

THE RECORD

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TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2001

WTO upholds French ban on asbestos

Asbestos industry officials express disappointment

By Stephen McDougall
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD
BLACK LAKE

Officials for the Asbestos industry and their workers expressed disappointment Monday over news the World Trade Organization (WTO) has rejected an appeal by Canada to overthrow an earlier ruling last year supporting a French ban on asbestos imports.

"It saddens us for sure," said Normand Boutet, an executive assistant at the LABChrysotile open-pit operation in Black Lake.

"It does not change anything for us now, because the WTO position had been known for a while, but we don't know what will happen to us in the medium and long-term. The morale of our workers is awful."

The ruling, issued Monday, upheld the WTO's decision last September to allow an import ban by France, which said it had to protect the health of its workers and citizens.

The ban was imposed in 1997 and immediately contested by Canadian external trade officials who feared it contravened international trade provisions governed by the WTO.

But a special group of the WTO allowed the ban, arguing any member state had the right to restrict trade based on health reasons. That ruling was immediately appealed by Canada.

Some forms of asbestos have been linked to lung illnesses and to mesothelioma, a rare form of lung cancer. The Canadian government and the Canadian Asbestos Industry have maintained that Chrysotile asbestos, mined in the Asbestos and Thetford Mines-Black Lake areas of the Townships is safe for humans if properly regulated and handled.

France has claimed that any form of asbestos is dangerous for humans, arguing that up to 2,000 deaths there have been linked to the fibre.

The Canadian asbestos industry presently employs close to 1,400 people at three mines in the Townships, one in Thetford Mines, one in Black Lake and one in Asbestos. Industry officials fear more bans will mean the eventual loss of many of those jobs.



PERRY BEATON/SPECIAL

The open-pit operation in Black Lake.

In the early 1970s, up to 7,000 people worked at 14 asbestos mines in the townships. But after the fibre was linked to lung illness, many of the

mines closed, laying off or retiring thousands of employees.

Rodrigue Chartier, the head of the miners' union in Asbestos, said the WTO decision did not surprise him.

"We expected the WTO would go this way," he said.

"The members would have liked to hear good news for once, but they have to be realistic. A lot of people in France are afraid of what we produce."

He said the ban has not affected the mine's production, since most of the fibre is exported to African and Asian countries, and not to Europe.

He added most employees don't even talk about a proposal by the European Union to ban all asbestos by the

year 2005.

"If the Union shuts the door on our asbestos, will Africa and Asia follow? I don't know. I think it's too early to tell."

Denis Hamel, director of the Asbestos Institute, a lobby group for the industry, said the WTO decision closes the door on any further fight against the French ban.

"Nothing more can be done about this," he said. "It's really over."

Hamel pointed out the WTO rulings dealt with agreements that govern international commerce and did not mean Chrysotile asbestos was put on trial.

SEE ASBESTOS, PAGE 5

Bridge Under Flooded Waters



PERRY BEATON/SPECIAL

The bridge on route 143 at Burrough's Falls was flooded when water from a broken Hydro Quebec pipe gushed streams of water, around 3:40 Monday afternoon. The break occurred near the abandoned gas station to the north of the bridge. Courageous motorists crept through the flowing water which filled the parking lot of the dance hall. A hydro crew working at the power station nearby quickly closed off the water at the dam. Nobody was hurt, damage was minimal and the road was reopened and traffic quickly returned to normal.

Rocker had its role returned

Family chair brings peace of mind

Strange things are happening in our home. A sort of magical magnetism has emerged, luring me repeatedly to a rustic old rocking chair day after day.

Even at 12:51 a.m., as last Saturday turned into Sunday, I was enticed to rock a few moments before crawling into bed. Just a couple of backs and forths, slowly, quietly, so as not to disturb my partner's slumber, yet to encourage my own... This is weird.

I've always been intrigued by this piece of furniture. My earliest memory of it dates from childhood. The rocker, with its chipped white paint revealing an undercoat of navy blue and a still lower coat of Bull's Blood stain, sat at an angle among no longer used items in the shed connected to the house. I can't

recall anyone sitting in it. But that should be expected; it had no seat.

In the early 1970s, as I was setting up house, this family heirloom was handed down to me. In my mind, it's a family heirloom because my dad could recall his grandfather sitting in this rocker on the front verandah of the home I grew up in.

The chair was stripped down to the original wood by a specialist, then finished with a clear varnish. My former high school principal, Mr. Butler, wove a new seat onto its frame. And it was allocated a special place in the scheme of interior design in my various apartments.

Curiously, the special chair was never rocked in, not even sat on - the rockers had long ago been worn flat. There was no rock left in it.



SUSAN MASTINE

Many anecdotes must be associated with this simply designed, hand-hewn, red maple, unarmed rocker with its octagonal-shaped legs and rungs and three slats across the back. Stories of babies being put to sleep, mothers doing needlework after the evening meal, grandmothers reminiscing silently while knitting next to the wood stove and old codgers puffing on their

pipes as they tell tales are only a few of those stories about people slowly, lullingly moving back and forth, back and forth like a pendulum in the old rocking chair.

This particular rocker left my possession in the mid-seventies when my companion at the time succeeded in convincing me to give away anything and everything I'd ever owned before meeting him.

Long story, big mistake. Fortunately,

the treasured rocker ended up in my sister's hands. Once I'd come to my senses and found the true man of my life, she returned it to me with a new set of rockers installed and the old ones to boot for sentiment's sake and posterity's benefit.

For the past twenty years, the old rocking chair has been part of our household furnishings, always in a special spot in our bedroom. Never once did I rock in it, despite the new rockers. Maybe rocking just wasn't my style.

A couple of weeks ago, I got the urge to move the chair next to a front window near a blossoming pink Easter cactus. And the spell of the chair created so long ago was cast. Now, my day seems incomplete without a few moments spent rocking. Priceless moments to ponder swirling snowflakes, to imagine spring blossoms, to empty the mind of mundane thoughts or challenging times - soothing, peaceful, refreshing.

It's okay to look

For as long as I can remember, there've been men's magazines. You know what I'm talking about: Playboy, Penthouse, that kind of thing. Now, I'm not here to pass judgment one way or the other, but I'm sure many wives don't appreciate their husbands looking at these kinds of publications. Comparison shopping doesn't belong in the bedroom.

But I think there are more dangerous things to look at than men's magazines. A lot of men my age have replaced sexy publications with monthly magazines offering used trucks and boats and RVs, for example. Complete with pictures.

This has got to be much scarier than seeing your husband browsing through Playboy. When he looks at pictures in a men's magazine, there's no chance he's going to bring any of those home.

TOTALITARIAN TO EGALITARIAN

They used to teach us in history class that the type of government a country has is directly related to the age of the

country and the level of education of its citizens. The implication was that you may start out as a dictatorship, and that can be a good thing, but through experience and teaching, democracy evolves naturally.

I think this same theory applies to the human body. When I started out, my body was a dictatorship. Initially my stomach was the Grand Pooh-bah, but it was eventually overthrown by another dictator during puberty. That led to the Reign of Terror, which ended at some point during the wedding ceremony.

And now I find, with the educational side effect of time and experience, my body has turned into a democracy. When I think that I'd like to play tennis, I first consult my arms and legs and back, trying to get a consensus. If the proposal passes at all, it's usually in an amended form, which means I watch tennis on television.

NORTH OF FORTY



RED GREEN

With me, the majority rules. And if there's some kind of sexual initiative suggested, it often passes the Lower House but is then overturned by the older and wiser Senate.

I HOPE I'M AN OPTIMIST

These days, optimists have fallen on hard times. It seems that if you feel good about the future, you are either an idiot or uninformed, or, in the worst case, an uninformed idiot. So the best way for optimists to avoid the scorn of society is to hide their affliction. Here is a list of things you should never do because they tell the world that you are too hopeful:

- Buy a car made in a communist country.
- Dance with a woman half your age.
- Cheer for the Toronto Maple Leafs.
- Join a fitness club.
- Watch any TV show produced by Dick Clark.

- Answer the phone at dinnertime.
- Carry a condom.

LIFE'S A GAME

When the first of my two sons was born, I used to sit him in his stroller out in the backyard while a buddy and I would have a game of catch. When he started walking, I'd get him out there and roll the ball along the ground to him. A year later, I'd be throwing it underhand to him, and a year after that, I switched to overhand, but still throwing as gently as I could. After a couple of more years, he was in a baseball league, and I could throw the ball to him as hard as I wanted. A few years after that, I noticed he started easing off on how hard he was throwing me the ball. Last year he started throwing it underhand to me. This summer I figure I'll be sitting in my stroller watching him and his brother have a game of catch.

Quote of the Day: "Always remember you're unique, just like everyone else." — Red Green

Weather

Tuesday: Snow becoming intermittent by midday. Accumulation near 5 centimetres. High near 2. Winds easterly 15 to 30 km/h.

Wednesday: Snow. Low near minus 3. High near 0.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with chance of flurries. Low near minus 7. High near 3. Probability of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday: Snow or rain. Low near minus 6. High near 3. Normals for the period. Low minus 10. High 0.

Ben by Daniel Shelton



Brick by brick for WW II interpretive centre

By Janice Cunningham

On June 6, 1944, 14,000 Canadians landed on Juno Beach in Normandy. On this day, D-Day, the long-awaited invasion of Northwest Europe began with Allied landings on the coast of Normandy. It would claim the lives of 359 Canadians and result in 1,074 Canadian casualties, but would give Allied forces their opening into Europe.

To commemorate the role of Canadians in WW II and ensure that their story will not be forgotten, a group of Canadian veterans and Wal-Mart stores are raising funds to construct an educational centre at Courseulles-sur-Mer in Normandy, France, near Juno Beach.

"It will be a typical, small museum," said Garth Webb, president of the Juno Beach Centre Association, who is "just delighted" with the project. "It's a good place and it's the only one like it." The only comparable museum in Europe is the Vimy Interpretive Centre which commemorates the role of Canadians in WWI.

The association, which initiated the project four years ago, has hired a Canadian group to work on the project, as well as a Canadian architect to design the building.

France is donating the land for the site, Webb said, but the money for the building is being raised in Canada.

Wal-Mart, well-known for its involvement in community and educational projects, is selling paper bricks in its stores across Canada to raise funds for the Canadian memorial. A one-dollar minimum gets your name on the brick and lets you place it on the wall.

The store has called on local Royal Canadian Legion veterans to help out at the booths, including Ted Rogers, vice-commander of the District 7 Royal Canadian Legion.

"It started last Saturday," he said. "Wal-Mart's got a target of five million for the project, for the year 2002." According to Rogers, Wal-Mart is trying to get cadets



COURTESY WAL-MART

Jan de Vries and Garth Webb are members of the organizing committee for the Juno Beach Centre

and veterans to help out at the booth and to explain the project to shoppers but, according to Rogers, the work shifts of volunteers have not been well organized. There is no one to help out in the Sherbrooke area, he explained.

"I got stuck there all morning on Saturday," the elderly veteran said, but added proudly that more than half the bricks already on the wall were due to his efforts.

Rogers said that all the branches received a kit from legion headquarters asking that \$250 be donated to purchase a brick with the branch's number on it to be used in the Courseulles construction. But not all appear to be enthusiastic about the project though Rogers does believe that the Wal-Mart collection "is a very good thing." The local district will be meeting on Sunday to decide on its policy for the project.

As the number of remaining veterans from WW II dwindles over the years, there is concern that the story of Canada's role in the invasion may be forgotten.

"The centre will tell the story of Canadians in WW II," said Webb, who himself was part of the invasion on D-Day. "There won't just be a bunch of guns - they have

modern techniques to tell the story."

On D-Day, the task that lay before the Allies was formidable - the Germans had turned the Normandy coastline into a continuous fortress with guns, pillboxes, wire, mines and beach obstacles.

All three Canadian services shared in the assault. One of the seaborne forma-

tions was the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, supported by the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade and troops attached from other arms and services of the Canadian Army. The first Canadian Parachute Battalion dropped on the eastern flank of the bridgehead with the British 6th Airborne Division. The crossing of the English Channel was made through lanes that minesweepers of the Royal Canadian Navy helped to clear. In the skies Royal Canadian Air Force bombers attacked German batteries and fighter squadrons tackled targets farther inland.

The Canadian army's task was to establish a beachhead along the five miles between Courseulles and St-Aubin-sur-Mer and push for the Carpiquet airfield 11 miles inland. The plan succeeded, and they halted just short of the airfield due to machine-gun fire which had held up the advance.

More than one million Canadians served in the Second World War. Of these more than 45,000 gave their lives, and another 55,000 were wounded. Countless others shared the suffering and hardship of war.

BRIEF

SHERBROOKE

A fire at an apartment building on Prospect Street led police to a pair of apartments filled with pot plants. Sherbrooke fire department responded to a call around 6:15 Monday morning at 1490 Prospect. After evacuating the building, firefighters discovered apartments 4 and 5 were filled with pot plants, said Sherbrooke regional police force spokesman Const. André Lemire.

Lemire said police got a search warrant, inspected the apartments and arrested the two occupants.

André Picard, 50, the tenant in apartment 5, was charged with production of cannabis with intent to traffic. Police seized some 70 plants in his apartment with a street value of about \$35,000, Lemire said.

The tenant in apartment 4 was released. Police found fewer than a dozen plants in his apartment and decided it was for personal use, Lemire said. The man will be summoned to appear in court later on charges of simple possession.





