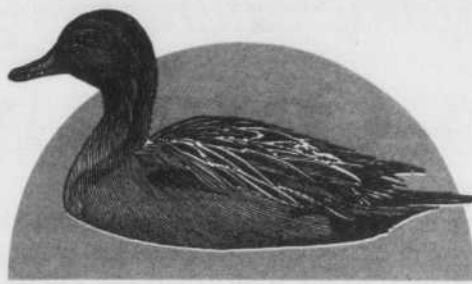


Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 2005

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Knowlton Players' A Bad Year For Tomatoes on until Sunday



COURTESY KNOWLTON PLAYERS

Directed by Darleen Bell, *A Bad Year For Tomatoes* stars Michaela Barnes, Diane Stefan, Jason Westover, Ace Mac Lellan, Joan Seys, Vivian Grenier and Rose Highfield.

By Wendy Denman
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

This weekend is the last chance to catch the Knowlton Players' final production of the season – the Darleen Bell-directed light, enjoyable comedy *A Bad Year for Tomatoes*.

Written by John Patrick, the plot includes all the ingredients that make going to one of these plays so much fun.

The heroine is a famous actress seeking seclusion. The location is a small New England hamlet. The neighbours are downright nosy, her agent is insistent and our heroine is at her wits end. She improvises, invents a crazy sister and plays the part only too well.

"It's fun, we're not doing it as a farce, though you could," explained Bell. "The first act sets the scene and really introduces you to the characters, then the second act moves really fast, lots of action."

The cast includes newcomer Diane Stefan.

"It's always good to have someone who hasn't been on stage before, to show them the ropes. It's a good cast – I've worked with all of them before.

It's a community, I love Knowlton Players, if you need help it's right there," explained Bell.

Bernice Paterson assists Bell directing and backstage, Bill Jarand designed the set and Danny McAuley handles the lighting. This is a cast of amateur heavyweights, whose many performances have become part of the history of Theatre Lac Brome.

Michaela Barnes plays the privacy seeking Myra, returning to Arts Knowlton for the first time in a while. Her performance in *Guys and Dolls* a few years ago was stunning. Here she takes the on a difficult dual role.

"She plays Myra and her mad sister. She's so good. It's wonderful to be working with her again," added Bell.

Jason Westover, Ace Mac Lellan, Joan Seys, Vivian Grenier and Rose Highfield make themselves particularly annoying in this fest of fun theatre for a good laugh.

A Bad Year For Tomatoes continues at Arts Knowlton this weekend, May 26 to 29, playing Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 450-243-0124 to reserve tickets.

Going To Camp



COURTESY MARYANN SKINNER

As a first time initiative, Brome Lake Community Services is launching a program involving coin cans that will help send a child to camp. Salamander Summer Day Camp is a community-based program that serves over 100 families with children aged 3-15 years. While Community Services maintains a low cost policy in order to ensure maximum accessibility to the camp, some families still cannot afford to send their children to camp. The coin cans that can be found on counters of various merchants in the Brome Lake area – including dépanneurs, coffee shops, video stores and newsstands. The slogan for the coin-can initiative is summer fun for everyone. Pictured is Ellyn, who is planning to attend the Mini Salamanders Day Camp in Brome Lake.



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BROME COUNTY COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 25

Avante Women's Centre **PLANTING PERENNIALS AND PLANT EXCHANGE** with gardening guru Therese Rhicard to answer your questions on making your flowers grow, at 2 Adhemar-Cusson, Suite 2, **Bedford**, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Light breakfast served and bring a perennial to exchange. Call 450-248-0530.

500 CARD PARTY at I.O.O.F. Hall, **Warden**, 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and prizes!

May 27

COFFEE HOUSE sponsored by the AngloFrancophone Committee of Waterloo at La Maison de la Culture, 441 de la Cour, **Waterloo**, 7:30 p.m. Lots of local talent will be performing in a bilingual program of music and humorous readings. Small admission charge includes snacks. Information: 450-539-5956.

May 27 & 28

24TH ANNUAL TOWNSHIPPERS ROUND-UP. Pavillon Charles Leblanc, Centre d'Arts, **Orford**. Theme: AA OPEN HOUSE. Friday, 7 p.m. to midnight and Saturday, 9 a.m. to midnight. Speakers, dance and Al-Anon. Accommodation on-site. For info: call the AA Helpline at 450-242-2611.

May 28

RENAISSANCE LAC BROME ANNUAL MEETING — Presentations on: Lake test-

ing results for summer 2004; new municipal regulations on docks; situation regarding Cedar Bay marina, program for lake testing during 2005.

CAR WASH, BAKE SALE AND GARAGE SALE to benefit **Mansonville Baptist Church**, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All welcome!

DANCE at Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 77, 77 Lewis St., **Waterloo**, 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Music by Gary Darling. Admission, \$5 18 yrs. and over. No smoking. Canteen on site!

Dunham Women's Institute will hold a **LAWN SALE** at United Church, Dunham from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If rain, inside.

P.R.R.P. Abercorn SPRING FLEA MARKET, 9 Church St., West, **Abercorn**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Furniture, dishes, nearly new clothes, toys, dolls, jewelry, books and crafts plus basement full of treasures. Food (hot dogs, sandwiches, cookies). Donations to local hospital, schools, churches, youth centres, etc. See you there!

BISHOP STEWARD MEMORIAL CHURCH. Acoustic Old-Tyme & Bluegrass music benefit Concert for building restoration fund, Saturday, May 28 at 8 p.m. 5 Garagona Rd., **Frelighsburg**. Featuring two bands: #1 Bobby Hill, Marie Gunn, Guy Carpenter & Perry Beaton; #2 Tom Kilbride, Larry Comeau, Armand Lebric, David Vachon & Perry Beaton. Donation: \$8. Info: 450-248-3581, 298-5377.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING SUPPORT GROUP: Meeting, St. Paul's Church, **Knowlton**, 2 p.m. Having difficulty coping? Not sure how to support someone suffering from mental illness? Or maybe you just want to be more informed? Info: 450-243-0928 or pleasantvalley@sympatico.ca.

May 29

BMP Foundation BENEFIT SALE, 29 Conference, **Knowlton**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds donated to BMP Foundation. Info: 450-243-5317.

June 4

Creek United Church, Brill Road, **West Bolton**, **ANNUAL BUFFET SUPPER**, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Adults \$10, children 10 and under \$3.

Knowlton Lions Club community LAWN SALE FUNDRAISER to benefit future community centre, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Oddfellows Hall, 476 **Knowlton Rd.** Half of the sums collected will be versed in the subscription campaign of the community centre and the other half will go to the charity funds of the Knowlton Lions Club.

For those who wish to encourage us, we accept just about anything in good condition: toys, curios, crockery, sporting and gardening equipment. The only exceptions are books, clothing and large appliances. Donations can be brought, during May, to a storage centre at 323 Victoria St. every Thursday, 6 to 8 p.m. and every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. For more information or to volunteer, call Gib Rotherham at 450-243-1420.

Foyer Sutton ANNUAL GARAGE AND BAKE SALE 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. All profits to residents. Drop off days at the Foyer from May 30 to June 3. Pick up available prior to May 30. No clothing please. Info: Irene, 450-538-3408 or Gale, 450-538-0530. Thank you for your support!

June 5 & 12

CROHN'S DISEASE AND ULCERATIVE COLITIS Annual benefit walk-a-thon. June 5 — **Cowansville Legion**, June 12 — Jacques Cartier Park, **Sherbrooke**. Clowns, barbecue, door prizes. Pledge forms available or for donations please call Amanda at 450-292-3276 or go to www.ccfc.ca.

June 25

ADVANCED NOTICE: West Brome Church of the Ascension annual flea market celebrating our 25th anniversary, 8 a.m. For space rental, please call, Jean Shufelt, 450-263-1989 or Jean Fisher, 450-263-5724.

ARTS CALENDAR

Until May 29

KNOWLTON PLAYERS PRESENT A BAD YEAR FOR TOMATOES by John Patrick. Directed by Darleen Bell, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. Sunday matinees, 2 p.m. Arts **Knowlton**, 9 Mont Echo. Information and reservations: 450-243-0124.

June 4-12

ART EXHIBITION of watercolours, florals and landscapes by local artist Rhonda Price at the Brome County Historical Society, 130 Lakeside St., **Knowlton**, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

CHURCH SERVICES

KNOWLTON/CREEK PASTORAL CHARGE: Worship and song by members assisted by The Reverend Dale Skinner. Creek United, **Foster**, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school at Creek. **Knowlton United**, **Knowlton**, 11 a.m. (Handicap access). **ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:** 24

St. Paul's Road, **Knowlton**. Traditional Sunday service at 8 a.m. and at the 10 a.m. service, music, a nursery and Sunday school. The Rev. Tim Wiebe and the congregation welcomes everyone!

