

Happy Holidays

Record staff wish you all a Merry Christmas. We will not be publishing on the 25th or the 28th

THE RECORD

THE VOICE OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SINCE 1897

Firefighters Bearing Gifts

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2009

Reaction to new budget positive

By Doug McCooye
SHERBROOKE

Reaction from area businesses, landlords, and organizations has been mostly positive regarding the 2010 city budget that was adopted on Monday by the Sherbrooke municipal council. The city plans to spend a little more than \$233.6 million in the next year; up 9 percent from last year's \$223.9 million budget.

In all, the city will contribute \$21.2 million to city organizations; up from the close to \$20 million the city spent last year. While many of the city's organizational leaders are happy, some are wary of the consistent increase in spending over the last few years.

"For the last five years, (city) spending has gone from \$176 million to \$233 million for a 32 percent increase," noted Serge Audet, president of Sherbrooke's Chamber of Commerce. "I believe it is time for our councillors to review their spending (...) It is essential that this happens before the next budget and that they use the expertise of qualified people from outside of Sherbrooke's municipal administration." Audet added that his organization would be happy to provide any necessary help in this effort.

Sherbrooke Mayor Bernard Sévigny has already expressed an interest in examining the way the city is run. David Price, Lennoxville's Borough president and member of the city's executive committee, also believes that it is important for Sherbrooke to improve its efficiency.

CONT'D ON PAGE 7

One Fast Fire

Flames engulf building in under ten minutes, no one injured



COREY BELLAM

Firefighters responded twice on Tuesday to a stubborn blaze that destroyed a garage but were able to keep the flames from spreading to a nearby home just outside of Sawyerville. See the full story on Page 5

Ice Fishing On Thin Ice

The ice fishing season has begun but with ever-changing weather patterns bringing warmer temperatures, enthusiasts are being a little more careful...Page 4



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Santa Stopover



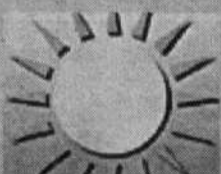
AL BARBER

Sponsored by Waterville's Sports and Leisure Association, Santa came to the United Church last Saturday and young Desirée Bélanger wasn't sure what to think of the jolly fat man. While Belanger examined the long white beard and red and white suit for some time, two-year-old Arnaud Desrosiers knew this was his chance to give Saint Nic his list. Santa was able to give each registered child a gift purchased by the Association with funds collected by the non-profit group throughout the year from a variety of different events.

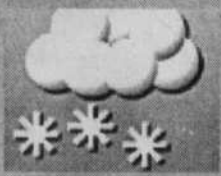
Weather



THURSDAY
SUNNY
PERIODS
HIGH OF -1
LOW OF -10



FRIDAY:
MOSTLY
SUNNY
HIGH OF -1
LOW OF -6



SATURDAY:
LIGHT
SNOW
HIGH OF -1
LOW OF -5



SUNDAY:
MIXED
PRECIPITA-
TION
HIGH OF 2
LOW OF -8



MONDAY:
SHOWERS
HIGH OF 3
LOW OF -5

Messy weather for the weekend



GORDON ALEXANDER

RICHMOND — A heavy veil of frost hangs over the St. Francis River covering the river and frosting the trees. This scene was taken from the Melburne section of Richmond Saturday as temperatures plummeted to -25.

By Andrew Retchless

A slow moving low pressure system and its associated frontal boundary will affect our region over the weekend. We will be on the warm side of this system which means that any snow will change over to a period of rain early on Sunday.

On Friday, Christmas Day, a high pressure blocking pattern will keep any precipitation south of our region. Christmas day should be mostly sunny with a high around the freezing mark. Simply a beautiful day!

The slow but gradual warm-up will set up the conditions for mixed precipitation with the onset of stormier weather on Saturday. Most areas will see snow at the start and then a mix to sleet and rain early on Sunday. The upper level low associated with this

feature will then slowly move through early next week with on again - off again snow showers..

The nature of this storm will prevent a large thaw so our snow pack should still be intact for winter sports. Above freezing temperatures should not last for more than 12 hours on Sunday.

Looking ahead to the New Year, the busy east coast storm track will continue. A storm passing just to our east could spread some snow over our area over the New Year period.

There is no indication of a major thaw at this time.

Please travel carefully. Make sure you have a winter survival kit in your car! At this time I would like to wish everyone a Merry White Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Thursday: Cloudy, then gradually

becoming mostly sunny, with a high near -1. Light East wind.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around -10. Calm wind.

Christmas Day: Mostly sunny, with a high near +1. Calm wind.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around -6.

Saturday: Light snow likely, mainly after 1pm. Mostly cloudy, with a high near -1. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Saturday Night: Light snow likely, possibly mixing with sleet and freezing rain. Cloudy, with a low around -5. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Sunday: Rain and snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near +2. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

Sunday Night: A chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a low around -8. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Ben by Daniel Shelton



LOCAL NEWS

"Even if you are alone in the bank and no one is around you still need to hide your hand and fingers when entering your pin."

IN BRIEF

Municipal Severance Pay

The six members Sherbrooke's municipal council who retired from the municipal politics scene in November will benefit from \$327,000 in severance pay.

At more than \$173,000, ex-mayor Jean Perrault will receive the bulk of the compensation.

According to the law, any member of the council who serves more than two years has a right to a severance package. The amount given to the ex-councillors is calculated according to their annual salaries and the number of years of experience.

According to a report, the City of Sherbrooke has provided an additional monetary compensation to any mayor who leaves his/her post, regardless of the circumstances. While Sherbrooke has done this for a number of years, it is not required under the law.

Missing Person

A 22-year-old Sherbrooke man is still missing after disappearing late Monday night in Cookshire-Eaton.

Jesse Buzzell was last seen at around 10 p.m. the night of December 21 on Spring Road near the Robert Road intersection. He had been kicked out of a car that was transporting him to Sherbrooke following a dispute with another of the vehicle's passengers.

Reports indicate that Buzzell was intoxicated at the time of his disappearance.

A Sûreté du Québec search team was deployed in the area where the 22-year-old was last seen.

If you have any information as to Jesse Buzzell's whereabouts, contact the SQ at 819-310-4141

Listeria fears prompts recall

OTTAWA - A nationwide recall has been issued on several types of processed meat products over fears that it may be contaminated with the bacteria, *Listeria monocytogenes*.

Canadians were warned Tuesday not to eat several processed ham and chicken products sold under the Olymel, Royal, and Lafleur brands and the pepperoni family pack sold under the Roma brand.

The meat products, sold in different sized packages, may also have been distributed in Ontario and Quebec, according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The meat products were produced by Olymel S.E.C., in Montreal.

No illnesses have been associated with the recall.

Foods contaminated with listeria may not look or smelled spoiled but can cause high fever, severe headaches, neck stiffness and nausea. Infection during pregnancy can lead to premature delivery, infection of the newborn or even stillbirth.

Not a nice Christmas gift

Resident warns others of Lennoxville bank card cloning

By Jen Young
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

While readying herself for Christmas, Lennoxville resident Janet Angrave received a phone call that she says left her with an unnerving feeling.

"(Tuesday) morning I received a call from my bank because they noticed unusual activity in my account," said Angrave, who conducts her banking business at Lennoxville's RBC (Royal Bank of Canada), yesterday. "Supposedly it's been happening since Saturday. Someone had gone into my account and took small amounts of money, twice. Then on Monday they waited until midnight and then started withdrawing the daily limits. When I went in they told me that they could tell that someone had tried to access my savings account too, but couldn't. This is not quite a nice Christmas gift. When I was leaving the bank after getting my new card I ran in to others that this has happened to."

RBC media spokesman Raymond Chouinard confirmed the crime and says there have been a number of Lennoxville customers hit by "fraudsters" but all customers will be compensated after an investigation is conducted.

"It's really too bad this happened right before Christmas like this," he stated from his Montreal office yesterday morning. "There have been a number of frauds and they all took place at an ATM machine at the bank. We are starting an investigation and we have forwarded all information to the Sherbrooke police. This type of fraud has been happening for some time where fraudsters use cloned cards. They need the magnetic strip and they need the pin number. Without both of those things they can't access your account. In our investigation we need to make sure that all victims are eligible (the bank needs to confirm that each case is truly a case of fraud) and we will compensate them for the lost funds."

According to Angrave, she knows others who are also fraud victims as of late and she says the fraudulent withdrawals have been happening for weeks.

"I don't understand why the bank didn't warn its customers that this was going on," she says. "It's very unnerving to know that nothing is really private or



JEN YOUNG

Police advise bank card users to avoid ATMs not associated with a larger institution

secure. People should be warned but I don't know how to warn them. I'm very discreet with my pin. I barely use my card, I don't like to. I usually pay with cash instead. I guess the best thing to do is go directly to a teller."

Sherbrooke police spokeswoman Maryse Boulanger says aside from hiding your pin number, bankcard users should never use ATMs that are not associated to a banking institution.

Chouinard says that everyone should always make every effort possible to hide pin numbers, but in a case like Angrave's when suspects have less opportunity to steal numbers, he says they could have very well placed a video camera in the ATM's proximity.

"Card cloning has been a problem for years. It's everywhere," he says. "Even if you are alone in the bank and no one is around you still need to hide your hand and fingers when entering your pin. It's immensely important to protect that pin and never, ever give your number to anyone, even relatives, for any reason."

Reimbursing stolen funds

should happen rather quickly Chouinard says, and Angrave should expect compensation within two weeks at most, but one thing that Angrave won't get back is her trust in bankcard usage.

"I just hope this doesn't happen to anyone else," she concluded.

FUTURESHOP

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BlackBerry users urged to download new software following massive outage

CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

WATERLOO, Ont. - Two massive system-wide service outages this week that left millions of BlackBerry users across North America in the dark for hours were blamed Wednesday on a bug in the hand-held device's instant messaging program.

The flaw was believed to be in two recent versions of BlackBerry Instant Messenger that have been available for download since Dec. 14, according to the Waterloo, Ont.-based Research In Motion.

The company is advising users who made the downloads to upgrade the application as a precaution.

"Root cause is currently under review, but based on preliminary analysis, it currently appears that the issue stemmed from a flaw in two recently released versions of BlackBerry Messenger (versions 5.0.0.55 and 5.0.0.56) that caused an unanticipated database issue within the BlackBerry infrastructure," said company spokesman Jamie Ernst in an e-mail Wednesday. "RIM has taken corrective action to restore service."

This latest outage lasted nearly eight hours after e-mail stopped working on the devices late Tuesday night. Service began to be restored by 8 a.m. Wednesday, with some users reporting a lag in sending and receiving mail and web browsing. Customers were still able to use their devices as telephones and to send instant messages.

The company apologized for the unplanned blackout.

There was a similar widespread e-mail outage early last Thursday, which was fixed by mid-afternoon. That outage affected North and South American users.

Last week, the company delivered its third-quarter results, to positive reviews. The financial results, which were in line with predictions, played up its outlook for the coming year.

Research in Motion said sales for the next quarter should be between \$3.3 billion and \$3.5 billion, ahead of the roughly \$3 billion analysts had been expecting.

The company also said it expects to add about 2.9 million new subscribers next quarter, also higher than expected.

Plastic program expanding

By Doug McCooeye

In an environmental effort by the MRC Coaticook, the municipality will expand its agricultural plastic film recovery program to all of the farmers who fall within its boundaries.

For much of the last few years, the Farmers Union in Coaticook has been actively seeking a solution for the excess plastic that accumulates on many of the area's farms. In 2007, Compton and Saint-Edwidge launched a recovery program that, in 2009, managed to recycle 23 tons of plastic from some 40 farmers.

About a year ago, the City of Coaticook also did a one-time recovery effort that managed to recover 55 tons of plastic from around 30 farms.

Inspired by these positive results, the Farmers Union and the MRC Coaticook decided to launch the monthly plastic recovery program.

"The recovery program is an ecological solution for the problem of plastics used at the farm," said Coaticook's Farmers Union president, Jacques Masson. "We are encouraging all of the area's producers to use this service."

Beginning in January, trucks will travel around the MRC Coaticook once a month to collect plastic films for recycling.



Coaticook's plastic film recovery program will be expanding to include all farmers in the area

COURTESY

Accepted plastics include: round or square bale wrapping; cylindrical tubing; plastic tarp; green house plastics; bags of feed or other plastic bags; pallet wrapping; other plastic films. Plastics that are not part of the recovery program include: string, ropes, nets; mulch plastics; weaved tarps, tubes, and pipes; hoses, plastic containers or other rigid plastics.

The plastics, which must be cleaned before disposal, should be tied in to small bundles that are no more than 50 pounds or in a clearly identified bin and placed by the road for pick-up.

This recovery program is an effort to avoid the environmentally damaging practice of burning plastic films. Offenders who are caught burning their plastic films are liable for thousands of dollars in fines.

Some 250 farmers have already signed up for this new program. For more details or to become part of the collection route, contact the MRC Coaticook at 819-849-9166 or by email at mat.residuelles@mrcdecoaticook.qc.ca.

To obtain a plastic film collection bin, one can contact the entrepreneur directly at 819-889-2893.

Ice fishing on thin ice

By Corrinna Pole

Wednesday, the Quebec regional offices of Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced the groundfish ice-fishing season on the Saguenay River would open on January 9.

In the Townships, fishing enthusiasts have already taken to local lakes when fishing season opened on December 20. But the ever-changing weather pattern means that those who venture out onto the ice should exercise extreme caution.

Experienced outdoorsman Florent Hebert from Serendipity Bed & Breakfast in North Hatley, believes those currently heading out on the ice are doing so at their own peril because lakes are not fully frozen over.

"The best ice fishing is in the beginning of the big freeze. The cooler temperature is the key but the wind is really helpful in forming the ice," said Hebert. "A few days ago I saw about four fishermen on little lake Magog, that's borderline wanting to commit suicide, we don't have the ice we should have due to strong winds. Experienced fishermen will walk out on four inches of ice but it's really dangerous."

Hebert says the fishing so far is tremendous but the terrain is hazardous because serious gusts of wind

aided by the high water level from abundant rain earlier in the season have prevented lakes from freezing over completely.

The ice that is currently forming may appear solid and according to Hebert there's been enough cold weather to freeze the freshwater lakes that tend to harden much stronger, but sticking close to the shoreline is advisable.

