continued his passion, but for a time he was only permitted to accept American patients. Later, in 2012, he received the Governor General's Award from the Canadian Government in appreciation for his many years of service to Stanstead and the surrounding areas. The Stanstead Council placed a granite bench at Place Henry Seth Taylor, as a symbol of appreciation for the many years of service that he had given to his community and the surrounding regions.

As for finding any semblance of a replacement for this conscientious country doctor, this presents a difficult situation. Dr. Bouchard's contribution in recent years to the overall equation, as interpreted by the government, does not exist on paper since his

patients were U.S. residents, and it is these numbers that government decisions are based on. This has left many people in limbo, and facing a serious problem in terms of finding accessible medical assistance.

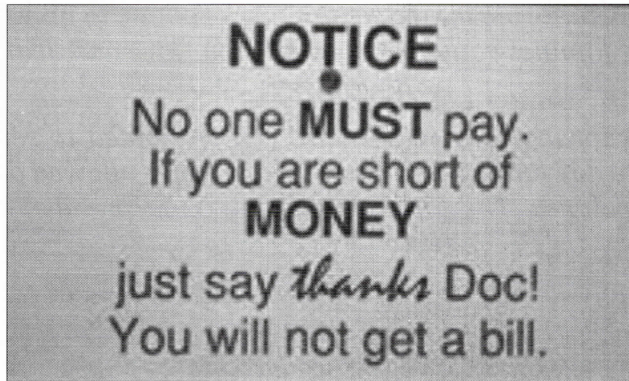
As you walk into Dr. Bouchard's small office waiting room, you find the walls lined with pictures painted by the doctor himself or members of his family,

usually of town landmarks or the family dog, a huge Saint-Bernard, during its day. Many will recall a particular photo that hung on display for so many years of Doctor Bouchard answering a call in mid-winter, relying on his trusty little Volkswagen to get him to his destination, regardless of how high those drifts of snow were! And in those days, those drifts

proved to be really deep!

Dr. Bouchard has cared for visiting astronauts, sports stars, a professional wrestler, and an assortment of fifty or so other doctors, all of whom had heard of the friendly family doctor living on the border. "NHL players, Guy Lafleur and Mad Dog Vachon the wrestler, have all been in my office," Dr. Bouchard notes.

(Excerpted from the following: *Log Cabin Chronicles, Stanstead Beat, Northland Journal, Stanstead Journal...*)



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## Part 2:

# An Open Letter to Doctor Bouchard

Dear Doctor Bouchard,

You have played such an important role in our community. Following university, you returned to your home town, giving care to the families you grew up with. Your love and dedication played out over and over, for 50 years.

Even after facing a Government imposed retirement, you continued to serve the citizens across the border. It was an unfortunate day for us when we were no longer allowed access to your expertise, but we realized it was not by your choice. Then one day, we once again found ourselves in a position to avail ourselves of your service.

You had been there for my family so many times, often making home visits for my mother, who had been in poor health for a number of years. She passed away shortly after her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. I realize that, if not for your constant care, she most likely would have been gone many years before. When you walked into our home, it was like an old friend stopping by to visit. I knew there were many who received this treatment, but it always felt as though we were the only ones you were taking care of, and this visit was the most important thing you were doing that day.

People came for miles to see you. Your office was a place to turn to when other avenues were less available and they really needed medical care. I will be forever grateful for your help, that late August day in 2010. If it had not been for your insistence that I be seen immediately by a doctor at the hospital, my life likely would have played out very differently.

I remember seeing your face the day I said, "I have a large lump and I am concerned." I knew right then that there was something to be concerned about. You opened that door to the hospital, the one I was not able to open. I was seen at the hospital the following day. I was on a fast track, I had advanced stage cancer. You called me and kept in touch with my progress and, at times, helped me through the difficult days.

How does anyone express gratitude for a person who plays such an important role in their wellbeing? "Thank you" seems so empty. Yet for you, I somehow have the feeling it is more than enough, knowing this person is alive and doing well. We never know what life will bring to our door; however I am able to say that when life brought cancer to my door, I was glad you were standing right there. Your knowledge, caring, determination and constant support will always remain in my heart. So no matter where you are, it is important to realize, there are many people like myself who owe you so much.

Sincerely,

**Barbara**



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# Tour des Arts 2016

By Mark Zimmerl

Come celebrate artistic creativity in the captivating countryside of the Eastern Townships. The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Tour Des Arts invites you to visit the open studios of 39 local artists and artisans ranging from Sutton, Lac Brome, Abercorn, the Boltons, Mansonville and all regions in between. For nine days, July 16<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, visitors can delight in visiting studios, checking out artistic creations as well as taking in prescheduled live demonstrations. Come learn a new technique, discover an artistic process or simply witness creative magic as it happens.