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME: Sunday services — Sunday, May 29, family spring celebration, **Sutton Junction**, 10 a.m. Stories, musicians, refreshment!

SAINT-EDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH: **Knowlton** — Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m. (Bilingual).

ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH: 420 de la cour, **Waterloo**, invites you to come and join us. First and third Sundays, morning prayer, 9 a.m.; second and fourth Sundays, Holy Communion, 9 a.m. Rev. W. Davidson. Info: 450-539-2078.

COWANSVILLE AREA PASTORAL CHARGE UNITED CHURCH: Worship at Emmanuel United Church, 203 rue Principale, **Cowansville**. Worship and Sunday school at 10:30 a.m., Choir practice, 9:30 a.m. Rev. Wendy MacLean officiating.

TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, COWANSVILLE: Come and join us for Sunday Worship. We have a service at 9 a.m. (traditional) and a family service with music and Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. Info: 450-263-2662.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BEDFORD/PHILIPSBURG & FARNHAM: Sunday service May 29 at 4 p.m. Joint Holy Eucharist service at St. James Church in **Farnham** with the musical group Celebrate and a pot-luck supper to follow in the Church Hall.

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE: Invites you to come and worship with us. Combined Sunday service, May 29, 10 a.m., **Mystic United**, with Rev. Carl Triskle. All are welcome.

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN SUTTON: 52 Principale sud, welcomes everyone for Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. Canon Tim Smart, Rector. Info: 450-538-8108.

BAPTIST CHURCHES: Sunday services: **Mansonville Baptist**, 9:30 a.m.; **Olivet Baptist, Sutton**, 11 a.m.

COMMUNITY NOTES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — If you wish to drink and can... that's your business. If you wish to stop and can't... that's our business. For more information, call 450-242-2611.

BCN RATES & DEADLINES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Brome County News Community Calendar is reserved for non-profit organizations only. Deadline is noon on Mondays. A pre-paid fee of \$7 is required per publication, or **SPECIAL RATE of \$11 for 2 insertions:** 1 BCN & 1 in Friday Record "What's On" section. Please forward notices to Box 488, **Knowlton**, JOE 1V0, email: bcnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

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Netherlands a treat for local veteran Steel

By Wendy Denman
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

V-E-Day celebrations in Holland at the beginning of the May drew a number of Canadian Legion members from Quebec who joined veterans from Ontario on a chartered plane that flew them back to the scene of their victory 60 years ago.

One of the men who went back is Garnet Steel from the Royal Canadian Legion in Philipsburg.

"I enjoyed the trip very much. I've been back to Dieppe - I was at that one too - but never back to Holland. The Dutch are so appreciative of what the Canadians did - they're teaching their children about the war and Liberation," he said.

"Young people were everywhere during the trip. We were greeted by huge crowds."

For Steel, the 10-day trip is infused with his memories of the final months of the War as the combined armies made a great push eastwards toward Berlin.

"It was great getting together with the boys again, we had lots of fun on the plane, partying away, telling our stories. But not as much partying as we use to in the old days," he said with a quip. "We're getting older now."

Steel landed in France on D-Day, joining the armies that had finally

made a dent inland from the beaches and were gathering strength to make the great surge into Germany.

"I was with the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals during the war. We started at Bayeux, then moved into Caen - the fighting was horrible there, very bad. We went right up the coast along with the Brits, relaying messages all the way," explained Steel.

"We took a lot of casualties. We spent that final winter at Nijmegen, while we waited for Monty to come and help and he did. Then we leaped frogged through Holland."

"The Dutch were in bad shape. They were happy to see us alright."

The appreciation of the Dutch was clearly seen by the world media during the recent ceremonies. There were solemn services of remembrance, dedications and presentations, historical visits, parades, official dinners and receptions, meetings with the Dutch Royal family and press conferences.

"The Queen gave us a medal. That makes two now from the Dutch. In 1995, Holland gave a medal to the boys who were in Nijmegen in 1945," Steel said.

"Our Governor General (Adrienne Clarkson) joined the delegation for some of the official ceremonies. I shook hands with her twice.

"The second time she remembered me - I thought that was nice. I am very happy I took the trip back."



COURTESY GARNET STEEL

Sixty years after liberating The Netherlands, Garnet Steel and the other Canadian soldiers met up there recently.



COURTESY GARNET STEEL

Garnet Steel and the other veterans were the toast of Holland.

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Proper inflation helps tires survive pothole damage

By Dave Halliday

Work crews are busy repairing potholes, but many still remain to pose a hazard to your vehicles and its tires.

"The impact of just a small pothole can result in wheel misalignment, reduced air pressure and even a complete blowout," says Bob Miron, a product engineer with Michelin North America.

As the tire hits the sharp edge of the pothole, the tire sidewall tends to collapse.

"When that happens, you can break the cord inside the tire," Miron says. "The risk is more prominent when the

tire is underinflated."

Drivers can minimize the risk by ensuring their tires are properly inflated, he says.

Miron offers a variety of tips about tire care, but proper inflation plays a role in many of the tips for maintaining proper vehicle handling and ensuring long tire life.

If cords are broken inside the tire, the structure of the tire loses its integrity. The air pressure inside the tire pushes outward, which can cause a bulge to form on the tire sidewall.

However, Miron pointed out

See Tires, Page 12



CANWEST NEWS

Bob Miron of Michelin shows how potholes can damage the tire.

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"In the garden..." *Au jardin*

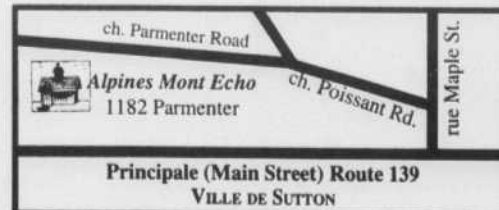


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Alpines Mont Echo is hosting a Special Event celebrating the garden with an eclectic gathering of specialty growers and artisans. Offerings include a rare and unusual collection of alpines, woodlanders, shrubs and conifers, hardy antique roses, perennials, annuals, ferns, succulents, organic and heirloom vegetable and herb plants, troughs, garden art and accessories, and many other treasures.

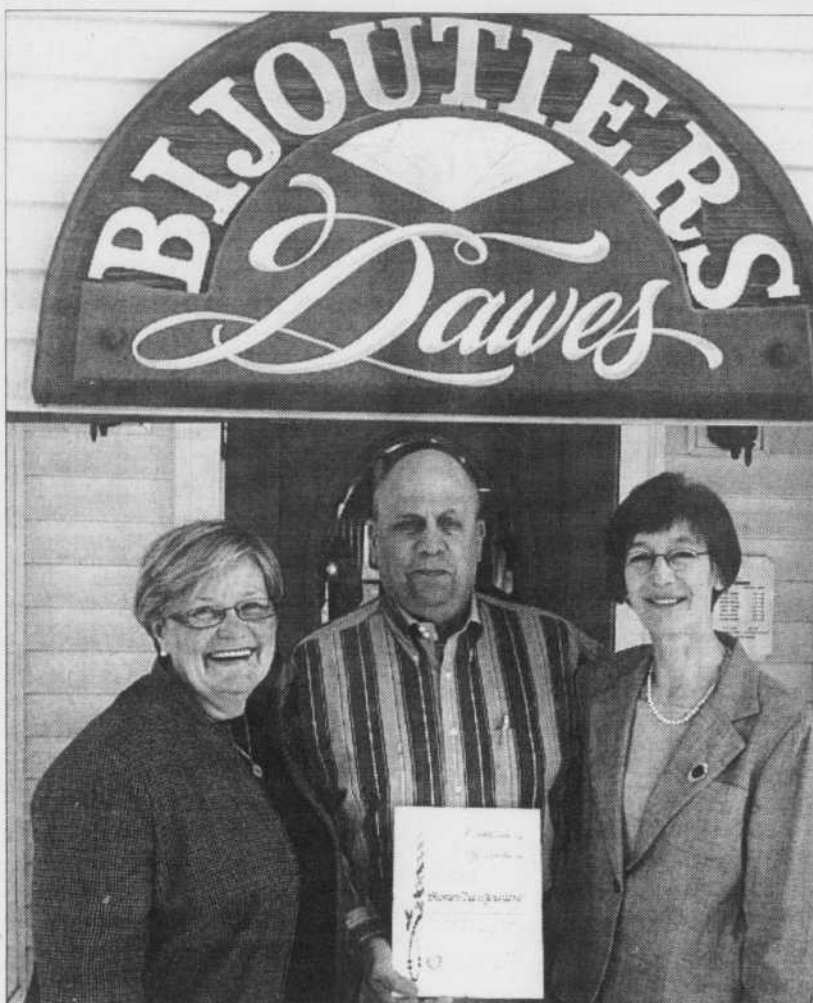
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Big Donation For Youth Foundation



COURTESY ILZE EPNARS

Ilze Epnars, president of the Brome-Missisquoi Youth Foundation recently presented a certificate of appreciation to David and Barbara Dawes of Dawes Jewelers for their generous donation of \$30,000 to the foundation.