LA SOIRÉE DE
L'ENVOI IV

BENEFIT DINNER
Friday, April 6, 2001
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at the Hotel Delta
2685 West King Street, Sherbrooke

Honorary president
Mr. Raymond Tardif

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Quatuor A Médée

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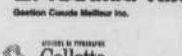
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Agro-Bec



PIERRE PICHON

Association québécoise
des éleveurs de Ratistes Inc.

Sherbrooke prepares for summer pilgrimage

Thousands of young Catholics to meet here

By Rita Legault
SHERBROOKE

Some 700,000 youths from throughout the world will converge on Toronto next summer as the Catholic Church organizes one of the largest public events ever to be held in Canada.

And before they attend a week of events surrounding World Youth Day in Canada's largest city, a few thousand young pilgrims will stop over in the Sherbrooke area for several days.

The pilgrimage is held in a different country every two years. Last summer, some 2.5 million Catholic youths from more than 150 countries converged on the Vatican in Rome, Italy as the Catholic Church celebrated its 2000th Jubilee. At that time, Canada was chosen to host the next Word Youth Day in 2002.

From July 18 to 21, hundreds of thousands of youths between the ages of 18 and 35 will spend a few days dispersed throughout Catholic dioceses across the country before the students make the pilgrimage to Toronto aboard some 25,000 yellow school buses which are being chartered for the national event. In Toronto the youths will spend five days participating in a variety of social and spiritual activities including a welcome mass and a vast vigil presided by the Pope.

While the event won't be held until July 2002, organizers are already busy planning logistics for the mammoth event.

Here in Sherbrooke, youth Julien St-Pierre, who is charged with promotion and fundraising for local activities, is looking for volunteers interested in preparing everything from grassroots events in local parishes to national events in Toronto.

The main event in Sherbrooke, which will be included within festivities for

Sherbrooke's bi-centennial in 2002, will be a huge ecumenical community celebration in Jacques Cartier Park that will include the 2,000 visitors, 1,000 local World Youth Day delegates and their families as well as the general public, said St-Pierre.

While in Sherbrooke, the international youths

will be housed with host families where they will get to know the local culture.

"We want to show them that many cultures cohabitate and that we live together without killing each other," St-Pierre said, adding that elsewhere in the world culture don't always co-exist as peacefully.

St-Pierre said the youths will also take part in a number of touristic and religious activities.

St-Pierre, who was one of 20 local youths who participated in jubilee celebrations in Italy last year, spent a week with a family on the coast near Ancona.

"They treated us like kings," he said, adding that it will be a challenge to live up to the example set by his Italian hosts. But he plans to meet the challenge.

The official launch and the call for host families won't take place until April, but St-Pierre is already busy looking for volunteers and corporate sponsors.

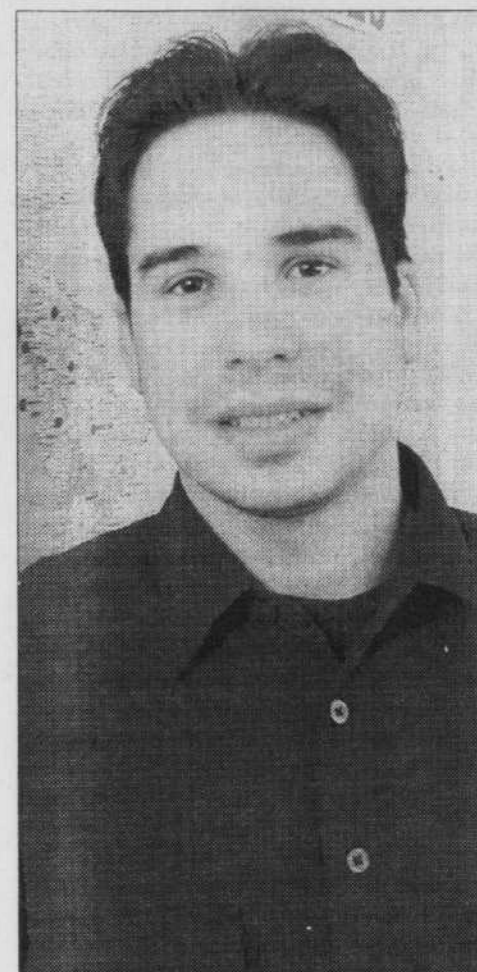
St-Pierre predicts the budget for local events will be at least \$200,000. That will require some hefty sponsors.

"We won't cover that selling chocolate bars," comments St-Pierre from his office at Sherbrooke's Archdiocese.

St-Pierre said participation in the activity is already exceeding expectations. He said conservative estimates predicted participation at about 400,000, but those figures had to be revised because some 350,000 are already registered more than a year before the event.

St-Pierre said Quebec will host about 100,000 young pilgrims, with at least 2,000 of them coming to Sherbrooke.

He said people interested in getting involved in the organization of World Youth Day should contact their parish priest.



PERRY BEATON/SPECIAL

Julien St-Pierre is charged with promotion and fundraising for local activities

Watch stolen

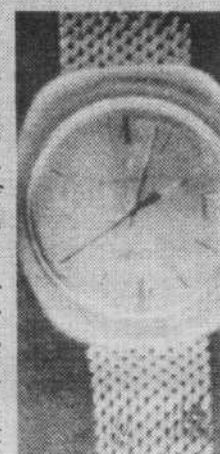
Staff
SHERBROOKE

Police are seeking a man in his 20s who mugged a coin dealer and made off with his \$12,000 18k gold watch.

The theft occurred as the owner of the Boutique Hugo coin and stamp store located at 2164 King West was closing up shop Friday evening.

When he brought the garbage out to the container out back, the suspect attacked him from behind and pepper sprayed him, said Sherbrooke regional police force spokesman Const. André Lemire. The owner fought back, but in the struggle the mugger managed to grab his gold Girard Perregaux watch off his wrist. The victim suffered injuries to his hands and feet in the struggle against his aggressor.

Lemire said the suspect, who was dressed in dark clothing, was about 5-foot-10 and weighed about 200 pounds. Anyone with any information about the mugging can contact police headquarters at 821-5555.



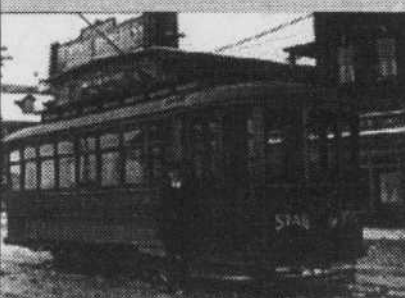
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Agenda

- **Bibliothèque municipale Éva-Sénécal (821-5597):** Une surprise pour Pâques, Saturday, April 7, 1:30 p.m. (Kids 6 to 10).
- **Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke (821-2115):** The exhibition *Husband and Wife*. Wood engravings by John J.A. Murphy and Cecil Buller, till April 1.
- **Musée du Séminaire de Sherbrooke (564-3200):** The exhibition 1, 2, 3... MATH! at the Centre d'exposition Léon-Marcotte, till April 8. Saturday, April 7: A field trip to Baie-du-Févre to watch geese and ducks.
- **Galerie d'art du Centre culturel de l'Université de Sherbrooke (821-7742):** 2500, boulevard de l'Université, Sherbrooke (Québec) J1K 2R1

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TV show distorted facts about asbestos: Lobby group

By Stephen McDougall
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD
ASBESTOS

The Pro-Asbestos lobby group is asking for equal time on the local Cogeco Cable system to counter charges made recently by the French TV5 network that all asbestos fibres are deadly.

"What the TV5 documentary said was that if you breathe in one fibre of asbestos, no matter what form, you die," said Sandra Vigneux, head of the Asbestos and Area Chamber of Commerce and a spokeswoman for Pro-Asbestos.

"The charge is untrue because most of their research involved fibres that we don't produce here in Canada. They were referring to amphibolic fibres that come from other countries and are the cause of most asbestos-related diseases."

The asbestos fibre mined here and in Thetford Mines is the Chrysotile form, which both government and industry consider the least harmful if handled safely.

France banned the import of all forms of asbestos in 1997, claiming the fibres were responsible for some 2,000 deaths per year in that country. Last year, the World Trade Organization allowed the ban, despite protests by Canada of unfair trade practices.

The hour-and-a-half documentary



FILE PHOTO

Pro-Asbestos lobbyists say the asbestos fibre that comes from this mine in Asbestos and in Thetford Mines is considered the least harmful if handled safely.

was broadcast in February as part of the Thalassa segment of TV5. The French network, based in Paris, is broadcast in Quebec on the Cogeco Cable system which covers most of rural Quebec, including the Eastern Townships.

Vigneux said the Pro-Asbestos group has collected over 800 signatures from Asbestos for a petition that will be sent to Cogeco later this week to back up

their demand for equal time. In Thetford Mines, local Chamber of Commerce spokeswoman Lynn Gagne said more than 2,000 signatures have been collected for the same purpose.

"If Cogeco does not agree to give us equal time by March 15, we'll go to the CRTC (Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission) and register a formal complaint against

them," said Vigneux.

As added pressure, the lobby group also plans to deposit the signed petitions with the Quebec legislature.

Officials from Cogeco Cable could not be reached for comment at press time.

Signatures are being collected on the petition during normal business hours at the Asbestos and Area Chamber of Commerce at 332 1st Avenue, Asbestos, or the Thetford Mines Chamber of Commerce at 228 Notre Dame, Thetford Mines.

The Pro-Asbestos movement, started last fall after the WTO supported the French ban, is planning more events designed to convince other countries that Canadian asbestos is not dangerous to human health.

In August, 20 past and present asbestos workers from Asbestos and Thetford Mines plan to take part in a bicycle trip from Halifax to Asbestos.

"We hope to show that people from the asbestos mines are in good physical condition, that chrysotile asbestos is not dangerous for humans if handled with care," said Vigneux.

She said most of the cyclists still work in the mines and mills at Jeffrey Mine in Asbestos and the LABChrysotile operations in Thetford Mines. Both companies have agreed to give the cyclists time off from work to do the trip.

Asbestos foes will exploit the rulings – Hamel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But Hamel fears asbestos foes will exploit the rulings anyway.

"We are convinced that anti-asbestos groups supported by multinational business that manufactures replacement products are still looking to distort public opinion, media and legislators by declaring that this decision is a call to ban Chrysotile world-wide," he declared.

Hamel argued the decision could en-

courage many WTO member countries to put up more protectionist trade barriers based on the motive of public health or the lobbying of domestic manufacturers.

"This year, the European Union wants to ban or severely regulate nearly 1,200 natural substances and industrial products," he claimed.

"Before the opening of the Summit of the Americas (scheduled for Quebec City in April) where the creation of a free-

trade zone will be on the agenda, the whole credibility of the laws that govern freedom of international commerce has been shaken."

But François Lasalle, spokesman for Canada's Foreign Affairs and International Trade department, said the appeal decision does not give WTO members a free hand to ban future substances.

"France had wanted an exception from the agreement on technical barri-

ers to trade, so that it could ban any substance without further scrutiny by other WTO members," he said.

"But the appeal decision said France has to respect the agreement, so future bans cannot be imposed automatically. They can still be contested by affected member states."

Officials from the French consulate in Montreal could not be reached for comment at press time.

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Community Forum

Liberals posture as new premier fills cabinet posts

If Jean Charest's Liberals had added a soupçon more nationalism to their 1998 election campaign, they might have won a plurality of seats.

If they had heeded the recommendations of a party Task Force headed by Claude Ryan and emphasized a policy of compassion in health and social affairs, it might have defeated a PQ government that had just sacrificed social democracy to reach a zero deficit.

If the electoral system allowed for proportional representation, the Liberal plurality of votes would have allowed them to form a minority government.

With that analysis of the 1998 election in mind, delegates to the Liberal general council meeting on the weekend reworked their priorities in preparation for the next election.

There's not much the Liberals can do about electoral reform until they form a government. But they can forge a fresh image with policy changes and they can, thanks to the arrival of Bernard Landry as premier, position themselves as the voice of reason and conciliation.

Certainly, Landry's penchant for provoking Ottawa-Quebec battles and his determination to hold another sovereignty

referendum open up space on the political spectrum for the Liberals.

While Lucien Bouchard had the knack of attracting soft nationalists who don't necessarily want sovereignty, Landry is seemingly intent on exploiting flag-waving jingoism to the fullest, thus alienating those with a more sophisticated view of nation-building.

That leaves Charest room to appeal to middle-of-the-road Quebecers who accept Quebec's distinctiveness as a given, but who view Quebec as a nation within a nation.

The risk of course is that some Liberals will cringe at too much talk of "the Quebec nation" and "our homeland". Indeed, there was evidence of that on the weekend.

But there is no question at all that Liberals must attract more francophone voters to win. And as the party's inter-governmental affairs critic Benoît Pelletier said, Liberals must re-appropriate some of the lingo. They cannot afford to allow the PQ to portray them as anti-nationalists.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LIBERALS

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

GLENN WANAMAKER

Just as critical for the Liberals, however, may be their ability to appeal to social democrats.

The last time the Liberals won power under Robert Bourassa, they cracked down on social assistance recipients with the infamous "Bou-bou macoutes" welfare inspectors.

Needless to say, the PQ reaped the electoral benefits. But in its last six years of power, its claim to social democracy lost credibility after repeated cuts to health and social services.

Now it's the Liberals' turn. By emphasizing the need to recognize poverty as a fundamental economic and social problem, they could win back some social democratic voters.

And Charest doesn't even need to develop a whole new program. In June 1998, Claude Ryan's Task Force gave the party a comprehensive report on poverty and public policy.

"Barring any justifiable exceptions, all ministerial projects that can potentially decrease services to the poor or result in prohibitive costs will be refused unless a fair method of compensation is implemented for those who will be negatively affected by such measures."