This year the Tour des Arts welcomes three new studios: Naomi Pearl has a new collection of bowls and tea bowls for 2016. These are constructed from fine white porcelain sheets and dotted with winter-inspired words and images from nature. She will also be showing porcelain and mixed media sculptures from her "Winter reflections" and "Nests" series, both influenced by the forests and streams that surround her. Additionally, Jean-Sébastien Bernard and Anne-Marie Lavigne are opening their studio in Sutton showcasing new perspectives on the historical architecture of the Eastern Townships. Trained by John Sexton in Carmel Valley and Jean-Pierre Beaudin in Dunham, the artist Jean-Sébastien Bernard is conducting research on the poetics of space through photographic series, realized in collaboration with artist, curator and art historian Anne-Marie Lavigne. Also from Sutton, Diane Guilbault, inspired by natural surroundings and memories, paints abstractly, her imagination freely and vividly transposed onto her acrylic canvases with light, motion, volume and texture.

The Tour des Arts commences with an opening vernissage in Sutton on Friday July 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm. Works from all artists and artisans will be on display at Arts Sutton, 7 rue Academy, Sutton. This collective exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to see examples of artwork from each artist and to subsequently plan your Tour des Arts experience. Visitors to the Tour des Arts can expect to find a vast selection of media including painting, drawing, watercolour, sculpture, cabinet making, ceramics,

jewelry, textiles, stained glass, mixed media and much more.

Equipped with a Tour des Arts flyer map, one can explore the splendid scenery of the area, discover new favourite destinations, or simply enjoy the studios nestled in the charming Eastern Townships landscape. The flyer maps also indicate the prescheduled times for the live demonstrations in each studio. Flyers will be available in tourist bureaus and participating local businesses, and can also be downloaded from the Tour des Arts website: [www.tourdesarts.com](http://www.tourdesarts.com)

Each evening, as the studios close for the day, many other artistic events are just getting started! The Tour des Arts features evening events where one can enjoy music, poetry, dance and theatre, all presented by local performing artists. Visitors are also encouraged to enjoy the region's fine hospitality, dine at local restaurants and stay at local accommodations.

Please see the Tour des Arts flyer for suggestions and stay updated on everything **Tour des Arts** by liking and following our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/letourdesarts](http://www.facebook.com/letourdesarts)

This year's jazz and music events feature "**The Homebrew Dixieland Band**", "**The Jazz Heads**", Trisha Pope & Jeff May's "**Full Circle**", Francine Lepitre & Julia Rohan's folk-pop "**Déjà Two**" and "**Les Valvettes - Men with Horns**" classical and jazz trumpet trios (Stanley Lake, Ralph Denzer, Marc Bolduc).

Programs of dance include "**Tap'n'Tell**" tap show with Andrea Conway & Wayne Doba, Vicki Tansey's movement/music "**Improvisations**" and Gabriela Asselin's "**Danse gitane contemporaine.**"

Local professional and amateur writers will present their works in the Festival "**Jeux de mots / Play on Words**" with guest author Yves Beauchemin, Daniel Laguitton's "**Entre deux rives avec T.S. Eliot**", "**Les**

écrivains Potton Writers” and “Sutton Readings-Prose & Poetry.”

Theater productions will be available from “Theatre Lac Brome” and Emma Stevens’ production of “The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis Mccauly Fishing Derby.”

As well, films will be presented at the Salle A&G Pelletier by local filmmakers Manon Barbeau “Libre comme l’art – Marcel Barbeau” and J.-F. Hamelin “Courts-métrages/Short Documentaries.”

The Salle A&G Pelletier will also offer **workshops for children** during the Tour des Arts.

For details of times and locations, please consult the Tour des Arts flyer or website [www.tourdesarts.com](http://www.tourdesarts.com)

The Tour des Arts continues to thank its local sponsors for their faithful support of this enriching and enchanting experience. Please support them as together we promote and celebrate this region’s dynamic and vivid cultural heart.

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# Townships Gardens to Visit

By Angela Leuck

Summer is a glorious season in the Eastern Townships, with no shortage of flowers and shrubs. Just drive down any side road and you will glimpse lovingly tended gardens full of imagination and colour. Like many Townshippers, I enjoy working on my own small plot of earth. For me, gardening is a way to take time out and is a source of inspiration for my poetry. For others, it represents a much more ambitious undertaking. Here are a few noteworthy Townships gardens you might want to visit.