Gilman's corner merchants have a plan

By Wendy Denman
RECORD CORRESPONDENTS
KNOWLTON

With the setting up of a strategically placed information kiosk close to the junction of Route 104 and Ch. West Brome, merchants along the one-kilometre or so stretch from Gilman's Corner toward Cowansville are hoping to gain a higher profile as a shopping area and tourist attraction.

"We are part of West Brome and on an important route," recently explained Diane Allard of Le Relais du Meuble.

"During the summer different activities will attract people this way – the rodeo on Aug. 12-14, the Brome Fair, the Duck Festival. A lot of people come through here to get to Knowlton and Sutton, and now we're going to have the information kiosk.

"We've given the Lac Brome Chamber of Commerce a place on our property for it and visitors will be able to pick up brochures and maps – all kinds of information and hopefully stop and shop. There's a lot going on here."

That stretch of highway 104 is usually travelled quickly on the way to somewhere else and motorists can easily miss the fact that a good many stores and services are located there.

"We've been here for 13 years. Twenty-four or more businesses have sprouted up in the last few years – used furniture, antiques, small motor repair, restaurants, a leather repair shop," continued Allard.

The area also harbours a veterinarian's office, pet shop, trailer park, gravel pit, gas station, convenience store and lawn sales. Allard runs a flea market beside her store every weekend and finds it a popular attraction.

"We open every Saturday and Sunday, weather permitting. It's not a big market but we feel it's a good market. We rent tables at \$2 per day and we offer a good variety – old treasures, good used items. This year there will be home baked goods and fresh garden vegetables."

Allard explained that in easy reach of the flea market are a number of interesting stores.

"You can cross the road – carefully – and shop at the equestrian store, there is a clothing store and small animal food store and next door there's a bicycle shop. You can really say there's something for everyone here."

Local churches to tee off for charity June 2

The churches of Brome Lake will be hosting a golf tournament at the Lac Brome Golf Club in Foster on June 2. The tournament, the first of what many hope will become an annual event, is raising money for local charities not directly affiliated with any of the churches.

This year, monies raised are being directed toward the food bank and a shelter for battered women.

The tournament is a four-person, best ball format. If you don't have a foursome, that's okay

since there will be the opportunity to join up with others. The cost is \$80 per person, which includes golf, electric cart, a barbecue dinner of roast pork, tax and gratuities. There are a limited number of tickets available for dinner at only \$30.

The event begins with tee-times starting at 11:30 a.m. To reserve a spot, call Knowlton United Church at 450-243-6078 before May 27 and leave your name and phone number. Or you can e-mail kcpc@bellnet.ca.

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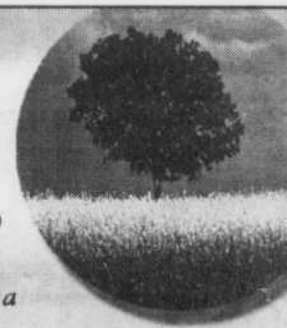
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Biologist Smeesters to speak June 5

By Murielle Parkes
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
MANSONVILLE

Gardeners and others interested in ecology and horticulture will want to mark June 5 on their calendars.

On that day, Édith Smeesters – author, speaker and biologist – will animate an ecological/horticultural conference with a PowerPoint lecture in Mansonville.

The audio-visual presentation will be given in English with French-language commentary.

Smeesters is well-known in the field and has spoken publicly on pesticide reduction, organic lawn care and gardening, as well as on composting and mulching.

She is the author of three books on the topic – Pelouses et couvre-sols (Lawns and ground covers) in 2000, Landscaping for Drought (2004) and Solutions écologiques en horticulture (Organic solutions for landscapes), in 2005. As well, she is spokesperson for the Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (CAP) created in 1999 to reduce pesticide use in Quebec.

May, 2001, she was recognized by the prestigious Québec Phénix Circle for her outstanding involvement in the environmental field.

The conference takes place Sunday, June 5, in the Reilly House New Horizons Room, 302 Principale, Mansonville (downstairs in the back) at 2 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5.

For further information, call Eva Waldron at 450-292-5743.

BHS Museum open for business

The Brome County Historical Society Museum opened May 21 and will remain open until mid-September. The exhibits feature wedding dresses from 1822 to 1952, musical instruments, toys, sports items and dolls. The dolls being shown throughout the museum buildings include Elvira, who is over 200 years old, and many others from the 19th and 20th centuries.

The sports display features pictures or items from the Knowlton Larks, Brome Champs and the Foster Flyers. Wooden golf clubs in a canvas golf bag are also in this display. The museum is still interested in adding to the collection.

A recent donation being shown in the Victorian House is a wooden box that would have been given to a home child as he left the "distributing home" to begin his new life.

The Fessenden exhibit housed in the Old Fire Station is a collection of radios, pictures and literature showing the early days of radio that Reginald Fessenden was a founding father of.

The General Store has many items that would have been in a store of 100 years ago – including a wood stove (and nearby checkerboard game), and a barber's chair in the corner the Post Office. The counter and drawers, which came out of a general store, date back to the mid 1800s.

The museum is located at 130 Lakeside in Knowlton. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, Sundays 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.




John Deere



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World-renowned yogis coming to Canada

By Denise Ryan*

Every once in a while, if you're lucky, a great teacher will come into your life — someone whose inspiration stays with you forever.

If you're even luckier, years later you'll discover they've become world-renowned, added Gwyneth Paltrow, Madonna, Lou Reed, Olympic athletes, Yehudi Menuhin and the Red Hot Chili Peppers to their client list, partnered up with another great teacher, and produced a series of best-selling DVDs and books.

And third time lucky, you discover that in a matter of weeks they're coming to your home town. Your life may be about to change forever. Again.

I first took a Kundalini yoga class when I was trying to negotiate a combination of post-secondary education, waitressing and an apartment in New York's crack-ridden Lower East Side. The apartment had no sound-proofing and was one floor above an after-hours club where, at midnight, the first thrash rock band was just starting to amp up. I was perilously close to going crazy before reaching the age of 20.

A friend, who was also trying to save herself, dragged me out of bed at 5 a.m. to a dark church basement, where in the murky pre-dawn light, we lay with a handful of others on unrolled towels watching as a turbaned man vacuumed and set up a tape recorder.

He had a robust beard, wore all white, and was, I recognized immediately, one of the "happy, healthy, holies," a member of the 3HO community, a group I thought of as cultish, and associated with sprouts, excessive body hair and other gruesomely natural things like, well, yoga.

His name was Ravi Singh and this yoga bore little resemblance to anything I'd seen before — there were no headstands or complicated postures, just a lot of dynamic body movement, stretching, breathing and Singh coaching us: Prevail!, Keep Up! Energy is your Destiny! And somehow, because he made us believe we could, we always managed to accomplish what otherwise would have seemed impossible.

In those morning hours, and during his infamous annual "spring cleaning" yoga workshops, Singh, who was modest and unassuming outside of class, and a bit of a joker — he once handed out croissants after a day-long detoxifying workshop — provided the most fiery, powerful, life-changing motivation to succeed, to overcome and to "break through" I've ever encountered.

Although I didn't know it then, he would go on to become one of the "biggest names in the business," a "teacher's teacher" and in the words of another student, a "miracle worker."

The DVDs he has created with his wife, Ana Brett, have been lauded by Vogue editors ("hands down, the best"),

Self and Yoga Journal, and have brought Kundalini to a wider audience than the devoted few that showed up, and kept up, back when yoga was still a four-letter word.

On May 28 and 29, Singh and Brett will be in Vancouver to teach for the first time, offering two half-day workshops.

Singh, who is still based in New York, told me over the phone from Manhattan that he no longer wears the beard, turban or "outer accoutrements" of his early years, and that he now travels the world with Brett, teaching and creating the yoga books and DVDs.

Singh first encountered Kundalini yoga 30 years ago, while in college.

"It's energy work," he explained. "It proceeds with the assumption that if we can move our energy, we can create breakthroughs and healing in our lives."

