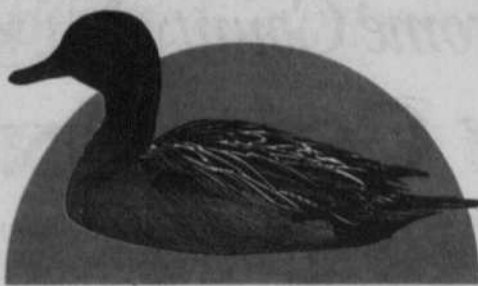


# Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2006

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## Murielle Parkes honoured for pioneering French immersion education

By Joshua Bleser

One of the Eastern Townships' (not to mention *The Record's*) own is being honoured by the Riverside School Board at a gala this evening. In 1963, Murielle Parkes — along with fellow young mothers Olga Melikoff and Valerie Neale — defied conventional wisdom in the education world and pushed for the creation of a French immersion program in English school boards in Quebec.

These three women, and the hundreds of parents who joined what *The Gazette* this week called their "grass-roots revolution," were convinced that anglophone children in Quebec needed a solid grasp of French to secure bright futures in the province — and that current curricula were not meeting that need.

"From first-hand experience, we knew that most Quebec English-school graduates were remarkably unilingual. Small wonder!" exclaimed Parkes. "Daily 45-minute classes, often taught in English by anglophones, provided too few contact hours of wrongly accented French to achieve otherwise. Students could conjugate French verbs, translate 'petites histoires' and recite ever so tedious drills. (But) they still couldn't speak French."

This limited exposure to French was no accident. In the 1960s, most experts were warning against teaching a second language to young children, claiming it could compromise their mother tongue and stunt overall intellectual development. At a time when parents had little or no say in pedagogical matters, these three women had the courage of their convictions — and the mettle to attract a critical mass around their "radical and dangerous" idea.

Parkes, Melikoff, and Neale studied a 1962 UNESCO report that lauded teaching multiple languages to young children; they even got famed McGill neurosurgeon Dr. Wilder Penfield and his



COURTESY MURIELLE PARKES

Mansonville's Murielle Parkes will be honoured by the Riverside School Board this evening for her pivotal role in the implementation of the first French immersion program in the country forty years ago.

colleague Dr. Wallace Lambert, a psycholinguist, on board. From there, the vision snowballed through a media blitz and a letter-writing campaign to the Minister of Education and the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism, as well as educators and elected officials.

After two years of lobbying the ministry and the Chambly County Protestant School Board (Riverside's predecessor), the parents' efforts bore fruit.

In the fall of 1965, the first-ever French immersion Kindergarten class started at Margaret Pendlebury Elementary School in St-Lambert. The plan was for

SEE IMMERSION, PAGE 3

## Drummondville firm to build TBL community centre



COURTESY TOWN OF BROME LAKE

When the building is completed on Nov. 15, it will house a community centre, medical clinic and CLSC.

### Staff

Drummondville firm has been given the nod to build Brome Lake's long-awaited community centre. Groupe Drumco placed the winning bid, at \$2,835,800 for the construction of the 24,000 square foot building. The municipality will be handling the landscaping around the building.

Brome Lake Mayor Richard Wisdom said several bids were very close: Tijaro Ltée offered to do the work for \$2,860,966, while Construction Écho Ltée bid \$2,923,167. The highest of the nine bids was Construction GCP Inc., at \$3,346,000. The winning bid was lower than expected, and will allow some work slated for next year to be completed this year.

"The town has done its homework," Wisdom said. "Drumco has a good reputation and has done projects like this before."

The bids were originally opened in the presence of the contractors on March 8. The winning bid was officially accepted at a special council meeting Tuesday night.

With landscaping work already underway, construction of the new building is set to begin on the Victoria Street property on April 15. By the time it is completed on Nov. 15, it will house a community centre, medical clinic and CLSC.

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## BROME COUNTY COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 22

**ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**, 24 St. Paul's Road, **Knowlton**. Wednesday evenings during Lent, there will be "A Walk Through the Gospel of John" and Holy Communion starting at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

March 22, 29 and April 5

**LENTEN LUNCHESES** at Grace Anglican Church, 52 Principale sud, **Sutton**. Everyone welcome to come in and enjoy hot soup and bread with dessert. All proceeds go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation for AIDS Education and Relief Work. Three Wednesdays, at noon, March 22, 29 and April 5. Ecumenical Good Friday Walk on April 14 beginning at 10 a.m. at Eglise St. Andre, followed by lunch. Information, 450-538-8108.

March 24

The Wellness Volunteer Centre and HAL 50+ invite all **Town of Brome Lake** residents to a second Information Session on 'HEARTSMARTS FOR WOMEN' given in English by Sara Creighton-Wiebe, R.D. This session will deal with Heart Healthy Eating for both men and women on Friday at TBL Community Centre, 2 to 4 p.m. No charge but please RSVP by calling the Community Centre, 450-242-2020 by March 23.

March 25

**Brome Lake Books** will be holding a **STORYTELLING HOUR** in the Book Cellar of the Book Store, 254 Knowlton Rd., at 11 a.m. Children of all ages are welcome! For more information please call, 450-242-2242.