## Glen Villa

Ch. de North Hatley

North Hatley

[info@siteandinsight.com](mailto:info@siteandinsight.com)

[www.siteandinsight.com](http://www.siteandinsight.com)

On the shore of Lake Massawippi close to North Hatley, the 750-acre Glen Villa takes its name from a former inn on the property, which burnt down in 1909. For the past 15 years, artist and photographer Pat Webster has developed a unique, non-traditional garden, combining not only nature and art—sculpture and art installations are placed throughout the garden—but past and present. A network of paths leads through meadows, woodland, and landscaped gardens with intriguing names such as “The Fairy Well,” “The Asian Meadow” and “The Dragon’s Tail.”

The garden will be open to visitors during Open Garden Day at Glen Villa on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. A voluntary admission fee of \$20 will go to the Massawippi Foundation, to support land conservation and community development.

## Le Jardin Bigelow

Carré Copp

Georgeville

Founded in 1993, the Bigelow Garden is a project of the Georgeville Historical Society. This tiny garden occupies a space in the heart of Georgeville and is home to plants of historical value. Maintained by community volunteers—the Bigelow gardeners—it was the inspiration for this year’s “Bigelow and

Beyond: Country Gardens Then and Now,” an art exhibition at Studio Georgeville, which was held from May 7<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Les Jardins Massawippi

7, Ch. Hill

North Hatley

819-842-2851

This is one of the best kept secrets in the Townships. Only two acres in extent, the garden nevertheless boasts two ponds, a stream and numerous theme gardens. What sets it apart from other gardens are its unique structures— pergolas, gazebos, bridges, and brilliant trompe l’oeil constructions—all built over the past 20 years by owner, Réal Delisle, who is not only a passionate gardener but a master carpenter as well. Les Jardins Massawippi delivers surprises and stunning vistas around each turn of the path. While there are no regular hours for public viewing, Real Delisle and his wife France invite interested visitors to phone ahead for an appointment or simply drop by.

*\$10 per person for a tour of the garden.*

## Les Jardins Vivaces de Fernand

480, route 112

Canton de Westbury (East Angus)

819-832-2714

[lisefernand@bell.net](mailto:lisefernand@bell.net)

[www.jardinsvivacesdefernand.com](http://www.jardinsvivacesdefernand.com)

Located about 15 minutes north of Sherbrooke, this 14,000-square-foot perennial garden is the creation of Fernand Gosselin and his wife Lise. The garden, which originally began as a mutual hobby when the couple purchased the property in 1970, was opened to the public in 1994. Today you can view more than 2300 varieties of perennials and over 100,000 plants. The garden boasts aquatic and Japanese gardens, as well as a dazzling 500-foot-long waterfall and 15 bridges! A visit to the garden takes about two hours, but expect to spend longer.

*Open June 15<sup>th</sup> to Labor Day, from Tuesday to Sunday*

from 10 am to 5 pm. Admission is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children (6 to 10 years old). Seasonal passes are also available for \$30 per person.

### **Parc du Domaine Howard**

1300, boul. de Portland

Sherbrooke

819-821-1919 or 1-800-561-8331

If greenhouses interest you, then you must plan an outing to the Carl-Camirand municipal greenhouses, located on the grounds of the Parc du Domaine Howard in Sherbrooke. The park itself boasts a thousand trees grouped under forty species, hundreds of ornamental shrubs, two hundred species of perennials and annuals, as well as different types of flower beds. The municipal greenhouses produce annually about 50,000 plants that are used in the making of mosaics, plus 60,000 annual plants and thousands of perennials that bloom throughout the city's parks and other sites. In the middle of modern day Sherbrooke, Parc du Domaine Howard is an oasis of greenery from the city's past.

*Open May to October. No entrance fee.*

### **Parc Marie-Victorin de Kingsey Falls**

385, boul. Marie-Victorin

Kingsey Falls

819 363-2528 or 1-888-753-7272

[info@parcmarienvictorin.com](mailto:info@parcmarienvictorin.com)

[www.parcmarievictorin.com](http://www.parcmarievictorin.com)

Père Marie-Victorin was a Quebec botanist who was instrumental in the setting up of the Montreal Botanical Gardens. In 1985, in honor of the centenary of his birth, Parc Marie-Victorin was founded in the botanist's hometown of Kingsey Falls. Originally 3 acres, the park has expanded to nearly 30, and is tended by volunteers and a small permanent staff. With its six thematic gardens, fine tropical greenhouse with exotic birds, educational botany lab, and giant 3D mosaicultures, there's something for the whole family. This unique park has also been a leader in Quebec's "Green" movement.

*Open June 4<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>. During its summer schedule starting June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the park is open from 9 am to 7 pm. Entrance fees are \$18 per adult, \$17 for over 65, and \$8 for children 6-17. There are also discounted family rates*

Although quite different in size and design, all of

the six gardens above feature a variety of different species of plants. There are also gardens that focus on a particular plant. The one that perhaps comes most readily to mind for anyone living in the Townships is "lavender," thanks to the dramatic career of Bleu Lavande.