That was the concluding theme of a detailed analysis that was accompanied by 176 propositions.

During a workshop debate on the report, party members were so enthusiastic about it that Task Force member, MNA Russell Copeman, said that in the election campaign, "we're going to take great delight going after (then-minister responsible for social affairs) Louise Harel for all the broken PQ promises."

"And when Nicole Loiselle (MNA for St. Henri-St. Anne) becomes minister, we'll respect our commitments!"

Unfortunately for both Copeman and Loiselle, the party pretty much buried the report during that election campaign. The good news though is that it has another chance! And even though Landry has declared unemployment and poverty his top two "enemies", Liberals can easily make hay by highlighting his record as Finance Minister.

The PQ still has its share of ministers on the so-called "left" of the party, such as Pauline Marois, Harel, André Boisclair, and Nicole Léger. But the Liberals too have MNAs with a strong social conscience - Copeman, Loiselle, Russell Williams, Geoffrey Kelley, and Line Beauchamp. The Liberals just need to give them room to flourish.

THE LANDRY CABINET

Bernard Landry addressed Quebecers in various languages after being sworn in as premier last week, but the message remained the same - his government will talk about sovereignty every day.

His new Cabinet retains a certain fa-

miliarity, but some appointments deserve to be highlighted.

François Legault, likely the first Cabinet minister to be cheered by students and educators and then booed by members of his own party, held on to his education portfolio, much to his own astonishment.

Like someone who has just won an acting award despite flubbing his lines, Legault kept repeating how happy he was.

Pauline Marois, who wanted to be premier, ends up as deputy premier and finance minister. Unfortunately for her, she will not head the industry and commerce ministry which, as Landry knows well, is the best way to see the province, hand out grants, and gain public favour.

But Landry had an excuse. The government's investment agency, la Société de financement générale (SGF), reports to industry and commerce, and the SGF's chairman is Claude Blanchet, Marois's husband.

To avoid a conflict of interest, Landry named Gilles Baril as minister. Baril, as it turns out, has been catapulted to the top as Landry's right-hand man and chief political organizer. He's also minister responsible for the regions, a portfolio that will be critical in the next few months as the government unveils a new regions policy.

Regional development will be a major theme in the next PQ election campaign, and the two men who will be doling out political goodies will be Landry and the suddenly powerful Baril.

Former tennis pro Richard Legendre, Quebec Director of Tennis Canada, parachutes into a job as junior minister of tourism and sport. Those who know him say he'll do a good job, but the MNAs on the PQ back benches must be wondering why none of them are fit to plug the tourism industry.

One head-scratching change was the shunting of Agnès Maltais from culture to junior health and social services minister.

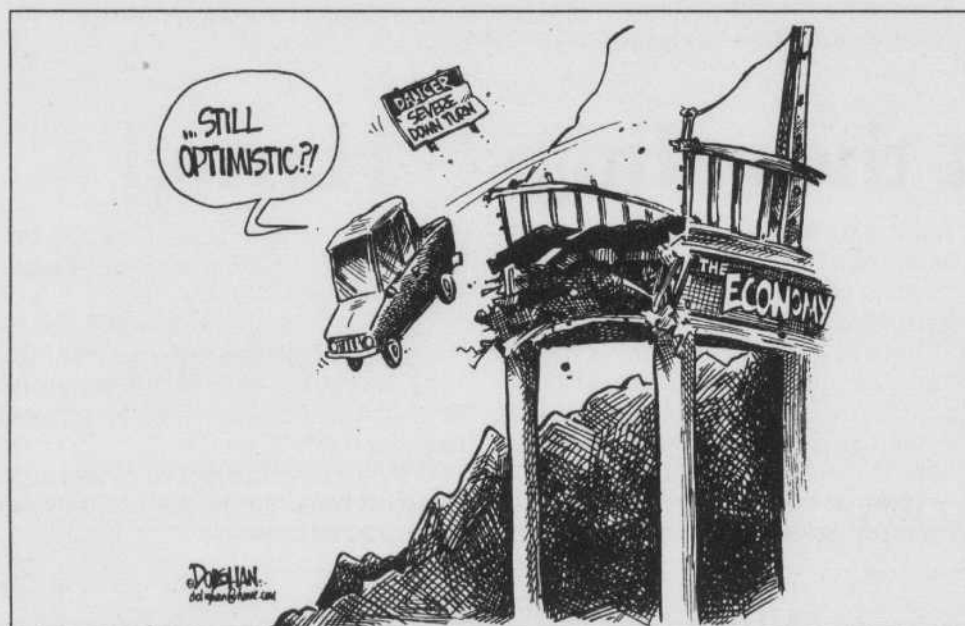
While Maltais, a rookie, may have stumbled on the political performance side, she was widely respected by the cultural milieu.

It's hard to see the sense of sacrificing a solid relationship with a key PQ constituency when the best you can do is name Diane Lemieux who, within seconds of taking over, declared that Ontario has no culture.

She obviously had been reading up on acerbic German philosopher Nietzsche: "I believe only in French culture, and regard everything else in Europe which calls itself 'culture' as a misunderstanding."

To make matters more exciting, Lemieux also becomes responsible for the Charter of the French Language.

(Glenn Wanamaker can be reached by e-mail at wanamaker@hotmail.com.)



THE RECORD

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Point well taken

DEAR EDITOR,

A recent editorial by Tom Cavanaugh brings to the fore the contentious issue of free-will versus addiction. He cites a case in which an employer was held to blame for a drunkard's recklessness as she was a so-called 'addict' and greater care should have been exercised by the employer at the time of the office party. In short, the judge ruled that the employer should not have let the inebriate drive away in such a state.

But why stop at alcohol 'addiction'? Let's start punishing the depanneur owner who supplied cigarettes to a woman for a number of years during which she became a cigarette addict and developed lung cancer as a consequence. Is there really any difference? And how many times has this happened?

Innumerable. Let's then simply punish EVERY establishment that sells cigarettes. Also punish tobacco growers, tobacco workers, tobacco companies (hey - we are!) and anyone who promotes cigarettes in any way. Let's punish the Canadian government which via huge taxes makes money off the avails of unhealthy habits. While we're at it, let's punish all parents who smoke(d) in front of their kids. And let's not stop there; we should punish anyone who smokes in front of a kid thus influencing him to smoke and self destroy.

Oh what the heck, punish ANYONE who smokes. And why stop at cigarettes - let's punish racing car drivers for 'role-modelling' kids into driving fast and inflicting damage, perhaps even killing someone. More, more - we should punish Playboy for per...

Now, if this all sound ridiculous, it is! Most ridiculous, which is the point of it all. But there is a common thread to all this actual and suggested punishment: it is not the person committing the actual act that is being punished, it is always someone else. And that, of course, is why it is ridiculous. And THAT is why it is not only ridiculous but misguided to blame an employer for his employees' problem. Let us remember that it was the 'addict', not the employer, who took her car to work knowing full well she would later on be attending an office party where no doubt she would succumb to her addiction. THAT is where the responsibility lay, in that early morning decision presumably made with a clear head (unless her orange juice was a little off).

Having come full circle, and in spite of the conclusion, it is of course total-

ly irresponsible for anyone, not just the 'employer', knowingly to allow someone who is intoxicated, 'addict' or not, to get into the driver's seat with a set of keys. It follows that there HAS to be a 'good Samaritan' provision, exempting anyone from being sued while attempting in any appropriate way to stop a drunken person from wreaking havoc. Until there is, and even when there is, all or at least a large measure of the blame must land fairly on the shoulders of the drunk. Unless, of course, we wish to give up perhaps our finest and truest liberty - our God-given free-will.

And I think that was Mr. Cavanaugh's well taken point.

DONALD PATRIQUIN,
Eastman, QC

Showing true colours

DEAR EDITOR,

Well, it is clear to me that our chosen political leaders have shown their true colours earlier than expected in the issue of municipal mergers. With Municipal Affairs Minister Louise Harel's latest decision to exclude Waterville, portion of Compton and Canton d'Hatley solely due to fact of bilingual status, it is very clear that this merger is no more than another political move in the attempt to strengthen their political belief. This decision was made with little to no concern for the citizens within the territory in question. If this merger as explained to us so far is necessary in order to better provide public service and stabilize tax rates, then please tell me how the size of the area covered by bilingual status will affect this? Do we (French and English) not all pay equal tax rates per sector and share same public services (ex: police, fire protection)?

If I were Mayor MacAulay of Lennoxville, I would be very concerned to say the least right now. Is this bilingual status no more than a political promise at this point in time and subject to elimination once all is done and signed on the dotted line? What are your guarantees?

With this latest turn of events, Minister Harel has proven that the English population concerns her very much and is assuring a method to minimize their sector as much as possible. What is next? I am surprised that there has yet to be negotiations concerning cost of an enclosure around the town of Lennoxville to assure that no one having the dreaded 'bilingual status disease' will venture out of their area and spread the infection.

Maybe the best possible name for

this new Sherbrooke borough would be "POP" (prisoners of politics). Imagine the possibilities, Quebec a country within Canada and Lennoxville a country within Quebec.

As for Minister Harel's statement, "Our projections show almost everybody will see at least a small decrease in their tax bills, some will get a lot," where is the documentation to back this up? Is this not yet another political promise? The word "projection" can cover a lot.

My hope is that the general public at this point takes the time to stand up and make their political leaders aware of their opinions and concerns in respect to this merger. There has been numerous comments made by the media about how easy this issue is progressing compared to other areas that have experienced this. We need to stand up for what we believe in and even if our attempt is fruitless at least we can say we tried.

ANDREW PHANEUF
Waterville

Lionel Hurd was a true survivor

DEAR EDITOR,

I noticed in the Feb. 6 issue of The Record that Lionel Hurd had passed away. This hit me as a sad moment as Lionel was with the Royal Rifles of Canada Japanese P.O.W. 1941-1945. He was the oldest surviving Hong Kong veteran living in the Eastern Townships.

How he and others survived the mental and physical torture in Hong Kong, I will never know. If it hadn't been for people like Lionel, maybe life would have been different for me growing up in the beautiful Eastern Townships. I thank you Lionel for giving us our freedom. "Lest We Forget."

Yours truly,

DON MARTIN, JR.
Melbourne, Ont.

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Our School's Page

POPE MEMORIAL

THE CAISSE POPULAIRE CONTEST

Once again this year, students from grades one to six have been invited to participate in a drawing contest sponsored by the Caisse Populaire. The topic was 'À chacun son toit', which translates loosely as 'Everyone has a place or home.'

The general criterion was to draw a scene of a place to live with people, objects and their environment. Students could draw a picture of their own family, place or make up another one from different areas, town or country.

Only two students can be chosen at each level. The following students' entries will be submitted to the regional level: Jared Simoneau, grade one; Sandra Chapdelaine and Cody Powers, grade two; Jennifer Gibeault and Félicia Laroche, grade three; Cathy Fortin-Fournaise and Jeremy Simoneau, grade four; Reuben Baily and Thomas Aulis, grade five; Vanessa Chapman and Philippe Vachon, grade six.

For the past month, students of the grade two and three class have been working on the theme of winter sports. They had to work in large groups and with their own teams. In this project, the students had to match different

words of action, verbs, sports or equipment on a picture; find and regroup the winter sports; pick one sport and conduct research about it before presenting their findings in class to all the students. The students evaluated their own work and their group.

In February, the cycle one students worked on the topic of Valentine's. This was a class project where all the students made a heart body representing themselves. The class had to work together to find different parts of the body.

After we did some writing, we divided all the words we found in three categories: the head, the middle of the body and the lower body. At times the students worked together or with a small group to help each other with the categories.

We did some art, talking and writing on this subject. In the end, students had to present their heart body to the class. They also evaluated themselves on the project and the group work.

THE SECRET OF NIMH

During January and February, the grade five and six class read a book written by Robert C. O'Brien called the Se-

cret of the NIMH. It was about a mouse who had to move her home to a safe place behind a boulder. She asked the smart rats from NIMH to help her move her house. They moved her house to the lee of the boulder on the protected side.

I think that the book was really good and exciting. I loved the author's description; it made you feel like you were there. I liked the book more than the movie because in the book you can make the characters look or talk however you want to. The movie also had a different story line than the book. I loved this book.

We did vocabulary tests out of the book and spelling too. We did questions on each chapter. We did a response and watched the movie too. We did a lot more activities also.

-Mike Bennett

PANCAKES

On Feb. 27, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday, also called Mardi Gras. The Royal Canadian Legion of Bury donated money which was used to buy pancakes and sausages. Anthony Thompson donated five cans of maple syrup and Geraldine, Penny and Peggy worked in the kitchen. All the classes made mask

and Jennifer came in to talk to us about Mardi Gras. She played a music tape. All the classes paraded around the gym with their masks.

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

At the basketball tournament the Bury boys came in second place and so did the girls. We played against Cookshire and Sawyerville. The boys beat Cookshire 16-0. They lost against Sawyerville 24-4. (It was the boy's second game in a row). The girls beat Cookshire 30-0 and lost against Sawyerville 8-5. We all thought that there was going to be a finale but I guess that we ran out of time. I wish we could have had the basketball tournament on a planning day because we wouldn't have run out of time.

-Melissa MacIver

THE STUDENTS VS STAFF GAME

In February, students played basketball against the staff. The staff had eight players and the students had five full lines. The kids came close to winning, but the staff won 28-24. It was still fun. I hope we get to play against the staff again sometime.

Teletoon lets kids produce animation shows

By Barb Williamson
SOUTHAM NEWSPAPERS
EDMONTON

Pair the techno-draw of computers with a kid's good old-fashioned desire for laughter and you've got Teletoon's answer to boredom: The Animation Station.

