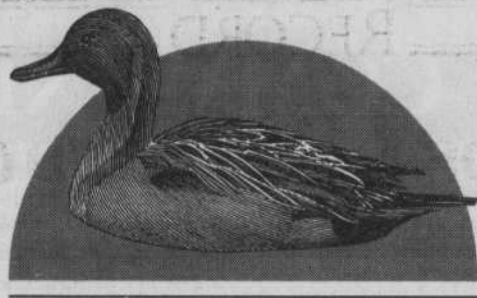


# Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1999

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## Farnham welcomes author of The Big Green House

*Akhtar Naraghi's works bring messages of tolerance*



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Akhtar Naraghi... 'Women in these books are always strong characters.'

By Caroline Kehne  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
FARNHAM

Farnham Elementary School students and staff received a visit by author, poet and scholar Akhtar Naraghi, who read passages from her critically-acclaimed children's work, *The Big Green House*.

Students listened intently as Dr. Naraghi read from her novel about life as seen through the eyes of a young girl as she migrates from her native Iran to Germany and finally, to Canada.

In the recently published sequel, *Blue Curtains*, Naraghi picks up where *The Big Green House* ends, following her heroine through graduate school and adulthood.

"The *Big Green House* is about the search for identity," explained Naraghi to the Farnham students. "The narrator begins as a five-year-old and grows throughout the novel, which is told as a series of short stories."

The novel explores the themes of death, poverty and the search for female identity, as seen through a child's eyes. Naraghi said that the novel, which was nominated for the 1995 QSPELL Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction took over 10 years to write.

Her protagonist, a young woman, remains resilient when faced with adversity. In fact, her stories are deliberate in their portrayal of strong, resourceful female figures who must bridge the transition from traditional and modern societies.

SEE AUTHOR, PAGE 10

## Theatre Lac Brome set to pick new location

*Board has  
three options*

By Maurice Crossfield

The board of directors is expected to make a final decision this weekend on where Theatre Lac Brome will spend the coming years.

"What we're aiming to get is a place that is not only a theatre, but an arts centre as well," said Tom Wood, president of Theatre Lac Brome. "That would be true no matter what location we go for."

Last fall, Theatre Lac Brome announced it longer wanted to rent the theatre behind the Knowlton Pub and was looking for a new location. In the following months, public meetings were held and three main options emerged:

- Purchase the existing building from Knowlton Pub owner Gerry Wood. The theatre building would then have to be severed from the pub and renovated.

- Purchase The Tannery on Lakeside from Chris Severs. Renovations are needed to the 161-year-old building.

- Build a new arts and cultural building on land donated by Mayor Homer Blackwood. The theatre would be located on Knowlton Road, next to the Knowlton banks retirement home.

"Each one does need a minor re-zoning," said Wood. "But I am told that it would be possible, otherwise we would not have had these locations on the agenda."

The location of the theatre has caused much discussion and debate in the community. Some, including Gerry Wood and Chris Severs, have said moving the theatre away from the downtown core would be bad for both Knowlton and the theatre.

Included in the debate have been ideas on how to increase the use of whichever location is chosen. In recent years, the professional theatre has only been active for between eight and 12 weeks per year, while amateur performances span about another three months.

"The building is used too little during the year," Wood said.

SEE THEATRE, PAGE 11

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BROME COUNTY COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

April 20 & 27

**Military Whist** at the I.O.O.F. Hall in Knowlton at 7:30 p.m. Prizes, refreshments. All welcome!

April 21

Horizon Pour Elle fund-raiser conference **It's Possible To Be Rich** by Mrs. Andree Jette, psychologist to be held at **Auberge des Carrefours**, 111 place J.J. Bertrand, Cowansville at 7 p.m. Sponsored by Andre Harbec, Financial Counselor, Merrill Lynch Canada Inc. members of FCPE. Tickets: \$10, 776-1406 also at the door. Profits go to battered women. Details: 266-0550.

April 22

**Registration** for Sculpture I and II, Landscape Drawing Drawing and Painting and Fiber Art at **Bishop's Knowlton Centre**, 235 Knowlton Rd., Knowlton from 1 - 6 p.m. Information 242-1518.

April 22 & 23

**Rummage sale** sponsored by the **Mystic UCW** at the Old Schoolhouse, Mystic.

April 22, 1 - 4 p.m. and April 23, 6 - 8 p.m. All welcome!

April 24

The **Royal Canadian Legion Cowansville** will hold a **Steak Barbecue (Chef Bob) & Dance** at 120 Davignon St., Cowansville. Supper, 6 - 7:15 p.m. \$10 per person, tickets in advance or at the door, \$12. Dance at 8 p.m. with orchestra Silverado, \$3. per person. Details: 263-3543. Everyone welcome!

**Open House** sponsored by P.R.R.P. **Abercorn**, 11 Church St., West, Abercorn from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Crafts by the roomful plus special quilts, hand knit sweaters. Grandma's corner full of old lace, linens etc. Something for everyone. Proceeds for local charities. Details: Patricia Lahue 538-1529.

April 25

The **Royal Canadian Legion Sunday Softball League** Ball Players invite you to

an **All You Can Eat French Toast Pancake/Breakfast** at 120 Davignon St., Cowansville, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Admission: \$4 per person. The players will be honoured to serve you.

The **Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #158**, 2 Curley St., Sutton will hold a **Western Breakfast, All You Can Eat**, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Admission: \$5 per person, children under 10 yrs., \$2.50. All welcome!

**Pancake Breakfast** sponsored by **Youth Group at Dunham United Church**, 11:30 a.m. Ham, pancakes, hash browns, pure maple syrup! Admission: \$4, \$2, under 10 yrs. Everyone welcome!

April 27

**Artistic Exposition '99** at **B.M.P. Hospital**, 950 Principale, Cowansville (Main Entrance), 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Great variety of exhibits; painting, sculptures, weaving, glass art, interior decorating, clothes, food etc. Tickets will be sold for drawing of four art pieces of your choice valued at \$50-\$100. Everyone welcome!

April 29, 30 & May 1

**Annual spring rummage sale** at **Creek United Church**, 278 Brill Rd., West Bolton. Receiving items on April 27 & 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A large variety of items on sale for very low prices! April 29 sale, noon - 8 p.m., April 30, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and May 1 features \$1 a bag, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

May 1

**Giant flea market** at **St. Luke's Church, Waterloo**. Vendors wanted. Tables \$10. Also Mother's Day Dinner, May 8. Honour Mom! Tickets: \$12, adults, \$7, children. Details: 539-0278, 539-1723, 539-0545 or 539-1964.

**Massey-Vanier Fitness Fair fund-raiser** to be held in the cafeteria from 9 a.m. - noon. Support your student and their school! Sponsor a participant or join us yourself! Aerobic workout, jazzercise, kick-boxing, clogging, line-dancing & funk. There will be intermissions and

door prizes, vendors as well as spectators for a modest donation to a great cause. Funds to use as they see fit! Details: 242-1809, 242-2656 or 243-6449.