Although it's generally thought that ice should be a minimum of five inches thick to be considered safe, there is no set standard. Each lake reacts differently depending on its properties - such as currents, depth and size - and ice formations may be deceptive.

River ice is a prime example; currents can cause the thickness of the ice to vary substantially from one spot to the next.

The irregularity of ice is a prime reason that vehicles should never be taken across a lake.

"I would recommend if you are going out on the ice, and I don't recommend it right now, you should follow others' tracks and hope they weight more than you," said Hebert.

Previously Hebert told The Record that black ice, which is fairly transparent and creates an aquarium like effect, is the strongest type of ice and white ice is more dangerous.

Snow building up on the ice also presents a danger as it can insulate ice from freezing and hide weak points. Consider slush to be a blaring klaxon horn as it indicates decaying ice.

If you are going to venture onto the ice for fishing, follow some basic tips to keep safe:

- Wear a personal flotation device and appropriate clothing that will stay dry.

- Apply Vaseline to your face and wear sunglasses to keep your eyes safe from UV rays.

- Don't fish alone and give someone your itinerary.

- Test the ice in front of you with an ice spud or an auger.

- Drink a lot of water to keep hydrated.

- Always carry a nylon rope and a few large nails. They can provide the grip you need in case you fall through the ice and can't grab on to the edge. Face the direction you came from, kick out with your legs, or use your nails to grab on, and roll off as far as you feel is necessary to be safe again. Do NOT stand up immediately you will likely just fall through again.

- If you see someone fall through, do not run toward them, instead extend a rope or an object that they can hold onto.

Danville residents face higher house evaluations and taxes

By Stephen McDougall
DANVILLE

Many Danville residents will face another round of tax hikes in 2010 due to higher residential house evaluations averaging 51 percent made earlier this fall by the municipal regional council.

"For 842 property owners, the evaluations will go up between 50 and 100 percent in value," said town manager Michel Lecours.

"In 243 other cases, the evaluation increases will be even higher."

The higher evaluations were made last fall by an evaluator hired by the Des Sources municipal regional council which oversees Danville, Asbestos and five other neighbouring towns.

The town's total property value went from \$138,771,500 under the former evaluation role to \$209,628,300 now. The new evaluation role is in effect for three years.

Lecours said the increases are mostly for owners of heritage buildings, farms and people with woodlots. He said 1,039 owners with younger houses and smaller lots will not see a large jump in their properly evaluations.

In order to compensate for the evaluation jump, the town dropped its prop-

erty tax rate by 38 cents. That means the present mill rate of \$1.31 per \$100 of evaluation will drop to 93 cents in 2010.

"This is the only way we can control our taxes for our residents without losing needed money for our own operations," said mayor Jacques Hemond.

"If we went any lower, then we would be in a deficit situation, which is illegal under the present provincial laws for municipalities."

But the tax adjustment causes some inequities for residents depending on their new evaluations. In one case, a house rated at \$74,100 under the old role cost the owner \$1,039 in taxes. But the same house is now rated at \$160,800 in the new role and the owner faces a tax bill of \$1,568.

But another house once rated at \$91,500 under the old role with a tax bill of \$1,267 is now evaluated at \$95,200 and gets a tax bill of only \$961.

Lecours said the new evaluations cannot be contested by the towns, only by the individual residents.

"Because each property is unique, it is up to the individual owner to contest the evaluation before a board set up by the MRC," he said.

"If the owner thinks the evaluation is too high, they have to prove that before the board."

Hemond believes the reason for the higher evaluations is the large number of houses being sold in Danville.

"There are a lot of people who are getting older and selling their houses to younger people who have families or are about to have families," he said.

"Whenever that happens, the house prices affect the values and the evaluations follow those values."

Despite the higher taxes, Hemond said the town had to cut back on expenses to allow for the drop in the mill rate and faces more possible cutbacks in the new year.

"We are considering having some workshops with community leaders and residents to see where other expenses could be cut without jeopardizing basic services," he said.

"We need feedback from residents on this issue."

One service the council is considering cutting back on is the fire department, where there are growing costs for equipment and salaries.

At the town council budget meeting Tuesday night, fire chief Alain Roy said

the department can no longer get able firefighters without paying them for their time.

"The days of the volunteer firefighter are gone," he told the council.

"No one does anything for free now, and in many cases, the government rules dictate that many services have to be paid and the firefighter has to have proper training.

"And equipment costs are not going down, they are going up."

The Danville budget will increase from \$4,278,931 this year to \$4,455,032 despite a reduction of over \$52,000 in urban planning and administrative costs, plus a freeze on overhead budgets. Higher police, road work and sanitation costs were the reason for the budget increase.

Beside higher property taxes, service charges are also rising. Water charges go from \$144 this year to \$175 next year, while waste collection goes up from \$191 to \$194. Sewage service charges will vary from sector to sector, with some going up by \$23 in the western sector and falling by \$17 in the eastern sector.

Cookshire-Eaton FD battle explosive blaze

By Corrinna Pole

Twenty-two fire fighters spent the better part of Tuesday battling a ferocious fire that devoured a garage on the outskirts of Sawyerville.

The Cookshire-Eaton First Responders received a call to the Service Ranboro, also known as Tétreault garage, located on route 210 around 9:45 a.m. within minutes they arrived on scene.

"The owner was there in the building working when the fire broke out. He had time to get his tractor out before it was fully engulfed," Cookshire-Eaton fire chief Mike Herring told The Record. "The Sawyerville (department) was there within nine minutes but there was enough air and combustible materials that it was raging by the time they arrived."

According to Herring it appears a faulty heating system is to blame for the blaze made more dangerous due to propane and oxygen tanks within the garage.

"We had to proceed with caution because of all the combustible materials," said Herring. "It was a defensive fire, one of those you have to tippy toe around. It was very dangerous but no one was hurt."

Fire-fighters were able to control the flames within a few hours, just in time to free up a few members to respond to

two separate car accidents elsewhere.

Later that night crews were dispatched again to the garage as the fire reignited.

"We considered it full out at 4:30 (p.m.) and then went back later that night," said Herring. "It was just a small fire...it was like a campfire. There was a lot of lumber there so we thought it might catch again but we put it out pretty easily."

The garage is a complete loss.

"I believe this is the first fire with material loss of the season," said Herring. "It's always sad when someone loses a building especially so close to the holidays but at least no one was hurt."

Herring said the department has continued to respond to chimney fires but so far those fires have caused no material loss.





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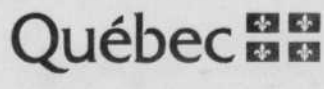

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EDITORIAL

"Celebrations around the Winter Solstice are always about hope and the promise that despite the darkness now, light will be coming"



Mike McDevitt

Call it what you will

Christmas is, of course, a time of year when we try to put most of our problems behind us and settle into a brief period of peace, tranquility and the company of our loved ones. The daily grind is forgotten, albeit briefly, and the crinkling of wrapping paper provides the scenes of children's joy to brighten our days and our memories to come. Whether one celebrates a traditional religious feast or a secular one, the season is dominated by thoughts of human kinship, respect and a desire for peace.

Let's forget the crass commercialism that has tried, but failed, to kill the spiritual nature of this seasonal celebration. We can even try to forget the credit card bills that will arrive in January and suck the life out of the rest of the year, knowing that the delight on a surprised child's face is worth almost any price.

There has been considerable squabbling in recent years as to how a society as diverse as ours should celebrate this season. As an offshoot of European Christian culture, the society that has grown up on these shores has attached many of the symbols, traditions and beliefs of that religious base onto our body politic. We swear oaths on the Bible, we ask God to save our queen and we celebrate Christmas as most of our ancestors did, although they did so considerably more modestly and in better taste. But Canada is not a Christian country. Although a majority of our population has inherited Christian traditions, considerably fewer of us actually practice that faith in any other than a habitual manner. We do show up for the Big Ones, though, and Christmas has become the biggest of them all.

In recent decades, however, Canada's immigrants have been coming from a much broader base than just old European stock. Asians, Africans, and people from everywhere else have been flocking to our shores with hope and expectations of a better life - and traditions of their own. For the most part, these expectations are met and new Canadians rank among the most vociferously enthusiastic of our citizens, often putting the "old stock" Canucks to shame.

Canada is a diverse and open society, committed to fighting the prejudices that lurk inside all of us in order to create something new, something stronger and something looking forward. This openness annoys us, from time to time, as we stumble all over ourselves trying to be inclusive, but we are Canadians, after all, and our innate politeness generally wins out over our xenophobic grumpiness.

Celebrations around the Winter Solstice are always about hope and the promise that despite the darkness now, light will be coming and its accompanying warmth will ensure a new spring and new life. The feeling is the same, regardless of what you call your god or what you believe it wants. So as the days get longer and the sun climbs higher in the sky, may we all enjoy the coming of the New Year and its new challenges and rewards. Call it what you will



"the owners constitute the actual threat"

Letters

DEAR EDITOR:

Woof! Woof! This should give you an idea of what I'm about to say in this (hopefully) brief letter.

Dogs have and continue to pose real problems or threats to innocent passers-by.

A few weeks ago, my wife and I were emerging from a house on Church Street in Cowansville when along came a young, slightly built woman with two large dogs on leashes that she was trying to hold on to. The dogs "exploded" from her grip onto us, not in a threatening way to be sure, but nonetheless a very scary situation! Had these dogs been of a vicious nature, imagine the injuries we surely would have suffered! Clearly this person had no business walking these two undis-

ciplined brutes anywhere except on her own property. Come to think of it, the owners constitute the actual threat. It's said that a dog gradually assumes its owner's traits and personality. Judging by what I've witnessed over decades of observing these animals, I'd have to say that it's all too true. Just because the dogs bear collars with dog tags attached does not in any way give their owners carte blanche to turn them loose on an unsuspecting public.

I wonder if Cowansville has an animal control officer standing by to investigate complaints of this nature. True, I've waited too long to act on this matter, but your readers should be forewarned and ready to act.

GEORGE KAMMERER,
Dunham

THE RECORD

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us here at The Record!

COLUMNIST

"While we appreciate the oversight of checking this list once, then checking it twice, we feel that more thorough record-keeping is critical."

To Santa Claus, CEO, SantaCorp



ROSS MURRAY

Dear Mr. Claus:

Enclosed herewith, please find the executive summary of the efficiency review for SantaCorp conducted by our firm, Bindare Dundatt & Associates.

Introduction

SantaCorp's is a manufacturer and worldwide distributor of toys with headquarters at the North Pole. Its mission is to spread cheer and joy to girls and boys. SantaCorp is a non-profit corporation. Indeed, it appears to operate entirely without revenue of any kind.

Marketing

SantaCorp dominates traditional media, restricted, however, to a one-to-two-month period. We encourage SantaCorp to create a more sustained year-round campaign.

As mentioned in our earlier survey, "Decking New Halls in the New Millennium," SantaCorp enjoys a strong market share in the 0-10-year-old demographic but suffers from a serious credibility gap among 11-25-year-olds. SantaCorp should attempt to appeal to this demographic by capitalizing on social networking options such as Facebook, Twitter and viral video. (See Appendix D: "YuleTube: Santa stuck in the chimney and other concepts.")

While SantaCorp's market presence is secure, there continues to be significant competition from God & Son, Inc. Though its market share has been dwindling for several decades, God & Son's customers remain faithful. This hampers SantaCorp's ability to fully actualize its market potential. Rather than continuing to go head to head with the God & Son brand, we recommend that SantaCorp reschedule its product re-

lease date from December 25 to January 13.

Human Resources

We have concerns about SantaCorp's hiring policy. A review of the employee files reveals a glaring lack of diversity. Almost all hires are vertically challenged individuals with aural malformations. While SantaCorp should be applauded for hiring people of difference, the exclusive nature of these hires borders on the fetishistic. Fortunately, the North Pole is in international waters and SantaCorp is not bound by specific equal opportunity hiring regulations. However, the perceived reverse discrimination could result in a public relations backlash.

In addition, management should be aware that certain employees expressed feelings of shame and humiliation about having to wear bells on their work shoes.

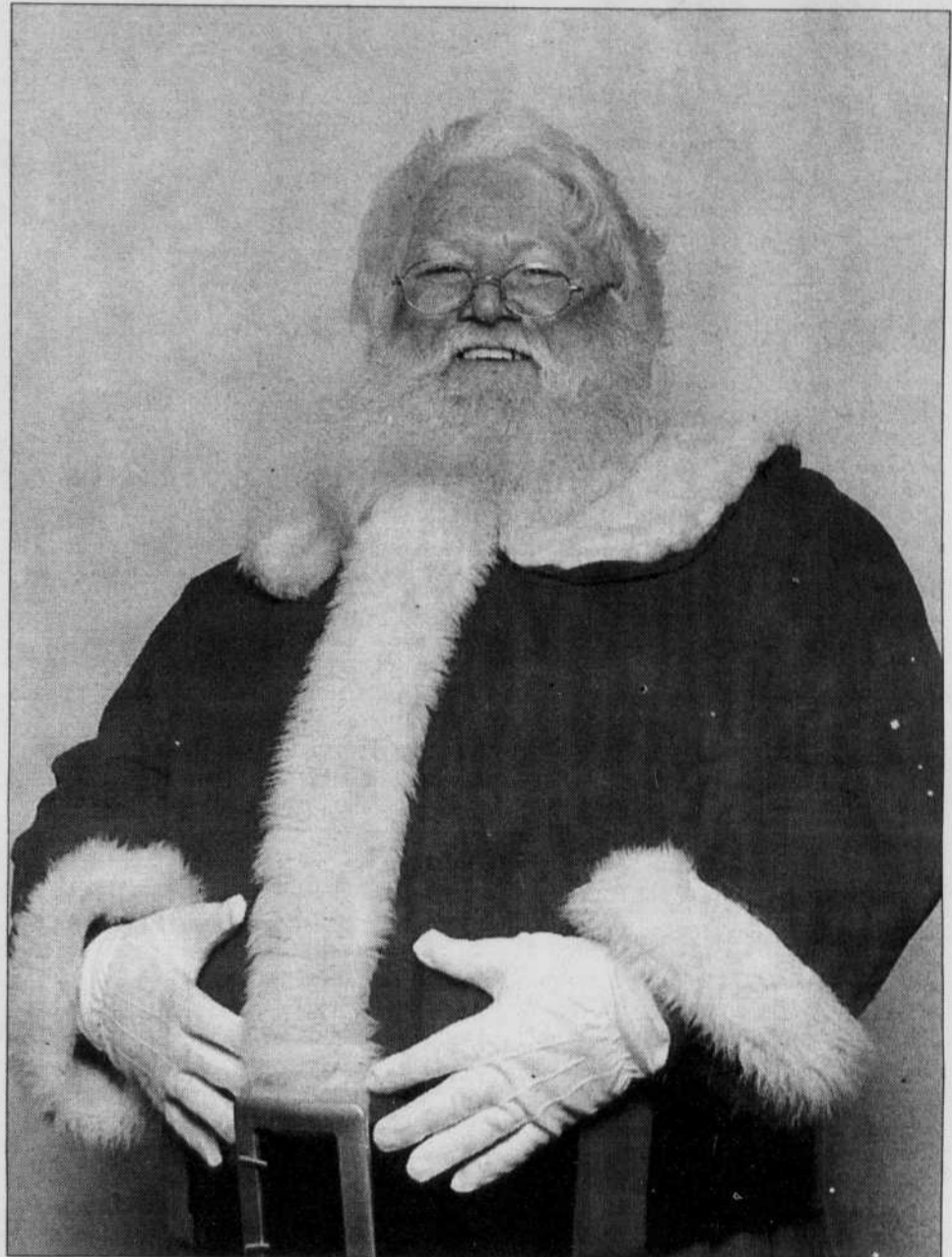
Manufacturing

We have discovered serious procedural flaws and trade practice inconsistencies in SantaCorp's manufacturing process. It appears, for example, that many of the toys "manufactured" by SantaCorp carry brand names and/or patented designs from other corporations. In exploring this further, we failed to discover paperwork pertaining to these products or the raw material used to fabricate toys in the workshop. Moreover, when we requested these records from Mr. Claus, he was uncooperative, merely nodding and laying a finger aside of his nose.