Some kid reviewers from Edmonton's Thorncliffe Community School recently paid a visit to this computer animation kiosk to see what creating cartoons is all about.

After creating several short cartoons, 11-year-old Richelle Dugray had nothing but praise.

"It's quite cool because I've never made anything like this before," she says. In fact, Richelle says she prefers this kind of entertainment over the computers and video games. "It's better. On other games you don't get to pick what you want to do. With this, you can do anything you want."

Walk up to the screen, grab the mouse, and the cartoon adventure begins. Choose your characters, background, story-line and theme and in a few minutes the cartoon plays on the computer screen complete with voices in English or French.

Write down the number at the end of

the miniature cartoon show and you can look up the cartoons you've created on the Teletoon Web site.

Richelle says The Animation Station appeals to kids because it's free, it's easy and it's fun. "Kids like cartoons because they're fun to watch. Cartoons have more humour than real life."

Brandon Bailey, 11, enjoyed playing the role of director. "I thought to be a director I'd have to sit in a chair and tell everybody what to do. But a cartoon director draws pictures and makes stuff funny and interesting."

Brandon says the most important component of a good cartoon is comedy. "You need funny stuff like a toilet falling from the sky."

His only criticism of the computer kiosk is the cartoons he created were just a little too short. But he welcomes the break from computer games. "It's different because you can create something instead of just playing it."

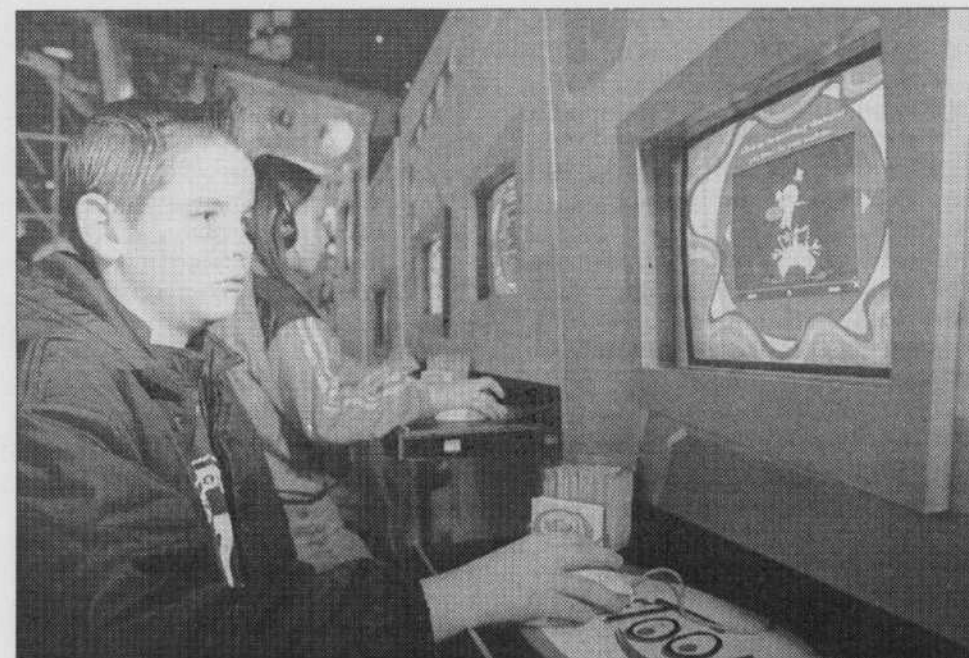
Nine-year-old Brittany Upton says being able to create cartoons appeals to the most crucial of kid qualities: creativity. "It takes a lot of time and thought and you have to have good imagination. This is a bit different. My imagination doesn't go quite this far."

Brittany did, however, have a sugges-

tion for making The Animation Station better. "They could have a better selection of characters."

When watching a cartoon to decide if it's worth her time or not, Brittany says she looks for a few key

ingredients: "It has got to show good imagination, having what kids like and having good taste. It also has to look and sound good. Funny characters, good settings and intelligent stories, that's what I look for."



SOUTHAM NEWS

Brandon Bailey, 11, looks serious as he directs his cartoon at the Animation Station, but he says comedy is a key ingredient.

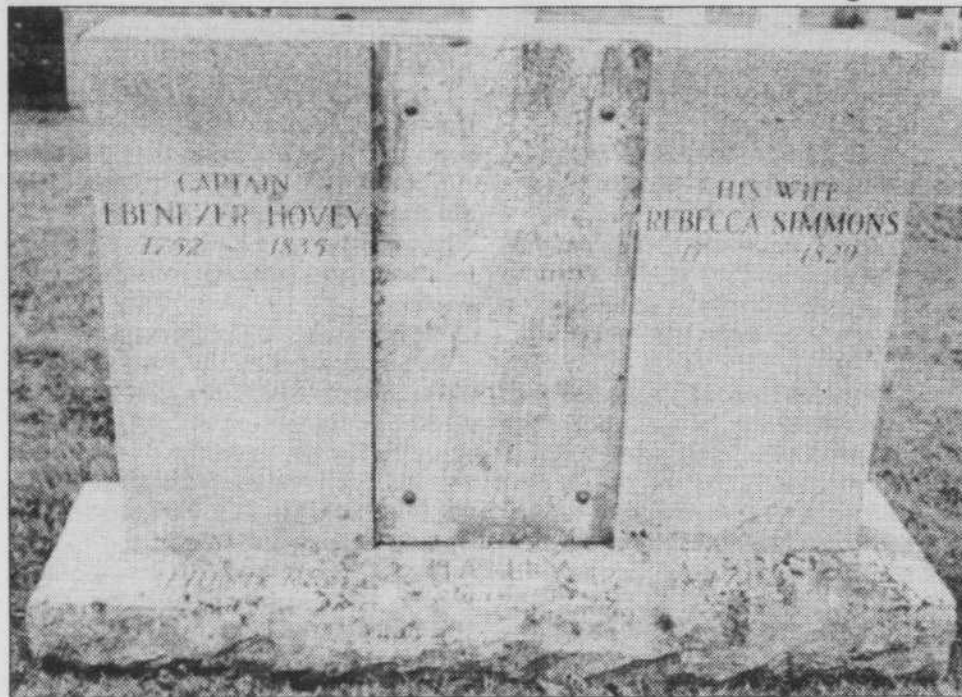
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SERVING THE GREATER LENNOXVILLE AREA

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2001 Page 9

The 'Old North': Hatley Township pioneer cemetery



COURTESY TERRY SKEATS

Hovey stone (1835)... this ancient cemetery is the final resting place for many early pioneers who settled the Township of Hatley.

AGM and supper March 18

Situated on a hill a short distance north of Hatley Village in Hatley Township, the Old North Church Cemetery has existed since circa 1811. This ancient cemetery is the final resting place for many early pioneers who settled the Township of Hatley, commencing in the late 1790s. The stories these early settlers could tell would amaze and entertain many of today's younger generation.

In *Forests and Clearings: The History of Stanstead County* (1874), compiler B.F. Hubbard includes sketches from descendants of several of these pioneer families. One such story concerns what is said to be the first white family to settle in Stanstead County in 1795, recorded by Mrs. Lemuel Fish: "In the winter of 1795, my father-in-law, Joseph Fish, with his wife and eldest son, Lemuel, then a babe of eight months, left their home in Reading, Vermont...with an ox-team loaded with their household stuff...they finally arrived on the eastern side of Memphremagog, crossed the lake and spent two days at the log cabin of Captain Ebenezer Hovey, Leader of Hatley Township and then went on to settle close to Boroughs [Burroughs] Falls."

Mrs. Fish goes on to write of their hardships and poverty: "From 1795 to

1802, they pounded their grain in a large mortar made from a heavy block of maple. For variety, they sometimes boiled and ate their wheat and Indian corn whole." Mrs. Joseph Fish was called "the handsomest woman in the town, there being no other woman in the settlement. They soon moved to Hatley where they settled on a lot drawn as an Associate.

Joseph Fish was born in Massachusetts in 1770; he married Sarah (Sally) Spear in Reading, Vermont. They were parents to four children, the eldest being Lemuel, who married Mary Rowell who was born in Fishersfield (Newbury), New Hampshire. Joseph died in 1859 and is buried in the Old North Cemetery with his wife Sally, who died in 1858. Lemuel died in 1873; he and his wife, Mary, who died in 1884, are also buried in the cemetery.

Another story paints a picture of how hard life was for the early settlers. Major William Boynton was born in New Hampshire and married Mary Gibson in Canterbury, N.H. They moved to Bolton, Quebec, in 1795 and, in 1797, travelled down Lake Memphremagog to a place later named Libby's Mills. They made a shanty in dense forest on the bank of a river and here their youngest son, Jesse P. Boynton, was born. When the baby was a week old, a heavy shower overflowed the riverbank and floated the bed, Mrs. Boynton "baby and all" into

four feet of water. It was with great difficulty that Mr. Boynton was able to rescue them. It is recorded that Major Boynton died in 1830 and is buried in the Old North Cemetery, although the gravestone has disappeared. Mrs. Boynton died in 1831. (*Forests and Clearings*).

The stories of the adventures of these hardy early settlers are numerous, telling of travels through snow, down the lakes on rafts, facing hunger, hostile natives and loneliness. Women bore children in the wilderness and dealt with sickness, learning about herbs from friendly natives.

The largest number of burials for a single family in the cemetery are those for the Little family. Bond Little, one of the early settlers in Hatley Township, fifth generation of the Little line in America, was born in Newbury, Massachusetts, in 1741. He married Ruth Atwood, born 1742, and in 1786 removed to Fishersfield (Newbury), New Hampshire. In 1798, the couple moved to Hatley Township where they raised a family of 12 children. Bond died in 1811 and his wife in 1814. They are both buried in the Old North Cemetery, where Bond's gravestone is the oldest standing stone. Many of the early grave markers, many slate stones, have disappeared.

There are numerous descendants of these and other early families buried in the Old North Church Cemetery still liv-



COURTESY TERRY SKEATS

Bond Little stone (1811)... the largest number of burials for a single family in the cemetery are those for the Little family.

ing in our area. They continue to honour their ancestors through the Old North Church Cemetery Association, founded in 1990 to restore, maintain and record the history of the families.

The association's Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper will be held on Sunday, March 18, at St. Barnabas Anglican Church Hall in North Hatley. The supper starts at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the pioneers of this region of the Eastern Townships.

Submitted by Phyllis Emery Skeats

Lincoln assassination out of Keystone Cops

Slide show exposes characters involved in conspiracy

By Catherine Dean

RECORD CORRESPONDENT

In 1986, while standing on a battlefield in Fredericksburg, Va., Tony O'Connor had an epiphany while pondering the courage of soldiers in overwhelming odds. Thus began a passionate interest in the Civil War and particularly in the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Surprisingly, Abraham Lincoln's assassination plays more like something out of the Keystone Cops than a serious historical event. During the Lennoxville Ascot Historical and Museum Society's March 19 meeting, O'Connor will share his unique blend of fact and fun with a show of approximately 70 slides.

O'Connor, a triple amputee since suffering an injury when he was 16, has been active in working with the disabled. He worked for the former Orleans County Council of Social Agencies and currently works for the United States Immigration Service at the Canada-U.S. border in North Troy. He founded and is active in the Northeast Kingdom Civil War Round Table.

"It's a good time, not an egghead evening. Lincoln's assassination is like a comedy with a motley crew that is so comical you couldn't have written a more farfetched fiction," said O'Connor.

"The presentation lasts about 45 minutes to an hour," he continued. "I encourage people to ask questions during the

presentation. There is no formality." O'Connor said. "I have my assassination groupies that follow me and that I have seen a dozen times. I go wherever the slides take me and I can talk about 20 to 30 different things on each slide."

As Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald in the Kennedy assassination, Boston Corbett shot John Wilkes Booth.

"The guy who shot John Wilkes Booth was an absolute nut," said O'Connor. "They captured him in a bar and he told them: 'God ordered me to kill him.' Booth was hit on the opposite side of the head that Corbett was on. He said that God had directed the bullet to make a U-turn.

"Only the year before, he had his life saved during a raid by the Moseby's Rangers in Virginia. He was sent to Andersonville. When he got out, he became a partner with the man who saved him, who attacked Secretary of State William Seward on the same night as the assassination of Lincoln."

Boston Corbett was the name the evangelist Thomas Corbett took on.

"Thomas Corbett was the real name of Booth's assassin. He was a hatter who dealt with the mercury process, which is where we get the expression 'mad as a hatter'. His wife and child died in childbirth and he was an alcoholic.

"Corbett was saved by street evangelists in the city of Boston, so he changed his name to Boston Corbett. The evangelists didn't like him. He was the loudest evangelist you ever saw.

"Instead of arresting him for the murder of John Wilkes Booth, they made him into Lincoln's avenger. Years later as a

man lay dying in Enid, Okla., he claimed he was John Wilkes Booth. Most likely, it was Boston Corbett," explained O'Connor.

The Civil War has generated a huge amount of interest, according to O'Connor.

"The Civil War is the second most written about topic in human history, next to religion," he claimed. "There are more books containing information on this than any other subject, bar none. Every single day there has been a book published on the subject since it ended in 1865."

Though John Wilkes Booth broke his leg, it was not during the assassination of Lincoln.

"Booth did not break his leg jumping from the presidential box. He broke it as he fled and his horse fell outside Anacostia, Md., on Good Hope Hill," said O'Connor.

