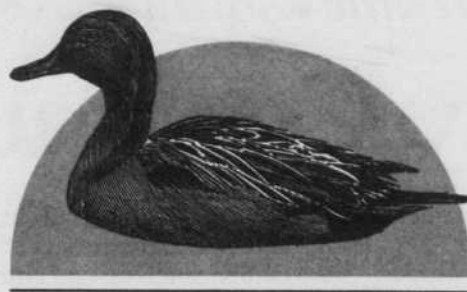


# Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008

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## Get The Gear



NIKKI JOHNSTON

Canada Day gear for sale in Cowansville. More on page 5.

## Tour des arts exhibits our artistic side

### 20 years of quality and diversity

By Wendy Denman  
BROME COUNTY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

**T**wenty years ago a couple of local artists – Stanley Lake and Liz Davidson – met in a café – started talking across the tables about art, about strength in numbers, about opening their studios to the public then end the conversation in a mutual “Let’s do it.”

Lake and Davidson recruited a third well-known local artist, Maya Lightbody, and the first Tour des Arts was born.

“The three of us contacted artists we knew and asked them if they wanted to join us. We felt it would be a neat experience to meet the artists in their own

creative space,” said Lake. “For the first five years it was just friendly artists opening their studios to the public at the same time every July then 15 years ago, we set up a selection committee.

“The yearly tour is a big project, the executive committee meets once a month spinning off other committees, as soon as one tour is over we start on the next,” said Lake.

“It’s very interesting working with creative people. It’s a varied group but they all have strong ideas and strong personalities. It’s a lesson in creative problem-solving, reaching a consensus. But it works, it’s really a great group.”

The selection committee ensures quality, diversity and importantly, that participating artists work from their own studios in the Brome-Missisquoi area. “Visitors who do the tour and visit

## Bridging countries through the arts

### Polish-Canadian woman finds Townships refuge

By Wendy Denman  
BROME COUNTY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

**W**hen Basia Sygnarska immigrated to Canada from Poland more than 20 years ago she was confounded to find that the Polish community here knew little of the cultural richness of their homeland.

“Even under communist rule, our artists, musicians and writers formed a very vibrant, talented community,” said Sygnarska. “Their work is wonderful

and inspiring and I was so surprised that Polish people here just weren’t aware of the culture back in Poland.”

So two decades ago, she founded the Dymny Cultural Foundation, named after Wieslaw Dymny, one of Poland’s leading poets and balladeers. “Our purpose was to introduce current Polish culture to North America’s Polish communities. The largest Canadian community is in Toronto, so we did a lot of promotion there, also in New York and Chicago, and in Montreal.”

Working through the cultural attaché at the Polish embassy in Ottawa, Sygnarska brought artists, musicians and theatre groups on tour to Canada.

PLEASE SEE POLISH ON PAGE 12

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# Brome County Community Calendar

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 12

Sutton Library will be holding its **Annual Used Book Sale** at the John Sleeth Centre, 7 Academy Street, **Sutton**, on July 12, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The A.C.W. of St. James the Apostle Anglican Church, **Stanbridge East** will be serving **Strawberry Shortcake** on Saturday, July 12, from 5 to 7:30 p.m., in the Parochial Hall, 17 Maple. Tickets: \$5 Info: Maggie at 450-248-3809.

**Annual Salad Lunch** at Calvary United Church, **Sutton**, on July 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Feast on 30 different gourmet salads in an all-you-can-eat lunch followed by a delicious dessert. Donation \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 10 years and under. For information, call 450-538-0530.

Come browse the treasures at our **Summer Flea Market** at the **Knowlton United Church hall**, 234 Knowlton Road, on July 12, from 9 until noon. Hope to see you there!

July 13

Every Sunday, orchestra **Smokin' Country** from 3 to 7 p.m. Admittance free. Royal Canadian Legion, 260 Davignon, **Cowansville**. Info: 450-263-3543

This Sunday, July 13, at the Legion Hall in **Stanstead**, from 2 to 6 p.m., **Dinner and Dance** with Bobbi Dee, Stan Mckelvey, Dale Bessant and friends. \$10 entrance includes door prizes and a complete home-cooked meal. So please come join the fun... Everyone welcome! Hosted by M.S. Branch 2000 and A Salute to Quebec Seniors!

The Knowlton Harmony Band will

## 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 \$13 for 2 insertions**: 1 BCN & 1 in Friday Record "What's On" section. Please forward notices to 88-A Lakeside St., Knowlton, QC J0E 1V0, email: bcnnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

hold an **Outdoor Concert** on Sunday, July 13, in Edward's Park, **Brome**. If the weather is un-cooperative, it will be held in The Church of the Ascension, Brome. Bring your lawn chairs. Hope you will join us!