**Benefit Mother's Day Dance** to be held at **Waterloo Elementary School**, Waterloo from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Entertainment with 'The Flyers'. Wear your dancing shoes! Bar on premises. 18 yrs. or older. Advanced tickets: \$6 or \$8 at the door. Details: 539-0162, 539-4418 or 539-3578.

**Final Jeunesses Musicales du Canada Concert** at **Emmanuel United Church, Cowansville** at 8 p.m. The talented Laureat David Jalbert will perform in a piano solo presentation. Tickets available at Epicerie Le Tournesol, Sud St., Comite de la Culture office, 225 Principale, Chocolaterie Henquin, Sutton. \$12, adults, \$10, 60 plus, \$5, students. For reservations or details: 263-6666.

**Fund-raising Auction** sponsored by the **Knowlton Pony Club** at 477 Knowlton Road (next to the Depanneur Rouge) at 9 a.m. until all goods are sold. Variety of merchandise including antiques and furniture. Details: Debbie Rogers at 243-5746.

May 2

**Prayer & Praise Service** at **St. Paul's Anglican Church, Knowlton** at 7:30 p.m. Evie Johnston-Main will speak on the "Holy Spirit in Haiti". Come and be ministered to. All welcome!

May 3

**Annual Luncheon of the Canadian Club of the Yamaska Valley** at **Auberge West Brome**, 128 Route 139, West Brome at 11:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: Dr. Charles R. Scriver. Topic: "Human Genetics: Voyage of Discovery for Every Citizen". Tickets: \$18, members, \$20, non-members. Information and reservations for this event, Magda Werys (450) 372-7857. (Meeting only, \$5, non-members, 2 p.m.)

May 5, 6, 7 & 8

**Rummage sale** at **St. James Church Hall**, 40 Dupont St., Bedford.

Books, shoes, boots, lamps, furniture, dishes, odds & ends, clothing for all. Wed. to Fri., 1:30 - 6 p.m., Sat. 9 - 11:30 a.m. Surprise sale. Everybody welcome!

May 7

**20 Years of Talented Townshippers at Massey-Vanier High School**, 429 de la Riviere, Cowansville. A musical celebration featuring the Knowlton Harmony Band, Sunshine Productions, Harris & Mendietta, the Knowlton Players' "Annie", the Rainbow Cloggers and David Francey. Tickets: \$7 adults/\$3 children. 20th Anniversary fund-raiser for Townshippers' Association. Details: (450) 263-4422 or (819) 566-5717.

May 22

**Annual flea market** fund-raiser at the **Robinson Residence**, 738 Main St., Cowansville, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tables and space available. To reserve call:(450) 263-4404. Rain date June 5. Donations of useable items accepted.

ARTS CALENDAR

April 23

**Butler Elementary Instrumental Ensemble & Choir** presents **The Granny Awards A Musical Fairy Tale Revue** at Butler Elementary School, Bedford at 7 p.m. Also featured, the Cowansville Community Choir plus local talent. Adults: \$5, children, \$3. Refreshments available at intermission. Bake sale table. Tickets available at the door and at the Bedford Pizzeria. Details: (450) 248-2090.

April 29, 30 & May 1

**Heroes' Players** present their Special 20th Anniversary Production of **Arsenic and Old Lace** by Joseph Kesselring, directed by Daniel Lapointe at **Heroes' School**, 317 South St., Cowansville, 7:30 p.m. A zany comedy featuring 14 of Heroes' talented young stars. Discover Abby and Martha's dark secret as the two lovable old ladies share their recipe for fun. Bring the family! Tickets: \$5 and \$3 (12 & under). Info. 263-1612.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE OF THE BILLBOARD

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# Historic portraits receive facelifts for museum

*Restored portraits  
by artist  
Charles Wyatt Eaton  
will be on display in  
'Our Treasures'*

By Caroline Kehne  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
STANBRIDGE EAST

Two works by Canadian portrait artist Charles Wyatt Eaton (1849-1897) have been cleaned and re-framed for the Missisquoi Museum, thanks to a grant from the Centre de conservation du Québec.

The works, which museum curator Heather Darch considers to be keystones of the collection, will go on display as part of this year's museum exhibit, entitled "Our Treasures."

"We applied in 1994 to the Centre de conservation du Québec in Québec City and our application was accepted in 1997," said Darch, noting that the competition for governmental restoration grants is fierce.

The restored portraits were then professionally re-framed by the Gemst Gallery of Montreal, the cost of which was covered under the grant.

Darch said that Eaton, a native of Philipsburg, is commonly regarded as a U.S. painter because he spent most of his short career painting in New York. Eaton studied painting in New York and Paris and was known to have studied under such luminaries as Whistler. Although he also painted landscapes, he is known primarily for his portraits and was said to have maintained a studio at his parents' home in Philipsburg.

Among his extant works are portraits of prominent Montrealers, including Sir William and Lady Van Horne. After his death in New York at age 48, Eaton's body was returned to Philipsburg for burial.

"The portraits of William Kay and wife Harriet were painted in 1877," said



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Missisquoi Museum curator Heather Darch shows off one of the newly restored portraits of Philipsburg residents painted around 1877 by artist and Philipsburg native Charles Wyatt Eaton.

Darch. "Kay was a well-to-do Philipsburg farmer whose son, William Kay Jr. became a Member of Parliament. The family later moved to London, England where William (Sr.) died. After his death, Harriet moved back to Québec,

but to Montreal."

.....

The portraits may be seen as part of "Our Treasures" which opens at the Missisquoi Museum on May 30.

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# A checklist for used car hunters

*Don't be fooled  
by an empty ash tray*

Last week I began talking about finding that new used car. This week the focus turns to what to watch for to avoid ending up buying someone else's headaches. Try to be skeptical, and always look for some proof that backs up what the owner tells you. If you find the car really cool, try to dampen that enthusiasm and stick to the facts.

Cool can be costly.

If you can, take the vehicle to a mechanic you can trust for a checkup. If not, here's a list of things to watch for.

**The engine:** Check for oil and antifreeze leaks. Minor oil leaks are common on older cars, but major leaks could spell trouble. Pull out the dipstick and check the oil. Milky deposits on the end indicate a possible leak of antifreeze into the oil. That most likely means a leaky head gasket, or possibly more serious problems. Either way it spells a major expense for a motor that may be of questionable quality. Low oil or very black oil indicate poor maintenance, and thus another reason to walk away. Check other fluids as well, including antifreeze, transmission oil and brake fluid.

**Belts and hoses** should also be checked. These can indicate possible future problems, and also indicate how well the car has been looked after.

**Ideally an engine compression test** should be done, though it may not be possible unless you have a compression tester. Mechanics are usually equipped for this test, which provides a good indication of the internal condition of the engine.

**The suspension:** Place your knee on the bumper and bounce the car a few times. When you let go the car should stop bouncing immediately.

Continued bounce indicates blown shocks, and thus another expense. If you can, jack up the vehicle, try to shake the wheel up and down and side to side.

What you're looking for is slack, which can mean worn ball joints, tie rod ends, or wheel bearings.

**NOTE:** If you jack up a car, always use safety stands. Every year backyard mechanics are killed or maimed by falling vehicles.