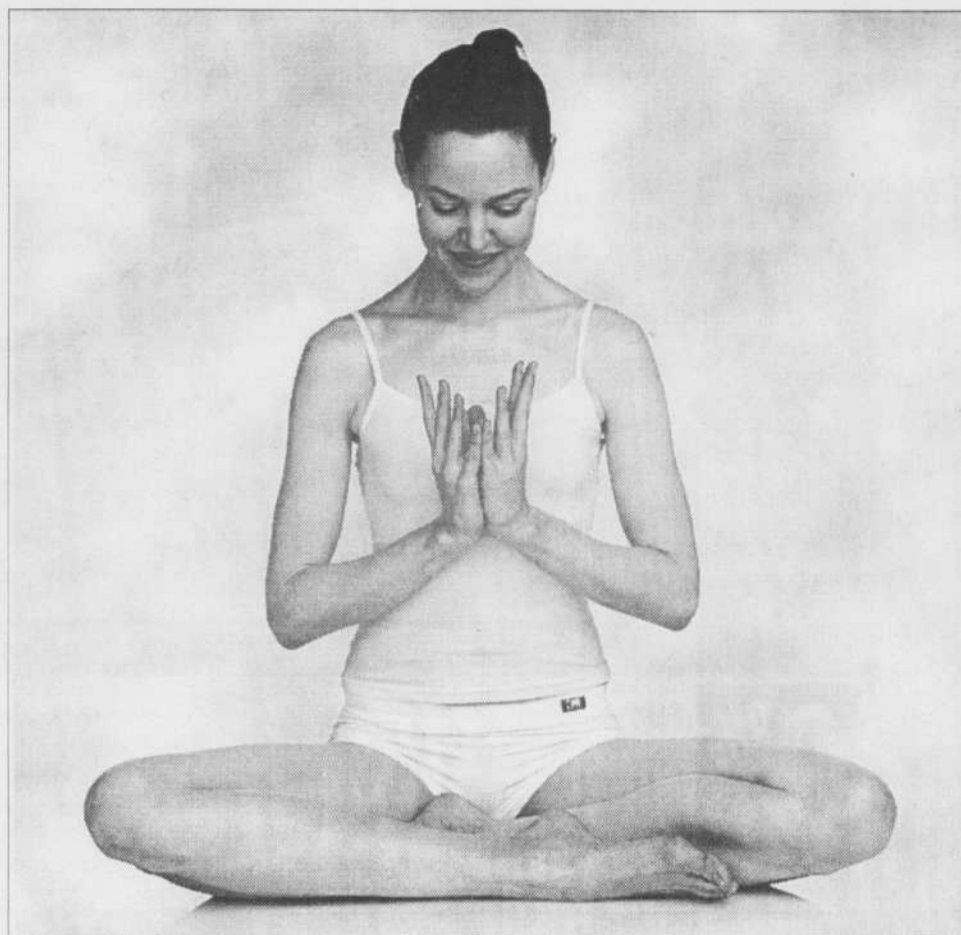
"To put it simply," said Brett, a former dancer who is Singh's wife and his teaching partner, "we become less neurotic. Kundalini yoga alleviates anxiety and depression, balances the brain, strengthens the immune system, and can actually increase one's level of joy."

Certainly the work we did on those pre-dawn New York mornings accomplished that. The process was intense — meditative, war-like, spiritual all at once — and weirdly supernatural, partly because it happened in this quiet, dark space before the sun rose, and partly because yoga is a matter not just of physical fitness, but of mental discipline and spiritual growth.

"Even if (students) come to this yoga to just get in shape," said Brett, "they fall in love with the spiritual aspect which is something that is already in us and something everyone knowingly, or unknowingly has a deep longing for."

Yoga, with its "now" accoutrements of designer yoga mats, sexy ultra-low-rise pants and racer-back tops, its hot teachers and even hotter students has lately become synonymous with urban style.

See Yoga, Page 14



CANWEST NEWS

New York-based Kundalini yoga instructor Ana Brett will be in Vancouver with her husband Ravi Singh later this week.

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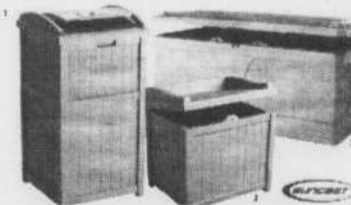
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Spring passages: Of fires then and now

Old Bill, a distant cousin on Mother's side of the family, spent his last days alone on a farm in the north country. His wife had departed these desolate shores, sadly, in her fifties and their only child, a son, had (surprise, surprise) moved to the city to work shortly after finishing school.

To support himself financially, Bill sold a number of lots off the farm to cottagers; it was a time before all these meddlesome laws about zoning and agricultural land protection. Of course, as we see around the Brome Lake area, anyone with the right political connections can get around those rules even today.

At that point cousin Bill's social life revolved around a public house at the junction of two country roads less than a mile from the old farmhouse.

Despite the fact that, like too many of his generation, a childhood bout with polio left one leg weaker and shorter than the other, he'd often hike two, even three times a day over to the bar — a brief morning session, then happy hour, perhaps a nightcap to round out a perfect day.

Wisely, he'd given up driving for a variety of reasons later in life, for which

the community was grateful as he grew fonder of the spirituous drink. If the weather turned foul or he seemed a bit more wobbly than usual, a bar employee or kind fellow patron would see him safely home.

It was this same concern that made his favourite waitress wonder where Bill was, one hot Saturday afternoon on the long May weekend, long after he should have been in for his usual refreshment. And then a car pulled into the gravel parking lot, kicking up a mini sandstorm in its haste.

Bill got out and hobbled towards the entrance, looking hurried and hassled as the car spun away. On the way to his usual spot, he turned to the puzzled waitress and declared, "Quick, quick! I've only got time for a small one... My barn's on fire!"

One of the cottagers, seeking a shortcut to the greening up of the lawn about his country retreat, decided to burn off the dead grass and proceeded, as well, to ignite the field in front of the old farmstead.

Neighbours, including Bill, had battled to stop the flames from lapping at

the barn but failed.

THE COUNTRY SQUIRE

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One chap with a car went for help to augment the Township's fire truck and crew which were supposedly on route, and Bill thought he might as well take advantage of a lift to put a little normalcy back into his raptured routine.

The barn was a total loss, and no amount of fussing or fretting would change that.

Luckily, nothing of value was stored there and the only resident livestock for decades had been various rodents. Thanks to a quickly-assembled team and virtually windless conditions, the flames were halted well short of the house and other out-buildings.

More recently, back by Brome Lake, our then-new neighbours on the north side chose to employ the same technique to hasten the greening of their back acres.

However, it had been a hot, dry May (remember them?) and before anyone could deliver a cautionary warning as to the risks involved, the back lot was ablaze. Luckily we were able to summon many hands with rakes and shovels and contain the conflagration.

It took one more incident to drive the lesson home, though. Exactly a year later, we returned from a camping trip to discover, over the ridge towards the swamp to the east, perhaps as much as 100 acres of charred shrubbery and blackened terrain.

A chastened, apologetic neighbour assured us he'd never try burning again, a lesson that cost in the thousands of dollars.

It'd be wrong to imply only weekenders indulge in spring burning rituals. Several country relatives have come very close to losing their dwellings combining matches and poor judgment. Some behavioural experts claim most North American males are latent pyromaniacs, on top of a tendency towards thievery.

Several friends clearing recently-acquired lots for new home construction were surprised to discover that, despite damp, drizzly conditions this most recent long weekend, various municipalities banned open fires.

Perhaps the thought of oodles of folk out with Bics and barbecue lighter fluid was a bit scary. Whatever the reasoning, sometimes it's good to err on the side of caution.

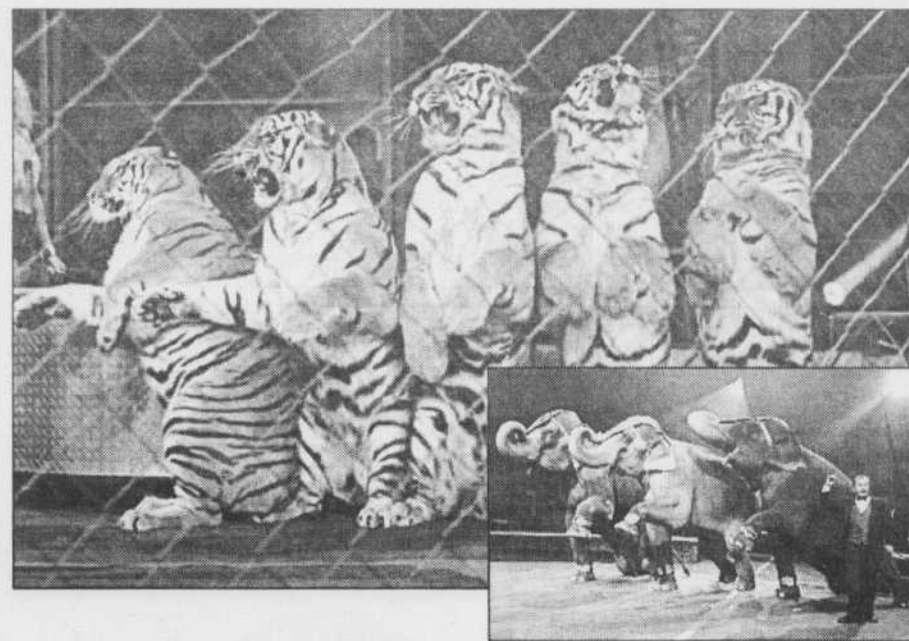
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Le jardinage biologique

Juste à temps pour la nouvelle saison, le guide pratique de jardinage écologique vient de paraître aux Éditions Michel Quintin.