July 18

**A Night at the Museum!** Hey Kids - come join us for a night of fun at the Missisquoi Museum! On Friday, July 18 from 7 to 11 p.m. at 2 River Street, **Stanbridge East**. Our activities for the evening will include a treasure hunt, games, arts & crafts, snacks and our special story-telling guests Grandpa Bob & Company. Let's turn off the lights and start the fun in the Museum. Don't forget your flash lights and sense of adventure as we open the museum doors after everyone has gone home for the day. This evening of activities is free of charge, and is designed for children aged 6 to 12. Please call and reserve as space is limited. For more information or to reserve a spot for your child, contact Amanda Piette at 450-248-3153, from Monday to Friday, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Thanks to the Government of Canada - Young Canada Works 2008.

July 19

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 77, at 77 Lewis Street, **Waterloo**, will hold a **Spaghetti Supper and Dance** on Saturday, July 19. The profits from this event will go to the family of Sebastien Jeanson, 9 years old, who suffers from muscular dystrophy. Supper will be served from 5 to 7 p.m. The price is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under. The dance will begin at 7:30 p.m. with music by the New Pack Ratz. Dance only is \$7. There will also be a silent auction and door prizes.

July 19 & 20

**Big Book Sale** at the Pettes Library in **Knowlton** on Saturday, July 19, from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday, July 20, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please note that the tents will not open before 8 a.m. Reduction of 10 per cent for bulk purchases. Information: Jean McGee, at 450-242-0246 or Suzanne Ricard, at 450-242-2923.

## ARTS CALENDAR

The curtain has gone up on **Theatre Lac Brome's** professional repertory season. For the complete program, visit [www.theatrelacbrome.ca](http://www.theatrelacbrome.ca), or go to the box office, at 9 Mont Echo, **Knowlton**. Info: 450-242-2270.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**KNOWLTON/CREEK PASTORAL CHARGE**. Worship Services are cancelled for the month of July in the Creek and Knowlton United Churches. Sunday worship will resume on Sunday, Aug. 3.

**ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**, 24 St. Paul's Road, **Knowlton**. Sunday Services - Traditional 8 a.m. service and 10 a.m. with music. Please note that on July 20 and July 27 there will be only one service at 9 a.m. For more info, call 450-242-2885. The Rev. Tim Wiebe and the congregation welcomes everyone.

**SAINT-EDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH**, 366 Knowlton Road, **Knowlton**. Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m. (Bilingual).

**COWANSVILLE AREA PASTORAL CHARGE UNITED CHURCH**. Worship at Emmanuel United Church, 203 rue Principale, **Cowansville**. Worship 10:30 a.m., choir practice 9:30 a.m. Rev. Wendy MacLean officiating. Info: 450-263-0204.

**TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH**, 409 South Street, **Cowansville**. Join us for Sunday Worship. One service only at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Info: 450-263-2662.

**SUTTON - DUNHAM PASTORAL CHARGE**. There will be no services in Dunham United Church and Calvary United Church in **Sutton** in the month of July. Services will resume on August 3. You are cordially invited to attend services at Emmanuel United Church, Cowansville, at 10:30 a.m. in July. For information, please call 450-538-0530.

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME SERVICE**. Sunday, July 13, 10 a.m. St. John the Evangelist, **Brome**. Morning Prayer-Prayer Leader V. Cook.

**GRANBY UNITED CHURCH**. Where God Unites all Children. Be a part of the family. Down to earth spirituality. Spirit

tual development for all ages. Sunday Services 11 a.m., at 101 rue Principale, **Granby**. Info: 450-372-1417. Rev. Eric Lukacs. All Services at 11 a.m.

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF BEDFORD/PHILIPSBURG & FARNHAM - Parish of Bedford/Philipsburg/Farnham** and Members of the Borders Regional Ministry. Services will be held at St. James Church, **Bedford**, at 10 a.m. Father Brian officiating.

**BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE/BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE**. First Sunday of the month service is in **Bedford**. Second Sunday of the month service is in **Stanbridge East**. Third Sunday of the Month Service is in **Bedford**. Fourth Sunday of the month Service is in **Mystic**. Fifth Sunday of the month Service is in **Philipsburg**. All services are at 10 a.m. More info, call 450-248-3044. Everyone invited.

**GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH**, 52 Principale sud, **Sutton**, welcomes everyone for Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. Canon Tim Smart, Rector. Info: 450-538-8108.

**OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH**, **Sutton**. Pastor Alex Lobach and the congregation welcome all to worship with us each Sunday at 11 a.m. Mid-week youth group and Bible Study. Tel: 450-538-5225.

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**, 4929 rue Foster, **Waterloo**. Sunday service at 10 a.m. Rev. David Lambie, Minister. For messages or information, call 450-539-2129.

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KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW.