Annual **COFFEE HOUSE AND SILENT AUCTION** Fundraiser for Waterloo Elementary School at 5 Clark Hill, **Waterloo**. Auction preview starts, 6:30 p.m. Admission: Adults, \$5, Students, \$3. Entertainment, 7 to 10 p.m. Cantine. For more information: 450-539-3588 or 539-3295.

BCN RATES & DEADLINES  
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Brome County News Community Calendar is reserved for non-profit organizations only. Deadline is **noon on Mondays**. A pre-paid fee of \$7 is required per publication, or **SPECIAL RATE of \$11 for 2 insertions**: 1 BCN & 1 in Friday Record "What's On" section. Please forward notices to 88-A Lakeside St., Knowlton, QC JOE 1V0, email: bcnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Brome County  
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March 26

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BREAKFAST** at 120 Davignon St., **Cowansville**, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Info: 450-263-3543.

Potton Heritage Association Inc., **MANSONVILLE SNOW-SHOEING**, easy - **Owl's Head Golf Course**, 10 a.m. Meet entrance of the golf course. Excursions are free for members of the Association, \$5 for others. We recommend that you bring a snack and drinks. Excursion information: Carol Bishop, (450-292-5099).

March 31 &amp; April 1

Wesley United Church, **Bedford** will hold a **RUMMAGE SALE**, noon to 8 p.m. Also, \$5 Bag Day on Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m. to noon. Info: 450-248-7521.

April 1

**ANDREW REECE VAN-TILBORGH CONCERT** featuring Desert Heat and Ironique on Saturday, April 1 at Massey-Vanier auditorium, **Cowansville**, 7 p.m. Admission, \$5 and door prizes. Info: 450-263-3772.

The **Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 77**, 77 Lewis Street will hold a **FLEA MARKET** on Saturday April 1 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tables will cost \$10 and the cantine will be open on the premises. Please reserve your table early. Info: 450-539-0847 or 450-539-1198.

**BOWL-A-THON** organized by Bishop Stewart Memorial Church, Frelighsburg, in **Cowansville**. Choice of times. \$15/adult, \$7.50 - 12 yrs. **RESERVE YOUR TICKETS TODAY**. Info: 450-248-1145 or 248-3581. Door prizes.

**FASHION SHOW** for women (male models) at Royal Canadian Legion, 120 Davignon, **Cowansville**, 7 p.m. Cost: \$8. Advance sale tickets only. Light lunch served during intermission. Come and join us for an evening of fun and laughs. Info: 450-263-3543.

**TOWNSHIPS TODDLERS ROAST BEEF AND PORK B.B.Q.** at Odd Fellows Hall, **Knowlton**, 5 to 7 p.m. Dance to follow with Home Grown Country and Silverado. Benefit Montreal Children's and BMP Hospitals. Tickets: \$10. Info: 450-266-1716.

April 2

**CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER** at Memorial Hall, **Stanbridge East**, noon to 2 p.m. Admission: \$10, children under 10 yrs., \$6. Fundraiser for Maple Leaf Chapter #2 Order of the Eastern Star.

April 3

**CANADIAN CLUB OF THE YAMASKA VALLEY MEETING** at Auberge West Brome, 128, Rte. 139, **West Brome**, at 2

p.m. Guest speaker: Arthur T. Doyle, Media Response consultant will talk on the Topic: "Television News and Spin Doctors". Doyle has written five books and is the author of Surviving the News Ambush Interview, Selling Yourself and Television, Winning with the Media and Combating Negative Publicity. Doyle is an international authority on medical response counseling. He has taught seminars for CEOs, Cabinet Ministers, U.S. Congressional candidates and public affairs spokespersons to communicate competently and confidently when dealing with the media. Refreshments and social time to follow. \$10 entrance fee for non-members. Tickets for 'spring Tour to Ottawa' on May 15 & 16 available for purchase from Carol Soule, Tour coordinator. Prior to meeting, dinner (choice of three menus) available. Reservations a must. 450-266-7552.

April 8

Annual **SUGARING OFF PARTY** at The Rhicard's Owl Hoot Maple Farm at 85 Ross Road, **Stanbridge East**. A fundraising event for the Brome-Missisquoi Perkins Hospital Foundation, 1 to 4 p.m. **DONATION**: at the gate. Adults, \$7, children, 4 - 10 yrs., \$4. Donation includes: Taffy on snow, see a Blacksmith demonstration, Wagon rides, Log hewing, Antique car/tractor show, Listen or dance to the music of Canadian fiddlers. Items for sale from: Bake Table, Maple Products and Snack-bar. A wonderful afternoon for the whole family. Info: 450-248-3616.

## ARTS CALENDAR

April 1

A family event! A staged version of the classic story **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** will be presented by members of the Georgeville Troupe, Occasional Choir and Children's Choir under the direction of Sarah Hoblyn. The musical will be presented at 7 p.m., Saturday, April 1 at **Théâtre Lac Brome**. A short light-music offering precedes the production. Tickets: \$10 (\$5 for 12 and under). Info: 450 242-2242.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**KNOWLTON/CREEK PASTORAL CHARGE** Worship and song by members assisted by The Reverend Dale Skinner. Sunday School, Creek United, **Foster**, 9:30 a.m., Knowlton United, **Knowlton**, 11 a.m. (Handicap access).

**ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**, 24 St. Paul's Road, **Knowlton**. Traditional

Sunday services, 8:30 and 10 a.m. Music, a nursery and Sunday school. Wednesday evenings in Lent, there will be A Walk Through the Gospel of John and Holy Communion starting at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. Tim Wiebe and the congregation welcomes everyone.

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME**, Sunday, March 26, St. Aidan's, **Sutton Junction**, 10 a.m. Morning Prayer. Rev. Deacon P. Tidman. We are happy to announce the Ordination of Rev. Deacon Paul Tidman at 4 p.m. at St. George's Church in Granby.

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

**ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**, 420 de la cour, **Waterloo**, invites you to come and join us. 1st and 3rd Sundays, Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.; Holy Communion, 9 a.m. Rev. W. Davidson. Info: 450-539-2078.

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

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

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF BEDFORD/PHILIPSBURG & FARNHAM** - Sunday Services: **Philipsburg**, 9:30 a.m.; **Farnham**, 1st Sunday in **Bedford** at 11 a.m., 2 & 4th Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in **Farnham** & 3rd Sunday at 11 a.m. in **Farnham**, **Bedford**, 11 a.m. For information call 450-248-3923. The Ven. Dr. Brian A. Evans, Rector & Archdeacon of Bedford.

**BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE** - Sunday service, March 26, Mystic. St The Rev. K. Carl Triskle, Officiating. Info: 450-248-3044.

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

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

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** - If you wish to drink and can... that's your business. If you wish to stop and can't... that's our business. Info: 450-242-2611 or 1-877-272-2611.

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KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW.

# Mary had a little lamb — er, make that four!

By Joshua Bleser

A family in Brigham got quite a surprise when their pet sheep Belle gave birth to four—that's right, four-lambs in the wee hours of a chilly morning late last month. Unfortunately, as is often the case when sheep have more than two offspring, Belle rejected two of her newborns, forcing Mary Ann Smith, her husband René Von Arx, and their children, Eric, 5, and Vienna, 8, to save them from the brink of death and care for them until Belle weans the other two.

"I got to the barn just in time," Smith relates. "One male she (Belle) pushed into the other pen with Shaggy, the male father. He was covered in after-birth but managed to find a corner. It was so cold that night that his little tail was frozen to the barn wall. We call him Lucky."

"A little female was curled up. I saw the mother step on her. I tried to help

her up, but she could not stand," Smith continues. "I thought she was crippled. I wrapped her in a sheet and put her under the heat lamp. Then Vienna helped me get the little boy out of Shaggy's pen."

Smith shook the little female—whom she and Vienna decided to dub Rosey— upside down to open her airways (a trick she had learned on one of Vienna's children's shows), and the mother-daughter team brought the two lambs up to the loft and put them in a big open box with lots of warm blankets.

Half an hour later, Rosey stood up by herself, proving her legs were not broken, as Smith had first feared. Now, three weeks later, Rosey and her brother Lucky are being bottle-fed special formula and appear to be happy and healthy little lambs. They're even getting to know their two brothers, Chilly and Scotty.



COURTESY RENÉ VON ARX

Thanks to her quick thinking and the help of her eight-year-old daughter Vienna, Mary Ann Smith was able to rescue two lambs rejected by their mother following their birth Feb. 27.

## IMMERSION:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

French to be the language of primary instruction in Kindergarten and Grade 1, with English reading only introduced in Grade 2.

"For many, it was an outrageous idea. On the other hand, we had 240 parents interested in such a program," Parkes recalled.

As it turned out, there were far more interested parents just waiting to come out of the woodwork. When a 1969 study by Dr. Lambert and his McGill University colleagues suggested that French immersion students at Margaret Pendlebury could learn in French at school without losing their ability to communicate successfully in English, enrolment began to increase, and heads turned in other provinces.

Today, more than 300,000 Canadian students are enrolled in French immersion programs — 45,000 in Quebec, and another 115,000 in Ontario. According to The Gazette, Alberta Premier Ralph Klein "touts the easy accessibility of French-immersion schooling as one of the features that makes Alberta a great place to live."

It has also become a main prong of

Riverside's pedagogical approach. The school board continues to offer the immersion program in its elementary schools, and a variety of French-language instruction options in its high schools.

"It was a combination of...celebrating immersion and celebrating all of the French-language learning that's taking place in an English school board...making it so that we thought it was high time that we pay tribute to these women who really began that whole process," explained Julie Saada, RSB's French consultant.

The homage will include the launch of a community television program to mark the 40th anniversary

of French immersion in Canada, and presentations by many of the researchers who wrote the books and studies that supported Parkes' and her partners' instincts and established French immersion as one of the most successful experiments in bilingual education ever in North America.

For Parkes, it will be an opportunity to relive the thrill of her historic victory. "For a young mother, it was an empowering and heady experience to take on officialdom — and win!" Parkes said.

[jbleser@sherbrookerecord.com](mailto:jbleser@sherbrookerecord.com)

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### THE NETWORKING BREAKFAST CLUB RETURNS

The Chamber of Commerce of Brome Lake is organizing a monthly business breakfast meeting. The first gathering will be held on March 30th at 7:30 a.m. at Restaurant Chez Guy. The meetings are a unique opportunity to make business contacts and promote your business.