Ce beau livre tout en couleur et abondamment illustré décrit les étapes à suivre pour créer son propre jardin écologique sans pesticides ni engrais de synthèse qui causent des torts à l'environnement et à la santé humaine.

Tout y est, de l'analyse de l'environnement à la récolte des produits, de la planification du jardin, des plate-bandes des aires de repos, d'un bassin d'eau qui peut attirer les insectes utiles et des prédateurs comme les libellules et qui participe à la sauvegarde des espèces menacées comme certaines grenouilles.

Celles-ci vous offriront aussi de jolis concerts durant les soirs d'été, comme c'est le cas dans mon jardin.

Le livre est très bien structuré et facile à suivre. Les différents chapitres expliquent comment: préparer et organiser son jardin, comment avoir des plates-bandes en santé, comment construire un treillis, une compostière, une chambre froide, une jardinière et autres articles ainsi qu'un abri d'été pour attirer les chauve-souris qui chassent les insectes durant la nuit.

Ce livre contient aussi des conseils précis pour l'achat d'outils et de matériaux qui vous feront économiser temps et argent.

Des suggestions nombreuses sont faites pour des fertilisants écologiques, la lutte aux ravageurs et aux insectes dont les plantes insecticides. De nombreux trucs pratiques apparaissent tout au long de ce beau volume.

Ils seront appréciés des jardiniers ex-

périmentés aussi bien que des nouveaux venus au jardinage écologique.

Ce livre est très beau, très coloré et très pratique. François Gariépy, son auteur est journaliste et photographe horticole. Il a écrit pour des revues spécialisées telles que Protégez-vous et Fleurs, Plantes et Jardins.

Il est l'un des pionniers du jardinage écologique urbain au Québec. Il offre divers ateliers sur les propriétés fongicides, insecticides et médicinales des plantes dans les jardins communautaires, notamment pour les Amis du Jardin botanique de Montréal et pour

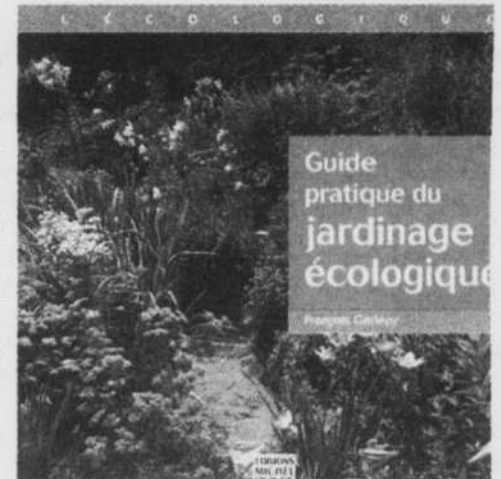
les Éco-Quartiers de la Ville de Montréal. Il est aussi membre fondateur de Terres en ville, un organisme sans but lucratif voué au jardinage et à l'aménagement écologique urbain.

Ce livre répond à un public de plus en plus large, soucieux et responsable envers l'environnement. Même les non initiés au jardinage prendront plaisir à le parcourir.

Le Guide pratique du jardinage écologique mesure 23 cm x 23 cm et comprend 184 pages couleurs.

Il est disponible en librairie au prix de 24.95 \$.

ENTRE
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Vets worth every cent

By Bernhard Pukay

Recently, a fellow columnist wrote about the frustration that she and some pet owners feel when confronted with what they perceive to be the high cost of veterinary care. She wrote that she felt herself a victim of the "emotionally manipulative force of today's veterinary industry."

Veterinary care can certainly be expensive, especially when a pet falls ill or is injured. However, the perception that veterinary care in general is expensive is not borne out in fact.

Compared to other services and products, veterinary expenses for the average pet-owning family are quite reasonable.

For example, according to Statistics Canada (1997), on a yearly basis, the average family spent \$769 on alcoholic

See Vets, Page 12

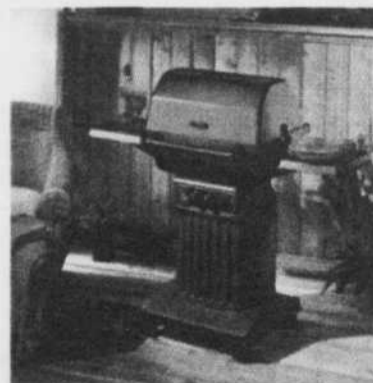


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VETS:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 11

beverages, \$1,114 on tobacco products, \$399 on sporting equipment and \$357 on hair grooming. By comparison, the average family spent only \$299 on veterinary services per year.

Fees certainly can be high and raises the question: Are fees excessive or not? An examination of the facts would suggest that they are reasonable.

Every veterinary practice is, in fact, a small business enterprise. Like anyone else running a small business, the veterinarian/practice owner risks capital to invest in the business, hires employees who expect a fair salary for work done, and deals with suppliers of medical supplies and laboratory tests who expect to be paid.

Interestingly, among professionals (including doctors, lawyers, nurses, engineers, etc.) the veterinary profession consistently ranks lowest in wages earned. Today's veterinarians, with an average of eight to 12 years of university behind them and large capital investments, expect and deserve a reasonable wage. Yet the average profit margin in a veterinary practice ranges from 15-20 per cent, not unreasonable for any business.

So why, then, are veterinary bills so high? The answer is basic: Medical care by its very nature is expensive.

Some people have suggested some pets may need to receive less than optimum care in an attempt to reduce veterinary costs. However, most if not all veterinarians (and most pet owners) do not share this belief. The veterinary profession continues to be one of the most trusted and respected of professions. It reached this status over the years because it has always placed patient advocacy above all else. We truly believe that we speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. To administer less than optimum care runs counter to the beliefs of the veterinary profession.

Veterinarians recommend pet health insurance to their clients, yet the majority of pet owners do not take it because they feel it is too expensive or simply do not think they will need it. The reality is that pet insurance is reasonably priced and can help to offset the high cost of veterinary care.

—For CanWest News Service



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Spotlight on Michèle Kramer's works of art

Quite a fascinating road traveled by Michèle Kramer! From Montreal to Granby, with stops in Florida and in France.

Established in Granby for the past 10 years, she soon discovered the beauty of the landscapes in the Townships. A mountain here, an old barn there, a few cows roaming the fields on a hot summer day and voila! Michèle is inspired. But flowers remain her favorite subject. Wild or cultivated flowers, beautifully arranged in a vase or naturally growing in the garden, offered in a variety of colors and shapes, each more tantalizing than the other. We envision them in our homes to brighten up our surroundings while the last few dark days of winter fade away. A bouquet of happiness, a song to life. A few singing titles: « Rapsodie printanière, Concerto en cinq temps, Menuet, Vie en rose, Gaillarde, Valse blanche ou Extase... »

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Advertorial

TIRES:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 4

motorists who inspect their tires may see a recessed area in the tire sidewall. That's where the materials that make up the tire are joined — the recess forms because the area does not stretch at the same rate as the rest of the tire.

A hard impact in a pothole can bend or crack the rim of the wheel, Miron says. This also occurs when the sidewall collapses — the danger is greater with low-profile tires that provide less cushion when there's an impact.

Pothole impacts can wreak havoc with the vehicle's wheel alignment, so Miron suggests having a qualified tire professional inspect the car or truck after hitting a pothole.

"Immediate indicators of misaligned wheels include pulling or vibration in the steering wheel. Drivers may also notice uneven or rapid tread wear," Miron says.

Don't go by what you can see of the front tire — turn the wheels all the way in one direction so all the tread is visible.

Miron offered several tips for reducing the risk of pothole damage:

- Keep a firm grip on the wheel. The impact of hitting a pothole can sometimes jerk the steering wheel.
- Brake hard, but with caution to reduce your speed as much as possible before you make contact with the pothole.