# Life without a music is a mistake

*Anyone can play,  
and play well*

By Alanna Fahey

BROME COUNTY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

**C**ervantes, Disraeli, John Cage and Nietzsche have all said, in one form or another, that without music life would indeed be a mistake.

Knowlton's Mannix St-Amant feels the same way, as he endeavors to impart his knowledge, his joy and his passion for music to his students, who range in age from 6 years to well over 80.

"Being able to play music is more than having a gift. It is, as Katherine Elie-Bouchard so succinctly noted to me one day, a connection between the mind and the physical ability to play. It takes practice and once the connection has been made by training, there is no going back and this ability does not come just because someone has a so-called gift," said St-Amant. He also feels anyone can learn to play an instrument, and play it well.

"David McAdam, former violin instructor, once told me while giving lessons in my home in Sutton, 'I don't care what anyone says, it is 1 per cent gift and the other 99 per cent is total dedication, gift or not,' he said." St-Amant also agrees with McAdam.

"I don't believe the saying, 'I don't have any musical talent'. If someone decides they are going to play, and they put the effort into it, well, they will indeed play and can learn to play well."

Sounds of drums, guitars, voice, and people having fun can be heard emanating from his house on Victoria Street in Knowlton and between students, people get to see each other, say hello and made a connection. His home is full of love, laughter, and of course, music.

His love of music reaches into the community as well, as each year he holds concerts

where the money made goes back into the community. Recently, he had his students perform at St-Edouard elementary school and Knowlton Academy, where he believes the money went back into arts/music programs at the schools.

When asked who his favorite performer was, he paused then said, "That's almost an impossible question for me to answer, because I

listen to so many genres, yet, I would have to say Jimi Hendrix. He was innovative and went beyond the wall. I am starting to write my own music and I think, because I teach so many different types of music, my stuff is just beginning to get its edge, its own definition."

Candidly, St-Amant explained where he gets his inspiration. "Inspiration, for me, is uncontrollable and often it leaves me with greater questions that I need to explore in my writing, which is having me dance around with the notes, attempting to find my style and balance."

His band, The Dirty Blues Band, has just finished a busy weekend, having been the main performance at Canada Day in Cowansville and Knowlton. The band members, Katherine Elie-Bouchard (guitar and vocals), Steve McMahon (bass), Iannick Lequin (drums), and of course, St-Amant, like to have more than 100 songs in their repertoire at any one given time.

"We know approximately 150 songs, and I believe we sang every one of them this past weekend. We like to play most of our stuff with a rock-country blues beat so that the music, which is mostly cover tunes, appeals to a wide audience. We like to have something for everyone."

St-Amant takes students year-round, and registration is ongoing. "My school is open year-round, and summer is busy, but I still have some room. I like the students to be at least 6 years old, but there is no age limit on the other end. I have one student, Gabrielle Morissette from Granby, who is over 80, and she just started to learn the guitar. She tells me, not only is the learning good for her, the practice is helping her arthritis, as she very proudly told me she can finally open her pickle jars again, and she attributes that to her hands getting stronger from her guitar practice."

The Dirty Blues Band can be heard around town at various venues such as




COURTESY

Mannix St-Amant with one of his music students.

Cafe International, The Boot and Cafe Inn, and are available for private gatherings.


For more information, contact Mannix St-Amant with inquiries about

lessons, or for private gigs, by calling 450-243-5629 or 450-372-6552 (Music EMF, Granby).





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# Keep your paws on the wheel

## Summer, terriers and horns

When our son was born, one of us had to sit in the back seat with him, a better solution than having us check the rear-view mirror every couple of seconds.

Rupert, our bull terrier, liked the trade. He moved up to the front seat where he got a better view and a more comfortable ride. My wife never returned to the front passenger position - who wants to sit in the "doggy seat"?

No complaints, please. The terrier is properly secured and the front seat has a weight-sensitive airbag control that prevents it from activating for lighter passengers, as much an issue for dogs as it is for humans.

After I retired my last car, a neighbour expressed his regrets. "No more mutt-mobile?" he asked. "We'll miss that doggie driver."

I assured him that Rupert would co-pilot the new car, surprised that he had attracted so much attention.

Part of the charm for passersby, I think, is the fact that when I vacate the driver's seat, Rupert takes possession of

the warm spot immediately. Unlike other dogs that curl up in a ball, bull terriers sit flat on their asses, with legs splayed in front of them like humans. With jaunty paw placed casually on the steering wheel, Rupert sometimes looks more like a driver than I do.

Bull terriers are tremendously attached to humans. Left at home, Rupert waits unhappily by the door until we return. We arrange for him to come with us whenever possible. If it's too cold out, we find a heated garage and leave him with a warm blanket.