Record-keeping in general appears to be lax. Customer lists, for example, are hand-written entries in a giant book. Data entry is limited to two fields: name, naughty/nice. While we appreciate the oversight of checking this list once, then checking it twice, we feel that more thorough record-keeping is critical.

Distribution

The total dependance on reindeer flight for distribution is unreliable and a potential health hazard. (See Appendix E: "Reindeer-to-human transmission of Inflamed Nose Syndrome.") It is also a public relations red flag; as you are aware, SantaCorp has received accusations of cruelty from PETA for requiring said reindeer to circumnavigate the globe in one night. For all the above reasons, we recommend that SantaCorp



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA

The Big Guy, in the flesh

outsource shipping and distribution to FedEx.

Plant location

Locating headquarters at an isolated location atop Arctic Sea ice contributes significantly to operation expenses (e.g. transportation, heating). As if this were not already problematic, the very future of the workshop at this location is in jeopardy due to the ongoing melting of Arctic ice. For these reasons and with the added benefit of reduced labour

costs, we recommend that SantaCorp relocate its operations to Mexico.

Conclusion

SantaCorp remains a mystery. The company operates in total secrecy, displays a complete lack of transparency and accountability, and conducts clandestine activities that involve serious privacy violations. We therefore recommend that SantaCorp develop a new revenue stream by contracting itself out to Homeland Security.

Budget reactions positive

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

"We're going to take a look at certain things to see what we can do better," he said on Monday. "(We'll) see what we need and don't need. That way we can be more efficient in the long run."

Despite his concerns, Audet is content with this year's budget. "I am grateful to the mayor and to the mem-

bers of the council for presenting a budget that shows continuity with the past while also integrating new concerns that are important to the future of Sherbrooke."

Most of the organizations that received money from Sherbrooke last year saw an increase in compensation from the city this year. Among them is Innovation et Développement

économique Sherbrooke (IDES) who will enjoy an investment of almost \$4.7 million for the upcoming year; up 7.6 percent from a year ago.

"The rise in our organization's budget was unavoidable," said Pierre Bélanger, Director of IDES, adding that the ambitious objectives that they have set will make Sherbrooke a major player on the national and interna-

tional scene in the coming year.

Audet seems to echo the sentiment of most of the organization leaders who will receive money from the city in 2010. "This budget, the first from mayor Bernard Sévigny, is a good budget," he said. "But we still need to review the spending done by the city."

The Border Report

"a chance for our many dedicated volunteers to meet and exchange,"

Busy Season at Rediker Centre



COURTESY CAB REDIKER

The second annual volunteers' tea took place at the Rediker Centre on December 5.

By Matthew Farfan

December has been a busy month for staff and volunteers at Stanstead's CAB Rediker. The Centre, whose mission is "to promote volunteer work in different areas of human activity" and "to provide a response to the needs" of the community, hosted a number of events leading up to the Christmas holidays.

On December 4, the Centre held its second annual volunteers' tea. The event was intended as "a chance for our many dedicated volunteers to meet and exchange," says CAB executive director Mylène LaBonté. "And we timed it to coincide with International Volunteer Day, which took place on December 5."

In all, there are about 115 volunteers who donate their time in various ways and at various times of year at the CAB Rediker. Many of them came to the tea, which included live music by Lise Flanders, a visit from Santa, lights snacks, and tea or coffee.

On December 8, a Christmas party was held at the CAB for the English seniors group. The program included seniors' activities, a Christmas lunch and a visit from Santa. On December 10, a similar day was held for the French seniors' group.

On December 9, at the CAB's Dufferin Street location, the organization hosted a holiday fete and meal for the parents and children enrolled in the Centre's stimulation program for kids under 5. Santa Claus, as usual, put in an appearance,

armed with his sack of toys.

On December 14, the CAB held a Christmas party for "the Flames," its English seniors' exercise group in Ayer's Cliff. The brunch, which was hosted by Lynn Wood, took place at the Beulah United Church.

Throughout much of November and December, CAB Rediker accepted sign-ups for its Christmas baskets. "People had to call for themselves," says LaBonté. "Our committee reviewed each request, with baskets handed out on the basis of need. We looked at applicants' income and expenses to determine if the need is there."

Funds were also collected by the CAB in collaboration with local Canada Customs agents. There were a number of ways that people in the community could help out, LaBonté says. Some donated money at local customs offices. Others purchased a raffle ticket for the painting on display at the CIBC in Beebe. Others donated non-perishable food items in the boxes located at various outlets around town. Still others purchased a light on the Stanstead Legion's Memory Christmas tree, which was lit up on December 5. Everything collected went towards putting together the Christmas baskets.

Following this hectic schedule of activities, the staff and volunteers at the CAB Rediker are taking a much deserved break for Christmas. The Centre's two locations (Principale and Dufferin Streets) will be closed from December 19 to January 3 inclusively.

Council News

FIRE TRUCK STALLED; TOWN NOMINATED FOR HOCKEYVILLE 2010

By Matthew Farfan

A special meeting of Stanstead town council was held on December 21. A number of people were in attendance, expecting a decision on the controversial purchase of a new fire truck by the town.

To the surprise of many, the decision on the truck was postponed until after the new year. According to Mayor Philippe Dutil, the reason for the postponement was that it was recently discovered that the specifications in the call for tender for the fire truck did not conform to the MRC Memphremagog's "schema de couverture de risques." So the call for tenders will have to be modified and new submissions solicited.

Some in attendance were surprised that council had been prepared to vote at all on the issue up until the start of the meeting, when it had been promised (on several occasions) that a public consultation would be held before any decisions were taken. When asked by the Record about this, Mayor Dutil conceded that council would be happy to hold a public information meeting if that was what people really wanted. When pressed further by this paper, he said that yes, a public meeting would be held before any decisions are taken.

Although the fire truck was put off, a few other matters were addressed. A 2007 GMC "Topkick" truck was purchased for use of the road department. Price tag: \$72,000. And a pared-down shopping list of fire department equipment was approved, minus two safety vests and a trailer. Cost: \$17,100. When

asked why some of the equipment had been eliminated from the list, Councillor Paul Stuart said that two vests would suffice and that Fire Chief Mike McKenna agreed. Councillor Chris Goodsell, a member of the fire department, abstained from voting on this motion, but seemed disappointed.

During question period, Councillor Guy Ouellet told the Record that the plumbing problem at the Park Street skating rink had been solved by stuffing hay around the pipes. Now, he said, the pipes under the bathroom would not freeze.

Another announcement to come out of this meeting was the fact that Stanstead has been nominated for the Kraft Hockeyville 2010 competition. Councillor Ouellet said that he and Hélène Hamel of Stanstead College have nominated the town for the Canada-wide contest. The grand prize, he said, includes \$100,000 (which would go towards the construction of the new Stanstead College arena if Stanstead wins) and a pre-season NHL hockey game which would take place in the winning town. People are encouraged to visit the Hockeyville website and send in their stories, showing how great the "hockey spirit" is in Stanstead and why the town deserves the title of "Hockeyville 2010."

People have until January 18, 2010 to submit their stories. The top twelve communities will then be chosen by a panel of judges, which will make its selection based on community spirit, originality and passion for hockey. The top five communities will then be selected by popular vote. Once these five are revealed, Canadians will again be invited to vote for the grand prize winner. To visit the website and find out more, click on: <http://www.cbc.ca/sports/hockey/hockeyville/home/en/index.shtml>.

CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL CENTRE TAKING OFF

By Matthew Farfan

The Stanstead Cultural and Recreational Centre, founded in 2008, recently wrapped up its first year of activities. The fledgling centre has had some of the usual setbacks that are typical of any organization just getting off the ground. But there have been some real successes, as well.

For one thing, the Centre has been fortunate to have received a generous grant from the Pacte rurale, which has allowed it to hire a coordinator and renovate its offices. The organization has also benefited from free rent and logistical support from the town of Stanstead, which owns the building at 10 Phelps Street - better known as the Old Post Office building.

The Centre's volunteer board, presided over by Pierre Rastoul of the Colby-Curtis Museum, is now in the process of investigating other avenues by which the Centre can become self-financing. These include obtaining a grant to create an "Économie sociale," at which artwork, books, and other local products could be marketed.

The Centre's mission consists of administering a cultural and recreational



MATTHEW FARFAN

Coordinator Pat Gauthier outside the Stanstead Cultural and Recreational Centre

centre in Stanstead; supporting communication between existing associations; maximizing educational, social, community, and cultural activities for local people of all ages; and organizing activities which "support the bonds of solidarity and the exchange of information" between local citizens.

CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Getting going at the Cultural Centre

CONT'D FROM PAGE 8

To date, the organization has offered a number of adult-oriented workshops. These have been given in a variety of fields and at relatively low-cost (this year fees for courses ranged from \$40.00 to \$190.00 per session, with most materials included). Participation entails a nominal membership fee at the Centre.

Patrick Gauthier, who has been the part-time coordinator of the Centre since April of this year, is upbeat about the Centre's first year. "Our first set of adult workshops took place in the winter of 2008-2009," he explains. "And we just wrapped up our second set. Some were very successful and well-attended; others not so much. But we're learning as we go what is popular and what is not."

No one could tell beforehand which activities would be popular. So programming has necessarily involved a bit of trial and error. Some of the workshops exceeded expectations; others had to be cancelled due to lack of enrolment. "The most popular courses," Gauthier says, "were tai-chi (animated by Kim Prangley), stained glass (with Réjean Côté), Spanish for beginners (with Marjolaine Castonguay), and MISO (non-impact exercises with Ngaire Denora)."

Gauthier adds, "we had also planned courses in photography, guitar, and English as a second language. But surprisingly, we didn't get the enrolments we had hoped for."

Apart from adult workshops, the Centre also offered a number of youth-oriented activities this year, including trips to the Bromont Waterslide and to Arbre Aventure in Eastman. These outings,

Gauthier says, were very popular and, thanks to the financial participation of the Centre, they were offered at reasonable rates. "We also held several fundraisers this year," he explains, "including a dunk-tank at Border Fest, selling chilli dogs and popcorn at local events, and an open-mike night at Millie's Diner."

Other activities this year included dances and a film club, where participants learned about film-related techniques, such as filming, editing, camera movement, story and acting. This workshop was animated by filmmaker Bachar Chbib.

Gauthier says that the next series of workshops will begin towards the end of January 2010. He says that the Centre is currently looking for animators for several workshops, including some sort of high-energy work-out course, social dancing, or any other activity or skill that people would like to share. Animators are remunerated (through registration fees), with the Centre receiving a small administration fee. The Centre takes care of publicity and provides the location.

To date the feedback has been "very positive and encouraging," Gauthier says. "Our biggest obstacle has been just getting the word out that we are here; but slowly but surely, I think people are beginning to hear about us."

Gauthier says that anyone wishing to learn more about the Stanstead Cultural and Recreational Centre can check out the Centre's "Facebook" page, which includes upcoming activities, photos of recent events and other information. If people need to know more about adult courses or youth activities, if they would like to volunteer their time, or if they are interested in giving a course themselves, they can call (819) 704-0660.



COURTESY

Recreation Centre's youth council at Townshippier's Youth regional round-up in November

Rediker Centre Robbed Again

By Matthew Farfan

For the second time in only a few weeks, the CAB Rediker Centre in Beebe was the target of a break and entry. Some time between last Wednesday night and Thursday morning, the CAB was visited by someone who broke in by the back door and rifled through offices. Damages were limited to locks on doors and drawers.

"It may have been the same person who broke in last time, but we're not sure," said CAB executive director Mylène LaBonté. "There were footprints in the snow."

The thief seems to know the place well and to know exactly what to look for. LaBonté said they took the time to pull down the blinds in her office to check through all the drawers. They only took what was "easy," she said.

What they got away with was the princely sum of \$100 - a donation from someone for a needy family to buy toys - and a couple of IGA gift certificates. The break-in occurred when the CAB was preparing to give out its Christmas baskets to families in need. "Happily the gifts for the baskets weren't touched," LaBonté said. "But they did take my box of chocolates, which was a Christmas present from our president, Régnald Demers. They left me the wrapping paper. Oh, and they also found my jar where I keep the spare change from my pockets. They took what little change was in there. Except the pennies. They left me the pennies."

Last time someone broke in to the Centre, an anonymous donor came forward and donated the amount of cash that was stolen. "People were disgusted that someone would do this just before Christmas. They helped us replace what ever was stolen."