## UNDER THE HOOD

MAURICE  
CROSSFIELD

**Brakes:** When test driving the car check the feel of the brakes and listen for any squealing or grinding noises. The brakes should grab evenly, with no vibrations or pulling from one side to another. Low

brake fluid could indicate a possible leak, and all wheels and visible brake lines should be checked.

**The tires:** Tires that are worn on one side indicate the vehicle may be out of alignment, meaning that the tires aren't all going in exactly the same direction. This could be due to worn suspension parts or a previous accident. Sometimes the tires have low spots in the tread, indicating the tires are out of balance, or that there is a blown shock. Low tread means having to buy new tires, which depending on the season, could prove costly.

Personally I don't like to skimp on tires. They can make a great car handle badly, and in the worst situations can be the difference between a pleasant drive and a fatal accident.

**The exhaust:** One of the most common things to give out on a used car is the exhaust, and anything over five years old is almost guaranteed to be in need of one or more new exhaust parts. Rust is typical on exhaust pipes, which are constantly exposed to heat, humidity, road salt, dust and debris. Heavy rust or the presence of perforations mean its replacement time. Catalytic converters can be particularly costly to replace.

**The body:** Any signs of rust are of course a sign of things to come.

Rust can be sneaky, however, hiding out in places the average car buyer wouldn't suspect. Check inside the bottoms of the doors, around wheel wells and around gas caps. Look underneath for rusted floor panels, fuel and brake

lines, and inside the trunk. Wet carpets or a moldy smell inside the car indicate water leaks. Depending on how long you intend to drive the car and how much cash you have, you may have to factor in a body job. Is this car worth it?

The body is also a place to look for hidden problems. A magnet with a piece of soft cloth can be used to find where the metal ends and the body putty starts. Check for evidence of paint spray on body moldings and inside the engine compartment. If there is evidence that the car has been painted, find out why.

**The interior:** Don't be fooled by a clean interior. Cleaning up the inside of a car is an easy way for a seller to make the car look more valuable, but it doesn't make the car any better. Tests have proven cars run just as well with a full ash tray as they do with an empty one.

**A trailer hitch:** On a truck or larger vehicle this may not be cause for concern. But smaller front wheel drive cars aren't built to haul heavy loads, so the presence of a trailer hitch could mean it's had a hard life.

Finally, take the car back to the owner, and be sure to ask lots of questions about anything you may have found. Some car owners keep all of their old receipts, and this is usually a sign that they took care of the vehicle. Vague or contradictory answers to questions could indicate they are looking to unload a car that isn't all its cracked up to be.

Remember: he (or she) has a reason for selling the car, and you want to know why.

If the car or truck you've been looking at passes all of these tests, you can be reasonably sure it's worth buying, providing the price is right. Hagglng over the price is always worth a shot, and may save a few bucks. Your findings during the inspection can be used as leverage.

But despite all of this, your new used car can still present a surprise or two. In the weeks ahead we'll look at a few of those surprises, and what to do about them.

## BILLBOARD

May 13 to 23

**Annie** a musical presentation proudly presented by **Knowlton Players** at Knowlton Pub Playhouse for a limited time only. Based on Little Orphan Annie by permission of the Tribune Media Services, Inc., Directed by Lucy McAuley. Musical Direction by Sarah Hoblyn and Evelyn Johnston-Main. May, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 & 22 at 7 p.m. May 15, 16, 22 & 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$5, children under 13. Benefit performance on opening night, May 13. All profits support cultural activities at Knowlton Academy. Details: 263-1061.

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Knowlton Pastoral Charge

Creek United, Foster - Worship & Song, 9:30 a.m. Knowlton United, Knowlton - Worship & Song, 11 a.m. Services led by Dr. Burn Purdon, babysitting provided.

### St. Paul's Anglican Church

24 St. Paul's Road, Knowlton. We wish to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Sunday Services, 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery, 10 a.m. The Rev. Ralph T. Leavitt - Pastor. Allow us to welcome you!

### Parish of Brome:

St. Aidan, Sutton Junction: 3rd Sundays at 2:30 p.m.; Ascension, West Brome every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.; Holy Trinity, Iron Hill, 3rd & 4th Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2nd at 7:30 p.m.; St. John Evangelist, Brome Village, 2nd & 3rd Sundays at 11 a.m. and 4th at 7:30 p.m. Book of Common Prayer.

Sutton-Dunham Worship at 10:30 a.m.

April 4, Rev. Arlen Bonnar, Sutton, April 11, Rev. Lefneski, Sutton, April 18, Lay Service, Dunham, April 25, Rev. Lefneski, Dunham.

All Saints Anglican Church, Abercorn will hold Sunday Services on May 2 & 16 at 9:15 a.m. All welcome!

## COMMUNITY NOTES

Its that time again! **Lac Brome Walking Club** will be starting, April 14 and every **Wednesday at 9 a.m.** Meet at Lions Park, Knowlton. All ages, all fitness levels welcome. No charge. Bring a good pair of shoes and a bottle of water. Details: Janet Gibbons, 242-2656.



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# Pushing the season, tempting fate

A regular feature of Rowan and Martin's old Laugh-In program was the evening news. A defining moment of comedy came when co-anchor Dan Rowan reported that a select committee of the Audubon Society had shot and killed all forty-two remaining members of the whooping crane species, after nurturing them tenderly for over a decade. He quotes a spokesman for the group as saying, "We just got too dang tired trying to teach those stupid things how to reproduce."

After wintering four oddball ducks in one of our outbuildings for 15 weeks, the question begs, was it worth it? As far as pets go, they've been a disappointment. A person might logically conclude that, after eating directly out of the hands that fed them for six months, members of pretty well any species beyond the amoeba would come to recognize their primary provider.

Not so, it seems. As a friend cautioned, though, ducks aren't much more than fish with feathers when it comes to brain power. And by times I thought of apologizing to the fish for that comparison.

In fairness, there may have been reason for their lingering disaffection.

Late in autumn, when the flightless family of five (one escaped domestic white female and her four half-mallard offspring) were for the most part inhabiting the inlet where food was more plentiful, cars would stop by the bridge or at the nearby public boat launch to view the unusual fowl. Most, hopefully all the visitors were well-intended folk. Some watched and took pictures; others brought their kids

to feed these curious critters.

Most likely the idea was just to hold and pet them, but several stoppers-by attempted to grab the ducks. (Park rangers are driven to distraction by people wanting to be photographed on top of a moose or beside a bear.) Such disruptions were marked by sudden loud squawking and a furious rush to flight by the attendant wild cousins.

Whatever the explanation, come mid November, no duck would get closer than about fifteen feet during the then-twice daily feeding sessions. They would wait until the figure on the bank left before retrieving the scattered food. By times they'd inexplicably swim away and leave the spoils totally to their wild brethren and sisters....as comedian norm Crosby used to say to include both gender references. From a distance they could often be seen around and about the shelter we'd built, but rarely inside, even with food left on the floor.