I'll second the Canadian Humane Society's warnings about leaving animals unattended inside cars during the summer. Better he pine for human companionship at home in climate-controlled comfort than risk heat stroke and dehydration.

But, one warm summer evening last year, we had to stop unexpectedly at a store to return something. It had been a long drive with the air conditioning cranked up to full power.

The temperature outside was balmy, but the interior of the car was so cold that ice crystals were forming on the blower. In a deft manoeuvre, we left the

car running while opening the doors and letting the passengers out.

I stayed inside for an extra minute, continuing the jet stream of ice-cold air, then quickly pulled the key and slammed the door to keep the cool air inside and the warmth out. We'd take turns every six or seven minutes running out to start up the air conditioning, then get back to the store.

After the third relay, I found a note jammed under the windshield wiper. It read: "You are the cruelest person I have

encountered, keeping your poor dog locked inside a car with the windows rolled up on such a hot day. I have recorded your licence plate and am contacting the animal authorities. You don't de-

serve the privilege of taking care of this or any other animal. You will be prosecuted."

I couldn't fault the author of that note. There was no way on Earth she could tell that the pampered pooch was luxuriating in temperatures well below the ambient and that the windows were rolled up to keep the warm air out.

Maybe I should have installed one of those restaurant signs that says "Cool

inside" with icicles dangling off the letters. He was lying on his back, four paws in the air, because he was comfortable, not because he had fainted from the heat.

On a cool spring day last year, I took Rupert shopping with me, parking the car on the edge of the lot so that he could nap in peace. After about 15 minutes, I came outside to the irritating beep, beep, beep of an unattended car alarm.

Except the beeps were more irregular than I would have expected... and the horn sounded like mine. I followed the blaring sound to the corner of the lot to find Rupert sitting in the driver's seat, paw on horn, with a big happy bull terrier grin on his face.

He'd probably been beeping for the full quarter-hour, laying in on the horn with his full weight. The years of watching me had finally paid off and he had discovered the true essence of driving.

A tear rolled down my cheek. My pup had become a man. If I were in charge, I would have given him his learner's permit right there on the spot.

PETER KENTER WRITES FOR CANWEST NEWS SERVICE.

## ARTS:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

individual studios are given a privileged look at the space in which many different types of art are created," said artist Claude De Gaspé Alleyn. "Often they find that each artist's creativity is multi-dimensional and is expressed not only in the works they make, but also in the way they live."

Watercolorist Rhonda Price was one of the original artists 20 years ago; now she helps organize the publicity and marketing. "There were 14 of us that first year, and I've been part of the tour ever since. We keep the studios at a maximum of 40, this year we have 38, and we don't add more just to make up the numbers.

"I think the thing that really distinguishes us, apart from the fact we were one of the very first art tours, is that we offer visitors a cultural package including evening events with great theatre, music, poetry readings and morning children's activities, as well as a beautiful region full of great restaurants and hotels in which to vacation," said Price.

"The tour has become an economic engine for the region."

This year's Tour des Arts organizers sent out 200,000 full-colour brochures. "We're really making

in-roads into places like Toronto by selling the tour and a trip to Brome-Missisquoi as a great vacation destination," she said. "This year we also sent our information out in the French Chatelaine (magazine) and we're tracking the results from that; it's important to spend our publicity dollars wisely. We really thank our sponsors, we have businesses, government and individual sponsors that make this kind of publicity possible."

Lake agrees. "Tour des Arts is really about supporting the micro-economy here. You can see the results of the

tourist dollars working. I sell a piece, and then I go and spend the money at the local store. I think even more than agro-tourism, cultural tourism benefits the economy that's why our sponsors are so generous, they know the benefit.

"When we send out all those brochures we're not just promoting the art studios but the whole culture of this place. We feature all the various creative talent at work here - musicians, writers, actors all set in this beautiful countryside," Lake said. "People from outside the region see first hand how much we have to offer and why so many

creative people settle here."

This year three artists are new to the Tour des Arts - furniture-maker John Murphy, Michelle Lalonde who creates original mosaics for home and garden, and oil painter Craig Skinner. There are also three returning artists on this year's tour - woodworker Joe La Starza, painting and print artist Muriel Faille, and modern mixed-media artist Claude Beauchemin.

The 20th anniversary was celebrated last weekend at the opening of the Tour des Arts exhibition on at Arts Sutton Gallery. Lake and friends filled the air with jazz tunes in the parking lot; the veterans and those new to the tour raised a glass together. A number of works were sold on the spot.

The show included work from all the participating artists, allowing visitors to the gallery to get a sense of the art that interests them and thus plan their studio visits.

The Tour des Arts in Brome-Missisquoi takes place from Saturday, July 12 to Sunday, July 20. Studios are open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Brochures are available at stores and restaurants throughout the region, tourist offices and on the Internet at [www.tourdesarts.com](http://www.tourdesarts.com).