### **Bleu Lavande**

891, chemin Narrow (route 247)

Stanstead (Fitch Bay)

1-888-876-5851

[info@bleulavande.ca](mailto:info@bleulavande.ca)

[www.bleulavande.com](http://www.bleulavande.com)

Located on 160 acres in Fitch Bay, Bleu Lavande, with over 100,000 lavender plants, is the largest farm of its kind in Canada and the second largest in North America. Not only will you enjoy the visual beauty of those now famous undulating lines of blue plants, you can heighten your sense experience by taking part in one of the garden's many organized events, involving your choice of massotherapy, yoga, music (classical, jazz or acoustic), art, food or wine, or even a boat ride. Lavender has therapeutic properties as well, which the garden's original founders, Pierre Pellerin and his wife Christine turned into a commercial success. The garden has continued to evolve, adding new activities and products in its popular boutique.

*The garden is open from May 7<sup>th</sup> to October 9<sup>th</sup>. Tours are free during May 14<sup>th</sup> to June 10<sup>th</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup> to October 9<sup>th</sup>. For prices during peak periods, consult the Bleu Lavande website.*

### **Joie de Lavande**

50, chemin Mont Écho

Lac-Brome

450-243-5438

[www.joiedelavande.com](http://www.joiedelavande.com)

A lavender farm on a much smaller scale is located just minutes from the village of Knowlton. Opened in 2007 by owners Christopher and Alison Marks, Joie de Lavande is a place to relax, walk through the small lavender fields and enjoy an outdoor picnic by the pond. Visitors are encouraged to take cuttings from the plants and drop by the store that sells organic lavender products.

*Open June 1<sup>st</sup> to October 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 5 pm daily.*

Another plant that has inspired specialized gardens in the Townships is the daylily—yes, the ever popular, omnipresent daylily. Did you know that there are close to 52,000 species?

### **Les Jardins Lac-Brome**

2612, chemin du Mont-Echo  
Sutton  
450-243-1528  
andrepape@xplornet.com  
www.hemerocalleslacbrome.com

Located in the tranquil setting of Mont Echo, this is the largest daylily garden in the Townships with 1850 varieties. It is a retail nursery owned by Andre Page, but well worth a visit just to admire the flowers—although you will find it hard to resist buying a plant or two to add to your own garden

### **Le Jardin de la Baie**

490 chemin Bissell  
Stanstead (Fitch Bay)  
819-876-7525  
albert.boucher@hotmail.com

Marlayne Hudson & Albert Boucher are also passionate about daylilies. In the garden around their family home on the shore of Fitch Bay, the couple grow more than 500 different cultivars. The garden is open to visitors by appointment between 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and the owners are always happy to give you a free tour.

A QWK

Open July 4<sup>th</sup> to August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

While not exactly a flower garden, another garden you might like to explore is one focusing on herbs.

### **Herbs Orford Gardens**

6749, route 220  
Orford  
819-481-1231  
inof@herbesorford.com  
www.herbesorford.com

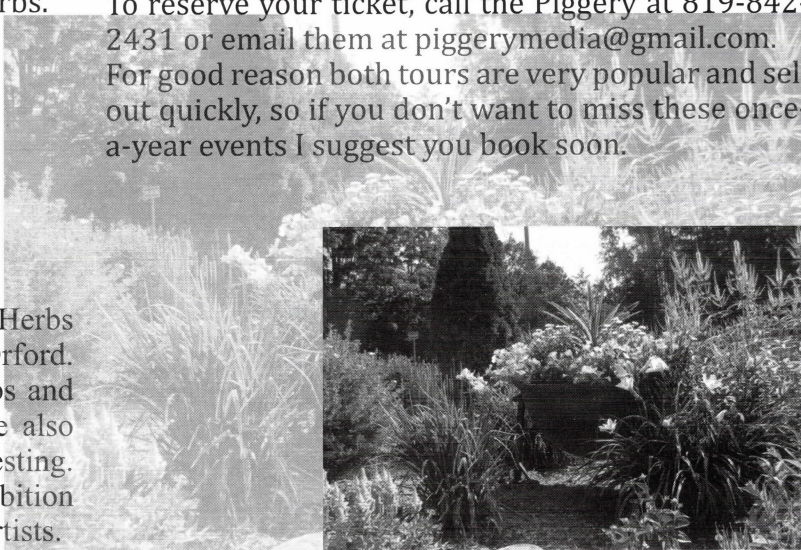
Dedicated to health and well-being, the 3-acre Herbs Orford Gardens are located adjacent to Mont Orford. The gardens' goal is to inspire a culture of herbs and their ecological production, but the gardens are also designed to be a peaceful place for walking and resting. In addition, visitors can enjoy an open-air art exhibition that includes sculpture and land art by regional artists.