Asked if the CAB would be doing anything different from now on, LaBonté said that the Centre will make sure that not even small amounts of cash are left in the building.



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INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Firefighters distribute toys for tots

More than 900 Sherbrooke children will have at least a couple of new toys to play with this Christmas after they received the visit from some of Santa's elves last Saturday afternoon. The occasion was, of course, the 69th Toy Campaign distribution organized by Sherbrooke firefighters.

And while the joy of receiving unexpected gifts was extremely evident on the faces of the children, the economic situation facing local families over the past year was equally evident to organizers. "We established a record this year - even if it was a sad record - as we delivered toys to 530 families", said the campaign's coordinator, Lee Hansford. "That is 70 more families than last year and we had trouble meeting the added demand. The shelves of our warehouse are bare."

A small army of close to 200 volunteers gathered Saturday morning at the Prospect Street fire station to load the delivery vehicles which were generously donated by numerous local companies. The traditional parade, led by Santa himself perched on top of a fire truck with some young friends, travelled along Jacques Cartier Boulevard and King Street West and East to 13th Avenue with horns honking and sirens wailing, where the delivery trucks broke formation to drive to their respective destinations.



BRUCE PORTER

Santa led the traditional parade prior to the distribution of toys to 530 Sherbrooke families last Saturday.

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Health Canada proposes anti-cancer drug in potato products

By Tom Blackwell

TORONTO - Health Canada is proposing an unorthodox way of combatting a food ingredient suspected in some cancers: It wants to let manufacturers put small amounts of a cancer-fighting drug into potato chips and similar foods to curb production of the harmful chemical.

Ever since acrylamide was discovered seven years ago in foods such as french fries and chips cooked at high temperatures, scientists have struggled for a way to get it out.

The chemical is not added deliberately; it is an unintentional byproduct of cooking.

Though the evidence is far from definitive, acrylamide has been connected to cancer in animals and possibly people.

As a partial answer, Health Canada is suggesting removing the requirement for a prescription to administer the enzyme asparaginase, except when it is injected into leukemia patients as a treatment.

That way, food companies could include small amounts of the drug in their products, the department says in a "notice of intent" document published on Saturday.

Evidence suggests that asparaginase lessens the production of acrylamide by as much as 90 per cent.

The enzyme is destroyed in cooking so would have no impact on people consuming the food, said Varoujan Yaylayan, associate professor with McGill University's food-science department.

"It has been used quite effectively on an experimental basis," he said. "It appears to work."

The acrylamide issue has preoccupied food manufacturers as they brace for the possibility of regulations that could limit levels of the chemical or ban it outright. California actually sued french fry and chip makers over the question, with several agreeing last year to reduce the volume of acrylamide in their goods.

"It's been a big, big problem," Yaylayan said. "Not so much in the public eye, but behind doors, the companies keep having meetings, having scientific symposia and seminars. I have attended many of them, here, in the U.S., in Europe."

Manufacturers "fully support" the move suggested by Health Canada, Derek Nighbor of Food and Consumer Products of Canada said in a statement provided by the industry group yesterday.

Health Canada is accepting feedback on the idea for 75 days, and could implement it in six to eight months, the government document said.

Swedish scientists discovered in 2002 that acrylamide, used in making various industrial and consumer products, also occurred in foods ranging from breakfast cereals to bread cooked at over 120-degrees celsius. A by-product of heating certain sugars, levels are particularly elevated in carbohydrate-heavy food heated to high temperatures like chips and fries.

Tests have found that consuming the chemical increases the risk of some cancer in rodents. Evidence of its effect on humans who eat it in food is less clear, though, with some research linking it to cancer but most studies finding that the levels people eat would have no carcinogenic effect, said Lorelei Mucci, a Harvard medical school assistant professor who studies the issue.

In fact, Dr. Mucci questions devoting much energy or money to the substance.

Volumes of the chemical can be reduced by cooking at lower temperatures or soaking the product in water first to extract some sugar, but such techniques can affect the pleasant odour, crispiness or colour of some food.

Asparaginase is injected in leukemia patients, where it breaks down asparagine, an amino acid, killing the cancer cells. When it is applied to potatoes or other food before cooking, it similarly reduces the amount of asparagine, the key ingredient in the inadvertent production of acrylamide.

The "downstream effects" of using asparaginase to counter the chemical in food should be studied carefully, advised Mucci.

2010 GMC Terrain SLT; Squared-off SUV is stylin'.



2010 GMC Terrain SLT.

By Brian Harper

Canwest News Service

At face value, it would be fairly easy to dismiss GMC's new Terrain sport-ute as a Chevy Equinox with the full bling treatment. Under the skin, the two are identical - same architecture, same powertrain and drivetrain and essentially the same dimensions.

Give credit where it's due, however. GMC has mitigated much of the Terrain's sameness through completely different sheet metal, resulting in a bolder, more chiselled and angular visage for the SUV highlighted by its bulging fender flares. Compared with the softer lines of the family-friendly Equinox, the Terrain has a pugnacious, macho look that invites more polarizing opinions.

Some think it ugly; others believe it to be distinctive, a necessary commodity in order to stand out in the crowded compact SUV/crossover segment. From my standpoint, the in-yer-face three-element grille accented by a prominent chrome surround and projector-beam headlamps is the Terrain's nicest touch, reminding me of the upscale Denali treatment GMC applies to its full-sized rigs. But the squared-off overall look is too reminiscent of the boxy affliction that is the Jeep lineup.

The Denali allusion is noteworthy. Although GMC doesn't make any mention of Denali in its marketing materials for the Terrain, there's little doubt its mission is to crack the premium subset of the compact/mid-sized SUV segment.

This can be viewed as either bold or foolish: bold because it shows confidence the built-in-Ontario Terrain is worthy of consideration when stacked up against established players; foolish because GMC doesn't carry the same cachet as, say, Land Rover or BMW.

A base Terrain SLE-1 starts at \$27,465 - \$1,565 more than a base Equinox - with a topline, loaded-to-the-rafters, all-wheel-drive, V6-powered SLT-2 model pushing the price to more than \$44,000. Somewhere in between is

my tester, a comprehensively equipped, front-wheel-drive SLT-2 (\$34,400 base, \$38,190 as tested).

Fortunately, as with the Equinox, the Terrain is a fundamentally sound vehicle. Like the Chevy, the GMC's base engine is a 2.4-litre, direct-injection four-cylinder. At 182 horsepower and 172 pound-feet of torque, it's a strong engine. It has to be, hauling 1,761 kilograms worth of SUV. Acceleration to 100 kilometres an hour is 10 seconds and 80 to 120 takes 7.3 seconds; neither time is exactly hot rod-worthy.

But the engine is remarkably smooth, even under full power, and seems faster than what its times deliver. If more oomph is needed or desired, there is an available 264-hp 3.0L V6. Fuel economy for the tester was a reasonable 10.4 litres per 100 km in a fairly even mix of highway and suburban commuting.

All models have a six-speed automatic transmission, and there's an "eco" mode for the four-cylinder versions that alters shift points to improve fuel economy. (When engaged, it lowers the torque converter lockup speed to 1,125 rpm.) The six-speed box does make the most out of the four-cylinder's power; however, the manual mode - a button on the side of the shift lever switches gears - is awkward to use and not at all conducive to any sort of sporty behaviour. My only other gripe concerning the Terrain's dynamics is the brakes. While its stopping distance of 42.2 metres from 100 km/h is about par within the compact SUV segment, the pedal felt a little spongy in use.

Again, like the Equinox, the Terrain delivers a quiet, comfortable ride. The quiet is thanks to noise-absorbing elements built into the chassis, engine compartment and interior. Plus, four-cylinder models come with Active Noise Cancellation technology, which uses microphones to detect booming sounds inside the SUV and send counteracting sound waves through the audio system's

speakers, facilitating a calm driving experience. The comfortable comes from a 2,857-millimetre wheelbase and four-wheel independent suspension system.

The tester's cabin backs up the SUV's premium intent with a two-tone interior highlighted by contrasting stitching, quality materials, ambient lighting and ergonomically correct buttons and controls. There are copious storage spaces and compartments, including an oversized glove box and a closed storage area in the instrument panel above the centre stack. Along with the usual power items, all Terrains come standard with ultrasonic rear parking assist and an auto-dimming rear-view mirror with backup camera.

Headroom and legroom are bountiful both front and back. The standard MultiFlex sliding rear seat can be moved fore or aft nearly 200 mm, providing increased comfort for back-seat occupants or greater rear cargo capacity. The rear cargo area offers 31.6 cubic feet of storage with the rear seats up, doubling the capacity when they are folded. A power liftgate is standard on SLT-2 models.

Unlike the badge-engineered days of yore, General Motors seems to have made a concerted effort to differentiate the GMC Terrain from its Chevy sibling.

I will admit to better liking the Equinox's styling, but I am impressed with the Terrain's interior amenities and long list of standard features.

When I drove the Equinox, I was hoping for a solid effort from GM for its mainstream SUV/crossover. It exceeded my expectations. I expected no less from the Terrain. Initially concerned about its price, I was surprised at how easily it met its upscale obligations. Everything seems integrated, not tacked on. So, once again, GM delivers a solid effort.

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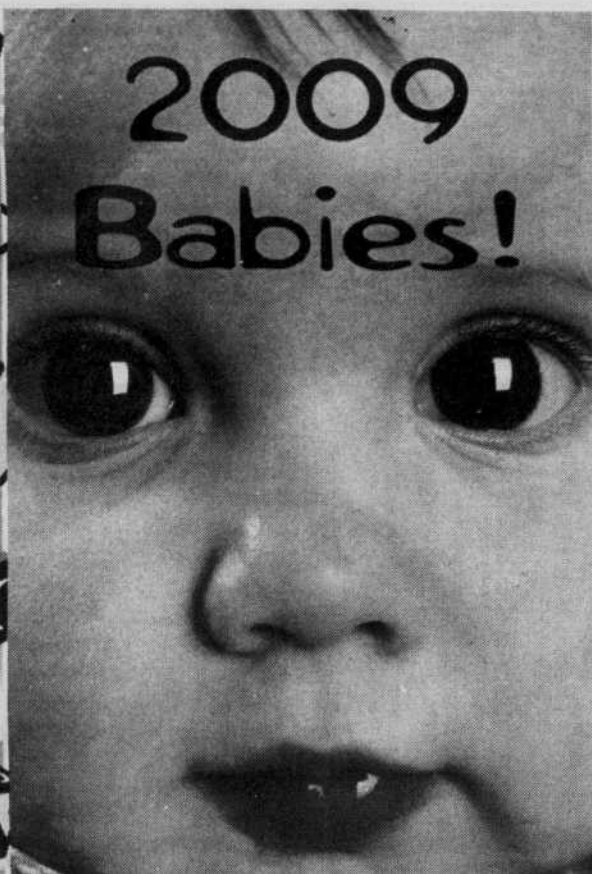
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What's New With BU



Proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, show off your pride and joy in our "Babies of 2009" edition of **The Record** to be published on January 15, 2010. Although all babies are welcome and will be featured in our special issue, only those born in 2009 will be considered for a cover photo and story (randomly selected for this honour).

Mail a photograph of the baby with: baby's name, birthday, parents' name, hometown and 10 words describing the little tyke, along with \$20. (taxes included) and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to **The Record** at 1195 Galt St. East, Sherbrooke, QC J1G 1Y7 OR 5B Victoria St., Knowlton, QC J0E 1V0 or e-mail: classad@sherbrookerecord.com with Visa or MasterCard for payment.

Deadline: January 8, 2010.

Published on January 15, 2010.

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Sometimes this column seems to ignore school work, which is what university is really about. But writing about hard-working students memorizing theories and dates might make for drab reading - though that's not true of this column, despite its focus on the details of academia! The Students' Representative Council at Bishop's University also has a team charged with academe. The Vice-President, Academic is Samuel Yu Him Ho. He's from the Toronto suburb of Scarborough. "I was actually born in and immigrated from Hong Kong when I was 7. I spent a couple of years studying Sociology at York University in Toronto, but it was too big of a school for me. I took a year off school to participate in Katimavik, a youth volunteer service learning program which allowed youth to experience the Canadian reality.

"Right after, I came to Bishop's for Political Studies and felt right at home. BU has broadened my horizons and now I feel like I can do just about anything. I ran again for student council because I wanted to get more involved and give back to the school and community. BU gave me the opportunity to develop when I was the Social Sciences senator last year, the head of the BU Environmental Club the year before, as well as being a residence advisor on campus during those past couple years. I'm big into music and am part of the Bishop's choir. I am also active in sports like biking, snowboarding, and hockey, and organized a few teams for intramurals."

Ho has a team of student senators working with him. All sit on Senate, the highest academic decision-making body at the university.

Sara Wuite is the Natural Science Senator. She's in her fourth and final year, a Biology student finishing an Honours degree with a concentration in the health sciences. "If students have any concerns, suggestions, or questions about their academic experience, they just let me know and I will see that it gets addressed. I am also responsible for organizing fun events, such as the Annual Natural Science Wine and Cheese (it deserves capitals!). One of my goals for this year is to bring all the departments in the science division together as one big happy nerdy family - any and all ideas for events to unite the science kids are encouraged. Get ready for a great year on the mighty Massawippi Shore!"

Yannick Holton is the Humanities Senator, which includes the departments of English and Philosophy. Holton is a second-year student in English, in the Cultural and Media Studies concentration. "As senator, my main purpose is to be the link between the students and their faculty and the senate. This means bringing ideas from students to the teachers and the boards able to make the petitioned changes.

"My personal goals are to strengthen the unity between our rich academic classes and the healthy social life at Bishop's, by organizing more functions that combine the best aspects of these two worlds. One of the building blocks to



Bishop's VP of Academics Samuel Ho

COURTESY

successfully doing this is through the Humanities Federation. They are a group of students led by former Humanities Senator Lindsay Eisinger; each student will represent one of the 12 programs under Humanities, which allows more of the concerns from students a chance to be heard. I will also be working hard to increase the number of teachers using our online resource - Moodle. Moodle can store course outlines, reading lists and homework assignments, conveniently allowing students to access this information at any time. It even (painlessly!) sends email to all students registered in a class.