When the inlet began to freeze we moved the little house around the corner to the open lake, tucking it into the thin brush for at least a little shelter from the menacing west wind. With only a few days' grace before a predicted pre-Christmas cold snap, the matter of getting them inside became a pressing one. We'd left it kind of late, but locking anything up in those remarkable warm and sunny days up to mid-December seemed unnecessary and unfair.

Monday December 21 was overcast but mild. The lake stayed calm long into the afternoon. I took the food bucket to the water's edge and called out the old refrain - Yo, ducks! Here

duckie duckie! Friends lurked nearby with high boots and fish nets. (They looked like a Monty Python version of military commandos, but their hearts were in the right place.) A few straggling wild ones paddled over to eat, but they seemed to be keeping an eye skyward. No sign of Big White and oversized offspring, though.

Tuesday began with a warm breeze, but the clock was ticking. A cold front swept along from the northwest, on schedule, with winds apparently determined to make up for lost time. We scattered a little feed along the grey, lifeless shore. In minutes, however, two mallards dropped out of the sky, perhaps for a last fill-up before nightfall in northern Vermont.

By 4 p.m. an ill wind blew fiercely over the water. Cold, steely-dark waves broke over the rocks; spray froze instantly and formed a sculpted white fringe along the shore. With the end of the second shortest day virtually at hand and the ground crisping up under foot, I went once more down the steps to the dock, bucket in one hand, fish net in the other, in a symbolic if not very hopeful gesture.

To my surprise, mother and brood bolted out of the brush. The shock was mutual. Shouting to be heard above wind and waves, I called and tossed out handfuls of seeds. They in turn struck out into the darkening lake, battling against wind and whitecaps, and no doubt the mounting odds. We checked again at midnight, but there were no returnees. The wind dropped and cold seized the advantage; ice chunks sloshing in the dark made the lake sound like a giant slush puppy. It was the sound of a sea change.

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# Cooking by de Vienne

By Tanya Tkach  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
WEST BROME

The Auberge West Brome's chef and caterer Phillippe de Vienne will be demonstrating and teaching his techniques featuring grilled specialties on Saturday April 24.

Chef de Vienne is well-known as editor of the popular Sel et Poivre culinary magazine and as chef of Tulipe Noir Restaurant in Montreal. He is also known through a series of televised cooking classes sponsored by the Monique Chevrier School of Culinary Arts, and for his guest appearances on local CJAD and Radio Canada and through his articles in Coup de Pouce, Chatelaine, The Gazette and l'Actualite.

During the morning class, de Vienne will demonstrate basic techniques of grill cooking with vegetable salad, fish, shrimp creole, pesto scallops, beef, goat and potatoes.

The afternoon class will feature more unusual grill preparations of grilled rabbit with mustard, salmon on a bed of cedar, pork, lobster with cognac, grilled tomatoe bruschetta and bananas with rum.

The cost for two courses - at 9 a.m. and at 2 p.m. - including lunch prepared by de Vienne is \$100. For those preferring a single course, the fee is \$45, and for those wishing only to sample his expertise, lunch is \$25.

Details: contact Marie-Claire Louillet, manager of Auberge West Brome at (450) 266-7552 or 1-888-902-7663.

# Earth Day: It's all about attitude

By Tanya Tkach  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
KNOWLTON

Hey don't forget to pick up some garbage," says Phyllis Sise. A former member of the Environmental Committee in Knowlton, Sise, reminds Townshippers that Thursday, April 22 is Earth Day.

Around the world people from the smallest villages to the biggest cities will mark the day with tree planting activities, hikes through forests and ceremonies to recognize the importance of taking care of our planet. Every day is

earth day to Sise. She does her part to save the planet on a daily basis, picking up refuse that collects along ditches near her home.

Sise asked both principals of Knowlton Academy and St. Edouard Schools to include in their cleanup the pathways students use in the woods between the schools.

"We all will do our share, said Steve Trew, principal of Knowlton Academy. "We're going to try and get as many people out as possible to do the school ground area and back of the school that borders the brook,"



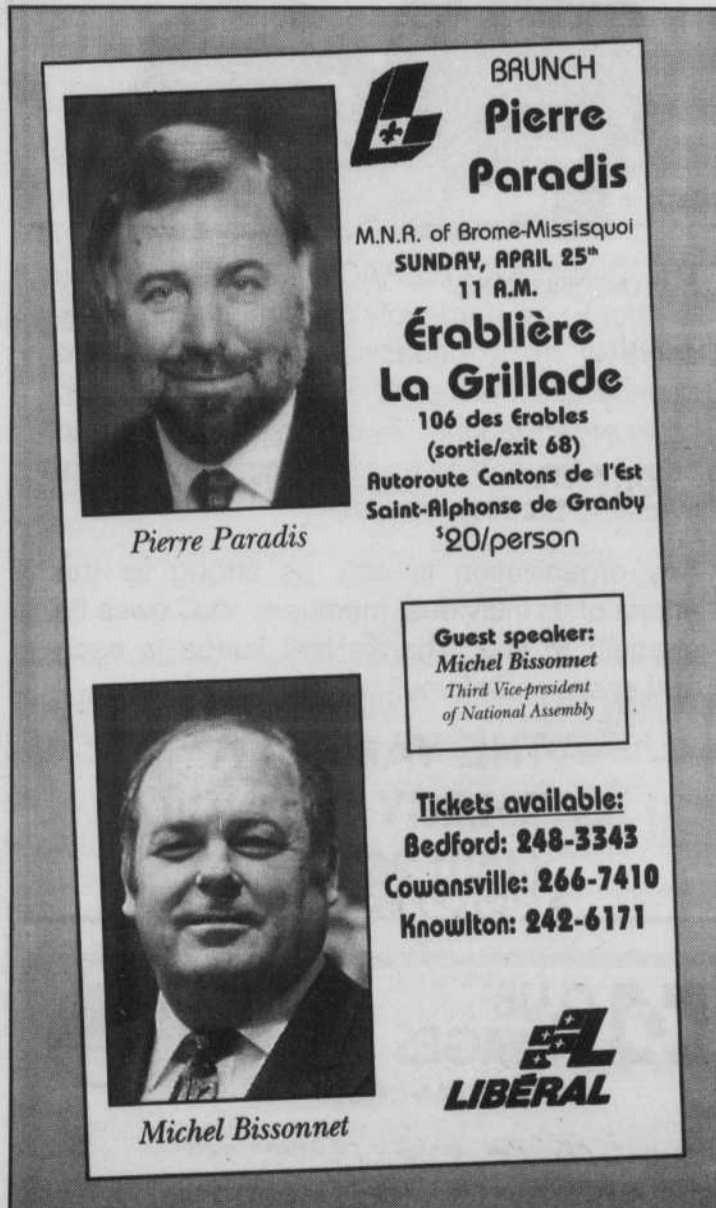
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Daffodil campaign raised \$4,000

DEAR EDITOR,  
Thanks to the generosity of the people of Knowlton and the support of forty volunteers who sold daffodils for the Canadian Cancer Society, Daffodil Day was a great success raising \$4,000.  
Thank you everyone, and we will see you all next year.  
ANDREA GRAY-DONALD  
Knowlton

### Kudos for public works department

DEAR EDITOR  
I feel that it's about time that somebody complimented Lac Brome's Public Works Department.  
Too often all they hear are

complaints and rarely, if ever any plaudits.