The collective exhibition at Arts Sutton Gallery, 7 Academy in Sutton, is open daily, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., from Thursday to Sunday, July 20.



COURTESY ALMUT ELLINGHAUS

Tour des arts artists celebrated this year's upcoming show.

# Cowansville's Canada Day

*Record turnout*

By Nikki Johnston  
COWANSVILLE

Ralph Maddocks has volunteered with the Canada Day Association of Cowansville for 15 years. "I've gotten lost in the mist of time," he said, standing under the big tent, as other volunteers shuffled about preparing for the day's festivities, which got started around 4 p.m. on July 1.

"It's important to show that Canada still exists," he said, "but I volunteer because I like doing it. I was going to retire from it at 75, but I didn't, so maybe I will when I am 80."

Association president Carole Boucher stood beside the inflatable slide, handing out tickets to children for the slide and the Euro Bungee 2.

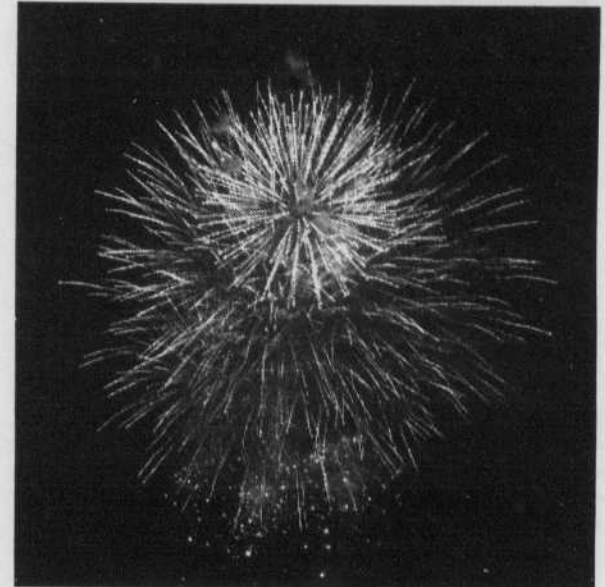
She said she prayed the sunshine would last, after

contending with rain on Canada Day for the past seven years.

The sunshine lasted, with games held for children at 1 p.m., followed by face painting and a magician Mr. Mime, and then at 4 p.m., a band, followed by the flag-raising ceremony.

According to Maddocks, 543 meals were sold at the BBQ, among one of the best turnouts to date. He noted the fireworks display was appreciated by everyone. "It took half an hour to drive out after the display, to give you an idea of the turnout."

The day was over after months of preparation, that begins as early as February of every year. This year, the association's application for a federal grant was refused, so the celebrations took place thanks to the town of Cowansville and donations from local businesses.



PHOTOS BY NIKKI JOHNSTON

All photos of Canada Day celebrations in Knowlton.



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# Nature's way of fighting back change

Woodstock et al

Even by science fiction standards, it was pretty low quality. To call it a B-movie would be an insult to all the modestly entertaining B movies out there... including Jerry Seinfeld's recent production.

Nonetheless, Attack of the Killer Tomatoes did meet with a certain success. As witnessed by the popularity of the worst performers at American Idol auditions, some really bad stuff holds a weird appeal for a certain segment of the population, mostly those who like to pull the wings off flies.

The once-absurd fantasy of killer tomatoes has now switched realms, from fiction to reality. The versatile and much-sought-after fruit (vegetable?) has joined various Chinese, Mexican and west coast produce made hazardous to human health through improper cultivation and processing.

Which, understandably, has caused us to ponder more seriously what we eat and from whence it comes. Phenomena like the 100-mile diet, organically grown produce, and misgivings about genetically-modified and irradiated food, once the territory of old sixties types and assorted misfits and oddballs, are now drawing the attention of regular normal folk.

On the matter of the 1960s, there's a song that asserts "By the time we got to Woodstock/ we were half a million strong." Aside from a little hyperbole, it's a catchy number. I can't remember the title or band, though, or whether I was actually there. (Which, by popular consensus, pretty well assures I was.)

Another line goes something like, "It's time to get ourselves back to the Garden," in which the capital 'G' indicates a likely allusion to the Garden of Eden or some other Utopian destination. For the last two years, however, some in our humble community on the hill have taken the message literally.

Our group garden previously attracted only secondary, mostly incidental, interest. After all, the thinking went, why spend a hundred bucks or so and hours of not-always-fun labour to

maybe come up with stuff you can buy for twenty bucks come September?

The flip side went something like, well, we've got the space and set the precedent, so let's have another go at it. Happily, these last two springs we've had among us a couple of ladies who are enthusiastic gardeners.

Time to get tilling, I was told, as soon as the ground thawed. Which apparently wasn't nagging, just a little positive motivation.