Meetings are open to all business owners.

Please confirm your attendance by calling the Chamber of Commerce at 450-242-2870 or by e-mail [carolyn@cclacbrome.com](mailto:carolyn@cclacbrome.com)

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# Tools for the job can get pricey

Everybody likes to complain about the expense of car repairs. When they see the hourly rate for labour, they automatically assume that all of that cash goes straight into the pocket of the guy who changed their oil or fixed their brakes. "There's good money to be made as a mechanic," is a familiar refrain. Unfortunately for the dirty guy under your car, it's not exactly true.

To be a mechanic and operate a garage costs money. To do the job right requires tools, and a lot of what you're paying for is for the use of those tools that get the job done properly and in a respectable amount of time. Not having the right tool can easily triple the amount of time required to get a task done, and in some cases it can make completing the job impossible.

The next time you're at your local garage, take a look around. Your mechanic probably has several thousand dollars just in basic hand tools, wrenches and screwdrivers and such. I once spoke to a mechanic who had his tool box stolen and he told me he had \$10,000 in replacement tools, "... and I still don't have what I had

before." In that case the thieves didn't even get into the other, more expensive equipment in the garage.

A simple set of wrenches can make a difference: Cheaper sets found at hardware chains are thicker, made of cheaper quality steel. By comparison a professional grade tool will be stronger, leaner and better able to get into tight spots where the cheap wrench won't fit. For the backyard mechanic the cheap wrench will usually do the job, but for the person who depends on good tools for their livelihood, they just don't cut it.

I used to do occasional repair work for friends. But the lack of proper tools made it decidedly inconvenient. While a pro would put the car on the lift and raise it to a good level for working, I had to rely on jacks and ramps, crawling around in the dirt. Then I had to drive to Canadian Tire to try to find the special wrench I was missing. In short, the pro had an easier time of it and got it done faster.

The mechanic will also have a selection of specialized tools for special jobs. It

## UNDER THE HOOD

MAURICE CROSSFIELD

wouldn't pay for the handyman to have a set of pliers to remove and install Volkswagen exhaust clips, but for the guy who works on VWs all the time it's money well spent. Some mechanics even build their own tools to meet their own needs.

No mechanic can get by without air-powered tools. Compressors capable of doing the job don't come cheap, and tools able to take on the big jobs for years to come aren't found in bargain bins either.

So after many thousands of dollars, the mechanic still hasn't gotten into the real pricey stuff, like electronic diagnostic tools. These can range from simple testers costing a few hundred bucks to large, expensive computer-driven units capable of testing any number of things. Three years from now that unit will have to be replaced or upgraded. With cars and trucks becoming increasingly complex electronically, many older mechanics are finding themselves having to choose between investing heavily to upgrade, or get out of the business entirely.

There's also a lot of money tied up in

other garage essentials, like tire machines, wheel balancers, cutting and welding equipment. Specialities like air conditioning, body work and wheel alignments all require their own equipment as well, meaning a lot of extra expense. And a lot of this stuff must be bought from specialized manufacturers, so you know there's a premium to be paid there.

All of this must be housed in a garage, which is itself a speciality item. It must have enough room for all that equipment, as well as large doors to get cars and trucks in and out. Fumes can be a problem so ventilation is important. Sparks and fire are also common in a garage, so it's not like you can build it out of plywood. It must be properly wired and weatherproofed, and have facilities for dealing with items like old oil and scrap metal.

So the next time you see a garage bill, remember that it's not all money falling from the sky for your mechanic. A good chunk of what you lay out goes to keeping the business going. Not to mention how much goes to taxes, something we're all painfully aware of at this time of year.



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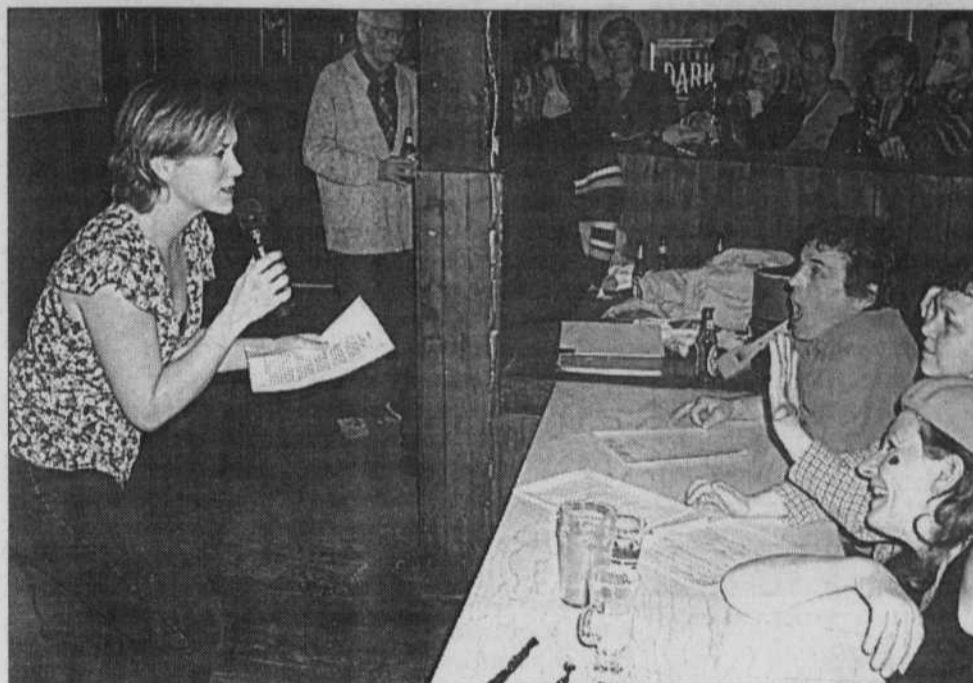
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**NEWS**