Sophia Faria is all about the Social Sciences (Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Economics, etc.). She's in her second year "at the beloved Bishop's University and in my first year I was a student event coordinator for the SRC. I am an uber-friendly person. I am excited for the school year because I truly love my field of study and the people at BU. Bishop's has an outstanding Social Sciences program taught by brilliant, yet approachable professors. I want to make sure Bishop's students, new students or near graduates are passionate and positive about Social Sciences! I will do my absolute best to listen attentively and translate your ideas into workable policies within the Senate."

Katie Allen is the go-to woman for Education students. She's from Vankleek Hill, Ontario, and in her fourth year of the Elementary Education program. "During my first three years of attending Bishop's I have participated in and thoroughly enjoyed many aspects of campus life, which is commonly referred to as the Bishop's Experience. I am excited to be a part of the 2009-10 SRC, which is a group of dedicated individuals committed to meeting the academic and social needs of the Bishop's community.

"It is my job to bring the Education students' perspective to the Senate and faculty meetings."

Last - but not least! - is Business Senator Sebastian Taylor-Ebanks. "For many students this is a chance of a life time to change and reinvent themselves. Bishop's University is the perfect place to experiment and try new things to elevate the intellect and the spirit and I therefore encourage everyone to take every opportunity to advance in this direction."

- submitted by the Students' Representative Council of Bishop's University

Local Sports

"Besides being a pretty good hockey player, it seems Fischer is fairly skilled with that other kind of ice. The ring apparently cost \$150,000."

High School Confidential

ETIAC wraps up first half of season

By Mike Hickey

The first half of the Eastern Townships Interscholastic Athletic Conference senior boys hockey came to a close last Friday when the undefeated Alexander Galt Pipers defeated the Massey-Vanier Vikings 8-1. With the victory the Pipers improved their league record to a perfect 4-0-0 while overall they sport a 17-2-0 mark.

Simon Winquist sparked the Piper attack with a hat trick while Jean Michel Gosselin and Vincent Boutin chipped in with two goals and two assists each. Galt team captain Jean Sebastien rounded out the Piper scoring with a goal and two assists. Goaltender Nicholas Meigs picked up his 11th win of the season for the Pipers.

Galt now goes on a 19-day break before they travel to Montreal on January 6th to play the College de Brebeuf Bisons.

While the Pipers finished the first

half undefeated they can expect to be tested by an ever-improving Bishop's College School squad and the Stanstead College Jayvees in the second half of the season.

The Stanstead College varsity boys hockey team finished 2009 in good form as they won two of three games at the Philips-Exeter Academy and Governor's Academy annual showcase tournaments. They started the weekend with a 9-5 win over New Hampton School as Ryan Bedard and Marc-Olivier Sauriol paced the Spartans with a pair of goals apiece. Daniel Escaravage, Samuel Labrecque, Swann Boisvert, Maxime Ruel and Matthew Robertson rounded out the scoring with single goals.

Stanstead's next opponent was Hebron Academy and the two teams engaged in a physical battle that produced 29 penalties for a total of 85 minutes in penalties. Hebron jumped out to a 2-1 lead after the first period but Stanstead responded with two second-period tal-

lies to take a 3-2 lead after forty minutes of play. The Spartans appeared headed for their consecutive win as they increased their advantage to 5-2 with 10 minutes remaining in the game but then the roof caved in as Hebron scored five unanswered goals to register a 7-5 win.

Robertson, Bedard, Sauriol, Olivier Lalonde and Anthony Fortugno scored a goal apiece in a losing cause.

The Spartans bounced back with a solid 3-2 win over Tilton School Sunday afternoon. Tilton held 1-0 and 2-1 leads in the game but the Spartans tied the game when Robertson scored on a 5-3 power play late in the second period. Stanstead's Samuel Labrecque provided the winning goal when he fired home a blazing point with six minutes remaining in the game. The Spartans will play in two tournaments following a short Christmas Break, from January 2-5 they will participate in the Kent's Hill Invitational tournament in Maine and then re-

turn home to host the annual Stanstead College Invitational boys hockey tournament from January 8-10.

On the basketball front the defending ETIAC champion Spartans enter the break with a perfect 3-0 record although they had a scare in their game against the Galt Pipers as Stanstead escaped with a three-point win. On the senior boys side the Massey-Vanier Vikings have dominated the league, outscoring their opponents by an average of 34 points a contest en route to a 3-0 mark. It's a similar story in the junior boys circuit where the Vikings are also 3-0 while the Galt Pipers are in first place in junior girls play with a 4-0 mark. The most competitive league to date is the bantam girls where just two points separate the top three teams, Massey-Vanier, Galt and Richmond Regional. On the boys side the Pipers are atop with a 3-0 record while Richmond Regional and Massey-Vanier are tied for second place, a game behind Galt.

This Week Around Sports

By Zachary-Cy Vanasse

Martin Brodeur has another record, Andrei Markov is back and Canada's ski team is falling apart which means it is once again time to take a look back at This Week Around Sports. Roy Halladay demonstrated class, Mike Fischer got engaged, and the preliminary IIHF World Junior games got under way so for the week ending Thursday, December 24, 2009, this is the week that TWAS.

The Record Man II: Once again Martin Brodeur decided to take another page in the record books for himself. The New Jersey Devils netminder earned his 104th career shutout, breaking the tie he shared briefly with Terry Sawchuk, when he beat the defending champion Pittsburgh Penguins on Monday night 4-0. It was the last all-time major goaltending milestone missing from his resume, firing up the all-time greatest netminder debate once more.

The Return Man: Montreal Canadiens defenceman Andrei Markov made his return to the Habs' line-up on Saturday night having been out with an injury since the first game of the Canadiens' season. The team's general did not disappoint, scoring twice against the New York Islanders in a 3-2 win. After the game Markov said it took him a little while to get his legs going, though to Habs fans it looked like their star blueliner hadn't missed a beat.

The Breakdown: Canada's medal hopes on the hills Whistler for the 2010 Games are falling apart. The most recent blow suffered by Canada's alpine team

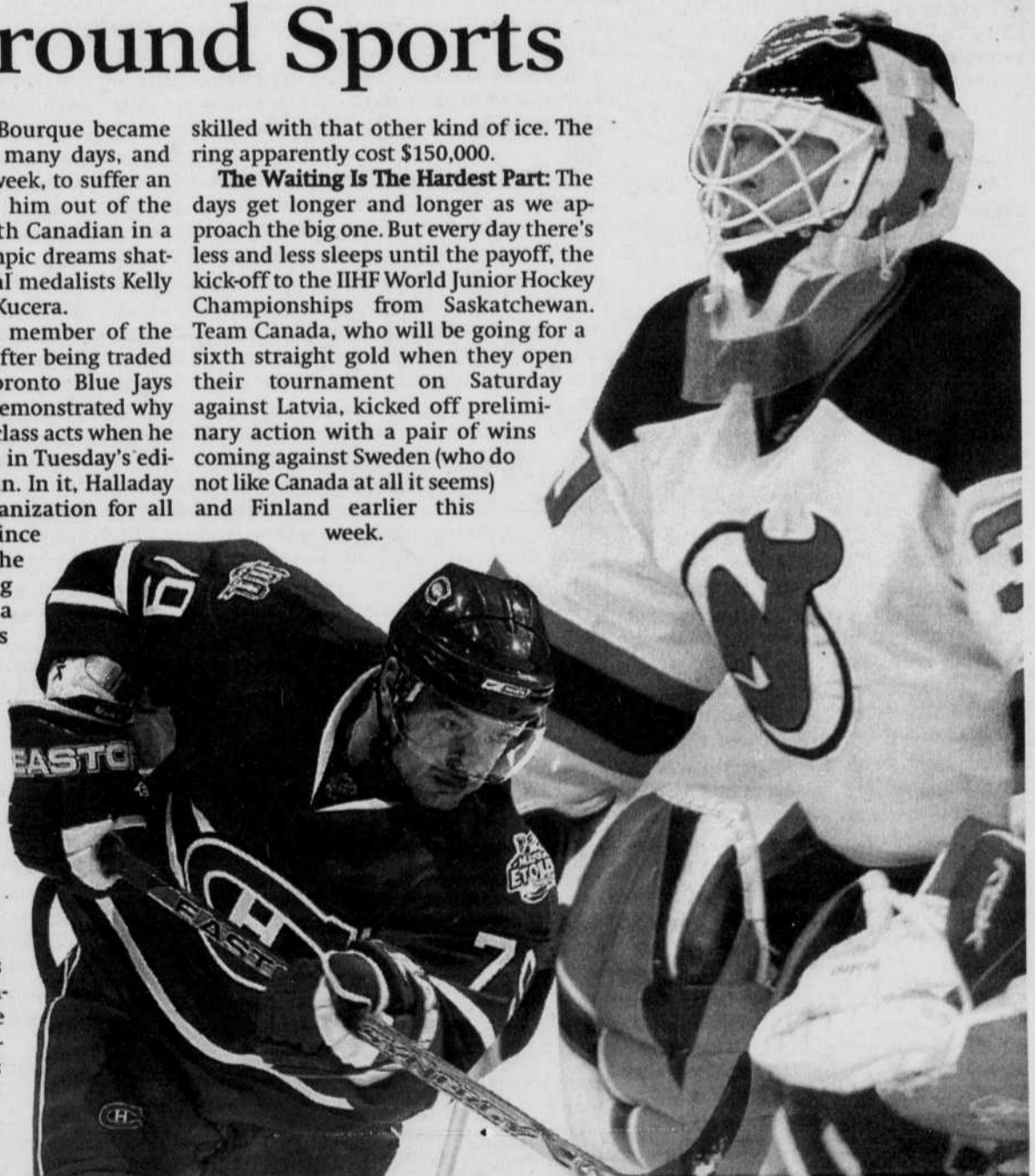
came when François Bourque became the third racer in as many days, and fourth in less than a week, to suffer an injury that will keep him out of the Olympics. He's the fifth Canadian in a month to see his Olympic dreams shattered, joining potential medalists Kelly VanderBeek and John Kucera.

The Classy: Now a member of the Philadelphia Phillies after being traded last week, former Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Roy Halladay demonstrated why he is one of baseball's class acts when he took out a full-page ad in Tuesday's edition of the Toronto Sun. In it, Halladay thanked the Jays organization for all they had given him since he joined the club, the fans and the city, saying they will always have a special place in his heart. He signed off, Best Regards, Roy.

The Underwood: Ottawa Senators forward Mike Fischer has been generating plenty of talk as of late pertaining to his chances of making Team Canada for 2010. The Olympic talk took a break this week though when his engagement to country music star Carrie Underwood was announced. Besides being a pretty good hockey player, it seems Fischer is fairly

skilled with that other kind of ice. The ring apparently cost \$150,000.

The Waiting Is The Hardest Part: The days get longer and longer as we approach the big one. But every day there's less and less sleeps until the payoff, the kick-off to the IIHF World Junior Hockey Championships from Saskatchewan. Team Canada, who will be going for a sixth straight gold when they open their tournament on Saturday against Latvia, kicked off preliminary action with a pair of wins coming against Sweden (who do not like Canada at all it seems) and Finland earlier this week.



The good ole hockey game

World Juniors are right around the corner, and Canada is looking for another Golden tournament

By Darren Zary
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

AUSTRIA

Austria comes in as a bit of an unknown entity.

Promoted to the top division after beating Denmark a year ago, Austria is making only its third appearance at the elite level. Austria also played in the 1999 and 2004 tournaments. It's a young, inexperienced team, led by captain Dominique Heinrich, with 10 First Division players and five who play international hockey, including defenceman Stefan Ulmer from the WHL's Spokane Chiefs and G Marco Wieser from the North American Hockey League's Alpena Ice Diggers. Forwards Konstantin Komarek (Lulea HF, Sweden), Kevin Puschnik (EC Red Bull Salzburg) and Peter Schneider (HC Orli Znojmo, Czech Republic) are the team's top players in Europe.

"We're looking forward to getting better every game," said Heinrich. "I'm positive. I think we'll play a good tournament."

Competing the last five years at the Division I level, the Austrians last played in the top flight in 2004 with Thomas Vanek notching seven points.

Austria was winless in 11 WJHC games in 1999 and 2004.

The goal of this underdog is clear. "We're going to Canada to stay in the top division and to continue playing with the big nations," head coach Dieter Werfring said.

Best finish: Eighth, 1981

CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czechs haven't won a medal at the world juniors since claiming bronze in 2005 and are trying to recapture their glory from the turn of the century when they won back-to-back gold in 2000-01. Lately, the Czechs have become also-rans, finishing fifth or sixth the past four years, each time with a 4-2 record in the round robin only to lose in the quarter-finals.

GM Jiri Latal and head coach Jaromir Sindel have assembled a team led by captain Michal Jordan, a 2008 draft pick of the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes who is in his third worlds. The team has plenty of North American junior experience.

"It is pretty experienced in the international game, while several guys have played at the U20 and U18 worlds before," said Pavel Barta, Czech Ice Hockey Association media manager. "But on the other hand, the squad might be quite unreadable, unpredictable for its opponents."

"Great relationships among players might be an advantage. The first goal is to advance from preliminary round to playoffs. After that, they will see what can happen."

Key players include G Jakub Sedlacek, Radko Gudas (Everett Silvertips, WHL), Jakub Jerabek, Andrej Nestrasil, Roman Horak, Stepan Novotny (Swift Current Broncos, WHL) and Petr Straka.

Sedlacek, Gudas and Novotny were all with the squad last year, Sedlacek as the team's extra goalie.

Injuries have hurt the Czechs' chances as they'll be missing forwards Jaroslav Hafeňrichter, Jan Buchtel and Zdenek Okal. If that wasn't bad enough, Kootenay Ice forward Dominik Pacovsky has been sidelined with a broken foot.

However, Ondrej Palat of the Drummondville Voltigeurs is ready to go. Other WHLers on the team's preliminary roster included Roman Horak (Chilliwack Bruins) and Tomas Vincour (Edmonton Oil Kings), a 2009 fifth-round pick of the NHL's Dallas Stars and top scorer for the Oil Kings.

Best finish: Gold, 2000, '01

FINLAND

Teemu Hartikainen, who led Finland with nine points at the 2009 tournament in Ottawa, returns in 2010 along with fellow Finnish forwards Joonas Nattinen and Joonas Rask.