Open from June 18<sup>th</sup> to October 10<sup>th</sup>.

You may be wondering why I haven't mentioned that queen of flowers—the rose. Many of you will have fond memories of visiting Rose des Champs, a rose garden operated by Norman Benoit and his partner Claire Mercier. The couple's much-admired, four-acre garden contained some 2000 rose bushes and 800 varieties and also included five water gardens with color themes and aquatic plants. The sad news is that the garden is now closed; the good news is that the couple are continuing to sell their line of rose products at their new location, [555 ch. du Ruisseau in Ste-Catherine-de-Hatley](#). You can find out more by going to [www.rosedeschamps.com](#). Finally, a great way to visit private gardens you otherwise wouldn't normally be able to see, while at the same time helping a worthy cause, is to sign up for a house and garden tour.

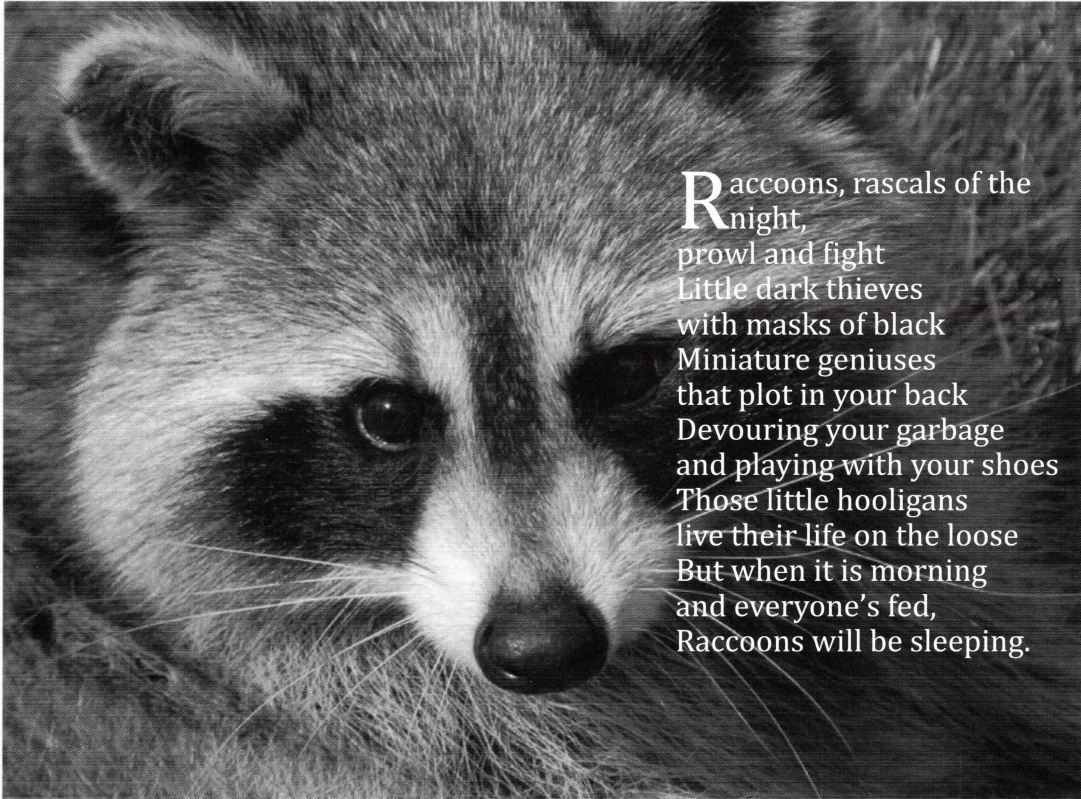
The **Knowlton House and Garden Tour** takes place July 13<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 4:00 pm. This year's self-guided tour includes 5 homes, including a charming historic home in a village setting, the home of a prominent art dealer and collector, and a new construction beautifully recreating the look of yesteryear. The cost of the self-guided tour is \$60, which includes a box lunch or voucher valid at a number of area restaurants. Proceeds go to Theatre Lac Brome.

The Piggery House and Garden Tour takes place July 21<sup>st</sup>, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. This is the Piggery's largest benefit and offers a tour of some of the most beautiful homes and gardens in and around North Hatley. A box lunch is included in the \$50 ticket price. To reserve your ticket, call the Piggery at 819-842-2431 or email them at [piggerymedia@gmail.com](mailto:piggerymedia@gmail.com). For good reason both tours are very popular and sell out quickly, so if you don't want to miss these once-a-year events I suggest you book soon.