- At the last second, take your foot off the brake and roll through the pothole. This will help reduce the impact along with possible wheel damage and wheel misalignment.

Besides potholes, the arrival of spring can bring rain, leaving water on the road surface, which carries with it the risk of hydroplaning. A thick layer of water on the road can cause your tires to lose contact with the road surface, leading to hydroplaning, with a temporary loss of steering control and traction.

In addition to selecting a tire that offers resistance to hydroplaning, Miron says drivers need to prepare themselves for safe driving in wet conditions. Miron again preaches the value of proper inflation, pointing out that "properly inflated tires can improve your vehicle's handling on the road, thus reducing the risk of hydroplaning."

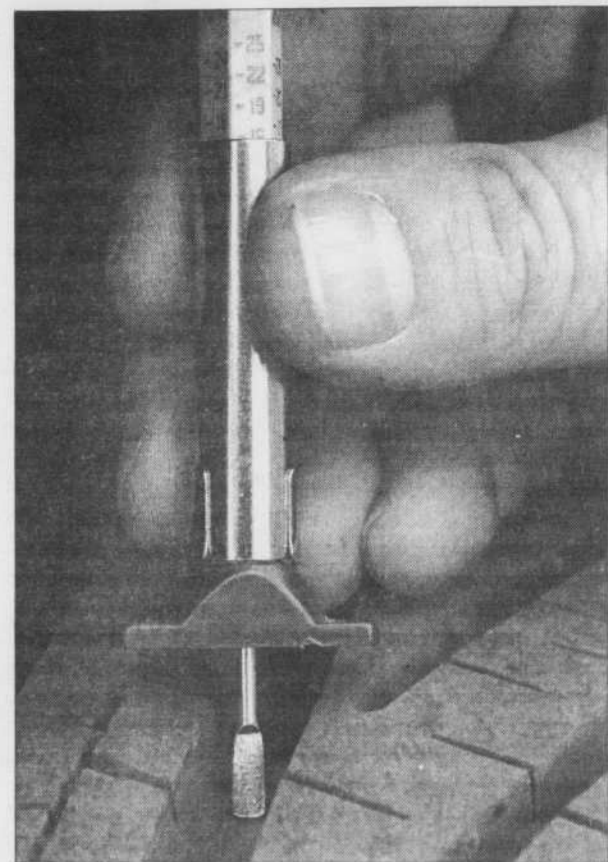
Slowing down is another important component of maintaining control when approaching puddles, hydroplaning can occur at speeds as low as 60 kilometres an hour, Miron says.

Worn tires can contribute to hydroplaning. Michelin recommends no less than four millimetres of remaining tread depth to effectively counter hydroplaning.

In addition, while all tires must have at least four millimetres of tread depth, Michelin recommends putting the best tires on the vehicle's rear axle to minimize the risk of going into a spin.

Should your vehicle hydroplane:

- Don't panic — this is when things can get out of control.



CANWEST NEWS

Bob Miron of Michelin looks at the tire tread depth.

- Keep a good grip on the steering wheel.
- Don't brake, take your foot off the gas and steer by looking where you want to go.
- Shift to neutral, depress the clutch on a manual-transmission vehicle.
- Once you regain control, safely ease back into the flow of traffic and reduce your speed.

Tread design plays an important role in keeping the tire in contact with the road.

The aim is to "move as much water to the side as possible," Miron says. "The tread of the tire has to be designed to move water away."

Tires should be checked in the morning when they're cold and before the vehicle has been driven two kilometres. The proper inflation pressure can be found in the vehicle owner's manual or on a placard that may be located on the vehicle's door jamb or in the glovebox. Other sources for tire-inflation pressure include tire shops or Michelin's website: www.michelin.ca.

"Underinflated tires are less fuel efficient, wear more rapidly and unevenly and negatively affect your vehicle's handling on the road," Michelin says.

"Over-inflated tires can cause uneven tread wear, reduce the size of the contact patch with the road, thus affecting handling and safety, and are more susceptible than properly inflated tires to damage caused by road conditions, such as potholes."

Michelin suggests using a good pressure gauge to check the tires, and emphasizes the importance of checking the spare, even if that requires extra effort due to its location.

—CanWest News Service

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Travelling mouse works hard, packs easy

By Murray Hill

I've used Logitech's products for years and still my absolute favorite mouse is the MX1000 laser mouse. What I still haven't found from anyone is a mouse that I like as much for use with my laptop as I do my MX1000.

Logitech has come to the rescue again with their cool little V500 Cordless Notebook Mouse.

This innovative mouse doesn't use a scroll wheel like most mice today; rather it uses a touch sensitive panel to scroll forward or backward, or side to side. The V500 is small — at 95 millimetres long by 58 mm wide by 25 mm high — about the size of a large deck of cards.

When you unlock the base to remove the nifty little on-board USB receiver from the base, the mouse expands by degrees, or about a quarter inch, in thickness.

The 2.4 GHz wireless receiver enables this mouse to work perfectly with

your laptop — whether it's a Mac or a PC.

The mouse is powered by two AAA batteries and the battery life seems to be quite substantial — I've used my mouse for three months without having to replace batteries yet.

This is the best travel mouse I've seen to date. It fits neatly into a shirt pocket or computer bag but when you unpack it for use you get a fully functional small mouse that won't give you cramps in your hands from extended use.

The optical mouse uses Logitech's LED-based technology to illuminate the surface under the mouse. The onboard camera takes pictures continuously while the onboard processor analyzes them to see what changes there are

from one image to the next.

This analysis is where the movement of the mouse is determined from. The Logitech V500 is a very accurate optical mouse that is capable of working on a number of different surfaces, so you don't really need to carry a mouse pad along with you.

The scroll panel is an innovative new idea. It works much like the panels on modern MP3 players, responding to the motion of your finger as it slides forward and back, up and down on the surface of the panel. You even have continuous scrolling capabilities — just slide your finger in the direction you want to continuously scroll and hold it on the end of the panel.

When you're done using the mouse, simply unplug the USB receiver from your computer, insert it into the slot on the bottom of the mouse, close the mouse up and you're ready to put it into its storage case and away in your computer bag.

This is a great mouse for all you road warriors out there who've been struggling to find the perfect mouse for those lonely nights working alone in your hotel room.

PROS: Small, but comfortable, accurate and easy scrolling left, right, forward or back and the USB receiver storage in the base is genius.

CONS: With an MSRP of just less than \$100, it's a lot to pay for a travel mouse.
—CanWest News Service

Fig.16

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Wine (2).....\$11.50
Dessert.....\$ 4.75
Food tax.....\$ 2.90
Liquor tax.....\$ 1.15
Subtotal.....\$24.90
Gratuity.....\$
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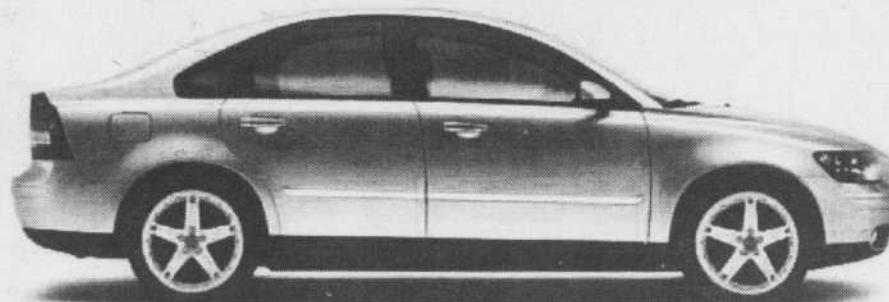
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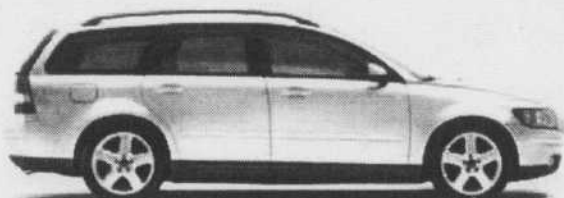


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Should an ultrasound be a social event?

BY SARAH PETRESCU
VICTORIA, B.C.

When Ayah Soliman first saw a picture of her now six-month-old daughter Alia, in the womb, she broke into tears.

"I was just so happy she was all there. I was so scared she'd be missing a limb or something, but everything was fine," says Soliman. "It was, in a sense, baby's first picture."

Soliman bounces a gleeful Alia on her knee. They're sitting in a circle of moms and babies at a regular neighborhood lunch in Victoria, and they're talking about doctors' recent concerns with ultrasounds being treated more as parties than serious medical exams.

"It's fun to have an ultrasound, to see the baby," says Cara Johnson, with five-month-old daughter Larisa on her lap. "Especially for moms and grandmothers — because their generation didn't have that kind of thing."