Saskatoon Blades fans will have their eyes glued on Finland's Jyri Niemi, whose lethal NHL-calibre slap shot returns to the world junior tournament for one last time. Niemi, a 19-year-old draft pick of the New York Islanders, will patrol the blue-line for the Flying Finns, who ranked sixth on the power play and third on the penalty kill a year ago.

Finland's preliminary roster includes five players from Canada's major junior ranks: Niemi, defenceman Rasmus Rissanen from the WHL's Everett Silvertips, left-winger Toni Rajala from the WHL's Brandon Wheat Kings, left-winger Matias Sointu from the Ontario Hockey League's Sudbury Wolves and goalie Peteri Simila from the OHL's Niagara Ice Dogs.

The head coach is Hannu Jortikka.

The preliminary roster includes a number of draft-eligible players rated by the NHL's Central Scouting Bureau's preliminary rankings. Among them is Finland's top-rated skater, forward Mikael Granlund. Defenceman Aleksi Laakso is ranked No. 5 in Finland, defenceman Teemu Eronen is ranked No. 7 and right-winger Iiro Pakarinen is the No. 9-rated skater in Finland.

As well, the roster includes Finland's top-ranked goalie, Sami Aittokallio.

Best finish: Gold, 1987, '98

RUSSIA

No team has won more medals at the world junior hockey championship than Russia and the former Soviet Union, with 28 (12 gold, nine silver and seven bronze).

Russia, which lost in a shootout to Canada in the semifinals last year and ended up finishing third, is expected to be led by last year's captain, Nikita Filatov, a first-round pick of the Columbus Blue Jackets in the 2008 draft. Filatov has played in 21 NHL games with the Jackets the past two seasons, but was loaned back to the Kontinental Hockey

League's CSKA Moscow Army and quickly racked up 10 points in six games.

Filatov finished tied for the tournament lead with eight goals last year while leading Russia with 11 points. He was named to the all-star team.

Head coach Vladimir Plyushchev, who has replaced Sergei Nemchinov, was also counting on Florida Panthers defenceman Dmitri Kulikov. Through 36 NHL games, Kulikov had three goals and nine assists with the Panthers and won't be playing in Saskatchewan.

Filatov and Kulikov were two of seven members from last year's squad invited back. The others were forwards Evgeni Grachev, Dmitri Kugryshev and Kirill Petrov, plus blue-liners Vjateslav Voinov and Maxim Chudinov. Only Filatov, Kugryshev, Petrov and Chudinov are back on the team.

Grachev is playing for the New York Rangers' AHL affiliate, the Hartford Wolf Pack. Voinov, a second-round pick by the Los Angeles Kings, is with the AHL's Manchester Monarchs.

Defenceman Anton Klementyev, a 2009 fifth-round pick of the New York Islanders, remains with their AHL team, the Bridgeport Sound Tigers.

Best finish: Gold, 1977, '78, '79, '80, '83, '84, '86, '89, '92, '99, 2002, '03

SWEDEN

Sweden has won the world junior title only once, back in 1981.

After settling for silver the past two years as the result of losses to Canada, Sweden is a heavy medal favourite this time. Sweden looks to be the strongest European entry after winning the under-20 Four Nations tournament in St. Petersburg, Russia, thanks in part to a big 4-2 win over host Russia.

Jacob Markstrom, who was named top goalie at the 2009 world juniors in Ottawa last year, and speedy forward Magnus Paajarvi-Svensson are among the eight returnees for Sweden's Young Crowns.

Of the 21 players on Sweden's roster, 18 are drafted by NHL clubs, 13 of those selected last June.

Highly touted Erik Karlsson - the top defenceman and tournament all-star last year - won't be playing for his native country as he is being kept by the Ottawa Senators. The Swedes also have to do without defenceman Victor Hedman, who was selected No. 2 overall by Tampa Bay last summer.

Hedman, 18, is playing regularly with the Lightning.

On defence, coach Par Marts will rely heavily on a Skelleftea AIK trio of David Rundblad, 19, Tim Erixon, 18, and Adam Larsson, 17. Among the notable absentees is defenceman Alexander Urbom (Brandon, WHL).

Seventeen players perform regularly in the Swedish top pro league, including Paajarvi-Svensson, who plays for Timra, and Djurgarden centre Marcus Krugertoils.

Best finish: Gold, 1981

CANADA

Unlike the team Canada assembled for the 1991 tournament in Saskatoon,

this year's group has plenty of Saskatchewan flavour. The Baby Nats are led by head coach Willie Desjardins, a native of Climax who won a Canadian championship with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies in 1983 and later went on to coach the Western Hockey League's Saskatoon Blades.

Jared Cowen of Allan (Spokane Chiefs, WHL), Brayden Schenn of Saskatoon (Brandon Wheat Kings, WHL) and Jordan Eberle of Regina (Regina Pats) are the Saskatchewan players on the team. Colten Teubert of the Regina Pats and Travis Hamonic of the Moose Jaw Warriors add to the Saskatchewan mix.

Eberle and Teubert are two of six returnees from the team which won gold in Ottawa last year. The others are team captain Patrice Cormier (Rimouski, QMJHL), Stefan Della Rovere (Barrie, OHL), Ryan Ellis (Windsor, OHL) and Alex Pietrangelo (St. Louis Blues, NHL).

Pietrangelo has played nine NHL games this season.

All other players hail from the Canadian major junior leagues.

Of the 22-man roster, 20 players have international experience, 15 with Canada's under-18 team. As well, 20 players were picked in either the 2008 or '09 NHL draft, including 10 first-round selections and five second-round picks.

Best finish: Gold, 1982, '85, '88, '90, '91, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, 2005, '06, '07, '08, '09

UNITED STATES

A year ago, the United States finished a disappointing fifth.

Forwards Tyler Johnson, Danny Kristo and Jordan Schroeder are three returnees. The preliminary roster also includes nine players who won the gold in the 2009 world under-18 championship: goalie Jack Campbell, forwards Ryan Bourque, Chris Brown, Jerry D'Amigo, Jeremy Morin and Jason Zucker, plus defencemen Cam Fowler, Jon Merrill and John Ramage.

Defenceman John Carlson has played in three NHL games for the Washington Capitals. He has spent the rest of his time this season with the AHL's Hershey Bears, notching 21 points in 28 games.

Head coach Dean Blais and the U.S. entourage began training camp Dec. 17 in Grand Forks, N.D.

"We wanted to make this as competitive a process as possible this season and that's why we had the change in philosophy to have this camp," said general manager Jim Johansson. "We wanted to have guys literally earn their jobs."

Blais, who coached the 1994 junior team to a sixth-place finish, is optimistic about his team's chances.

"I think we have a realistic chance at a medal," Blais said. "We're a little bit young, but there's certainly enough talent there. Certainly, speed kills, and that's something we're going to look for. Canada has a great talent pool and a lot of tradition and playing on their home land is going to be tough, but if we have success in those first three games, we've put ourselves in pretty good position, win or lose, against Canada."

Best finish: Gold, 2004

In Memoriams

DESCOTEAU-McNAB, Travis: December 25, 1960 - December 27, 1980. In loving memory of a precious son and brother who was taken from us so suddenly and unexpectedly 29 years ago.
As Angels keep their watch up there,
Please God let him know,
That we down here do not forget,
We love him and miss him so.
Loved with a love beyond all telling,
Missed with a grief beyond all tears.
Till we meet again,
Love
MOM, DAD
and CHRIS (brother)

In Memoriams



ODELL, Violet Beatrice (nee Moulard): August 13, 1921 - December 28, 2003.
No words we write can ever say
How much we miss you every day.
Loved and dearly remembered,
YOUR FAMILY

Death



HARTIGAN, Richard - Passed away peacefully after a brief battle with leukemia, on December 22 at the age of 72. Predeceased by his wife of 50 years Edna Molly Hartigan. Father of Michael (Sandy), Kenny (Linda), Patricia (Sean), Robert (Josée), grandfather 10, great-grandfather 4. Special thanks to Kristopher for taking care of his grandfather to the end. Visitation at 1 pm. Funeral service at 2 pm at St-Paul's United Church, 211 Pine St. Magog, Tuesday, December 29. In lieu of flowers, donations to St-Paul's United memorial fund. Arrangements entrusted to the Résidence Funéraire Ledoux Magog Inc., 150 Sherbrooke St., Magog Qc. Jean-Pierre Morin (Dir.) Tel. : 819-843-4473, fax : 819-843-4563, e-mail : ledoux@netrevolution.com.

Death



McLELLAN, Rudy Gouldie - 1930-2009
With heavy hearts we said goodbye to Rudy on Monday, December 21, 2009 at the CHUS Fleurimont. Beloved husband of Janet (nee Little) and cherished Dad of Naida (John Zako) and Paula (Chris Simpson), much loved Grampa of Joel and Kristina Zako and Jake and William Simpson. Also survived by his sister Margaret (the late George Cheal). A memorial service will be held at St. Barnabas Church, North Hatley on Tuesday, December 29 at 11am. The Rev. Ruth Charleau officiating. Interment of ashes at Reedsville Cemetery. Reception to follow at North Hatley Curling Club, 3245 Capelton Road. Arrangements entrusted to the Cass Funeral Home, 3006 College St. Sherbrooke, Qc (819) 564-1750 / www.casshomes.ca

MANSON, Jerry - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and father-in-law who passed away December 24, 1985. Sadly missed and always remembered by the family.
MERVA
JIMMY & DOROTHY
BRUCE

MATTHEWS, John: September 11, 1943 - December 26, 2003.
We will never forget
The years you spent with us.
We love you still.
WINONA MATTHEWS
(mother)
JEAN SANDERS & FAMILY
(sister)
ALLAN SANDERS & FAMILY
(nephew)
JANE DOTY & FAMILY
(niece)
DAN SANDERS (nephew)
OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS



ODELL, Zena Agatha (nee Jarvis): c.1899 - December 8, 1936, age 37.
Treasured memories keep you near
As time unfolds another year.
Love, your son
RON
AND FAMILY

MORRISON, Gordon and Garnet - In memory of our beloved parents and grandparents, Dad who left us December 25, 1970 and Mom, March 10, 2001.
Forever loved and remembered,
Unchanging and eternal,
Until we meet again.
Love,
ULRIC & PAULINE NUTBROWN
AND FAMILY
RUTH BEATTIE

SHELEST, William (Bill) - Special loving thoughts today for a cherished husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather who became our Christmas angel on December 24, 1995.
We are always together in heart and soul.
SANDRA (wife)
AND ALL YOUR FAMILY

SMITH, Calvin - In loving memory of a dear father and father-in-law who passed away on December 27, 1990.
Beautiful memories woven in gold,
This is a picture we tenderly hold;
Deep in our hearts your memory is kept,
To love, cherish, and never forget.
Greatly missed by son
FREDERICK
and daughter-in-law
BERNICE

In Memoriam

WARD, Beverley - December 25, 2007.
Why did she have to go
So young I just don't know why,
Things happen half the time
Without reason, without rhyme.
Lovely, sweet young woman,
Daughter, wife and mother
Makes no sense to me.
I just have to believe
She flew up to Heaven on the wings of Angels
By the clouds and stars and passed where no one sees
And she walks with Jesus and her loved ones waiting
And I know she's smiling, saying "Don't worry 'bout me".
Merry Christmas, Mom.
Remembering her always,
CHILDREN
GRANDCHILDREN and
GREAT-GRANDSON

BECOME A
VOLUNTEER:
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MAKE A
DONATION:
1-800-418-1111



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Quebec Division

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have serious difficulty reading

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www.fqa.qc.ca/en/
or 1-800-361-9142



Literacy
Foundation
Words of hope

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BIRTH & DEATH NOTICES, CARDS OF THANKS, IN MEMORIAMs, BRIEFLETS:
Text only: 34¢ per word. Minimum charge \$8.50 (\$9.69 taxes included)
Discounts: 2 insertions or more: 15% off
With photo: additional \$18.50. **DEADLINE:** 11 a.m., day before publication.
BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY & GET-WELL WISHES, ENGAGEMENT NOTICES:
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WEDDING WRITE-UPS, OBITUARIES:
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Please Note: All of the aforementioned (except death notices) must be submitted typewritten or neatly printed, and must include the signature and daytime telephone number of the contact person. Can be e-mailed to: classad@sherbrookerecord.com - They will not be taken by phone.
DEADLINES FOR DEATH NOTICES:
For Monday's paper, call 819-569-4856 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday.
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Church Services

Anglican

COOKSHIRE-BURY

St. Peter's Church, Cookshire will hold their Christmas Eve Service, December 24, at 2 p.m. with the Rev. Dr. Patricia Peacock and at St. Paul's Church, Bury at 3:30 p.m. with the Rev. Canon Harold Brazel. All welcome.

FITCH BAY

St. Matthias Church: Our annual Christmas Eve Service begins with our Christmas Fellowship pot-luck dinner in the Hall at 5 p.m., followed by our Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m. in the Church. The Christmas Service will consist of Carols and Readings, Holy Communion, closing with a Candlelight Service. Everyone welcome.

LENNOXVILLE

St. George's Anglican Church, 84 Queen Street., the Ven. Dean Ross. Thursday, December 24 at 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Celebrations. Friday, December 25 at 10 a.m. Christmas Day Celebrations. Sunday, December 27 at 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist and at 10 a.m. Family Service. All welcome. Information: 819-346-5564.

MILBY

St. Barnabas Church, Milby will hold their Christmas Eve service, December 24, at 7 p.m. with Carols and Readings. Everyone welcome.

SHERBROOKE

Church of the Advent, 473 Bowen St. South, Sherbrooke. Thursday, December 24 at 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Celebrations. All welcome.

SHERBROOKE

St. Peter's Church, Sherbrooke, Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion 4 p.m. Plymouth-Trinity United Church (front doors). Sunday, December 27 Service of Holy Communion 9:00 a.m. (chapel). All welcome.

Presbyterian

LENNOXVILLE

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 256 Queen St., Lennoxville, 819-569-3100. Minister: Rev. John Barry Forsyth. Organist: Anthony Davidson. Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship and Sunday School. The Word of Grace Radio Broadcast, P.O. Box 404, Sherbrooke, QC, J1M 1Z6, Station CJMQ 88.9 FM or www.cjmq.fm, Sundays 8:30 a.m. Culte en français dimanche 17h, Pasteur Rev. G. Fantechi 819-566-5962.