We live on Draper Rd. which has only two residences and I can't get over how well they maintain it - ploughing and grading. If there's ever a problem like flooding or washouts they are always quick to make repairs.

We lived 40 years in the West Island (Pte. Claire and Beaconsfield) and there's no comparison - among the three centres.

Lac Brome wins 'hands down'!  
An appreciative resident

ART POWTER  
Lac Brome

### Donor liked the story

DEAR EDITOR,  
We thought you would be interested to learn of a most remarkable outcome from your article on Meals on Wheels in the March 9 issue of *The Record*.

One of your readers (who wishes to remain anonymous) contacted Sun Youth in Montreal who, in turn, contacted Bob Quilliams, coordinator of Meals on Wheels, and Manoir Lac Brome where, as your article reported, the meals are prepared for this area.

This anonymous person wished to donate a substantial quantity of meat and meat products to us. We were both surprised and touched by such generosity. It has renewed our faith in the basic goodness of humankind, which is not always evident in the world today.

To the anonymous donor, who we know reads Brome County News, we would like to say "Thank you, sincerely". You can count on the continued support of the Manoir Lac Brome to the Knowlton community.

DENISE STILES  
Manager, Manoir Lac Brome

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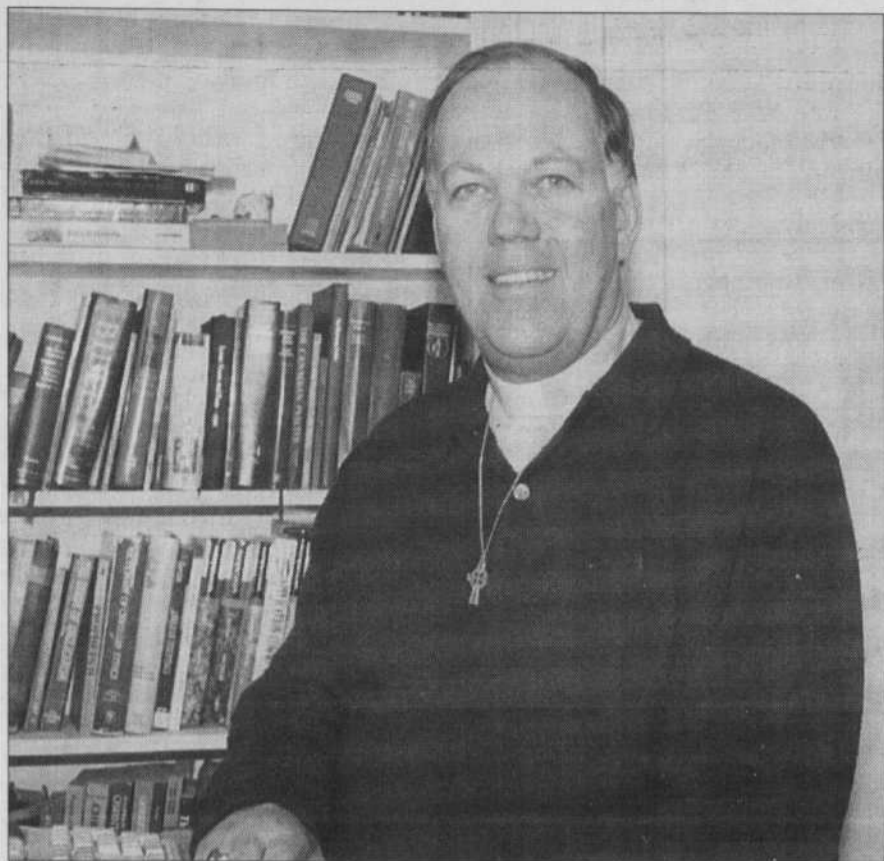
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# Brome County NEWS

## Doing good deeds in Haiti



Reverend Ralph Leavitt, of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Knowlton, is going to Haiti thanks to the SOMA - sharing of ministries abroad program. SOMA organizations within the Anglican community send teams to a Third World country to teach at the request of a Bishop in that country.

"I received an e-mail the other day from the head of SOMA Canada who told me about their project in Haiti and asked me if I might be called to do such a thing. I prayed and after two weeks I thought I was called to go," said Reverend Leavitt. Evi Johnston-Main accompanied Leavitt on April 19, along with two other team members from the United States, after completing a weekend training session in Knowlton.

"It's a conference-type setting being held at a seminary outside Pointe-Au-Prince in Haiti where we'll be speaking as a team to other clergy and seminarians," said Leavitt.

"It's amazing to see everything fall into place," said Leavitt.

- Tanya Tkach/Record Correspondent

### Congratulations to our 1998 award winners

The Royal LePage Gala was held in Montreal on February 4th and six of our agents were awarded top prizes. We are proud to present the exceptional performance of our agents covering all of Brome-Missisquoi County.

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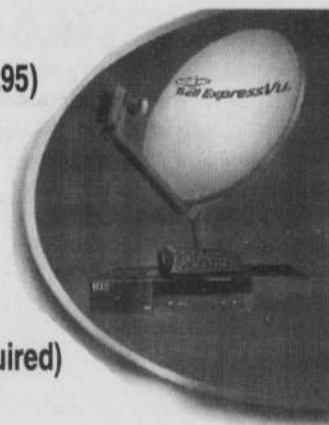
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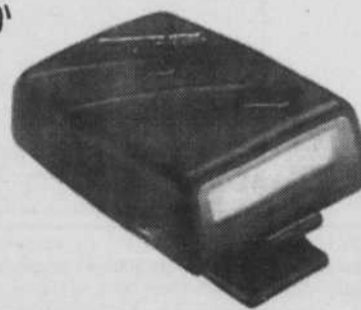


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# Teachers become students at science seminar

By Caroline Kehne  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
KNOWLTON

The National Teacher Training Institute for Math, Science and Technology (NTTI) will once again sponsor a workshop for teachers of all

grade levels (K through 12) from Vermont, New York and Quebec.

The institute, the largest grassroots technology training program for teachers, is a consortium between WNET in New York in partnership with 25 other broadcasters, including Mountain Lake

PBS (Channel 57) and is sponsored by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Mountain Lake PBS representative Marie-Anne Azar Ward said an estimated 125,000 teachers will have received training by the end of 1998-99.

The workshop will assist both U.S. and Canadian teachers in the use of state-of-the-art teaching resources from the Internet to multimedia to television.

The training sessions are conducted by teachers from local schools and will take place on May 20 and 21 at Plattsburgh State University.

To receive information or applications, contact Marie-Anne Azar Ward at (518) 563-9770 or 1-800-836-5700.

## Volunteers needed for Philipsburg trail clearing

The Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds is looking for volunteers to help in the annual spring trail clearing in the Montgomery sanctuary in Philipsburg.

The trail clearing will take place on Sunday, April 25. Each year, volunteer birdwatchers and outdoor enthusiasts clear the trails of debris in preparation for the society's field trips into the sanctuary, which is an important nesting and feeding ground for bird species.