Ironically, over the years the only garden item that interested me was the remarkable tomato. But far from making an effort to get knowledgeable in the subject, I preferred the survival of the fittest approach. So I'd stick in three dozen or so plants hoping a few would prosper and be fruitful, sufficient at least for our personal needs.

After all, as one observer noted, "Nature itself is full of wild redundancies; otherwise, why fire off a billion sperm when only one is needed?"

Recent events though have prompted serious and sober reflections. Even some officials are acknowledging the need for local input and control over what we eat. Several nations are constructing underground seed banks to preserve plant diversity and species survival. The wide-spread Monsanto men-

tality in industrial agriculture alarms more than a few scientists.

Good reason all to get into the garden, to get down and dirty, to bring forth more and different food from our own land. Being as how that sounds like real work, though, we might consider other options.

For instance, why not plow up the old back 40 and get federal subsidies to grow corn for ethanol despite the fact that non-government experts are virtually unanimous in their conclusion that it's utterly idiotic to convert farmland to such a purpose, we're going merrily ahead anyway.

Which brings to mind an old example of government intransigence. In the spring of 1970, a young man left Lennoxville to work at a temporary, but lucrative job with the US military at the Strategic Air Command base in Goose Bay, Labrador. Enjoy the largesse, he was told; the base would close within the year.

This he found puzzling because two major construction projects were underway, large additions to both the high school and base hospital. Why, he inquired, when everyone said the base would soon be abandoned. The response: Because nobody's supposed to know it's closing.

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Brome County NEWS

Harmonious Band Gift

Please be advised that the office of the Brome County News will be closed the week of July 21 to 25 and there will be no issue of the Brome County News published during that week.

Students rekindle year's

## Fundraiser for history and heritage

Paint and office equipment

By Nikki Johnston  
KNOWLTON

A wine and cheese fundraiser is planned for the Brome County Historical Society (BCHS), with proceeds going towards the purchase of new office equipment and paint for the building.

"We are great for the community," said society vice-president and secretary Kathryn Marsh.

"There are lots of new displays



this year like quilts, old toys, a Fessenden display and others."

Inventor Reginald Fessenden was born in East Bolton in 1866 and is credited with making the first successful radio broadcast for a general audience.

Founded in 1897 and interpreting the history of the area ever since, the Brome County Historical Society is the

oldest of its kind in the Eastern Townships.

The society manages the Brome County Museum, at 130 Lakeside Road, and other historic monuments in the surrounding area, and its nine-volume publication series Yesterdays of Brome County recounts the histories of the founding families and the area.

Planned for Thursday, July 17, from 5 to 7 p.m., the fundraiser will take place outside the museum.

Free tours of the museum are being offered during the event.

Tickets are \$30, and can be purchased by contacting April Wisdom at 450-521-2587.

Children can attend free of charge.

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# Summer's here, but the coffee's always on

## Some services still available

Things have slowed down considerably, but Avante has not come to a complete stop! During the summer months, we don't plan regular workshops and activities, but there are still services available and there's always coffee on. This might be a perfect opportunity to drop in and check us out, if you've been meaning to "sometime".

### THANK YOU

Avante would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors and local community for all the support they have given us for the past year's programming.

Financial support came from Townshippers' Foundation, New Horizons for Seniors, Graymont, Timken and Draper's Insurance, which sponsored many of our major and well-attended events.

Our partnerships with Townshippers' Association, Oasis for Mental Health, Surete Quebec, Lac Brome Community Centre, and the CLSC have enabled us to offer outstanding, high quality and informative workshops.

Most importantly we would like our members and volunteers to know that we appreciate all they do, enthusiastically supporting all we do. By coming to our activities, you encourage us to strive for bigger and better programming for the future.

### FUNDRAISING

We were very encouraged by our gigantic yard sale held in June. All items were donated by members, churches and community organizations so there were lots of great bargains! Our next fundraising activity will be this Thursday at the Domaine du Ridge. The vignoble will be hosting a cocktail party, from 5 to 7 p.m. with musical guest Sarah Biggs. Glasses of wine for \$1 will be sold with the proceeds going to Avante.

Please join us for a casual get together and savour some of their delicious wines. Domaine du Ridge is located at 205 Ridge Road, St. Armand.

### COMPUTING

The computer room is available to members on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

### AVANTE

### WOMEN'S CENTRE

and the Internet Café is open on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. We will be closed for two weeks, starting July 21, but the summer schedule will start up again on August 5.

Nancy start her computer classes with An Introduction to Word, An Introduction to Excel, Powerpoint, and Scanning, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please call to reserve your spot.

### COUNSELLING

Our staff social worker Kathleen will be on-call throughout the summer for personal counselling. Please contact our office to book an appointment with her.