Growing entourages during exams have led radiologists to put new rules allowing just one support person in the room for all ultrasounds. Technicians performing the exams say they can't concentrate with too many people asking questions and moving around the examination room. Notices enforcing the rule have appeared recently on the walls of local physicians.

"Six to seven people in a small room asking questions all at once as the scan comes up can be very distracting," says Dr. John Mathieson, chief of medical imaging at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. "It's hardly ever a problem. But, the point is, the test should be treated as a medical examination, not a social event."

Mathieson says expectant mothers have come to ultrasound exams with up to eight people, cameras and video recorders.

"If it were me, I'd certainly want the technologist to be able to concentrate," says Mathieson. "It's not like taking the kids to the studio to get a family portrait."

Mathieson's concerns echo warnings from Health Canada about using ultrasounds for entertainment. The risks of overexposure to ultrasounds, which emit powerful, tiny sound vibrations to reflect an image, are unknown.

In Guidelines for the Safe Use of Diagnostic Ultrasound, Health Canada suggests not using ultrasounds for anything other than medical purposes, including to obtain a picture of the fetus or even determine its gender.

While Soliman and Johnson agree that technicians should be able to do their job and find any potential problems with the baby, they say the importance of the experience to the mother



CANWEST NEWS

Cara Johnson and baby Larisa (five months, left), sit with Ayah Soliman and her infant Alia (six months). Both moms have concerns about limits placed on the number of people allowed at ultrasounds.

and her family should be considered as well. Their experiences were common, with only one or two other support people in attendance at the ultrasound.

"What are they going to say next: that only one other person can come to the birth?" asks Soliman. "It's a test, but it's also a celebration when you're reassured that everything is OK."

Lisa M. Mitchell, anthropology professor at the University of Victoria and author of *Baby's First Picture: Ultrasound and the Politics of Fetal Subjects*, says part of the problem is that ultrasounds have become a popular source of reassurance for doctors and mothers alike.

"Unlike other medical tests, there isn't one clear ailment that ultrasounds seek to find," says Mitchell. "It's become relatively easy for everyone to say, 'let's just do it to make sure everything's OK,' even though the test may be completely unnecessary."

Mitchell doesn't think limiting the amount of support people allowed in the ultrasound exam will make the experience any more "serious" for mothers, either.

"For the majority of women and their partners that I've spoken to, they talk about the experience in terms of meeting their baby or getting to know their baby," says Mitchell. "A lot of women keep their pregnancy a secret until they've had that first ultrasound, simply because seeing the baby helps them feel everything's OK."

SNAPSHOTS OFFER WOMB TO BE

VIEWED

Imagine seeing your likeness in your baby's face before it's even born. New ultrasound technology can reveal even a tiny smile in a sepia-toned, three-dimensional image and parents can walk away with a photo and DVD of their baby curled up in the womb.

It's all part of a growing trend called fetal keepsakes, where ultrasounds take place in homes or spa-like boutiques and fetal photos can be etched into glass ornaments. The high-resolution ultrasounds use a technology called 4D imaging that takes real-time video of the fetus squirming around in its amniotic sac.

YOGA:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 7

fitness, beauty and even hooking up. Gone, for the most part, are its deeper associations with spiritual tradition.

The wild popularity of yoga has taken it some distance from its origins.

"There is everything from airplane yoga to office yoga. There is even Yoga Booty Ballet — we're not quite sure what that is — so on one hand yoga is becoming homogenized and trivialized. On the other hand there is much serious practice happening," said Singh.

In many ways, the teaching relationship Singh and Brett have devel-

"I searched everywhere to find a place here that has the 4D ultrasounds," said 27-year-old Ayah Soliman, mother of Deana, 7, and Alia, six months, "I even considered going to Seattle to do it, but it was expensive," so she gave up on doing it.

While ultrasound boutiques have yet to come to British Columbia, the technology is available in private clinics in Alberta and Ontario.

In Canada, ultrasounds are run through the medical system. In the United States, ultrasound boutiques with names such as Womb with a View and A Pea in the Pod offer artistic fetal portraits and encourage parents to bring music so they can watch their in utero baby respond. A fetal photo experience can cost up to \$295 US.

Carl Kreft, the owner of a California company that makes glass etchings of fetal photos, says he's had on-line orders come in from all over the world.

The idea of fetal keepsakes has caused some controversy in the medical community. Some American states are seeking to ban ultrasound use without proper recommendation from a doctor.

Health Canada raised the alert about the entertainment use of ultrasounds, saying the practice should only be used for diagnostic purposes, and that the potential risks of unnecessary ultrasounds are still unknown.

Many physicians are also concerned that real doctors are not interpreting these ultrasounds, and that if a fetal abnormality or death were to show up they would not know how to support the mother medically or emotionally.

Soliman said she was unaware of the potential dangers of keepsake ultrasounds.

"I would only get one if I was absolutely sure it was safe," she said.

—CanWest News Service

oped has helped bring the spiritual and physical aspects of yoga together, to create a more complete experience for students.

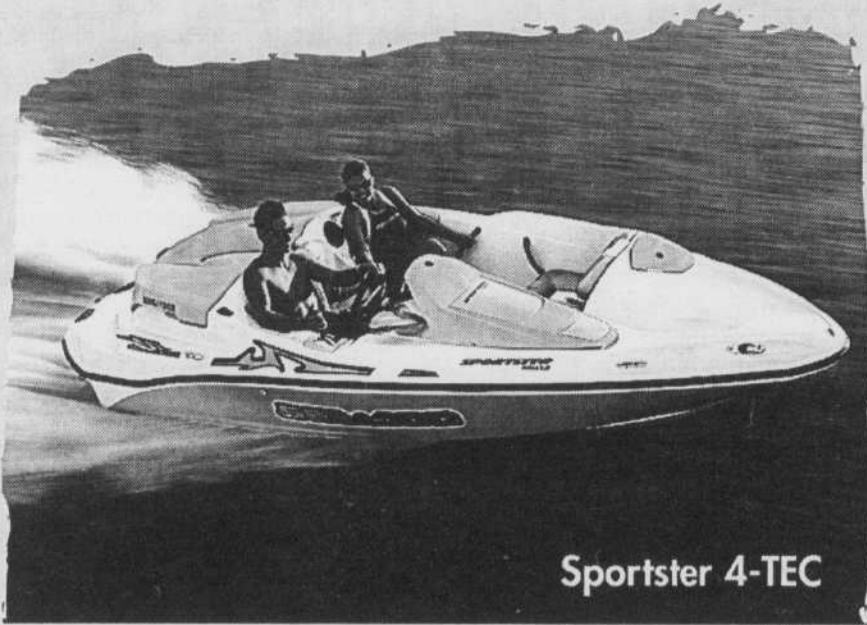
"If we had to classify ourselves, I would be the physical and Ravi the metaphysical, but of course these blend into each other," said Brett.

It is the spiritual aspect of the work that Singh says has always motivated him; he believes the "body can either be a vehicle or a roadblock," and that it is our destiny to "drive on."

The popularity of yoga may partly be because it works for our urban lifestyles, fitting physical, mental and spiritual workouts into one.

"Since people are very time-challenged these days, yoga is in effect, multi-tasking," said Brett.

—CanWest News Service



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Brome County Women's Institute meeting

The Annual Brome County Women's Institute meeting took place in the Town Hall in Bolton Centre, Que., on April 29, 2005. President Doris Wallet welcomed all present on behalf of South Bolton Branch and the County of Brome. President Tina Linde of Austin informed us that our Secretary Esther Harewood, had been back in the hospital and while home now, was unable to be with us. Esther had completed the minutes and sent them with Tina, for which we sent our thanks.

Doris opened the meeting with the Mary Stewart Collect and the Salute to the Flag. There was one memorial for South Bolton. Sheila Needham spoke in memory of Clara Ewens, a long time member, Clara will be sadly missed.

The President then introduced Jane Hamilton, who had volunteered to read the semi-annual minutes and to record the meeting for the day. Jane also read the correspondence, and a donation will be sent to C.A.L.L. (Cowansville Academy of Lifelong Learning).

The F.W.I.C. has a new project called "Into the North." W.I. members are asked to help improve the lives of the aboriginal people living in the north, and many expressed their intention of gathering needed items to send to the convention in June 7th and 8th, 2005.

Sheila Needham signed the auditors report. A new motion for Treasurer was made.

Special reports from the branches

showed two new members for Austin, namely Beverly Dion and Diane Lee. Austin also received a donation of wool and will report in the fall on articles made.