An innocent woman was hanged, while her guilty son escaped. "John Surratt escaped and a Jesuit priest hid him out. His mother, Mary, was one of four people hanged. She was the first woman in American history ever to be executed. Surratt escaped to St-Leboie, East of St-Hyacinthe, while U.S. detectives tried to capture him. Then they tried to capture him in England.

"Surratt became a member of the papal zouave, an honour guard for the pope. Someone who went to school with Surratt recognized him and he was sent to an Italian prison in Varrenna which was surrounded by a dry moat filled with five to six centuries of human waste. As he was being brought there, he said he

had to relieve himself and got to the edge of the parapet where he jumped head-first into a pile of poop. He got out and fought with the Garibaldi guards.

"He then went to Malta and Alexandria where he was captured and brought back to the U.S. where he was given a civilian trial. Eight were brought to trial and four were sent to prison in Dry Tortugas, Key West, for life at Fort Jefferson, the 'sleeping giant' which was the largest masonry structure in the Western Hemisphere."

There is a civil war connection with the town of Lennoxville. O'Connor reports that Jefferson Davis, the Confederacy's president, came to live in Lennoxville after the war. Near the end of the war, when southerners had almost nothing left, they had a beverage called Jeff Davis punch.

"It was water," O'Connor said.

When considering the number of people brought to trial, one might think just a few people were involved. Nothing could be further from the truth. "There were probably 100 conspirators in the assassination of Lincoln," O'Connor said. "It was a major conspiracy."

Tony O'Connor brings his Abraham Lincoln assassination slide show presentation to the Uplands Cultural and Heritage Centre on March 19, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

O'Connor invites all interested parties to attend the next meeting of the Northeast Kingdom Civil War Round Table at the Newport Golf Course at 6 p.m. on March 21. Cost is \$12 US and includes a full course meal. The Richmond Raid will be the topic considered.

Government funding to centres insufficient

There could have been momentous celebrations on March 8 during International Women's Day for women's centres across Quebec. We did celebrate in Lennoxville with our annual supper at the community centre, acknowledging achievements, evaluating events and involvement such as the Eastern Township's Women on the March and singing successes.

What we could not celebrate was the government's acknowledgment that they respect our achievements as women and as a centre. What we could not celebrate was that such events as last October's World March, which inspired incredible global, national, provincial and regional mobilization, changed government policy and involvement to improve the condition of women living in poverty and violence.

What we could not celebrate was the government finally understanding that women's centres need more funds in order to carry out their day-to-day support of women in the community.

Instead, on March 5, women's centres

received the news from Pauline Marois that they would get an increase in funding to the song of zero per cent. Zero.

Granted, that is not entirely true. The majority of centres across the province receive \$70,000. Some centres, such as the Centre des Femmes in Magog, were receiving only \$40,000. All centres were demanding an increase to \$165,000. Pauline Marois announced that all women's centres will now receive \$70,000. Obviously that is good news for the least funded centres. It is obviously unacceptable to the rest of the centres. It simply means that now all women's centres are equally underfunded.

So on March 8, rather than celebrate government action, a petition was circulated during the evening at the LDWC's supper. Seventy-five signatures have been sent off to Pauline Marois' office in protest of her decision.

You too can help move this government boulder that is blocking centres in their attempts to reach out to more

OUR VOICE

LENNOXVILLE & DISTRICT WOMEN'S CENTRE

women, in their attempts to improve the quality of life for women, in their attempts to continue supporting women suffering from poverty and violence. Write to your local MNA. It does take a lot of ink and paper to dislodge deep-rooted rocks. We have to believe it's possible.

Women's centres across the province will continue to take action. Every Monday throughout February, they participated in specific tactics, the final one being on Feb. 26, when all centres closed their doors for a day. It's expected that it will be necessary to continue to use such strategies in order to get the voice of women to the ears of the politicians. Known as 'porte voix,' doors are closed and voices are raised. It's not easy for women's centres to close their doors.

Staff and volunteers know the constant need in the community. They know they receive calls daily from women in crisis, women needing support and resources. Government depends on the dedication of community workers. It sees

that community organizations carry on despite cuts. It sees a support network survives despite no available grants. This happens because people from the community, working in the community, cannot stop caring and helping simply because there is no money. Governments use the resourcefulness of such grassroots organizations to justify allocating funds to more high profile and remunerative causes. Closing our doors causes the community to suffer, but we hope it might open some ears.

Government must be pressured - forced - to acknowledge that not only are support networks and resource centres such as the LDWC valuable to a community, they are unquestionably essential. In order for them to continue and in order for them to be effective, funds must be increased.

Get out your pen and paper. (I suppose it would be more century-correct to say get out your hard drive and keyboard).

The LDWC would like to thank all the businesses that donated gifts as door prizes for the Women's Day supper.

Job shadow week in Townships

The Eastern Townships School Board has declared March 19 to 23 as Job Shadow Week. During this week, hundreds of elementary and high school students from across the school district will be visiting businesses to get a firsthand look at what it takes to succeed in the workplace. The goal of these experiences is to give students the information and knowledge they need to make smart career choices. Job Shadowing is a process that allows students to have an up close look at the kinds of activities people do at their work.

Before students participate in the Job Shadow experience they are involved in in-school activities that give them information about the careers and professions they may be thinking of. Students research the tasks performed in various occupations and learn about the education, qualifications and certification necessary to be successful. This in-school preparation gives the student more background knowledge and enhances their on-site experience.

In order to accommodate the needs and capabilities of the schools involved,

job shadowing takes on many different forms. Traditionally, a student was assigned a worksite host and then they shadowed that person for the day. However, because of the tremendous organizational requirements involved, some schools have modified their way of involving students. This year some students will participate in small groups, others in class groups while others may shadow at their parents workplace. The School-to-Work initiative of the Eastern Townships School Board has stimulated involvement in the Job Shadow Pro-

gram to engage students, parents, schools, and the community in developing a greater awareness of the need to prepare our students to make career decisions. We believe that by exposing students to the realities of the workplace and by developing relationships with the local businesses, industries and professions in our communities we can help students and parents make more informed choices for the future.

For more information on Job Shadowing, call John Weideman at 819-868-3104.

Canadians are sacrificing sleep to busy days

By Kate Jaimet
SOUTHAM NEWS

Almost half of all Canadians cut back on sleep to squeeze more time out of their days, a Statistics Canada study released Monday reveals.

But cutting back on sleep can have serious health consequences - from traffic accidents caused by fatigue to high blood pressure, says a University of Toronto sleep expert.

"If your body is designed to have an eight-hour sleep period and if you deviate significantly from that, it creates an internal stress. You might not be outwardly stressed, but your body is running on a different engine than it's best designed for," said Richard Horner, assistant professor in the University of Toronto department of medicine. "There is statistical evidence that it can promote disorders of general health."

Statistics Canada's General Social

Survey, conducted in 1998, found that 47 per cent of Canadians cut down on sleep to pack more activities into their days. The most sleep-stressed people of all were shift workers. One-quarter of night-shift workers slept less than 6.5 hours a day, and about one-third of shift workers had trouble going to sleep or staying asleep.

"It's worse than being jetlagged, because you're doing it so often," said Wendy Pearson, a registered nurse at the Ottawa Hospital's Civic Campus, of her experience working shifts. "You're constantly flipping back and forth to get back on to everyone else's schedule."

She said that while most young nurses adjust well to rotating shift schedules, older nurses tend to get only four or five hours of sleep a day.

"Once you get home (from a night shift), nurses that have children have to get the kids to school. Then when you sleep in the day, you've got noise,

you've got the phone going off. I know some nurses that put tinfoil on their windows to keep all the light out, because you're so messed up."

A lifetime spent working night shifts can reduce life expectancy by as much as five years, Horner said.

The survey found that the average Canadian gets about 8.1 hours of sleep a night, a healthy amount of shut-eye. But parents get less than that - an average of 7.7 hours for fathers and 7.9 hours for mothers. As well, a significant number of people are not sleeping well: about 25 per cent of adults regularly had problems going to sleep or staying asleep. Horner views that phenomena with concern.

People who have trouble breathing

at night suffer from lack of oxygen, and often wake up a hundred times during the night, he said. Waking up constantly deprives the heart of rest, which can lead to high blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes.

Horner said he's skeptical about Statistic Canada's figures on average sleep. He says eight hours might reflect the time people spend in bed, but not the time they spend sleeping, since many people read or watch television in bed before going to sleep. He said the value of a good night's sleep should not be underrated.

"The average person needs to be aware of listening to and understanding their own body, and giving sleep its due weight in terms of health."

Pancake fundraiser

All are invited to help support the North Hatley Volunteer Fire Department at its fourth annual pancake breakfast to be held in the community centre on March 17 on Capelton Road, near town hall. Come and join us with your family and have breakfast with your neighbours.

Proceeds from the breakfast will go towards water rescue equipment we wish to purchase for the department. Hope to see you all there. We would rather have you come see us than us having to come see you.

The breakfast menu consists of a blend of orange juice, pancakes, homemade baked beans, scrambled eggs, oven-baked sausages, fresh maple syrup, tea or coffee. The price for the breakfast is \$5 for adults and \$2.75 for children 10 and under.

A special raffle for a painting of a downtown North Hatley winter

scene will also be held. The painting, donated by Ray "Doc" Losito, is valued at \$700.00. Tickets for the painting are \$2 each.

- STEVE COLES

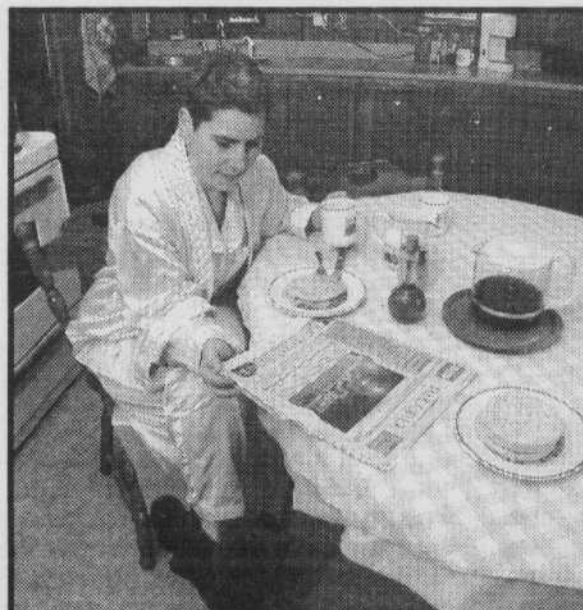
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Are children overburdened with homework?

Growing concern too much time is spent on assignments

By Bev Wake
SOUTHAM NEWSPAPERS
OTTAWA

Laura Owen lies on her purple and blue bedspread, the pale-blue walls of her bedroom covered in certificates, snapshots and posters of 'N Sync, her school books in front of her.

While music plays softly in the background, Laura, 11, works on some of her easier assignments. For the more complicated ones, she'll move to her desk in what she calls the study room. There, she explains, she'll be able to concentrate a little bit better.

Laura has developed this routine over the past few years, although she says her workload increased this year when she transferred into a grade six program for gifted students at Vincent Massey School.

She admits her bedroom isn't spotless, something she blames on home renovation, but everything about Laura's school schedule is organized. She even has an agenda to keep track of her assignments and when they are due.

"We all have an agenda, and we're told to use it," says Laura. "I use it, but not everybody uses it or not everybody uses it to the extent that they should. Some kids need to use it or they wouldn't remember anything."

Students commonly begin using agendas, the child's equivalent of a chief executive's daytimer, as early as grade three.

"Sometimes I have more than five hours of homework a night," Laura says. "One of my friends said her mother wouldn't allow her to do any more homework one night because she'd been doing it for six hours straight and hadn't eaten."

Laura says she averages about two hours of homework a day, on weeknights and weekends, and she thinks it's too much.

Her complaints could be written off as predictable - what student wouldn't want to have less homework and more free time? - but dismissing those complaints could be doing students, and families, a disservice.

Many parents are becoming increasingly alarmed at the growing load of homework being placed on their children. As a result, educators and parents are debating the value of homework. They are asking how much homework is too much. Some are even wondering whether homework is necessary at all.

"There are huge questions in my mind about homework's pedagogical value," says Maine resident Etta Kralovec, a 53-year-old mother of two college-aged children, former high-school teacher and co-author of the

book *The End of Homework*.

In the book, which she wrote with John Buell, Kralovec calls for a ban on homework.

While her views are not as outrageous as those promoted during the anti-homework frenzy of the early 1900s in the United States - some educators claimed homework caused tuberculosis, nervous conditions and heart disease among the young - Kralovec says homework disrupts families, limits learning, is stressful and can discriminate against disadvantaged students.

Indeed, with more students holding jobs outside school and an increase in single-parent and dual-income families, family support systems these days are already being severely tested. Homework just adds to the challenges facing children.

Her ideas, Kralovec says, are starting to catch on, likely because of a rise in the number of hours students spend on homework. A 1999 study by the University of Michigan suggests homework levels are at an all-time high: Between 1981 and 1997, for example, the workload for nine-year-olds in the U.S. rose 40 per cent to more than two hours a night.

"People used to think I was crazy. And now? I think people have really begun to say it's time that we rethought this issue. I think we put it on the radar screen, and now we're seeing a whole bunch of interest," says Kralovec, who is also director of teacher education at the College of the Atlantic in Maine, and vice-president of learning with the Maine-based Training and Development Corp.

Neither of Ottawa's two big school boards, the Ottawa Carleton District School Board and the Ottawa Carleton Catholic School Board, have homework guidelines or policies. "It's left up to the individual teacher," Catholic board spokesperson Terry Shaw says, adding that parents have some input as well. The boards say the average time spent on homework varies, and depends on grade level, teachers and students themselves.