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# Danny Boy contest brings out the Irish in everyone at the Knowlton Pub



MAURICE CROSSFIELD

Brome County News correspondent and radio journalist Jessica Brown might not have known Danny Boy that well, but she still wowed the judges.

By Maurice Crossfield

The spirit of the Irish was alive and well at the Knowlton Pub Friday night, swaying gently to the melodious strains of Danny Boy.

"The night worked out so perfectly," said Heather Croghan, organizer of the Irish Idol contest, which challenged singers to test their vocal chords with the most famous and ancient of Irish tunes.

A number of men and women got up to sing, judged by the hard-hitting panel of Emma Stevens, Laura Teasdale and Ralph Steiner. A trio of cloggers took the floor as well, dancing to the not-quite-so-Irish "Devil went down to Georgia." Master of ceremonies for the evening was CHOM-FM radio host Pete Marier.

Taking top honours in the women's category was Richmond's Teresa Doyle, daughter of the late athlete, poet and singer Joe Doyle.

"We came into Knowlton and everything was lit up like Christmas," Doyle said. "And the spirit inside the Pub was

very Irish."

Doyle had never been to the Knowlton Pub before, but felt the hand of fate drawing her there: Her father's name was Joe, while her late husband's name was Ivo. Knowlton's postal code is JOE IVO.

"The two loves of my life are Joe and Ivo," she said. "At the Irish mass in Richmond (last weekend) I sang Danny Boy in honour of my dad."

Doyle celebrated her victory by leading everyone at the Pub in an elegant version of "When Irish Eyes are Smiling."

It was a family affair on the men's side as well, with Bernie McManus taking on the Irish air with his sons Tom and Danny.

"He was obviously thrilled to pieces to get up and sing Danny Boy with his two sons," Croghan said.

Other singers included Brome County News correspondent Jessica Brown, who didn't know the song but decided to take a shot at wowing the judges. Folk singer Sarah Biggs and country songstress Barbara Thompson also gave



MAURICE CROSSFIELD

CHOM's Pete Marier was the MC for the night, which was organized by Heather and Joanne Croghan.

it a shot, among several others.

Doyle said she's taken her \$50 prize money and bought a tiny harp to put on her coat, in honour of the mythological harp that was first seen playing the song by unseen hands. She has since had it blessed, and has also spent a few dollars "... being Irish."

"There have been a whole bunch of people who have called me since," Croghan said, making it likely there will be a repeat performance for St. Patrick's Day 2007.

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## Storytelling on the comeback

By Wendy Denman  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

The storyteller owns the moment as the story unfolds. No matter how ancient the tale, it lives in the present, inseparable from the flow of life.

"The storyteller always puts his own twist on the story," said raconteur Mike Burns. "Even if he tries not to, he does. A story, a tale, always grows organically from who is telling it. Only poetry should be regurgitated verbatim, the story is always told on the fly."

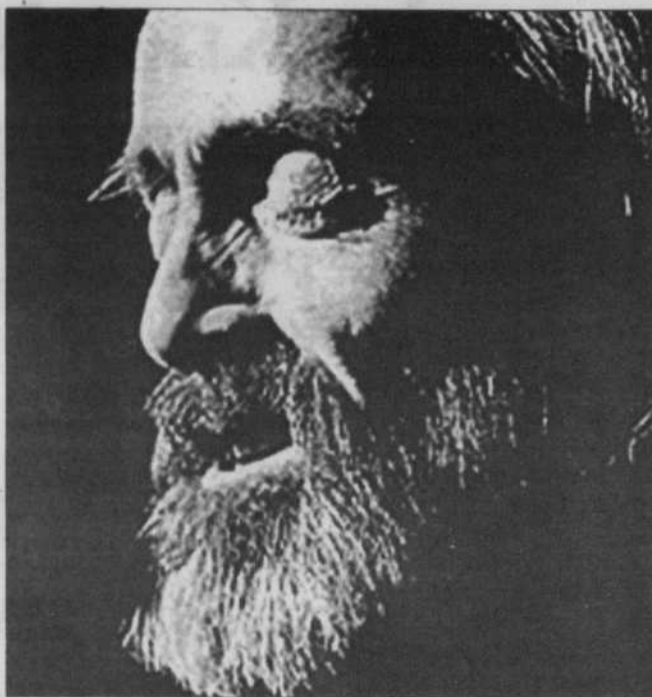
Burns knows stories. Born in County Kerry, Ireland, he grew up in the 1950s and 1960s in a family of storytellers. Without a television for entertainment, he learned to tell a tale at a very early age.