# Raccoons

By Morgane Davis-Demers, 13 years old



Raccoons, rascals of the night,  
prowl and fight  
Little dark thieves  
with masks of black  
Miniature geniuses  
that plot in your back  
Devouring your garbage  
and playing with your shoes  
Those little hooligans  
live their life on the loose  
But when it is morning  
and everyone's fed,  
Raccoons will be sleeping.

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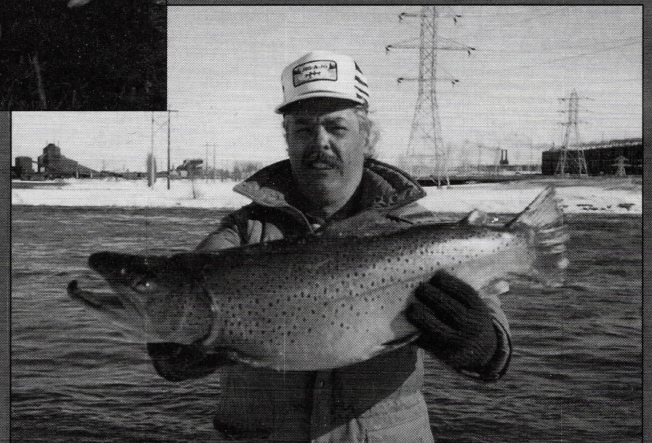
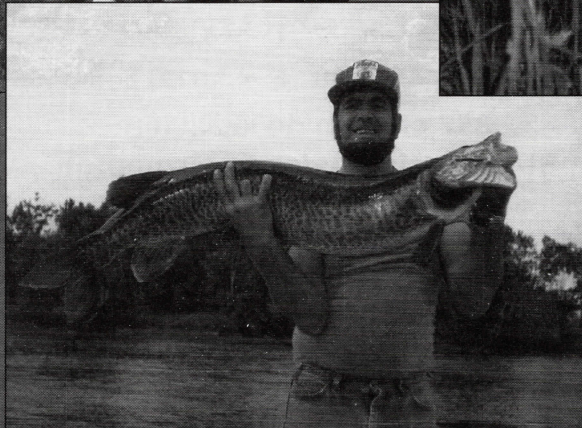
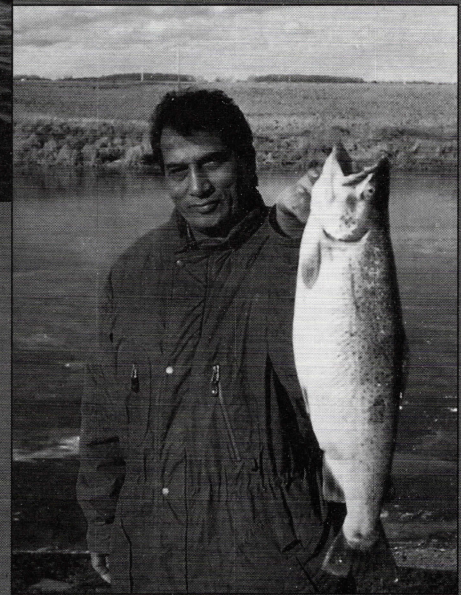
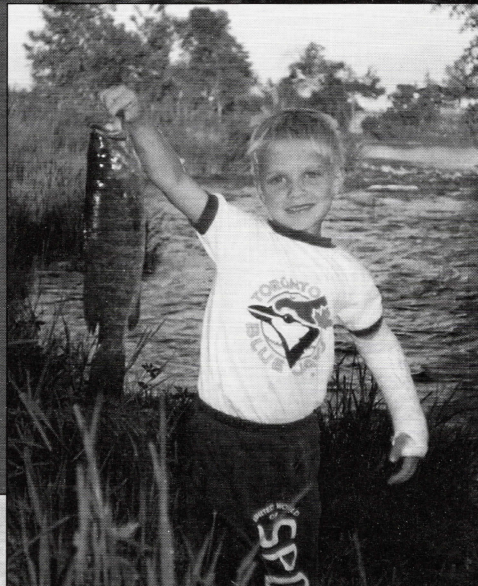
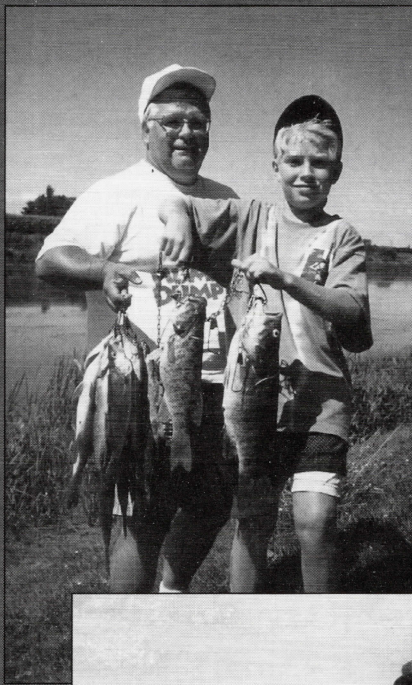
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# Townshippers' Gone Fishing