At Ottawa's Ashbury College, a private school for boys, homework takes an average of one-and-a-half hours a day in grades four to eight, and about two hours a day at the high-school level, according to headmaster Tam Matthews. At the junior level, teachers are told to give students a break by assigning no homework at all for one day in every eight-day cycle.

Elmwood School, a private school mainly for girls, starts students with 15 to 30 minutes of homework a day in kindergarten to grade three, then increases the load gradually through to grade 12, says headmistress Carol Kirby. But depending on the student, a five-hour project could mean one hour a night for five nights, or a five-hour cram session, she says.

Neither Matthews nor Kirby believes banning homework is desirable. They

say it is critical to teach students valuable life skills. The challenge, Matthews says, is to help students keep a healthy balance between school, homework, extracurricular activities and social and family life. In fact, Elmwood hired a full-time "study-skills counsellor" two years ago to help students achieve that balance by teaching them how to organize their time and academic responsibilities, Kirby says.

Laura, the grade six student, sees the advantages and disadvantages of homework.

While she says homework teaches her how to be an independent worker, she also finds it difficult to fit in activities such as dance and violin. "I have a lot extracurricular activities, and those are important to me, too," she says.

Kralovec says kids shouldn't have to make those choices.

"People need to recognize the kind of stress that creates, and the kind of powerfully limiting activity homework is," she says.

If students spend all day in school, play a sport in the afternoon, then attend a course of some type at night, they won't be starting their two or three hours of homework until at least 10 p.m., Kralovec suggests. "What kind of learning can go on then?"

And just as homework interferes with student's extracurricular plans, it can also take away from family time.

Kralovec embarked on her homework crusade eight years ago when she did a study for the Maine Department of Education on high school dropouts. She interviewed 50 children, asking them when they knew they wouldn't make it through school.

"All of them mentioned homework and their inability to do homework, and I was just shocked by that," she says.

Getting rid of homework, Kralovec

argues, may help students stay in school. She says it will also benefit disadvantaged students. The current system discriminates against poor kids, she says, because they don't have the educational resources at home that their wealthier peers do. It's more likely that both their parents work, and it's more likely they live in cramped quarters with no ideal place to study. It's also unlikely they will have computers at home with Internet access, a growing concern as computers become a standard part of the classroom.

"The digital divide and the problems associated with that are huge when it comes to homework."

Kralovec dismisses Cameron's notion that working at home by themselves will help students learn.

Over the past 25 years, she says there's been a revolution in the knowledge about the best way to approach learning. While Cameron says the learning process depends on the individual, Kralovec says learning is now generally seen as a social activity that flourishes with peer help.

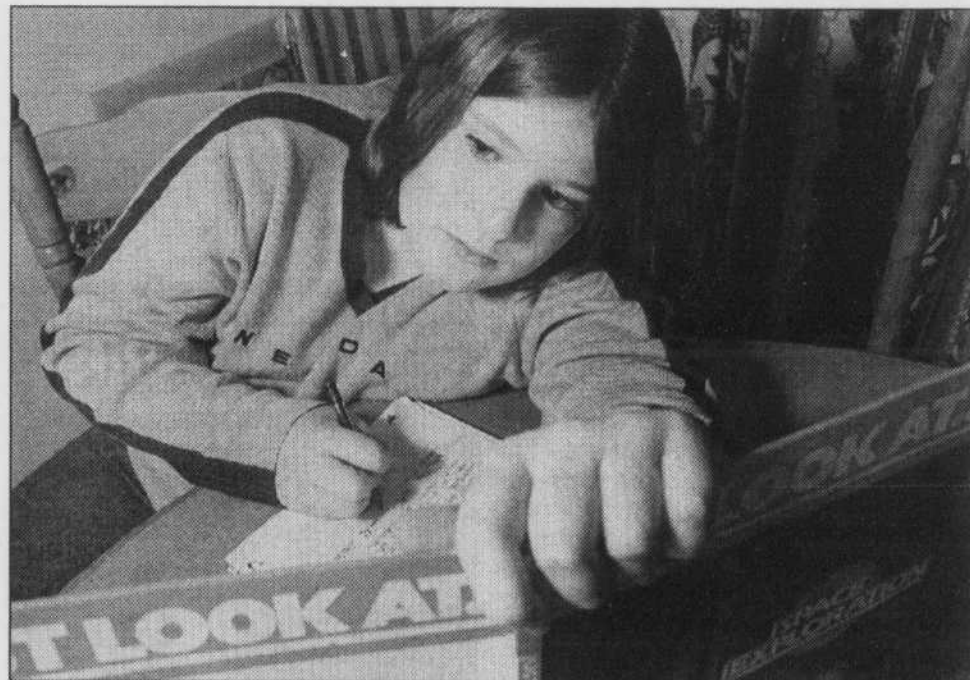
"To put someone alone in their room is a really outmoded way of expecting someone to learn," she says. And when students work at home, teachers only see the final result, not the process.

Cameron says it would also make it more difficult for teachers to create what he says is a necessary link between classrooms and homes.

"If you think about parental involvement with kids' schooling, the earlier students start having home assignments, the better. I tell my (teaching) students to start giving out homework in grade one."

Laura's solution? Moderation.

"I don't think homework should be banned, but I do think there should be a maximum."



SOUTHAM NEWS

Laura Owen says she spends an average of two hours per day completing her homework, a common trend among today's children that has some parents and school officials raising eyebrows.

Pride in Quebec belongs to us all: Charest

By Philip Authier
TROIS RIVIÈRES

Homeland. The Quebec nation. The flag. The Quebec state. Benoit Pelletier is fed up with seeing political buzzwords and concepts - some of them created by the Liberals - being usurped by the Parti Québécois for its own purposes.

It's time the provincial Liberals restaked their claim to Quebec's symbols, because they belong to all Quebecers, the Liberal intergovernmental-affairs critic told a Quebec Liberal general-council meeting yesterday.

"We are proud of Quebec," Pelletier said. "What I am saying is, we need to reappropriate the symbols that we have left to the PQ over the last few years and reappropriate the terminology that is part of our heritage, part of our political heritage."

"Never, never will we leave the PQ a monopoly on Quebec pride. Pride in Quebec and pride in the Quebec flag belong to us all."

Over the last few weeks, the PQ and Premier Bernard Landry in particular have been trying to stir interest in sovereignty by telling Quebecers that they are more than a distinct society or a province. Even the word "people," used by Péquistes in the past, has been upgraded. The word in vogue is "nation."

At the same time, Landry has objected to the presence of so many Canadian flags in Quebec, noting that he can see a dozen just looking out the window of his Quebec City apartment.

Quebec and the federal government are engaged in a diplomatic war over the province's visibility at the Summit of the Americas, to be held in Quebec City. Landry says he wants to tell world leaders that Quebec is a nation.

The Liberals, trailing in the polls in the crucial francophone vote, especially among soft nationalists, now apparently want to make the same emotional appeals to recoup the political spotlight.

Charest started it Friday night when he said in a speech to Liberal delegates that while it's true the Liberals agree with Landry that Quebec forms a nation, what the premier forgets to mention is that for Liberals, "being a nation and a people in Quebec also means we are Canadians and are proud to be Canadians."

Yesterday, Pelletier went farther. Offering some advice during a morning session on the party's constitutional po-

sition, he said: "When you hear people say, my homeland is Quebec, you respond, me too, my homeland is Quebec - but my country is Canada."

At a press conference later in the day, Charest appeared surprised at the furor

generated by Pelletier's speech, using the terms very delicately himself.

PLEASE SEE CHAREST PAGE 15



Quebec Liberal leader Jean Charest launches war of words with PQ.

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Q: Can you summarize the changes to capital gains in year 2000?

A: 2000 saw unprecedented changes to the capital gains rules; perhaps the greatest since 1971. There were two budget documents which altered the inclusion rates for capital gains thereby reducing the implicit tax on such gains. This created three (3) "periods" for capital gains, and like the sport of hockey, the third period is the most exciting. Taxpayers must include income for period 1 (Jan. 1, 2000-February 27, 2000) 75% of any realized capital gains. For period 2 (February 28-October 17, 2000) 66-2/3% of capital gains are to be included; and for period 3 taxpayers must include 50% of capital gains to their taxable income. Unfortunately, it is not this simple due to several inconsistencies such as with the Alternative Minimum Tax rules; a professional advisor should be consulted to analyse all aspects of the new capital gains changes.



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Q. When someone is hearing impaired, isn't it because the sounds are not loud enough?

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THE RECORD

Flag is not a symbol of the separatist cause: Liberals

CHAREST:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 13

possibly because he'd heard some delegates in workshops grumbling that the language sounded a little too "Péquist" for their liking.

"For us, we want to remind Quebecers that neither Bernard Landry nor the Parti Québécois have exclusive ownership over Quebec's symbols," Charest said. "That has never been the case and, yes, the flag belongs to everyone."

He said there's no contradiction in his mind between being a Quebecer and a Canadian at the same time, noting that for the last two years the people of Westmount have celebrated the St. Jean Baptiste holiday. People now live in an era where they have multiple identities.

"I don't think they (the symbols) got away from anyone," Charest said.

"I just think there's a political party in Quebec that thinks they are symbols of their cause when, in fact, they belong to every citizen in Quebec, and that it's important to remind ourselves these symbols are ours - they evoke our history and who we are and what we are."

Neither Pelletier nor Charest offered a plan on how to challenge the PQ's appropriation of the symbols cherished by many Quebecers.

Pelletier, who is also a professor of constitutional law, said the public needs to be told that the Quebec flag is not the PQ flag. The term "Quebec state" was invented by former Liberal premier Jean Lesage, he said.

"This kind of expression, terminology, symbols, are things that the Quebec Liberal Party needs to reappropriate," he told reporters.

"We can't leave all the terrain to the adversary. People need to understand that it's not because we are a nation or a people that we should have a country. We say the Quebec people can very well affirm itself in the Canadian context."

Pelletier said Action Démocratique leader Mario Dumont should be challenged when he says he wants a real Canadian confederation, as opposed to the existing federation. For a real confederation to exist, Pelletier said, Quebec would have to secede, which means

Dumont is in the separatist camp.

It's not clear such a shift in approach will go over well with rank-and-file Liberals.

One later stood up in a workshop Pelletier was running and objected to the use of the word "autonomy" in the party's preliminary constitutional position. The delegate said the word smacks too much of separatism for his liking, and he wondered if it could be removed.

Another asked Pelletier to be sure to define the word "nation."

Louis-Hebert riding delegate Nolline Saint Pierre argued that the party's identity problem runs deeper than just symbols. It starts with what children are taught in school.

"If you ask children on the street what country they belong to today, they'll respond Quebec," Saint Pierre said. "What we need to do is focus on roots and history. If they don't know their history, they get brainwashed with all kinds of ideas."

The delegates also began to debate the party's constitutional platform, a document that proposes a number of Meech Lake-style changes to the Canadian constitution.

Presenting the plan to delegates, Pelletier argued that Quebecers need to be told federalism is not a passe concept, given that more and more countries are adopting it as a system of government.

Switching to English, Pelletier appealed to evidence of western alienation to advance his case that the federation must be improved.

"Over-all, we are looking for a win-win situation with the other provinces of Canada," he said. "A situation where Quebec would win - but where the other provinces would also win. In particular, we would like to say to the western provinces that we are not insensitive to the feeling of alienation and dissatisfaction that you are expressing in Canada."

"We know your frustration about Canadian federalism is about your influence in the government and policies of Canada. We will take seriously your requests," Pelletier said.

"We will pay attention to your own long-felt grievances. B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba: we want to work with you in order to build a better Canada."

E-commerce: A Business Tool That Is Here to Stay Taking It a Step at a Time

The Réseau des SADC du Québec in collaboration with the Centre d'aide aux entreprises du Val St-François is pleased to present this article as part of its activities aimed at supporting entrepreneurship in the Richmond region and providing entrepreneurs with assistance and guidance as they pursue their projects. As a follow-up to the Connecting Canadians conferences organized by the Government of Canada, this article provides useful information to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) shift to e-business.

The Internet has literally revolutionized the business world. By reducing both time and distance, this new work tool not only provides access to a wealth of information, but also facilitates communication around the globe at any time of the day and night, seven days a week. This new reality in the business world has paved the way for e-commerce, expanding markets and opportunities for both large corporations and SMEs.

For more than a year, Yvon Bureau, Director of Public Affairs, Planning and Analysis, and Michel Hall, Advisor, Strategic Information, at Industry Canada, have travelled throughout the province to talk about e-commerce with entrepreneurs in their communities.

PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL

There are many challenges to be met before posting your firm on the Internet, but strategic planning is paramount. In other words, an e-business strategy must be an integral part of a firm's business plan. "Many firms are concerned about cost, making it all the more important to plan. It is essential to have a thorough knowledge of your target market and clientele, as well as the type of growth anticipated, in order to seek the advice of experts on these matters. Take it one day at a time, and don't expect miracles; don't expect that six months from now, it will be like the Klondike gold rush," cautions Yvon Bureau.

KNOW YOUR NEEDS AND GOALS

Before becoming involved in e-commerce, you must know your firm and its needs inside and out, and take the time to define your goals. Once you have thought it through, there are certain key steps to follow:

1. First you must acquire the proper equipment and get connected to the Internet. "Once you're connected, play around with the e-mail, do some surfing, get used to the Internet," recommends Michel Hall.