"Telling stories was our entertainment, our pastime. My dad put me in a storytelling competition when I was nine. I have been telling stories ever since," he said.

Burns brings his many tales to Sutton March 25 as part of the Contes en Vadrouille series presented by Coeur du Village and Littorale Productions.

"Mike will be our first and only English storyteller this season," explained Petronella van Dijk, director of the non-profit Littorale Productions, which organizes an international storytelling festival in Quebec every October. "He is responsible for launching English participation in the festival. We've been working together for many years now. He's a wonderful storyteller, he tells the traditional stories of his ancestors."

There are hundreds of stories to tell, the ancient tales of Ireland passed down generation after generation, growing and evolving with the every telling.



COURTESY MIKE BURNS

Mike Burns closes his eyes as he tells a story.

"Gaelic is my mother tongue, but I tell stories in English, French — I tell in whatever language Petronella wants me too. I switch back and forth if that seems right."

His soft, lilting voice can turn raucous in a heartbeat, trapping his audience like an Irish bog, pulling

them further into the story. He often has music accompanying his tales, in particular Celtic musician Taeoby Kinsella. Burns, Kinsella and the group Barde recorded a CD together, *King of the Birds*.

"The fiddle, the tin whistle, the Irish pipes all lend themselves to the tale, it's all part of the same mix," said Burns. "It all comes from the Irish peasants, from the hearth where they would gather to entertain themselves."

On the last Sunday of every month, Burns and his stories take over Montreal's Hurley's Pub.

"I have been there ever since it opened. It's home for me," he said.

The lure of the electronic media is waning according to Burns. People have had enough of commercial television.

"It just doesn't cut it anymore. Our cultures are re-discovering the magic of storytelling. At the moment it's just exploding. I thought for awhile in the '70s and early '80s that it might die out here, but it hasn't at all," he said. "In Quebec — in both French and English — the storytelling festivals are doing very well."

His performance Saturday at the Salle Alec and Gerard Pelletier, titled *Tell me that you've seen Ireland*, begins at 8 p.m. His is the third in the series that will continue monthly until June. Van Dijk takes to the stage in April with her own take on the traditional tales of Europe.

"We hope to continue the series next season, beginning in September," said van Dijk, who is currently organizing the 14th international festival taking place in October.

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# Comeback trails: Glen Mountain to rise again?

It is used to be said that there are no second acts in American lives. You make the best of your brief time upon whatever large or small stage you might perform, take a bow and make your exit. No encores or repeat performances; too late for any change of heart.

But not any more. In recent decades the public has been treated to — or subjected to — any number of re-births, comebacks and second, even third chances. Athletes and performers are particularly given to the teary-eyed retirement press conference, only to announce amidst trumpets and fanfare a few months later that they're back! (At which point many jaundiced observers are reminded of the old question, 'what is the sound of one hand clapping?')

The original comeback kid was, of course, Lazarus. Once he set the precedent, there was no stopping others. 'Born Again' became the rallying cry for many a scoundrel, sinner, loser, or ne'er-do-well. This was especially popu-

lar in the 1970s and '80s, decades which had little else to distinguish them. Not surprisingly, the west coast la-land was fertile territory for this phenomenon.

And the concept, continuing ever since, shows no signs of abating. The Swedish rock group ABBA, after a long Scandinavian hibernation, is back on the North American concert circuit, under the clever catchphrase 'Bjorn Again'.

Also, what veteran TV addict can forget that landmark year of Dallas, in which Bobby Ewing remarkably returns to life after being fatally shot at the end of the previous season? It's amazing what miracles a slump in viewer ratings will bring about.

On the matter of Dallas, off the small screen for 15 years now, plans are in the works for a full-length movie version this summer. John Travolta is slated to play the vile J.R. Ewing and apparently Montreal is the studio's first choice for

venue, which is causing many Texans to huff and puff and bluster about.

Comebacks can occur in different aspects and facets of life. Companies, organizations, institutions, and the like may fade into inactive and dormancy (we can't use 'limbo' any more), only to be revived at some later, more opportune point. In the ski business, a couple of dozen small Quebec downhill centres have gone under, unable to compete with the big operators.

While most are gone for good, a couple close to home have been resurrected. Montjoye, near North Hatley, is one of them, unclear and controversial as its re-birth has been. Mont Shefford between Waterloo and Granby is also back in business, after being closed for 2002-2003. Though the future is not guaranteed in either case, there's every reason to be optimistic.

Meanwhile, with the end of another downhill season in sight, speculation

swirls as to what fate awaits a colourful Brome County institution — the Glen Mountain ski centre. It has been mothballed for two years now, despite what turned out to be overly-ambitious pronouncements last summer that it would re-open for 2005-06.

Over most of its forty-year-plus history, Glen Mountain has produced a plethora of rumours the way a laying hen plops out eggs. Tales of seizures, closures, bankruptcies, uprisings, sales, plots, cabals, and re-sales abounded. Almost all proved false; however, an ownership change did occur in August 2004.

The new people are committed to re-opening the hill. After last year's stumble, there are now solid indications that things are moving ahead. The ever-patient faithful certainly hope such is the case.