Avante Women's Centre is located at 2 Adhemar-Cusson in Bedford. Our office hours are weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and we offer services to English speaking women from the district of Brome-Missisquoi.

For more information, call 450-248-0530.

- Barbara Bellingham



COURTESY

The latest Avante cultural trip to Montreal included a cruise along the Lachine Canal.

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# Season of the Spirit

## Finding new ways

We didn't like going to bed before dark, but my grandmother insisted. We could still hear the voices of the kids out playing, while we were tucked under the covers listening to stories. In summer's long dusk, as the sky starts to turn from the scarlet of sunsets to the indigo of night, I can still hear my grandmother's voice. She read the old stories with great love.

We would pour over the pictures. I remember the big red Hurlburt's Bible, and the books of little verses and prayers illustrated with wide-eyed children, and the Sunday school books with pictures of families and God's little creatures of the woodland. Those stories shaped me, and my faith is still childlike in many ways.

It is easy to be nostalgic about the past. In the church we are a repository for memories. At the heart of the Judeo-Christian faith is the call to remember. We hold the stories like elders holding the sacred fire.

Memories are the foundation for reading our present, and for dreaming about the future. But like the sacred fire they must be contained. We cannot live in the past. Our Creator invites us to find our place in the ever-unfolding story, where we are, now.

To everything there is a season... says the preacher in the scripture (Ecclesiastes). We are looking forward to a relaxed and joyful summer worship at Emmanuel United Church in Cowansville. We will be joining with the congregations of Calvary United from Sutton and Dunham United Church in the months of July and August. (July in Cowansville, August in Sutton/Dunham).

We will have an outdoor service on Sunday, July 13, at Emmanuel United Church in Cowansville. Bring a picnic, a folding chair (if you don't have one we'll have chairs), your friends and family at 10:30 a.m. to the lawn at the back of the church.

On Sunday, July 20, at 7 p.m., we will have a hymn singing at Emmanuel, with a time of refreshment and friendship after. Everyone is welcome. On Sunday, July 27,

Therese Bernard will be our guest. Therese leads small groups, in English and French, in an exploration of "Conversations With God". We look forward to her wisdom

and hearing about how this series has inspired her.

On the last Sunday of every month, at Emmanuel United Church, we meet in our church hall, which is fully accessible now that we have a wheelchair ramp.

Over the past several months, a small group has been meeting as a "Vision Team" at Emmanuel United Church.

They are looking for ways to tap into the creative spiritual energy and possibilities of our changing times. We believe that the Spirit is at work in our time.

With the sounds of loving voices from the past in our hearts, we are finding new ways of being "the church".

We trust that the people who loved us enough to teach us the stories, also trusted us to take them in new ways into the world.

Come and join us! Who knows what will happen? Behold, I am making all things new! This is the season of the Spirit.

REVEREND WENDY MACLEAN IS THE MINISTER OF EMMAUEL UNITED CHURCH IN COWANSVILLE.

Have you thought of including a gift to charity in your will?



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Breakfast event

DEAR EDITOR

On Sunday there was no services at either Creek or Knowlton United Churches. And nor will there be for the month of July. My husband, myself and Phyllis Sise of Creek United were not happy about it; as were many others in the community, so.... Eureka! Spur-of-the-moment Breakfast was born. That was definitely doable. Todd and I volunteered our time and started the planning. We had 2 weeks to pull it off before July the 6th was upon us.

We ordered everything. Then started to prepare potatoes, sausages, bacon and chopped onions all day Saturday and put it all together very early Sunday morning. Phyllis, myself and my daughter Natalie sliced banana bread, oranges, grapefruit, brewed tea and coffee and pulled out all the plates, cups and silverware. While Todd and our son Vincent made the grits, warmed the beans, sausage and bacon and scrambled the eggs. Phyllis made signs and placed cute hats strategically around the room and at the front entrance for donations. We were so involved in getting ready, that time just flew by. Before we knew it people started to arrive around 9:30 and they just kept coming. Never in my wildest dreams did I think we were going to have such a wonderful turnout.

Regular members of the Creek (United Church) stepped in where we couldn't and kept the dishes and tables clean and helped to clean up afterwards, as others made sure everyone had a good time. A huge

thanks goes out to Phyllis Sise, Don and Nancy Seaman, our dishwasher men and all of you who came out to help, have a great breakfast and spend time with friends on this first week of July.

By the time it was all said and done, we went through a box of bacon, a box of sausage, 12 dozen eggs, four cans of beans, seven loaves of Abercorn Bakery bread, two dozen muffins, two containers of juice, four litres of milk, 80 cups of coffee, three pots of tea, five oranges and three grapefruit. All this in two hours time. Not bad for a Spur-of-the-moment Breakfast, I would say.

These patrons were not only hungry, but very very generous as well. We collected over \$500 and appreciate every single penny.