MELBOURNE

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Melbourne welcomes you to our Christmas Service on Thursday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m. Come and celebrate Jesus' birth. There will be no service on Sunday, December 27.

United

COOKSHIRE/SAWYERVILLE

Weekly services for United Eaton Valley Pastoral Charge are held at 9:30 a.m. at Cookshire Trinity and 11 a.m. at Sawyerville United (at the Manse). Minister: Rev. Wendy Evans. December 24: Christmas Eve service will take place at Cookshire Trinity at 4 p.m.

DANVILLE-ASBESTOS

Danville-Asbestos Trinity United Church will hold their Christmas Eve service, December 24, at 7 p.m.

LENNOXVILLE

Lennoxville United Church, corner of Queen and Church Street: Christmas Eve Communion Service on December 24 at 7:30 p.m. Worship on Sunday, December 27 at 10:00 a.m. Rev. James Potter, 819-565-8449.

MELBOURNE RIDGE

Richmond-Melbourne Pastoral Charge. December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at the Melbourne Ridge United Church at 7:30 p.m. All welcome. Sunday, December 27: Communion Church Service at 9:30 a.m. at the Melbourne Ridge Church. NO Service in Richmond. Please note that the Melbourne Ridge Church will be closed for January & February 2010. Services will be held in Richmond at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

SHERBROOKE

Plymouth-Trinity United Church, corner of Dufferin and Terrill, 819-346-6373. Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m. on December 24, led by the Reverend Martyn Sadler. All are welcome to come and worship with us! Sunday, December 27, morning worship at 10:30 led by Allan Marshall. Our doors are open to all.

TRENHOLM

Trenholm United Church will be holding its Christmas service on Thursday, December 24 at 3 p.m. Cookies and beverages will be served after the service. Everyone welcome!

WATERVILLE-NORTH HATLEY, HATLEY

December 24: Waterville-North Hatley United Church Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm in Waterville and Hatley United Church Christmas Eve service at 9:00 pm. December 27: No church services. Rev. Mead Baldwin 819-837-1112.

LENNOXVILLE

A worship service will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve in St. Mark's Chapel, Bishop's University Campus. All welcome.



PETER H. GOTT,
M.D.

Chelation inappropriate for heart disease

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have been salivating excessively for several years. I've gone to many doctors and cannot get any help. I'm a 77-year-old female and hope you can shed some light on this topic.

DEAR READER:

Saliva is made in small glands, called salivary glands, that produce one to two cups of saliva each day. The purpose of salivation is to help digest certain starchy foods and to coat foods as they pass into the stomach. The act of emptying the mouth of saliva is done involuntarily and without thought; however, when excess saliva is produced, difficulties with talking, breathing and eating can occur.

There are a number of possibilities for the condition. I will cover only those that affect us as we age. They include abscesses in or around the tonsils or pharynx, respiratory infections, dentures, salivary-gland nerve damage, inflammation of mucous membranes, Bell's palsy, reflux disease and neurological disorders such as stroke, cerebral palsy and Parkinson's. Medications taken for asthma, hormone replacement and schizophrenia can also lead to excessive salivation. It is my guess that you had your tonsils out a number of years ago. Should they still remain, you may have your answer.

Treatment is directed toward the underlying cause. There are medications available to reduce the production of saliva; however, there are side effects that will likely come into play.

If your many doctor visits failed to produce positive results, go back to the drawing board and start again. Return to your physician one more time in an attempt to get to the bottom of this annoying problem. Before your visit, though, determine whether I have already hit on the likely cause. Then ask about little-known side effects of any medications you may be taking. Are you on any herbal remedies or over-the-counters of which your doctor is unaware? Perhaps you have a minor infection under a dental plate. When was the last time you saw a dentist? Do you suffer from a neurological disorder? Work together to bring this annoyance to an end.

To provide related information on two neurological disorders, I am sending you copies of my Health Reports "Parkinson's Disease" and "Stroke." Other readers who would like copies should send a self-addressed stamped No. 10 envelope and a \$2 check or money order per report to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title(s).

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a 76-year-old male who has been diagnosed with blocked coronary arteries. One vessel is 40 percent to 59 percent blocked, and another is 60 percent to 70 percent occluded, according to my last echocardiogram. At present, I am taking Crestor, Cholest Off twice daily, niacin 500 milligrams twice daily and 1,200 milligrams fish oil twice daily.

I've read on the Internet about intravenous or oral EDTA chelation. It states

that it is effective 80 percent in cleansing the arteries. What is your opinion of chelation? Would you advise me to try the treatment? I am supposed to return in six months for another examination. Thank you for answering my letter.

DEAR READER: EDTA chelation therapy is a series of intravenous infusions that contain disodium EDTA, along with a variety of other substances. Proponents claim the process is effective against heart disease and is purported to be a valid alternative to coronary-artery-bypass procedures. The problem here is that there is absolutely no scientific evidence to support the claim. It is important to note that neither the American Heart Association nor the Food and Drug Administration recommend the process for any form of heart disease.

Having stated this, I will now answer your question: no. I cannot in clear conscience advise you to consider the process. You have only one heart, and you owe it to yourself to be under the care of a reputable cardiologist whom you can trust. Unless standards have changed, you are not a candidate for bypass surgery at this time. Modify your diet, exercise as much as possible under physician direction, and take any appropriate prescription medication. I see no harm in continuing your Crestor and the over-the-counters you are presently taking.

I should also note that chelation is a valid medical treatment for heavy-metal poisoning. The EDTA binds with the metals, thus removing them from the body. Under these circumstances, it can be a lifesaving medical procedure.

To provide related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Coronary Artery Disease." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed stamped No. 10 envelope and a \$2 check or money order to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Both of my great toes are rather sore and have a hard lump midway on the inside nearest to the first toe. I read your articles faithfully, but must have missed the one on ingrown toenails. I've always tried to keep my toenails cut straight across, but I need some help at this point.

DEAR READER: I am not sure from your brief description that I can identify your problem. Perhaps the lumps are ingrown toenails, but they could also be warts or abnormal growths. Perhaps your bumps are signs of joint damage owing to arthritis. What has me puzzled is that you indicate you have these lesions bilaterally.

Make an appointment with your primary-care physician, who will examine you and then determine what they might be, followed by what the best approach for treatment is. If you fail to get a satisfactory answer, request a referral to a podiatrist or orthopedic foot specialist.

To provide related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Medical Specialists." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed stamped No. 10 envelope and a \$2 to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada

1 800 567-ACDM

Until there's a cure, there's us.

I'm gonna be a Fireman someday.

TOWNSHIPS' CRIER

DANVILLE

New Year's Eve Party at the Royal Canadian Legion. Entertainment from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Only 150 tickets. Call 819-839-2581 or 819-434-1005.

LENNOXVILLE

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 p.m., at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 256 Queen St., Lennoxville. An inspirational service of carols, readings and candles. Come with the entire family! 819-569-3100.

This column accepts items announcing events organized by churches, service clubs and recognized charitable institutions for a \$7.00 fee, \$10.00 for 2 insertions of same notice, \$13.00 for 3 publications. Maximum 35 words. If you have more than 35 words the charge will be \$10.00 per insertion. Requests should be mailed, well in advance, to The Record, P.O. Box 1200, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1H 5L6, be signed and include a telephone number and payment. Telephone requests will not be accepted. Admission charges and trade names will be deleted. No dances.



Come help celebrate
GERTIE HETHERINGTON'S
90th Birthday
Monday, December 28
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Christ Church Hall, Eustis.
Good wishes only.

His drinking was completely out of control

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I started junior high in September. Everything was going fine, although I wish I could be more popular and stuff like that.

This one guy had a crush on me and asked me out. We had only texted and never really talked in person. So I said no. Now he's taking it personally.

I have very full lips like Angelina Jolie, which he says make me look like a duck. So all his friends are now making fun of me. They make quacking noises and call me duck names. The boy who likes me says he doesn't think I look like a duck, yet he makes fun of me with his friends. I know people say when a guy makes fun of you, he really likes you, but I don't think that is necessarily true.

I act like it doesn't bother me, but I'm afraid they'll keep doing it for the rest of the year. It's ruining my chances with other guys because no one wants to go out with "the duck." They are taking away my dignity. I know I'll be grateful for my lips when I'm older, but this is wrecking my self-esteem. Please help. — Duck Girl in New York

Dear New York: This is a form of bullying, and it can have an extremely deleterious effect on your high-school experience if it doesn't stop immediately. You sound like a smart girl with a lot of common sense, so we know you can weather this. But these kids should not get away with bullying. Please talk it over with your parents and consider reporting it to the school guidance counselor or principal.

Dear Annie: Can you tell me what the etiquette is for leftovers when a guest brings a dish to dinner?

A friend brought a covered casserole to my house and, when she left, retrieved it from the fridge. Since there were only two forkfuls left, we were surprised. We've never had a guest do this before. Is she rude, or is this acceptable behavior? — No Leftovers

Dear No Leftovers: When someone brings a dish, the leftovers usually stay with the hosts unless otherwise specified. However, with only two forkfuls left, it's more likely your friend simply wanted to be sure she retrieved her covered dish and the food was incidental.

Dear Annie: Your answer to "Worried Daughter" was dead on. She said her mother was drinking and driving, and you told her to call the police. More family members need to bear a little more responsibility when they see that one of their loved ones is putting others at risk.

My father was a police officer who was going through a deep depression, and his drinking was completely out of control. One week before Christmas, my mother informed me that once again Dad was at the local bar. I told her if he killed a family just days before Christmas, that murder would be on her shoulders if she didn't do anything about his drinking. Her response? "How could I do that to your father?"

So I did it for her. I called and told the bartender that if he served one more drink to my father, he, too, would be at fault if an innocent family was killed on his drive home. I told him to take away Dad's car keys. My father was very angry and incredibly embarrassed. But he also got a wakeup call.

"Worried Daughter" should absolutely call the police and protect the other people on the road from her drunk mother. It may seem cruel, but killing an innocent family is crueler. And who knows, maybe her mother will react the way my father did and finally get the help she needs. I am happy to say Dad is now sober and has often thanked me for shaking him up. — Not Worried Anymore in Canada

Dear Readers: Merry Christmas! Here's a little something sent in by a reader (author unknown) who thought it would provide some holiday cheer:

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, I searched for the tools to hand to my spouse.

Instructions were studied and we were inspired, in hopes we could manage "Some Assembly Required."

The children were quiet (not asleep) in their beds, while Dad and I faced the evening with dread.

A kitchen, two bikes, Barbie's townhouse to boot. And, thanks to Grandpa, a train with a toot.

We opened the boxes, my heart skipped a beat — let no parts be missing or parts incomplete.

Too late for last-minute returns or replacements, if we can't get it right, it goes in the basement.

When what to my worrying eyes should appear, but 50 sheets of directions, concise, but not clear.

With each part numbered and every slot named, so if we failed, only we could be blamed.

More rapid than eagles the parts then fell out, all over the carpet they were scattered about.

"Now bolt it! Now twist it! Attach it right there! Slide on the seats, and staple the stair!

Hammer the shelves, and nail to the stand."

"Honey," said hubby, "you just glued my hand."

And then in a twinkling, I knew for a fact, that all the toy dealers had indeed made a pact

To keep parents busy all Christmas Eve night, with "assembly required" till morning's first light.

We spoke not a word, but kept bent at our work. Till our eyes, they went bleary. Our fingers all hurt.

The coffee went cold and the night, it wore thin, before we attached the last rod and last pin.

Then laying the tools away in the chest, we fell into bed for a well-deserved rest.

But I said to my husband just before I passed out,

"This will be the best Christmas, without any doubt.

Tomorrow we'll cheer, let the holiday ring, and not have to run to the store for a thing!

We did it! We did it! The toys are all set For the perfect, most perfect, Christmas, I bet!"

Then off to dreamland, at last sweet repose, I gratefully went, although I suppose,

There's something to say for those self-deluded. I'd forgotten that batteries are never included!

Dear Annie: Three years ago, I was privileged to donate a kidney to someone I didn't know. I had been a registered organ donor for many years, but at age 66, I realized I might outlive my organs' usefulness.

My recipient and I weren't a great match, but a living kidney is much better than a perfect match from a deceased donor. Today we are both healthy and have become great friends.

Currently more than 104,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant. Nearly 82,000 are waiting for a kidney. Every day, 18 people die while waiting. In making their holiday gift lists, I encourage your readers to think about giving something truly useful — a gift that can't be bought at any price and requires no wrapping or shipping. The National Kidney Foundation's Holiday Gift of Life campaign reminds us that for any occasion, the greatest gift we can give is the promise to save or enhance someone's life with organs and tissues that we no longer need. If possible, consider becoming a living donor. Give the gift of life. Your readers can learn more at www.kidney.org. — Santa Rosa, Calif.

Dear Santa Rosa: On behalf of our readers, warm thanks to you and others who give life. You are greatly admired.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.



Santa had come and left without so much as a crumb!