In the interim, those suffering from Glen Mountain withdrawal should take heart in the knowledge that, after 5 p.m. in any of the local public houses, they'll find a large and animated support group.

## THE COUNTRY SQUIRE

BRIAN EDDINGTON

## BRIEFS



COURTESY BMP FOUNDATION

### Owl's Head Challenge raises \$7,800 for BMP Foundation

Organizers of the 14th Owl's Head Challenge could not have asked for better conditions this past Saturday for the annual fundraiser for the Brome-Missisquoi Perkins Hospital Foundation in Cowansville. After a wet and rainy start to the week, nearly a foot of snow fell a couple of days before the event and helped make it a great success.

More than 134 racers took to the slopes and raised \$7,800 for the Foundation, bringing the total raised over the past fourteen years to over \$100,000.

"We are very pleased with the turnout for the Owl's Head Challenge," said Frank Johnston-Main, executive director of the BMP Foundation. "To have raised \$7,800 for the Foundation shows the tremendous amount of support we receive from Fred & Lillian Korman (owners

of Owl's Head) and the Owl's Head community."

Thousands of dollars in prizes were awarded at the end of the day, including an Owl's Head golf membership and a five-day ski trip for two to Banff courtesy of SkiBig3.com.

Former Owl's Head racer J-P Daigneault posted the fastest time of the day at 35.96 seconds, and Snow School instructor Alexandra Simoneau clocked 41.83 seconds to win the women's race.

The Owl's Head Challenge is an annual fundraiser for the BMP Foundation. Competitors pay \$50 to register and receive a lift ticket for the day, a barbecue lunch, and prizes at the end of the day. Competitors also receive a tax receipt for the amount that they contribute to the event.



COURTESY QVAD

### A new voice for animals in distress

Last fall a group of concerned citizens in the Brome Lake area got together to push the provincial

government to provide permanent funding to fight animal cruelty and eradicate abusive puppy mills. Dubbing themselves Quebec Voices for Animals in Distress, they are currently circulating the petition seen here, which is available in various businesses and veterinary clinics in the Town of Brome Lake, Sutton, Abercorn, Cowansville, Dunham, Brigham, Magog, Lennoxville, Sherbrooke, Windsor, Montreal, and the South Shore.

According to group member Art Powter, they hope to present an official petition to Brome-Missisquoi MNA Pierre Paradis next month. Paradis has told The Record that he looks forward to presenting such a bill to the National Assembly. For more information on Quebec Voices for Animals in Distress, write to voixanimals@hotmail.com



COURTESY MARIE-HELENE CLOUTIER

### Leaders get a lift

On March 17 elected officials from across Brome-Missisquoi met with young and aspiring entrepre-

neers seeking to establish themselves in the region at the Auberge Des Carrefours in Cowansville. The supper was organized by the Eastern Townships Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi, and was a chance for young people to meet regional officials.

It was also a chance to promote Brome-Missisquoi's fledgling public transit service, with the officials getting a ride to the event. Seen here are Brome-Missisquoi MRC director general Robert Desmarais, Pierrette Alarie, mayor of Pike River, Arthur Fauteux, mayor of Cowansville and prefect of the MRC, Pauline Mercier-Lague, of the Farnham town council and Michel Pelletier, mayor of Notre-Dame-de-Stanbridge.



COURTESY JENNIFER JOHNSON

### Lost dogs

Jennifer Johnson of Waterloo is looking for her two dogs. The black lab and huskie cross (looks like a German Shepherd, says Johnson) got away on March 16th. A reward is being offered. Please call 450-539-2988.

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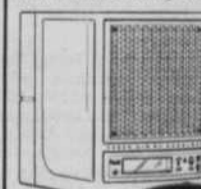
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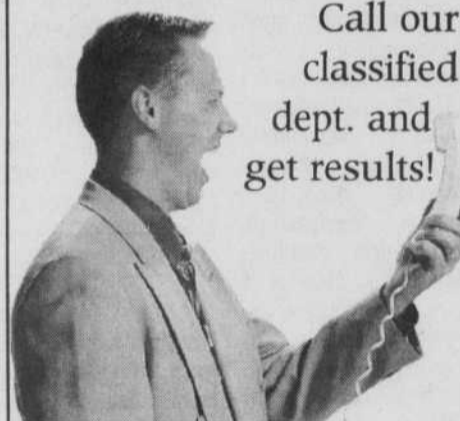
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## Births

**BROMBY** - Graeme and Geneviève (nee Pelletier) are happy to announce the birth of their first child, Emma Barbara Bromby, on March 10, 2006, 8 lbs. 12 oz., 22" long, at Hôpital



Pierre Boucher. A big healthy girl! Proud grandparents are Lise Roberge (Yvan), Michel Pelletier (Martine), Linda and Jeff Bromby. Great-grandmothers Jeannine Roberge, Carmen Castonguay (Gaston) and Barbara Forster.

**LAMARRE-JASPER**: Baby girl, Amelia, born January 26, 2006, 7 lbs. 1 oz. Proud parents are Annie Lamarre and Andy Jasper. Proud grandparents Louise and Richard Lamarre, George and Lorraine Jasper. Proud great-grandparents, Emile and Marie-Jeanne Lamarre, Arnold and Florence Jasper.