The Creek United Church would like to thank the community for being so generous and hungry! Our next event is the Creek and Knowlton United Church Pot Luck Picnic, planned for July 20, at noon, at the home of Irene and Norman Norris.

If you wish to attend, please bring a salad, sandwiches or squares & anything you want to drink. Also don't forget your chairs! If the corn is ready, we'll have some. We can play horseshoes, badminton or bocci, if anyone wants - or just visit. Come and join us for a great afternoon; cancelled if raining.

I am off to the Kahnawake Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow Wow this Saturday, July 12, and Sunday, July 13. Visit [www.kahnawakepowwow.com](http://www.kahnawakepowwow.com) for more information.

CHARRINE LACE  
Knowlton



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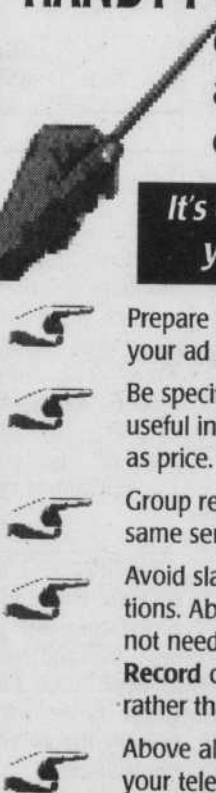
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**Card of Thanks**

**WHITEHEAD** - After my recent surgery, I would like to thank the B.M.P. Hospital and staff, Dr. Bruneau, Knowlton House and staff, for my excellent care. To Ola for driving me to appointments and to my family who was always there for me. To the many visitors that I had, for cards, gifts and for food that was sent in and to Barry since my return home. It was all so much appreciated. I would also like to thank my family for the lovely Birthday Dinner that they gave me at the Foster Golf Club. Special thanks to Sandra for doing the organizing and for the lovely flower arrangements. It was so nice having 27 family members together.

MURIEL WHITEHEAD

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**POLISH:**

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

"They were very well-received, people here were amazed and delighted with these very talented people. And I would always have a party after these events, a chance for the community to talk with and exchange views with the artists. The foundation also gave scholarships to young artists and musicians in Poland to help them with their careers."

In 2002 Sygnarska was awarded the Polish Medal of Honour for her lifelong contribution to Polish culture. Four years ago, she retired from the foundation, after two holding successful Polish film festivals in Montreal. "Now that people are travelling to Poland more and more, the communities here have become much more knowledgeable. I

felt it was time to retire, I needed to rest."

She retired to Fulford Road in Lac Brome, and after promoting art all her life, Sygnarska found her peace and quiet in gardening and turning ordinary objects into works of art with pebbles she found on her property and semi-precious gemstones.

"I love it here so much, it is so beautiful and peaceful. My daughter started covering our fireplace with little stones and it gave me the idea. I love flowers, I grow flowers, I delight in flowers, and so I began covering flowerpots and vases with these stones and old jewellery. Now I work with a great many ordinary objects. I gave them away as presents, then friends of friends asked to buy some of my creations. So I started to sell and opened a studio here in my home. I call what I do Art for Life."

Sygnarska's need for tranquility stems mainly from another foundation she began, the Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation. "I am not

Jewish, but I felt that the Polish people really needed get to know the Jewish people. I set up the foundation to begin a dialogue, to foster understanding. I was really horrified at how much prejudice and misunderstanding there was in our community.

"I thought I could change the world with this foundation. I was wrong; I found only problems and a great deal of disappointment. So to cure my nervous system from all this I took to art, and to the Townships and I will never look back."

On Saturday, July 19, the Dymny Cultural Foundation has invited a group of Polish media from Montreal and Toronto to Basia Sygnarska's home in Lac Brome to honour her past contributions and to spotlight her Art for Life efforts.

"Basia's work really needs to be seen, it's extraordi-

nary, I've never come across anything like it," said friend Frances Gallagher. "This attention and honour from the foundation is very deserved. Basia doesn't promote herself, she is shy and retiring, but what a productive, giving life she's lead."

Sygnarska will also be exhibiting her artwork at the Traversee Internationale de Lac Memphremagog craft show in Magog, from Friday, July 25.

For more information, or to visit her studio at 172 Fulford Road, Lac Brome, call 450-539-0656 beforehand.



COURTESY FRANCES GALLAGHER

Basia Sygnarska at work.

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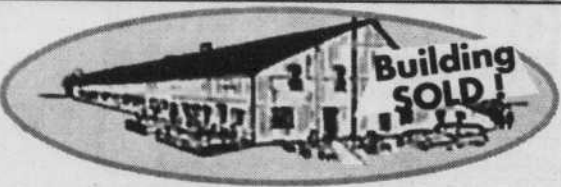
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