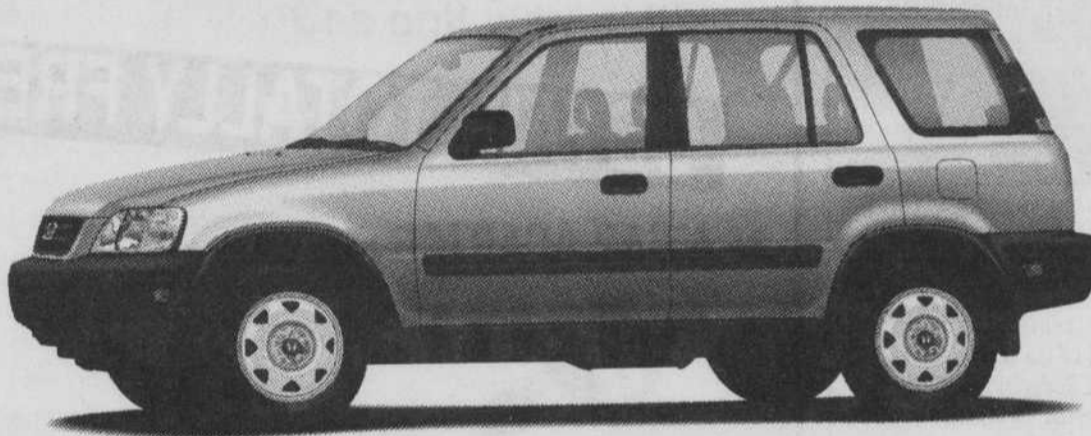
Organizer Sandy Montgomery promises the day's chores of clearing and marking trails will be fun and not too strenuous. A light lunch and good shoes are recommended.

Interested volunteers should meet at 10 a.m. at the Montgomery home in Philipsburg.

For more information, call Sandy Montgomery at (450) 248-2310 (Philipsburg) or (514) 482-0565 (Montreal).

- Caroline Kehne/Correspondent

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# Helping to make a difference

**Boulanger-Bédard Foundation raised \$48,000 last year**

By Murielle Parkes  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
SUTTON

The Boulanger-Bédard Foundation's annual fund-raising campaign gets underway April 29 with a wine and cheese party at Arts Sutton.

The foundation provides financial support to regionally-based volunteer organizations that promote the development of the youth in a "variety of domains such as culture, sports, recreation

and health," said Claire Massé, Secretary of the foundation.

Created in 1981, the foundation commemorates the memory of Harold Boulanger, who passed away in 1980. From the beginning the goal was to help children and youth. By 1993, the name changed to the Boulanger-Bédard Foundation to recognize the important contribution of Dr. Jean-Paul Bédard, one of the original founders. He remains an active force on the board.

Requests, submitted throughout the year, are reviewed at the board's monthly meetings, explained Massé. "Grants are awarded to groups to help kids to realize their project. It could be music, it could be sports, it

could be for whatever good cause..." she said. "They ask for what they want, state their needs, and present a budget," said Massé.

Last year, 21 groups received grants ranging from between \$400 to an exceptional amount of \$6,000, the latter used to purchase musical instruments for a newly formed group. Recipients have included Ste-Justine Hospital and many organizations of Cowansville, Granby, Mansonville, Bromont, Waterloo, Brome Lake and Fréghsburg.

"In Sutton the foundation has notably supported the Sutton School, Arts Sutton, the Jardin d'enfants de Sutton, the Cordes à vent, the town library to name just a few," said Massé. One objec-

tive, this year, is to develop closer ties with the Sutton community.

To support the many applicants that make requests, the foundation holds two principal fund-raising events - an annual campaign in April which includes canvassing individual members and other benefactors, and a golf tournament in August. Last year, the foundation raised \$48,000. Organizers have targeted a similar amount, this year.

The campaign is expected to begin May 3.

Donations can be made to the Boulanger-Bédard Foundation, P.O. BOX 280, Sutton, Que., JOE 2KO. Income tax receipts are available. Details: Claire Massé at (450) 538-1508.

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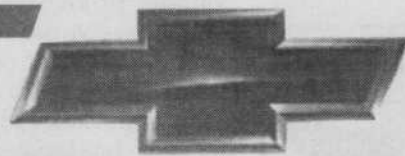
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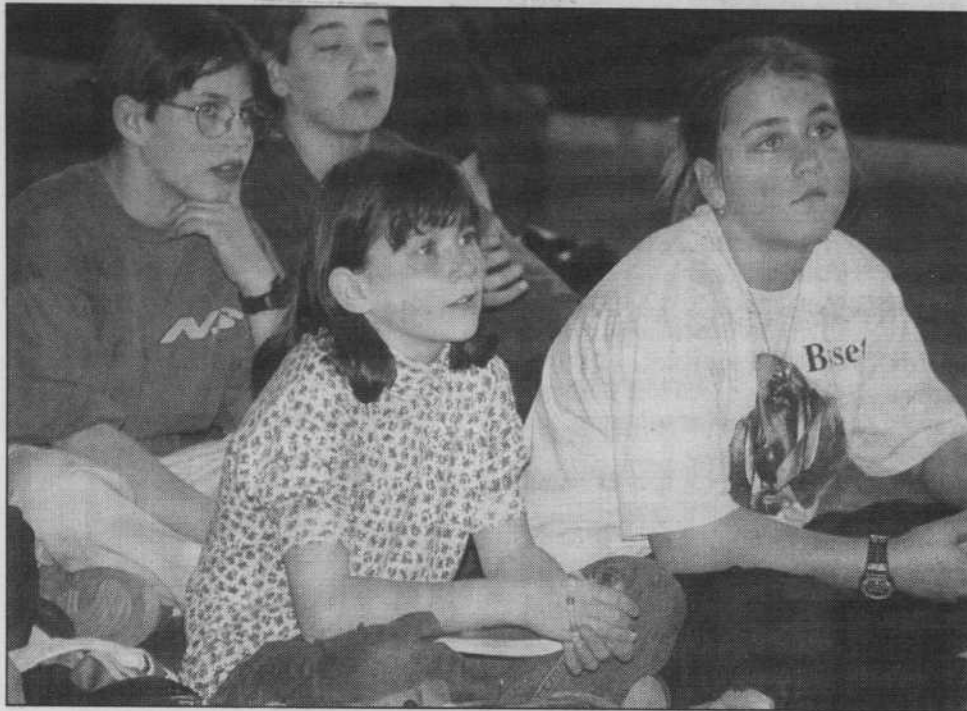


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# Author writes about the importance of education



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Farnham schoolchildren listen intently to Dr. Akhtar Naraghi speak.

## Author:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Women in these books are always strong characters," explained the author to students. "In traditional literature, women are often weak, passive characters. In this story, the women are tough characters, dynamic... all the way through, they have pivotal roles."

Dr. Naraghi's feminism extends beyond the literary: Naraghi immigrated to Canada in her late teens and later received a doctorate in English Literature from McGill University, where she teaches Persian literature. She is author of *Legacy: Selected Poems* as well as scholarly articles.