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## Golden Age Club met

## Waterloo

The Waterloo Golden Age Club met at the Legion Hall on Monday, 27th at 1:30 p.m.

The president welcomed everyone to the meeting followed by the Lord's Prayer being said in unison. Lucille Aitken read the minutes of the previous meeting. In the absence of Ruth Lefebvre there was no treasurer's report. The president announced that arrangements had been made for the annual sugaring-off party to be held on Monday, April 3rd at noon. The location would be the same as last year, Erabliere Bernard, at the west end of

Denison Ave. in Granby. Rose Gagné received a round of applause as her birthday was announced.

Winners of the half and half drawing were May Banks and Louise Lowery. Winners at "500" were as follows: Annette Meteguay and Celia Gamache tied for first with a score of 4,440. Annette Meteguay won the cut for first place; Nellie Williams, 3rd with a score of 4030. Winners at the games table was May Banks.

The meeting concluded with lunch being enjoyed by all.

Judy Arnott

## Mount Sutton Royal Arch, Chapter #12, Card Party

Feb. 28, the card party at the Oddfellows Hall in Knowlton was sponsored by the Mount Sutton, Royal Arch Masonic Lodge Chapter #12 in Sutton. There were 14 tables playing "Whist." Table #3 with Capt. Doris Wilson, Elvia Johnson, George Bailey, Rita Bowbrick and a score of 38 flags received 1st prize. Table #14 with a score of 39 flags also, received 2nd prize for Yvette McElreavy, Doug Talbot, Natalie Bilodeau and Earl Whitehouse. Table #10 with a score of 14 flags received the booby prize for Allen Badger, Pat Benoit, Donald Page, Eva Page.

Doris Wilson had the prize for 4 - 6s, and Nellie Williams

had the prize for 4 - 4s. Door prizes were won by Audrey Dean, Pat Benoit, Russell Lawrence, Stan O'Brien, Yvette McElreavy, Bob Newell, Merlyn Sturtevant, Gerry Thomas, Nat Bilodeau, Benoit Gravel, Stan Coupland, Stella Mizener, Doreen McPherson, Nancy Page, Katie Jones, Anne Foster, Doreen Gibbs, Peggy Battley.

The box of groceries went to Arnold Fletcher. The remaining winners on the tickets were George Wilson, Audrey Dean, Gilles Nadeau, Amanda Streule. A very nice lunch was enjoyed by all. See you next week.

Edna Badger

## Military Whist party at the Oddfellows Hall, Knowlton

March 7, and its Military Whist night at the Oddfellows Hall, and there are 15 tables ready to play.

1st prize goes to Table #6 with 40 flags, to Capt. Nancy Page, Gilles Nadeau, Peggy Battley and Art Hall. Prize #2 goes to Table #1 with 39 flags to Capt. Russell Lawrence, Louise Lowry, Ola Streeter and Kay L.

The consolation prize went to Table #11 with 13 flags to Marcel Premont, Margaret Wiber, Jean d'Arc Elie, and Annette Mediguy. Rita Bowbrick received the prize for having 4 x 8s and Stan Coupland for having 4 x 9s.

door prizes went to Gilles Nadeau. Stan O'Brien, Herb Riti, Doreen McPherson, Allan Badger, Nancy Page, Stella Mizener, Gerald Coupland, Muriel Whitehead, Simone Cusson, Rita

Bowbrick, Doug Talbot, Donald Page, Elvia Johnson, Emily Gravel.

The grocery box went to Alex Herbet. Other draws from the tickets went to Doreen McPherson, Earl Whitehouse

and Doris Wilson.

Lunch was enjoyed by all. See you all next week.

Edna Badger

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# Towards better healthcare services Guaranteeing access

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Since April 2003, the government of Québec has introduced a series of measures that have cut a number of waiting times and waiting lists substantially, revitalized the organization of the network, and improved the services provided to citizens.

Today, Quebecers can count on a health system that has benefited from the injection of an additional \$3 billion, an investment that has brought, among others, the following improvements:

- shorter waiting times and higher volumes of priority surgical procedures;
- improved organization of services, with the creation of 95 health and social-services centres tailored to conditions in each territory;
- a tightened-up Tobacco Act and a ban on smoking in public places;
- accreditation of 108 family medicine groups (FMGs) serving over 730,000 people, compared with 19 FMGs in 2003;
- higher medical school admissions, with the Québec contingent rising from 406 in 1998-1999 to 748 in 2005-2006;
- compulsory certification for private residential facilities;
- 45,000 more seniors obtaining their medication free of charge since July 2005;
- quality assessment visits of CHSLDs and youth centres;
- more regional medical training, with the Trois-Rivières and Saguenay satellite campuses and the deployment of family medicine units;
- a government campaign to promote healthy lifestyles.



## Now we need to go further

The government of Québec is asking the population to consider various avenues for solutions that will enable us, collectively, to meet the challenges of access, quality, efficiency and financing that face us. These proposals will be debated before the National Assembly's Commission des affaires sociales starting on April 4, 2006.

The government of Québec also wishes to discuss all these questions with the greatest possible number of Quebecers. Accordingly, it invites members of the public to express their opinions by taking part in an online consultation.

Please visit [www.msss.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca) and click *Guaranteeing access*, online consultation.

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