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: T equals Y

"X ENA'Z ZFXAP OFWXJZLBJ XJ
AKOKJJBWXR T BSNMZ ZFXAUJ. XZ'J
BSNMZ SKXAU UNNE ZN NAK
BANZFKW." - OBWWXK YXJFKW

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "The poetry of the earth is never dead." - Keats "The world is mud-luscious and puddle-wonderful." - e.e. cummings

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

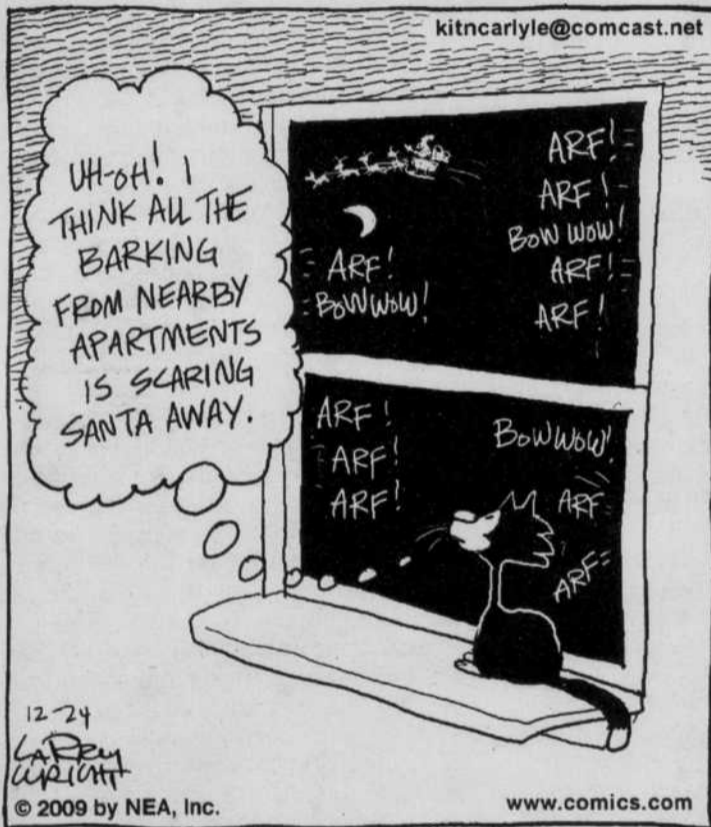
Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: V equals G

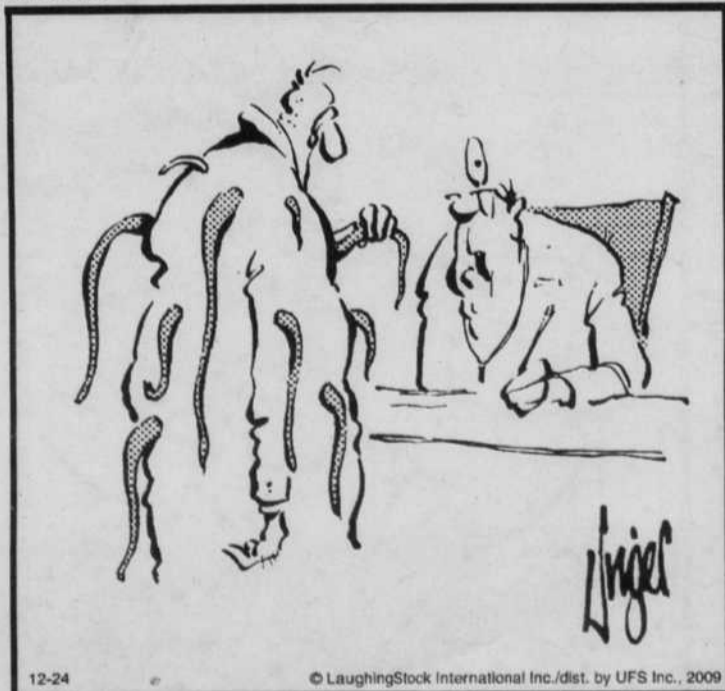
"LGPIT YWMFXOLGX, WT OWCRVWO,
ACTXK'O YCLT DMCL G XOCMT.
LGPIT YWMFXOLGX... ETMWGEX...
LTGKX G HFOOHT IFO LCMT." -
AM. XTRXX

XXRXX 'WV

LTGKX G HFOOHT IFO LCMT. " -
KIT N' CARLYLE



HERMAN

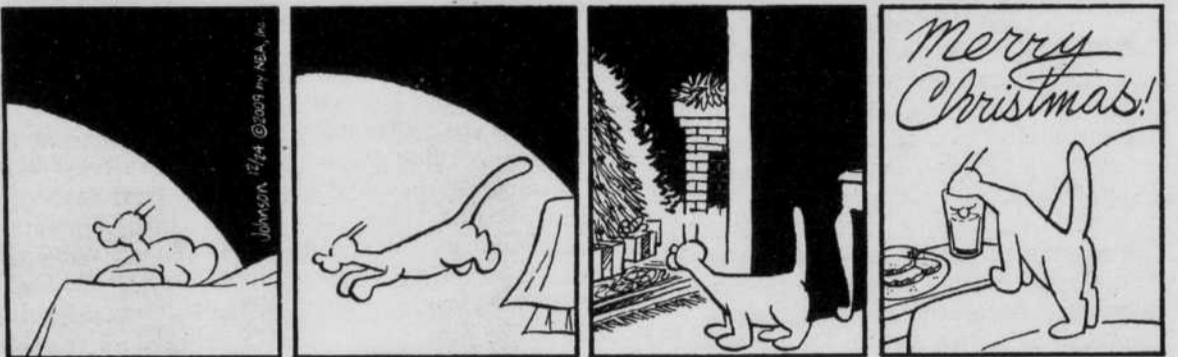


"It's nothing to worry about.
You're dehydrated."

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



GRIZWELLS



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REACT NOW!

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: V equals G

"LGPIT YWMFXOLGX, WT OWCRVWO, ACTXK'O YCLT DMCL G XOCMT, LGPIT YWMFXOLGX... ETMWGEX... LTGKX G HFOOHT IFO LCMT." - A.M. XTRXX

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "I don't think Christmas is necessarily about things. It's about being good to one another." - Carrie Fisher

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KIT N' CARLYLE



HERMAN



"I said, 'Merry Christmas, Your Lordship. You can't take it with you.'"

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



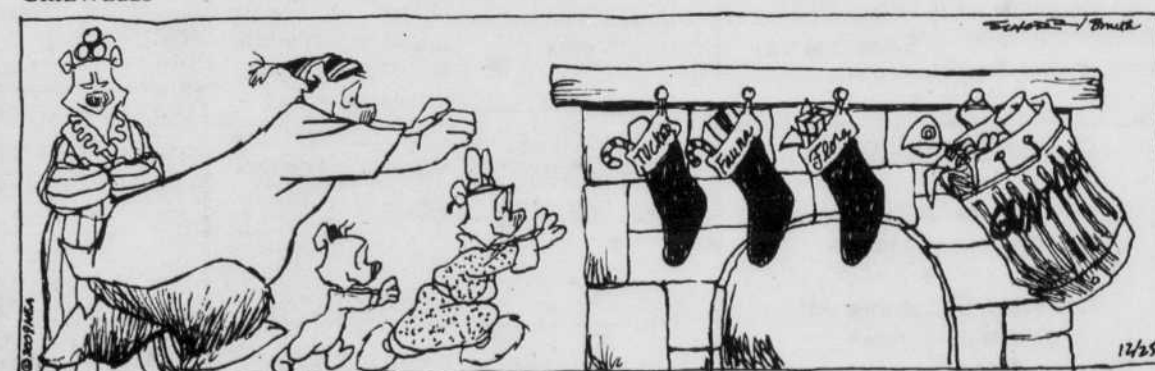
THE BORN LOSER



FRANK AND ERNEST



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Thursday, December 24:
8:30 a.m. to noon

Tuesday, December 25: closed

Monday, December 28: closed

Tuesday, December 29:
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, December 30:
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, December 31:
8:30 a.m. to noon.

Friday, January 1: closed

Monday, January 4:
back to regular hours.

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Janet Daignault

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330 Pets

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Take matters into your own hands

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009

In the year ahead, there is nothing wrong with driving yourself a bit harder in order to get what you want. But don't forget to take a little time to smell the roses along the way, especially when finding time for those you love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — It's imperative that you and other family members all have input into the decisions affecting the day's festivities. You could unwittingly overlook something important.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Try not to ask something of someone that you wouldn't ask of yourself. See things from the other's perspective, and understand why he or she can't comply.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Subdue temptations to unnecessarily spend way beyond your means. There is never a good reason to go heavily into debt for something you can completely do without.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — In order for things to run smoothly, it will be important to let others know your specific agenda beforehand; otherwise, someone could unknowingly upset your plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — With conversations running rampant, it might be far too easy to speak before you think. Guard what you say and to whom you say it, or you could unwittingly start a firestorm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Have a good time and enjoy yourself with family and friends, but try to do so without putting more strain on your wallet. It's time to start plugging up all the holes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Count to 10 before responding angrily to anyone who does something or says something that ticks you off. Even though the person may be way out of line, don't ruin your day over it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — The end results of the day's festivities will be strongly influenced by your attitude and behavior. If you're too much of a nitpicker or too negative over things, expect the day to be a downer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — No one can impose upon your good nature unless you let it happen. Don't hesitate to say no when someone asks more of you than you feel comfortable to handle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — In order to find a way where both you and your mate can reach an agreement concerning your plans for the day, each might have to compromise. Be cooperative and harmonious.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — This could be the wrong day to try something new and complicated that is totally untested by you or anyone you know. Frayed tempers are all you're likely to produce.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Don't be openhanded with something you collectively own with another, believing it's OK to loan it out. That person might have big plans for the loaned item, making things quite difficult for him or her.

Friday, Dec. 25, 2009

Improvements in many areas of your life are indicated in the year ahead, but one is likely to be more outstanding than all the others, and that is, you won't repeat old mistakes. Tremendous growth will take place in your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Everyone is susceptible to acting poorly at times, so take it in stride when someone does so. If you make a scene, you could be the one who causes lingering discord.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You might have ample reasons to find fault with another, but it's best to keep it to yourself. If you open the door to criticism, it'll put a pall over the rest of the day.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Although this is a time of year when prudence goes out the window, you shouldn't go broke just to keep up with others. Be the master, not the victim, of your whims.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Even if your good intentions are misunderstood, continue to treat others in a friendly and happy manner. Your tolerance will pay off handsomely in several joyous ways.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Be happy for everyone, even though you'll feel a little jealousy over another who seems to be getting everything you want. Poor behavior on your part will make things worse.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You might not be as understanding as usual and unnecessarily make demands of others, even of those who have been doing nice things for you. Watch your behavior.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Issuing orders might be a natural tendency, but you could do so in a manner that displays poor quality of leadership. Ask without demanding, and remember to say thank you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — It's not unusual for you to be in a gregarious mood, and this could make you far more talkative than usual. This certainly is well and good, provided that you don't start telling tales out of school.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Just because this may have been a costly time, don't make important financial decisions while you're feeling broke. Wait until you can assess matters accurately without emotion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — When caught in a bargaining situation, make sure that the other guy is willing to make a similar concession before shaking hands. Unless everything is equitable, it won't work out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Be safety-conscious, especially if you're working with someone's tools and materials with which you're unfamiliar. Before inserting the plug, get instructions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It's natural to always conduct yourself well in social situations, with one exception that could happen at this time: Someone you dislike might join the group. Be above it all.

Saturday, Dec. 26, 2009

Material prospects look to be quite encouraging for you in the year ahead. However, you may not receive the largest returns from the usual sources but from something or someone you consider to be less significant.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — If you have time, engage in a form of friendly competition, because activities that require both alertness and boldness could be the ones where you'll outshine everyone else.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — To your credit, you'll keep some information to yourself that could tarnish another's image or reputation. The wisdom of your decision will prove to be quite fortunate.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Social encounters with good friends could prove to be pleasant and beneficial. You may learn something from one of your pals that will prove quite valuable.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Play your hunches and follow your instincts when it comes to handling things of a material nature. Use these assets, along with your common sense, to better your lifestyle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Contacting a friend to extend a holiday greeting could turn out to be a lucky circumstance. In talking to your pal, he or she could explain how to acquire something you need.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Something important needs to be changed, and it requires the help of another that you weren't expecting to get until after the holiday season. However, you'll have this person's full support.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Fortunately, two friends are blessed with long memories and haven't forgotten the nice things you've done for them. If you're in need, ask and you shall receive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You'll have no trouble handling all those extra responsibilities that could befall you because of the holidays. In fact, the busier you are at this time, the happier it makes you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Discovering something new could prove to be an enjoyable and useful experience. You'll put this knowledge to work in several areas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — When it comes to your affairs, you might expend only nominal effort toward taking care of them. But when loved ones need your help, you'll happily work vigorously on getting them what they need.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Select companions who share many common interests to celebrate some holiday cheer. You won't want to spend this happy time with dullards or downers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Your customary channels of earnings could yield larger-than-usual rewards at this time. Be alert for ways to reap extra dividends, such as a raise or a Christmas bonus.

Sunday, Dec. 27, 2009

In the year ahead, you might look to friends and family to help you escape from the uncomfortable and unfriendly in life, which is fine and good. With their support, you can concentrate on what actually brings success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Watch what you say because you might have more influence over your listeners than you intend and not like the way they react to your words of "wisdom."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Those who care about you will sincerely try to figure out ways to help improve your lot in life. Even if you don't like what they try to do, be gracious.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — It's important to believe in your hopes and expectations, but only if they are realistic. Unless you can discern between wishful thinking and reality, you could be disillusioned.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may find yourself completely fascinated and in love with a new idea, but be careful. Before spending wads of money on it, be sure that it's not just a passing fancy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may think that the world has suddenly changed considerably, but it's likely to be your own head in the clouds that provides this distorted view. Do what you can to keep your mind straight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — A past acquaintance might want to renew the relationship, but it could be a passing fancy. Don't put much stock in his or her overtures.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Finding common ground over something that has been disturbing in your relationship with a person of importance may come easier. Open up, and discuss what's been bothering you.

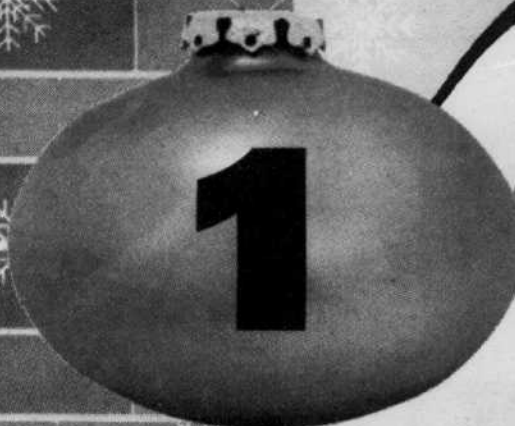
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Overindulging with some favorite foods or substances should be avoided. Remember that you'll pay the price tomorrow when you wake up and feel the effects of too much of a good thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Change could enter your life with regard to how you feel about a serious relationship or commitment, but chances are it will only be temporary. Your emotions are merely running high.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Focus your efforts on doing for others, and you will be the one who comes out the best. The very people you help will end up doing more for you than you'll do for them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You could find yourself thoroughly fascinated by someone you meet, but be careful. It might merely be a passing fancy that has nothing to do with forming a real relationship.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — This might be a day to avoid shopping. Certainly, you will find what you're looking for; in fact, everything you see will look wonderful. Sadly, though, it won't look good tomorrow.



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