Dr. Naraghi is also an activist, founder and former President of the International Organization of the Helen Prize for Women.

The impetus for the founding of that prize, she said, grew out of her outrage at seeing Helen Caldicott, founder of Physicians for Nuclear Responsibility, passed over when two male members of that organization received the Nobel Prize.

Naraghi talked to the students about her own development as a writer.

"I started writing as soon as I was able to write. The love of poetry and literature was always inside me," she

said.

She explained how she has a strict regime of writing, going for summers to her secluded cottage in the Gaspé to write.

"That is my sanctuary. I'm just reading and writing - my husband (also professor of English literature at McGill) is only allowed to visit for two weeks."

Naraghi told her listeners how her stories are written in the simple, clear voice of a child but contain many layers.

"On the simplest level, things happen; then, on a deeper level, there are themes of morality, mysticism and Romanticism, of the love of nature and the separation of man from nature."

The story "Sharbanu" tells the story of how the young protagonist, growing up in a middle-class Tehran household, is punished for emptying her father's pockets of his month's wages to give to Sharbanu, the old and sick beggar who has come to the door.

Sharbanu symbolizes a face of a kind of poverty rarely seen in Canada and as in any adult debate on a moral issue, the Farnham listeners seem mixed in their assessment of the narrator's guilt.

An undercurrent of autobiography runs through Naraghi's two novels. The importance of education and determination, especially for women, are

seminal themes.

Finally, as in her own life, Canada symbolizes a final destination, a land of hope and new opportunity.

"I am a daughter of Persia, but a granddaughter of Canada."

.....  
As part of Canada Book Day, Akhtar Naraghi will be reading passages from *The Big Green House* on Friday, April 23, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Double Hook bookstore, 1235A Greene Avenue, Westmount.

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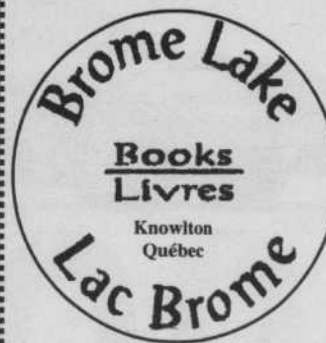
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# Brome County NEWS

## 'I can't tell you which way it will go' - Wood

### Theatre:

Community Centre the theatre group will hold its annual general meeting.

The location of the new theatre will not be on the agenda, Wood said.

Instead, following the general meeting, the advisory board and the board of trustees will meet to vote on which of the three possible locations Theatre Lac Brome will call home in the years to come.

"I think it's been a good debate," he said. "We got a lot of people interested."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Throughout the debate, Wood has refused to publicly take sides. He said the decision is now up to the 22 board members.

"I can't tell you which way it will go," he said.

On Saturday morning at 9 a.m. at the

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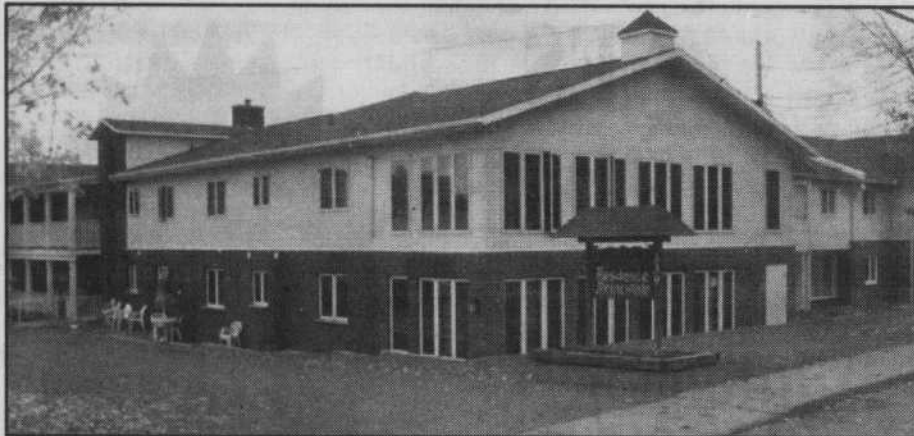


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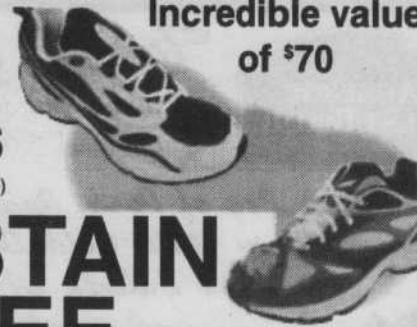
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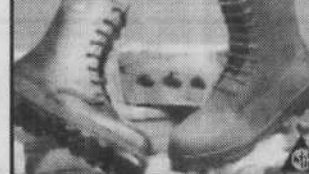
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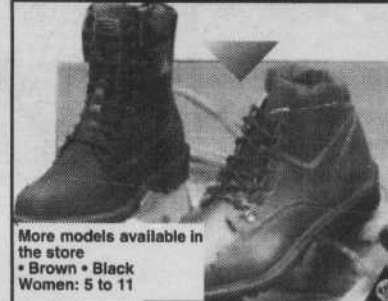


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# Waterloo Elementary School dance set for May 1

*Flyers ready to soar to new fund-raising heights*

Dust off your dancing shoes and help raise a lot of money for Waterloo Ele-

mentary. The Waterloo Dance is May 1.

"The Waterloo Dance is an important fund-raiser for the school. The money goes toward student activities and educational tools," said Lee Singfield, Parent Committee co-chair.

The Flyers, well known in the Townships as a band that keeps the dance-

floor hopping, will provide the night's entertainment.

With many parents willing to help, and most schools giving up on dances as fund-raisers, Waterloo finds itself the place to go for live band entertainment.

"At every dance we notice different faces," said parent Jackie Lawrence. "People have been coming from Knowlton, Cowansville, Sutton and

Farnham."

Guitarist Glen Bertie and his fellow flyers take to the stage of the Waterloo gymnasium, May 1 at 9 p.m.

For those 18 and over, admission is \$8 (advance ticket price \$6). Cash bar. For more information on this Mother's Day dance, call the school at 539-0162 or Lee Singfield at 539-4418.

Submitted by Lee Singfield

AUBERGE WEST BROME

## Treat your mum!

Brunch at 10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.  
Buffet from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

May 9th

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# Creek United Church plans fourth annual theatre trip

For the past three years, a group of 47 theatre-lovers have gone on a non-profit sojourn to Stratford, Ontario.

This year the group has decided to go to the Shaw Festival at Niagara-On-The-Lake, where they will see A Foggy Day, a musical by George Gershwin, and You Can't Take It With You, a comedy by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman.

The group will be staying at the Colonel Butler Inn and the trip will also include side trips to a vineyard, wine-tasting, the Butterfly Conservatory, Niagara Falls, a gourmet supper at The Pillar and Post restaurant and a buffet breakfast at the Inn.

There are only seven spots to be filled if you would like to be part of this year's theatre experience.