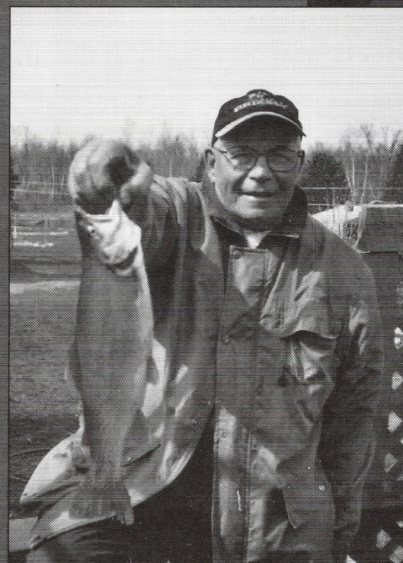
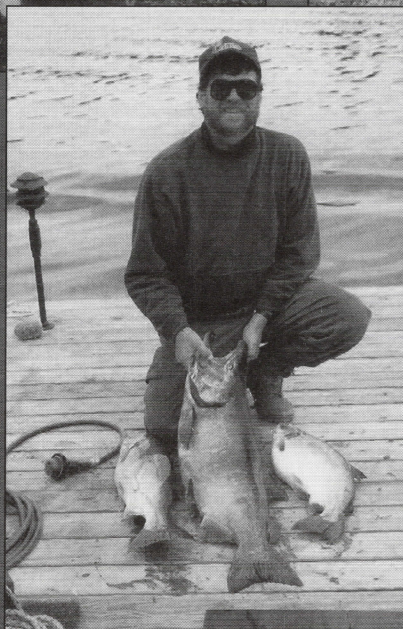
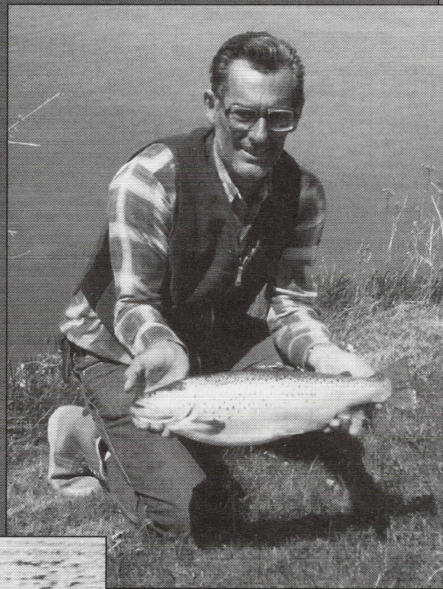
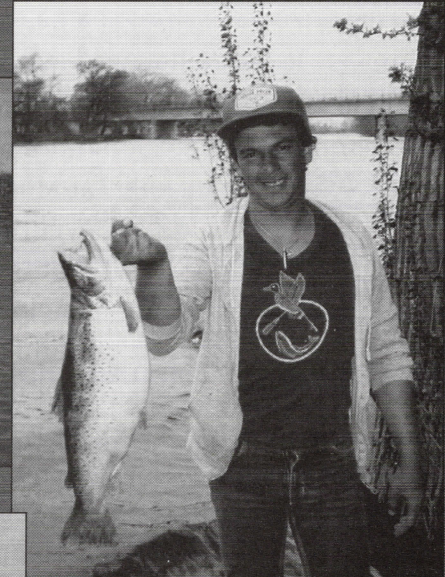
*By John A. Viau*





*From the small streams to the larger bodies of water, children and adults go out looking for the catch of the day.*

*John Viau of Ormstown, Quebec takes us fishing.  
Let's have a fish fry.*



# I Used to Believe

*By Heather Davis*

---

I used to believe  
the best days of the year were  
Christmas, Halloween and Easter,  
that I could beat my older brother  
at Monopoly  
eventually,  
that the greatest insult was  
you look like a boy.  
I didn't want that haircut  
I got in second grade.  
We wore colourful turtlenecks  
in the 70s.  
I thought pink matched with red  
(secretly, I still do).  
The wider I'd open my mouth  
the faster the dentist would finish.  
It was wrong of my dad  
to throw our dog in the pool.  
Breakfast cereal needed brown  
sugar on top to make it sweet.  
Someone was in charge,  
perhaps my parents  
maybe the principal  
or the cops  
or Pierre Trudeau.  
I used to believe  
I should speak French  
like my mother  
or at least understand  
though I lived in Vancouver.  
Life was a cycle:  
Christmas, Halloween, then Easter.  
Or something like that.