Sheila Needham gave her bursary report and hopes to receive inquiries by August 15, 2005. The Brome County bursary is available to a graduating High School student or an adult who is continuing their education, and residing in Brome County area.

Roll call revealed two members from Abercorn, nine members from Austin, six members from South Bolton and there were 10 guests.

The committee reports were given by Liz Davidson for Agriculture, Betty Needham (read by Diane Rhicard) for health and community living. Jane Hamilton spoke for Education and Personal Development and also told us about the speaker of the day Wendy Says. Doris Wallet gave her report for Publicity and Awareness and her President Report.

The president next requested two judges from Missisquoi, to judge the lovely items brought in by Austin. Margaret Cummings and Pearle Yates graciously undertook this job right away and the winners were announced before lunch, namely Tina Linde winning two first prizes, Gerry Meeson winning one first place and Sylvia Hopps winning first place.

At noon we sang the W.I. grace, and

Helma and Mary-Anne served a delicious lunch, of vegetable lasagna, beef casserole, rice with vegetables, green salad, rolls and bread, etc., great desserts and a lovely bowl of fresh fruit. We were also honored to have Michael Merovitz, Wendy Says, and Mayor Joan Eby as our guests for lunch.

Tina Linde gathered A.C.W.W. Pen-nies for friendship. The judges Pearle and Margaret chose their gifts and the prize winners will receive cheques later. Everyone agreed we had an excellent lunch and many thanks were given to Helma and Mary-Anne and their helpers.

The afternoon meeting opened with the singing of the opening ode. Doris then called upon Jane, to introduce our speaker for the day, Wendy Says. She made us realize how difficult it must be to learn how to read later in life by showing us with visual aids and explaining the way to make sounds. She made it fun and we were surprised at how quickly we could learn something that appeared to be gibberish at first glance. She also stressed how difficult it is to reach people that really need the help offered by the Yamaska Literacy Council.

Wendy was thanked by Jane and presented with a souvenir gift.

Doris reminded members, the Q.W.I. Convention will be held on June 7th and 8th this year, and to take three new items for the sales table and for each

county to take a center piece and eight favors for the banquet tables. Austin members volunteered to gather the items for the tables for Brome County; Doris Wallet thanked them all.

Brome Fair awards will be in the hands of Betty Needham and Jean Shoting. The semi-annual meeting will be held on September 29, 2005 in Bolton Centre Town Hall with a finger food lunch. Thanks for the tablecloths that were donated by Sutton W.I., after the closing of their branch. The lovely fresh flowers were donated and placed by Jane Hamilton who also arranged for our speaker Wendy Says, Anne made the arrangements with Helma for lunch and Betty and Pauline made muffins. Betty also took the donations. Sheila did the audit and closed the books and for Tina taking on the treasurer's chair and for Jane for her excellent job as acting secretary.

A card was signed and sent to Esther Harewood from all, with all our love and good wishes.

Many thanks go out to the Missisquoi County Members for joining with us on this special day and to Diane Rhicard for her help on arrival.

There were several lucky number draws. Sheila had a funny skit after the adjournment that we all enjoyed.

*For Home and Country
Doris Wallet*

Waterloo - Judy Arnott

Doug and Shirley Beakes have arrived home from Florida after spending the winter months travelling in their motor home. Dick and Ruth Stoddard have also returned from Florida.

Hugh and I visited Ralph and Sheila Bernard on Saturday. Gary Bernard and daughter Jasmine of Montreal were also guests at the Bernard home.

Annabelle Blunt of Place Primevere is presently a patient in hospital. Our get well wishes go out to her.

Sharon McCullough Ridley of Belleville, Ont., spent a week in the area visiting her mother, Toodie McCullough at Cowansville House and also called on Joan Brousseau in Granby.

Gladys Cook tells me that she has recently become a great-grandmother for the second time. Danny Paige and Genievere Patch of Bolton Centre have a new baby boy, a little brother for Kyle.

Beverly and Pheona Arnott of Ottawa and Norvan, Ont., were recently in the area visiting Stanley Quilliams at the Knowlton House. Stanley has recently recovered from a bout of pneumonia.

Dwayne Paige of Bolton Centre has recently been a patient at the Magog Hospital. However, he is back home and feeling much better.

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of the late Paul Royer who passed away recently at the B.M.P. Hospital and sympathy is also extended to family and friends of the late Ronald Lebrun, a former Waterloo resident who passed away recently in Port Henry, N.Y.

The Waterloo Cemetery Company held their annual meeting on April 21st at the home of Doug and Shirley Beakes with an attendance of nine. Business was taken care of by Pres. Ursula Stretch and Secretary Shirley Beakes. A lively discussion took place pertaining to how new members could be acquired and how to renew interest for regular members who no longer attend. A cemetery is a topic that does not raise much interest to the public at large until the time comes when we have to use it. It was decided to have a table at the St. Paul's United Church annual flea market in June. Any members with articles to donate should call Ursula Stretch at 539-2064 and she is quite willing to pick them up.

Guests of Reg and Audrey Blampin were Dave and Heather Willey of Montreal. They had recently returned from Moncton, N.B., where they visited their daughter Leanne Turcotte and family. While they were there they attended two family birthday celebrations.

Golden Age Club news

Mansonville

Golden Agers met at the town hall on Tuesday, April 26th. Mariette Marcoux had prepared, macaroni, hamburg and tomato for the club. Rita Marcoux prepared cold slaw and Verlie Aiken made a Hawaiian cake, to celebrate our April birthdays. These were Mariette Marcoux and President Rita Mossa, the latter's birthday was today. Verlie Aiken presented Rita a card signed by all with a monetary gift enclosed. Verlie thanked Rita for her efforts on our behalf and said, "that it was much appreciated."

Rita in turn, voiced her thanks to all and said that she knew that the founders of the club would be happy with the fact that it has kept going these many years. This is due to the fact that each person plays their part in supporting their club.

Rita mentioned that she had heard from Mildred Atyeo on the weekend and Mildred is gaining and sounded cheerful. Having had a long staying in a Kingston Hospital, where she contacted that nasty old virus, that we hear about. Anyhow

she is in a home quite near her son, John and Chris, her daughter-in-law.

Rita had a note from Irene Carrier and her daughter Gisele. Irene too had been in hospital, but is in Maison Principal in Cowansville and is much improved in health. She now plays cards, bingo and all the organized games at the home, would be glad of a card once in awhile or even a visit from friends.

I'm happy to say that Louise Oliver had just celebrated another birthday and as usual, this exceptional lady is amazing. We are happy to call her our friend. Keep it up Louise!

Door prizes were won by V. Aiken, Dorothy Woodard, G. Hamelin, J. Jersey, R. Marcoux, Juliette Laliberté, K. Steinbach, Lila McCoy and Marian Gauvin.

"500" winners were Karl Steinbach and Brigitte Brodeur.

Game winners were: George Hamelin, Marian Gauvin, Verlie Aiken, Jackie Jersey, Huguette Levoy, Dorothy Woodard, Rita Marcoux and Rita Mossa.

Rita Mossa

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294 Events

295 Articles Wanted

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MUSIC FEST 2005 to benefit the **Children's Wish Foundation**, will be held June 4 and 5, at the Ayer's Cliff Fairgrounds, Ayer's Cliff. Live Country, Bluegrass, Rock 'N Roll, Folk music and children's activities. Family fun, rain or shine. Camping \$5.00 per night. Donations for silent auction are welcome. Admission: \$8.00 per day, \$10.00 for weekend, children 12 and under free. Info: (819) 823-2009. Website: www.themusicfest.org

295 Articles Wanted

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340 Garage Sales

KNOWLTON
29 Conference on Saturday, May 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All proceeds to benefit the B.M.P. Foundation.

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Card of Thanks

RANSOM, Ed - Thank you to everyone who supported my husband Ed and me during his latest illness and final days. Special thanks to our children and friends who visited, brought food or sent flowers and cards. We deeply appreciated the personal medical care of Dr. Barakett, the fabulous C.L.S.C. home nurses and workers and the temporary care provided at Knowlton House. Ed's funeral on May 13 was a 'celebration' of a life well lived. Thanks to all who contributed to that special day: Rev. Wilmer Davidson and Rev. Tim Wiebe, Linda Ransom and friends from St. Paul's Church for a beautiful reception, and Evie Johnston-Main for organ accompaniment to Ed's favourite hymns. Everyone's love and support continues to be cherished in our hearts. Appreciatively.

MRS. LISE (BERTHELET) RANSOM AND FAMILY

Memorial Service

MANDIGO, Ruth - A Memorial Service for Ruth Mandigo will be conducted in Grace Anglican Church, 54 Principale South, Sutton, QC on May 28, 2005 at 11 a.m.

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