For more information, call Nancy or Don Seaman at 243-0380.

submitted by Don Seaman, Knowlton

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10:00 a.m. 9 hole game

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EVENING

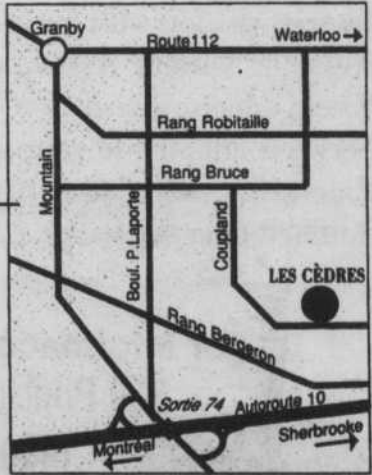
5:30 p.m. Registration  
Coffee, muffin

6:00 p.m. Clinic

6:45 p.m. 9 hole game

Cost:

CEDRES \$14 (all included)



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## Up-And-Coming Artist

Bishop's University's Knowlton Centre Fine Arts student Therese Montambault is pleased to be the first student invited to present a solo exhibit at the centre. "We just started featuring solo exhibits of one of our advanced students," said art instructor Louise Jamet. "She's very advanced and had an interesting body of work to show." Montambault, who started studying art with Jamet at Prouty Hall in Bondville five years ago, is one of 25 artists chosen from 55 applicants to have their work featured at Magog's City Hall July 2-Aug. 23. In November, the exhibition will be on display at a gallery in Mont Geron, outside Paris. The Bishop's Centre is offering a variety of art courses and workshops beginning in May and lasting throughout the summer. For information, call Jamet at (450) 242-1518. - Text and photo by Tanya Tkach, Record Correspondent.



## Owl's Head 'Hoot' nets \$5,000

### The 'Slush Cup' and other wacky races

By Murielle Parkes  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
OWL'S HEAD

There was plenty of snow and sunshine, along with skiers and smiles, to satisfy organizers of Owl's Head's 26th annual 'Hoot.'

The March 27 event netted nearly \$5,000 to help the Canadian Ski Patrol maintain its rescue and safety program in the Eastern Townships.

"It's the biggest ski patrolling fund-raising tradition event in the Townships," said Peter Kelly, Patrol Leader at Owl's Head.

"Each hill runs its own kind of fund-raising event but ours is the longest, biggest, continuing on-

going one."

"This year, our organizing team, Wendy Herron, Ted Grant and Sam Morin, did an exceptional job," Kelly added.

Like all 'Hoots' before, this one featured a variety of popular events designed for the whole family - a costume parade, hot-dog barbecue and wacky races.

"The most famous event is the 'Slush Cup,' said Kelly. "We have a giant slush pool at the bottom of the hill and skiers compete for style points by jumping off the jump and then landing in this giant pond of water. It's pretty spectacular to watch. The balcony at Owl's Head is just brimming with people and there are people up and down the hill. It causes the crowd to 'Ooh' and 'Ahh' quite a bit, actually."

What do competitors win? "Actually not much," Kelly said with a laugh.

"It's pretty much the pure honour ... Of course we have prizes that have been generously donated ... and we raffle them off. But we don't really have prizes (for events) .. we have medals and certificates. But honestly, mostly they compete for the glory of the thing."

Proceeds of the Hoot go to help purchase first-aid equipment and to train the 200-250 patrollers in the Eastern Townships. This year, there were 24 stationed at Mount Owl's Head.

"We teach them the skills that they need to be patrollers .. In this zone, it's first-aid, search and rescue, and all the equipment handling necessary for winter first-aid care."

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## 190 Cars For Sale

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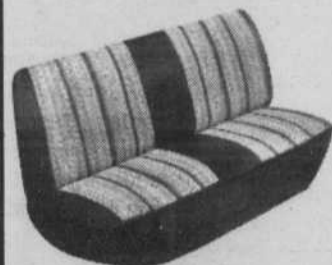
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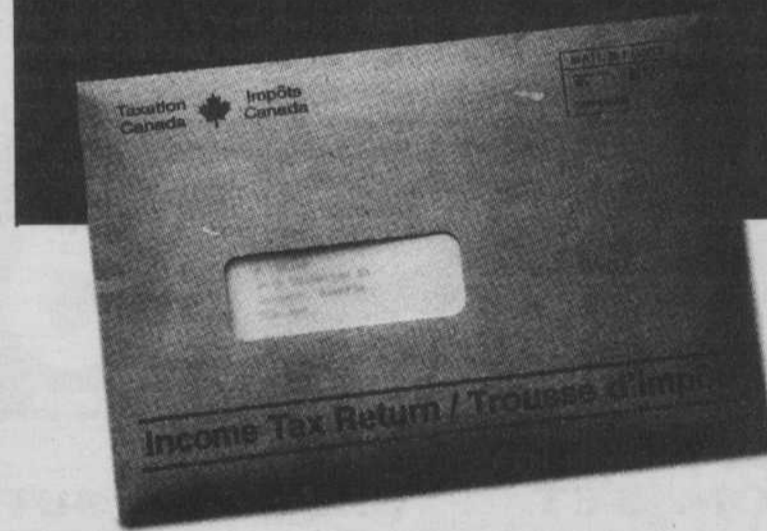
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Last Saturday Dominique Houle, florist and proprietor of Le Pois de Senteur, announced the expansion of her business, adding the expertise of Mario Sarao a talented landscape designer from Montreal, under the name Les Jardins du Pois de Senteur. Sarao, whose brother has a residence in Brome Lake, has visited Knowlton many times and is looking forward to working in the area. "I find it beautiful, I really like the country here," he said. Sarao gained valuable experience through his 14-year association with well-known florist and sculptor Marcel Proulx, of Montreal. Houle said she is thrilled with her new association. "He has beautiful ideas, tremendous knowledge and experience. So far we've done terrific things together. And now we're just expanding our creativity."

Text and photo by Tanya Tkach, Record Correspondent

**Jay Peak's season ends**

*New state-of-the-art detachable quad promised for 2000*

By Murielle Parkes  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
JAY PEAK, VT

Saturday, April 17th was the last opportunity for skiers and snowboard riders to schuss down Jay Peak, this season. And already management is planning for their return. "The 1999-2000 season is going to be a busy one," promised Chris Veillon, Communications & Public Relations Director for the ski hill.

In the next six months, Jay Peak will be going through a major face lift with the addition on a new state-of-the-art

detachable quad, called the Green Mountain Flyer, said Veillon.

"At 7,350 feet, it will be the longest lift of its kind in Eastern North America and one of the longest worldwide. The new quad will have an uphill capacity of 2,400 skiers per hour moving 1,100 feet per minute, with a six to nine minute ride to the top," he added.

"We will be posting on-going pictures of the lift construction throughout the next 6 months," said Veillon. "We also expect to devote a new section to the evolution of The Green Mountain Flyer on our Web site

www.jaypeakresort.com." Staff and management are thanking patrons for their support. "It was a great season," said Veillon. "Our 1999-2000 daily, season pass, and group rates should be made available shortly."

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