2. Next, create your own Web site. Specialists and Internet service providers can meet a firm's needs according to its budget. A very good fit for entrepreneurs just starting on the Internet might be the Student Connection Program (SCP). Its services (www.scp-ebb.com) range from Internet training to e-commerce consultation sessions. "The Student Connection Program is a fine example of technical assistance and planning services," states Yvon Bureau. "The young people providing the services are students in business administration and have been trained to review a firm's situation. They can provide a complete report, helping entrepreneurs make a more informed decision," explains Mr. Bureau.

3. The next step is the shift to a transactional Web site, which leads to the establishment and development of new alliances based on the use of these new technologies.

A firm with several employees may also

consider setting up an intranet network, transforming its internal communications and activities. Adding an extranet extension can also streamline external activities by connecting suppliers and clients with the firm.

FOLLOW-UP AND PROMOTION

Creating a Web site is not an end in itself: it has to be regularly maintained and updated. The more elaborate you make your Web site, the more time and effort you have to invest in it. And a transactional Web site also requires the allocation of necessary resources. Another factor to take into account is the site's positioning. "Since anybody can establish a presence on the Web, promotion costs must be considered. If your site is not registered with a search engine or if it is not in the first 50 positions, then there is a problem. SMEs must plan on connecting to one or several portal sites, as e-business centres are sure to become indispensable in the future," says Michel Hall.

TAKING ACTION

The people on the Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) team (www.reseau-sadc.qc.ca) are excellent resources for entrepreneurs who need consulting services adapted to their needs. In addition, many programs are available on the market to assist entrepreneurs. Info entrepreneurs (www.infoentrepreneurs.org) is a service designed especially for SMEs. "It is a single window service that provides specialized information on private programs as well as federal, provincial and municipal programs. The people at Info entrepreneurs evaluate requests and provide a diagnosis," explains Mr. Bureau. There is also the Strategis Web site (strategis.gc.ca), which has a data bank containing nearly two million documents on development, business planning, regulation and control, market studies, industrial sector information, etc. In addition, Industry Canada (info.ic.gc.ca) also manages several data banks that can provide strategic information.

For today's entrepreneurs, e-commerce is a must if they want to become part of the business world of tomorrow. Although B2C (business-to-consumer) e-commerce has experienced some setbacks, it is still in the interest of SMEs to make the shift, since the economies of scale and business opportunities with B2B (business-to-business) e-commerce are tremendous. Michel Hall stresses, "We are living in a world where technology is playing an increasingly important role, and where knowledge is the watchword. To do well, these have to go hand in hand. To be successful, you must be informed, and to be informed, you must embrace technology. With all the resources the Internet has to offer, you can be part of the knowledge economy from the comfort of your own desk, whether you head a large company or a very, very small business."

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Arts & Entertainment

Centaur's Weir stumbles despite intriguing script

Characterizations fall short

By René Bruemmer
MONTREAL

On a chilly, windswept evening in a remote pub in Ireland, regulars and a newcomer from the city share tales of fairies, ghosts and life-shaping events in *The Weir*, now playing at Centaur Theatre in Montreal.

The setting is superbly rendered for storytelling, cast in the rustic confines of a stone-walled bar that is connected to owner Brendan's (Matthew Gibson) home. Emitting a homey warmth

against the blustery night of the play and Montreal's frigid March climate, the set is unfortunately one of the few aspects of the play that casts heat.

Irish playwright Conor McPherson, a rising star with two London Olivier awards in 1998, including best new play for *The Weir*, has crafted a work of words where the ability to spin a captivating yarn is key. It has to be, because not much else happens, and this is where the Montreal production stumbles.

Set in a nation of master storytellers, the cast and pacing, directed by Centaur's Gordon McCall, rarely manage to be as enthralling as the play requires, lulling my (admittedly overworked)

companion to sleep and the rest of the audience into a slumbering silence throughout. Apart, of course, from the requisite couple of idiots who chose to unwrap candy wrappers despite the deathly still, rivaling cell-phone users as examples of poor upbringing.

It's a shame, because the storylines and relationships are intriguing on a variety of levels. Pub bachelors Jack (Wayne Burnett) and Jim (Daniel Lillford) are eagerly anticipating the arrival of townie newcomer Valerie (Ingrid Craigie) into their solitary evening existence. Valerie is being shown about by Finbar (Rob Mclean), a local married businessman who made good and is being accused of bad intentions by his jealous single friends, who harbour hopes of ending their solitude.

McPherson touches on the intricate love-hate relationships inherent in long-term friendships; loyalty and love tempered by underlying animosities that surface in not-so-good-natured ribbing.

There's a strong, apt portrayal of the nature of pub relationships where peo-

ple spend a little too much time together. But the characterizations and interpersonal relationships fall short, and the sense of male bonding comes off as stilted and under-explored, despite strong efforts by the cast.

Each character, except the bar man, relate tales of possible encounters with ghosts, or of more down-to-earth, life-defining moments. And while each shines briefly, especially Burnett as the aged bachelor recounting his tales of aching lost love and loneliness towards the end, the monologues often drag.

Audiences can expect a healthy dose of swearing and slangy local vernacular, which ring true and endearing, and a couple of good laughs. Overall, it's a fun piece, but leaves one with the sense that justice has not quite been done to the playwright's vision.

.....

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THE RECORD

RCMP handcuffed by court ruling

By Jim Bronskill
SOUTHAM NEWS

Members of Canada's national police force are "verging on despair" because court-imposed limitations have crippled numerous investigations of organized crime.

Newly obtained internal memos show RCMP divisions across the country have shut down many undercover operations following a 1999 Supreme Court of Canada ruling that said police officers have no authority - with rare exceptions - to breach laws in the line of duty.

The court decision has hindered the ability of police to gain the trust of suspects involved in illicit activities because such techniques often require the officer to break the law. Police argue these methods are consistent with the public interest and would not shock most people.

Drug and proceeds-of-crime investigations were unaffected due to specific legal exemptions for police already on the books.

However, the court decision had such a serious impact on probes of white-collar crime, fraud and other offences that then-RCMP commissioner Philip Murray wrote Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay to call for "immediate action" toward new legislative measures to ensure reasonable immunity for police, the records show.

The federal government plans to introduce a bill this spring that would broaden protection from criminal liability for police.

In announcing the plans last June, officials acknowledged that investigations of people smuggling, hate crimes, gun trafficking and terrorism had been adversely affected by the new limitations on police.

The developments seriously demoralized RCMP officers in the Ottawa-based federal enforcement section, says a January 2000 memo released to Southam News under the Access to Information Act.

"There is a high level of frustration, verging on despair, being experienced by

some of our investigators, knowing there are criminal acts ... and not having the legislative tools to deal with the situation."

Mounties in Nova Scotia reported that "the present state of the law is presenting very serious and significant impediments against our focus on organized crime."

The memo adds that commercial crime investigations in the RCMP's Toronto East detachment "have been severely impacted."

The customs and excise branch in Milton, Ont., had modified projects by expending additional resources or had abandoned files altogether.

"Potential cases are not being followed up or initiated due to likelihood of little success," says the memo.

Staff Sgt. J. W. Puchniak of the federal enforcement section feared the limitations would not only hamper police, "but would basically open the doors to the criminals who would take full advantage" of the situation.

Details of specific investigations, including the number of cases affected, were deleted from the documents. However, it is clear the court ruling caused anxiety at the highest levels of the RCMP.

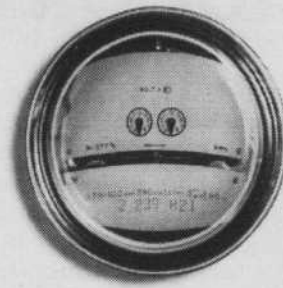
In his May 1999 letter to MacAulay, Murray said the force was "very concerned" about the effect on the force's ability to conduct complex, resource-intensive probes.

"We cannot afford to constrain our investigative capabilities," he wrote. "I suggest that immediate action is called for to provide the necessary and appropriate statutory protections for officers involved in criminal investigations."

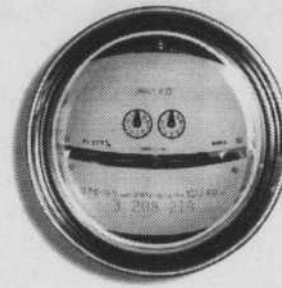
Last year, the government issued a white paper and draft legislation as initial steps toward addressing the concerns.

Some have expressed fears the proposed measures would allow the police to break the law in the pursuit of relatively low-level crimes.

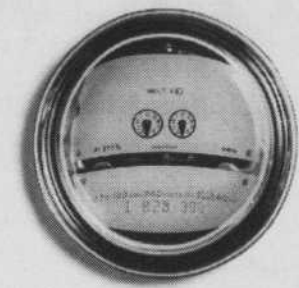
Justice Department officials, however, insist the draft law contains sufficient safeguards.



ONTARIO



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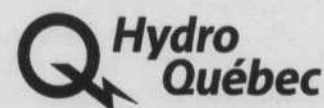
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Sports

ETIAC schools vie for basketball crowns

Revamped schedule
set for today and
tomorrowBy Mike Hickey
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

The Eastern Townships Inter-scholastic Athletic Union's long-awaited basketball championships get underway this afternoon and warp up tomorrow in Lennoxville.

Six championships will be decided in the next two days at Alexander Galt High School and Bishop's College School. The playoffs were postponed two weeks following an outbreak of meningitis at Massey-Vanier High School three weeks ago. Four Massey-Vanier students came down with the serious illness and the entire school population was vaccinated as a result.

Action begins at 4:30 p.m. when the Massey-Vanier junior girls tangle with the Stanstead Spartans and the BCS bantam girls square off against the Vikings. Therse Franhauser and Jamie Moer will spearhead the Viking attack while Stanstead's trio of Julie Lemay, Andrea Channell and Bianca Bolouri will lead the Spartan junior team.

Richmond native Emma Lisaon has been a tower of strength for the BCS bantam team all year while Francie Kaiser and Aileen Gabereau will be the Massey-Vanier players to watch. Both games will be played at BCS.

Across the river the junior boys' champions will be decided between Massey-Vanier, Galt and BCS. The junior division was the ETIAC's most competitive league with BCS claiming first place after a triple tiebreaker was put into place. Ben Glauser and Jordan Lee provide the Viking juniors with a

solid 1-2 punch while the Galt team is led by Mathieu Pellerin and Patrick Fequet.

John Côté and Jeremy Chisholm have been the mainstays for the Viking bantam boys all year while Ryan MacAuley and Michael Little will provide the offensive firepower for the Pipers. The bantam boys championship game will be decided between the Vikings and the Pipers at 4:30 p.m. Josh Lyster will be counted upon to provide BCS leadership in the junior championship game which is slated for 7 p.m. at Galt.

The junior and bantam girls' championship will be played at BCS at 7:00 p.m. The Galt Pipers received a bye into the junior finals while the Galt Blue team will meet the winner of the Massey-Vanier-Stanstead semi-final contest. The Pipers will depend on the scoring ability of Karolyn Kirby and

Michel Desbois while Kristen Warnholtz and Louise Royer lead the bantam team.

The senior titles will be decided tomorrow. Mike Page and Jeremy Singfield will lead the Massey-Vanier senior boys against Stanstead's duo of Lionel Wiedenmann and Massimo Marino. The winner of the semis will have to contend with the Galt Pipers' inside game led by David Pawluczuk, Alex Dezan and Rick Dezan in the championship.

The Massey-Vanier line-up features the explosive guard tandem of Rikki Bowles and Stephanie Kay while the Pipers will be led by seniors Molly LaDuke and Lori Sparks.

The winner of that match-up will have their hands full with the Spartans. Stanstead boasts a solid line-up led by Catherine Wright, Megan Lill and Jamie Wilson.

Eager Beavers throttle Big Easy during trip

Defeat New Orleans
in Mardi Gras
Invitational Rugby
Tournament

NEW ORLEANS

On Feb. 14, nine members of Bishop's rugby club and one man from the Université de Sherbrooke departed from Lennoxville on an arduous 32-hour drive to New Orleans, La.

The 10 players were part of an 18-man rugby squad convening in the Big Easy to play in the second annual Mardi Gras Invitational Rugby Tournament. Apart from the players from Bishop's and Sherbrooke, eight players from Montreal - seven from McGill and one from Concordia - flew south.

This talented representative side, which contained eight of the 15 Quebec University Rugby all-stars from this past year, was appropriately named the 'Eager Beavers RFC.' As with any rugby tour, the goal of the trip was to first and foremost enjoy ourselves while playing a competitive style of rugby. As it turned out, both were accomplished.

The first evening saw the players arrive in New Orleans in mixed states, but the following morning the team convened in the parking lot of the Econo Lodge to go over the game plan.

Their first practice went well and the boys were soon on their way to the pitch to play the New Orleans Rugby

Club in their first match.

Despite a shaky start, the boys from the North took it to the NORFC in the second half, scoring twice and converting both tries. The final score found the Beavers on top of the Eagles 12-10. The afternoon was spent resting for the evening game against the Austin Huns RFC, which was eventually postponed until the next day.

The Canadian team made some last-minute pregame adjustments before play began, but despite their preparations, the game against Austin was an uphill battle from the start.

After a poor first half, which saw Austin score 12 points, the Beavers rebounded and spent the entire second half inside the Austin Huns' half of the pitch. Unfortunately, the Beavers could only put seven points on the scoreboard and lost the game 12-7.

The Beavers hopes were not dammed up. Later that day New Orleans defeated Austin, leaving the Quebec team in first place. The second match of the day was, once again, postponed and later canceled as Panama City could no longer manage to field a squad. As a result, the Beavers won by default 21-0.