# Discovering Our Past

*By The Townships Sun*

## Colby Curtis Museum

The Colby Curtis Museum, located in Stanstead, Quebec is a great place to visit. Discover our colorful past. The museum is a large heritage house built by Moses French Colby and later completed by his son, in 1859, Charles Carroll Colby. This imposing cut granite and fieldstone house in the Italianate style has been home to the Colby-Curtis Museum since 1992. Together with its adjacent barn building, it contains the collections of the Stanstead Historical Society that continue to grow thanks to local donors.

Back in 1859, Charles Carroll Colby and his young wife, Hattie Child, took possession of an imposing granite residence on the main street of Stanstead. In this rare historic home, still with its original contents, the Colby-Curtis Museum houses an extensive collection of artifacts illustrating the lives of Anglophone notables of the day. Temporary exhibitions highlight some fascinating aspects of regional history. In fine weather, a tea salon is the perfect place to linger and enjoy the magnificent view of the Victorian-style garden.

Since 1992, under the aegis of the Colby-Curtis Museum, the Society's collections have been installed

in "Carrollcroft", a classical revival style villa built in 1859. The house as well as all of its contents were donated to the Society by the Colby family in 1992.

Today, Carrollcroft houses the expanded Colby-Curtis Museum and Archives. Permanent displays give visitors a glimpse of the gracious lifestyle enjoyed by several generations of a prominent border family of American origin. Changing temporary exhibitions present other fascinating aspects of regional history.

The Stanstead Historical Society has developed a garden inspired by Carrollcroft's nineteenth-century gardens and opened it to the public. Visitors can stroll the walkways or relax on one of the garden benches. There are beautiful peonies, iris, roses and other old-fashioned flowers to be admired.

## The Olde Blacksmith Art Gallery

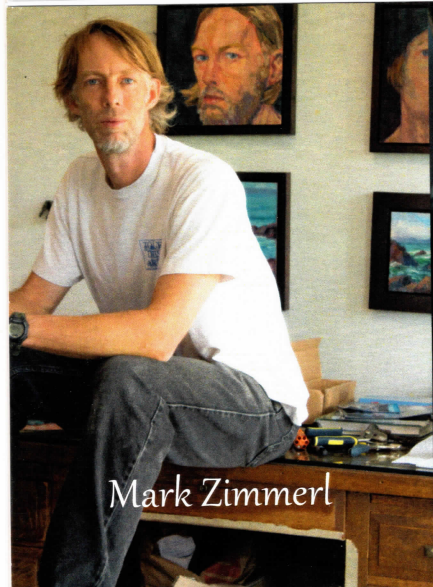
Just before crossing the Vermont border, in the historical downtown sector of Stanstead, Quebec, Ye Olde Blacksmith Art Gallery (or Le Vieux Forgeron) overlooks the Tomifobia River. Nestled just off the main street, the old blacksmith shop has been restored into a seasonal gallery featuring local and international artists.



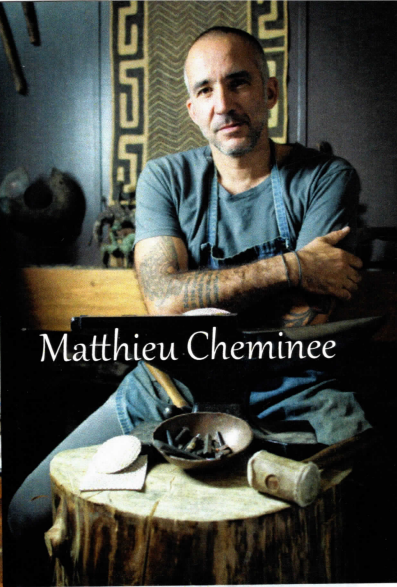
*Inside the Colby-Curtis Museum.*



BRENDA GOODSELL  
*The Olde Blacksmith Art Gallery.*



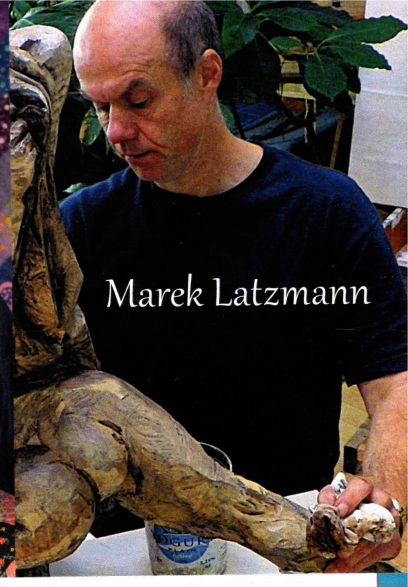
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