Later that evening, during an awards banquet, New Orleans challenged the Beavers to a championship game on Monday evening. The team accepted it and for the meantime forgot about rugby and focused all its energy on painting the town red. In this venture the Beavers were quite successful.

Sunday afternoon saw the team go

their separate ways; some went sight-seeing, some slept and some continued the festivities while a select few got the rental van repaired.

Everyone made it to the French quarter for another night of fun later that evening.

Monday was the team's last day in New Orleans and it was once again spent visiting the town and preparing for the evening. The entire team was well rested and looking forward to another match against New Orleans.

The first half went quite well when Bishop's flanker Stephan Chapeau scored first after a broken play at the back of a lineout. Fly-half Andrew Wanka converted the try and the half ended with Beavers up 7-0.

The Beavers came out in the second

half all guns blazing and scored almost immediately after a flurry of plays and several phases of forward ball. John Goode scored and Andrew Wanka converted the try giving the Beavers a 14-point lead.

New Orleans didn't give up and managed to score a try on an amazing up and under kick by their fullback. Unfortunately for New Orleans, it was too little too late, and the game ended with The Beavers up 14-10.

As the final whistle went the Beavers knew that this night was different from the rest. They had a good reason to celebrate. They had won the tournament and were heading home the very next day with a couple pieces of well-earned hardware.

Submitted by Brad Current

ETIAC Basketball Playoffs

Tuesday, March 13

					Gym
Junior Girls	Massey Vanier	vs	Stanstead	4:30	BCS
Bantam Girls	Massey Vanier	vs	BCS	4:30	BCS
Junior Boys	Massey Vanier	vs	Galt	4:30	Galt
Bantam Boys Final	Massey Vanier	vs	Galt	4:30	Galt
Junior Girls	Finals 4:30 Winner	vs	Galt Pipers	7:00	BCS
Junior Boys	Finals 4:30 Winner	vs	BCS	7:00	Galt
Bantam Girls	Finals 4:30 Winner	vs	Galt Blue	7:00	BCS

Wednesday, March 14

					Gym
Sr. Boys	Massey Vanier	vs	Stanstead	4:30	Galt
Sr. Girls	Massey Vanier	vs	Galt	4:30	Galt
Sr. Boys	Final - Winner	vs	Galt	7:30	Galt
Sr. Girls	Final - Winner	vs	Stanstead	7:30	Galt

In Memoriams

BEAULAC, Real - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who passed away March 13, 1997.

There are no more tomorrows
For all of us to share,
But yesterdays memories
Will always be there.
Sadly missed by
SHIRLEY and FAMILY

MORRISON - In loving memory of my brothers: Glendon Lyle on March 11, 1999 and Merrill William, November 16, 2000, also my mother, Ethel, May 23, 1951; father, Arthur, November 6, 1981. Down the path of memories
We gently tread today,
Our loving thoughts are with you
As life goes on its way.
We often think about you
With love and sad regrets,
For we who miss you dearly
Never will forget.
Always in our hearts,

VIVIAN & HERBERT
RAY & CLEMENCE
HUGO & ROMY

VINTINNER, Garth: August 1 - March 13, 1999.

When evening shadows are falling
And we are sitting alone,
In our hearts there comes a longing
If only you could come home.
You had a smile for everyone
You had a heart of gold,
Remembering you is easy
We do it every day.
But missing you is a heartache
This never goes away,
You will always remain in our hearts
Life goes on without you Garth
But it will never be the same.
Love always and forever.

DORIS (mother)
AND FAMILY

Card of Thanks

BULLOCK, Madelyn - The family of the late Madelyn Bullock wish to express a very sincere thank you for the many acts of kindness shown us during the illness and recent death of our beloved mother on January 26, 2001. The thoughtfulness of family, friends and neighbors was overwhelming. So many reached out with their prayers which helped to sustain us and we are ever appreciative. Our thanks for the many telephone calls and cards of condolence. The generous preparation of food was so helpful to the family and we thank you for your kindness. A special thank you is extended to Larry Reynolds and his colleagues on the Ambulance Service. Your gentle, kind manner on several occasions and your vigilance will always be remembered. Thank you, also, to Dr. Benoit Gauthier at La Providence Hospital, Magog, for the love and compassion shown to Mother and the family. We, also, send a special thank you to the wonderful nurses on the fourth floor for their tireless and excellent care. You all truly honor your profession. We thank Pastor Lise Kuzminska for her prayers and her special tribute at the wonderful service of celebration to honor Mother's life. The many ways in which you ministered to Mother and to us was very comforting and will never be forgotten. Our thanks, also, to Cass Funeral Home for making the arrangements and to the bearers for their love and show of respect. Last, but certainly not least, we extend our sincere thanks to the Wesley U.C.W. for preparing a very tasty luncheon so that the family and visiting friends might gather together. At such a sorrowful time for us, all of you helped to see us through. You are a wonderful reflection of God's special love and we are especially blessed. With heartfelt thanks,

LELAND & JANET BULLOCK
GAIL & BOB JUDD
LINDA FARROW
AND FAMILIES

Deaths

ELLIS, Mrs. Margaret Jane (nee Doherty) - Peacefully at the Manoir Lac Brome in Knowlton, Quebec, on Sunday, March 11th, 2001 in her 91st year, Mrs. Margaret Jane Ellis. Predeceased by her husband, Joe Ellis, she is survived by her only son, Michael (Fairlie McKee) of Burritt's Rapids Ont. Mrs. Ellis is resting at the Desourdy Wilson Funeral Home, 104 Buzzell St., Cowansville, Que., J2K 2N5, tel.: (450) 263-1212, fax: (450) 263-9557, dwilson@endirect.ca.qc, where family and friends may visit on Thursday, March 15, 2001 from 7 p.m., to 9 p.m. Visitation will also be held from 1 p.m., to 2 p.m., on Friday, March 16th at All Saints Anglican Church in Dunham, Quebec, followed at 2 p.m., by the funeral service. The Rev. Arnold Godsoe officiating. Donations in her memory to the All Saints Anglican Church Memorial Fund, 127 du Collège, Dunham, Que., JOJ 2H0, would be appreciated by the family.

GETTY, Robert Wallace - Suddenly at the B.M.P. Hospital in Cowansville, on March 10, 2001 in his 85 year. Dearly beloved husband of Ethel Bromby. Father of Grace Studer and Carol (James Kennedy) beloved grandfather of Chris (Vicky), William and Margaret Studer, Jennifer and Jesse Kennedy. Great-grandfather of Kayla Studer. Brother of Hugh (Yolande) the late Malcolm (Mignonne) and sister of the late Olive (Grisdale Gould), uncle of Dave, Johanne, John, Louise Getty and several other nieces and nephews. Funeral service will be held at the Dion's Funeral Home, 215 River St., Bedford, on March 16th, 2001 at 2 p.m. Visitation one hour prior to service. Rev. M. Cogswell officiating. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Claude Deserres or the B.M.P. Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by the family. (Forms available at funeral home).

Deaths

LAWLOR, Mrs. Doris - After a lengthy illness, at the Brome Missisquoi Perkins Hospital in Cowansville, Que., on Sunday, March 11th, 2001 in her 79th year, Mrs. Doris Lawlor. Predeceased by two husbands, she leaves to mourn her children: Bud Boyce (Linda), Donald Caswell (Elenor), Ronald Caswell (Joanne), Bea Caswell (Richard), Linda Caswell (Robert), Lawrence Caswell (Janet), Kenneth Caswell (José), Bruce Caswell (Janet), Dave Caswell (Janet), Marjorie (Russell), late Francis Lawlor (Reginald), Tony Lawlor (Robin), Marilen Jacobs (Chad), her brother, Cedric, also her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and a great many friends. Mrs. Lawlor is resting at the Desourdy Wilson Funeral Home, 31 Principal St., Sutton, Que., JOE 2K0, tel.: (450) 263-1212, fax: (450) 263-9557, dwilson@endirect.qc.ca, where family and friends may visit on Wednesday, March 14th, 2001 from 2 - 4 p.m., and 7 - 9 p.m. Funeral service from the Funeral Home Chapel on Thursday, March 15th, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. The Rev. Tim Smart officiating. Please Note: Thursday, day of service, the funeral home will be open from 11:00 a.m. Donations in her memory to the Brome Missisquoi Perkins Hospital Foundation, 950 Principal St., Cowansville, Que., J2K 1K3 or Foyer Sutton Benevolent Committee, 50 Western, Sutton, Que., JOE 2K0, would be appreciated by the family.

MORRISON, Garnet - Peacefully at the C.H.U.S., Sherbrooke, Que., on March 10, 2001. Garnet Thurber, in her 95th year. Beloved wife of the late Gordon Morrison, dear mother of Pauline (Ulric Nutbrown) and Ruth (late Andrew Beattie), cherished grandmother of Valerie (Milton Hodge), Steven (Loretta) Nutbrown and Rodney (Tanya) Nutbrown, great-grandmother of Matthew, Michael, Amanda, Travis, Jennifer, Cody and Randy. Funeral service Tuesday, March 13, at 11:00 a.m., at Candlish United Church, Kinnear's Mills, Que. The family will be present at 10:00 a.m., at the church for those who wish to offer their condolences.

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03-13-01			
North			
♠ Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2			
♥ —			
♦ —			
♣ A K			
West			
♠ A K			
♥ 10 8 6 5			
♦ 9 6 5 3 2			
♣ 5 2			
East			
♠ —			
♥ J 9 7 4 3 2			
♦ J 10 8 7 4			
♣ 4 3			
South			
♠ —			
♥ A K Q			
♦ A K Q			
♣ Q J 10 9 8 7 6			
Vulnerable: East-West			
Dealer: North			
South	West	North	East
??		5 ♠	Pass
Opening lead: ♠ A			

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Down from six to five

By Phillip Alder

First, look only at the South hand in the diagram. Partner opens five spades. What would you respond, if anything?

So that you cannot see the answer immediately, here is a quotation: "There are only two or three in the world, five or six at most. We ride them like treadmills." What was Janette Turner Hospital, an Australian author, talking about?

Yesterday, we looked at a six-level opening bid. Now let's come down one step: What does it mean if you open five hearts or five spades? (If partner did it, we would assume he'd had another rush of blood to his big toe! And five clubs or five diamonds is a speculative opening bid with a loonnng suit.)

Traditionally, five of a major announces 11 winners missing both the ace and king of trumps. Partner raises one level for each of those cards he holds. However, now look at today's South hand. What must North hold for his five-spade opening? He must be void in both red suits. So, he must have 11 spades and the ace-king of clubs. That should make it clear for South to jump to seven clubs!

As you can see, even I could make seven clubs on any lead.

Yes, with that North hand, we would like to open six spades because even if partner is void, the missing honors might be 1-1. However, if partner knows a six-spade opening requests a raise to seven with the trump king, there could be a serious accident lurking in the background.

As the Bridge Encyclopedia says, five of a major is probably the rarest opening bid.

Janette Hospital was discussing story plots.

Dear Ann Landers: Fifty years ago, my husband had an affair with a co-worker. The woman said she couldn't live without "David," and threatened suicide if he didn't leave me. Since we had two young children at home and I had no job skills, I refused to give my husband a divorce. He said it would be MY fault if she did indeed kill herself. Nonetheless, we managed to stay together, and the woman did not commit suicide.

Fifty years is a long time to carry such a burden, although the pain of his affair has lessened over the years. The other day I decided to call this woman and tell her I had forgiven her. Guess what? She had a hard time figuring out who I was, and she barely remembered my husband. In fact, I'm not sure she remembered him at all. I could kick myself when I think of all the heartache I went through for 50 years, while "the Other Woman" could not even remember what I was talking about.

I don't know if there's a moral to this story, Ann, but I thought your readers might like to know what can happen after time passes. — Anonymous in Pennsylvania

Dear Anon.: Time does indeed heal all wounds, and apparently, it does something to the memory of what caused those wounds, which is a good thing. Even though you might have felt a bit foolish after making that call, it

Seniors group active in Coaticook

In May 1996 the senior English population was large enough within the Coaticook MRC to be entitled to social services similar to those enjoyed by the French-speaking community.



Volunteers of the English Senior group Coaticook MRC. Sitting left to right: S. Desruisseaux, M. McIntyre. Standing left to right: R. Desruisseaux, B. Bellows, E. Mayhew and L. May.

Time does heal all wounds

Ann Landers

was the right thing to do since it created closure for you. Consider it a plus.

Dear Ann Landers: My daughter's husband left her and their 2-year-old daughter last year. I stepped in and helped support them until "Carla" could get a decent job. I paid for her divorce attorney and took care of my granddaughter. Carla paid me back and is now doing quite well.

Carla's company recently rewarded her hard work with a four-day trip to a lovely resort. I told her I would give my eyeteeth for such a vacation. Do you think she invited me? No, she did not. Carla said she had no interest in traveling with her mother and instead invited a gay male friend to accompany her. When I told her how disappointed I was, she said I was selfish and self-centered. On top of that, she wants me to baby-sit for my granddaughter while she is away.

Am I wrong to think she should have asked me to go with her? I haven't had a vacation in years and could have used a few days away. — A Hurt Mom Out West

Dear Hurt Mom: It would have been nice if Carla invited you, but she may be planning to spend this vacation looking for available men, and having her mother along could be a major obstacle. Carla is not obligated to provide you with a vacation. If you'd like to get away,

Mom, make some arrangements and go.

Dear Ann Landers: This is in response to "Your Former Classmate in Illinois," who didn't want to attend his 20-year high school reunion because he was not popular in school. In fact, he was considered a "loser."

I, too, had a difficult time in high school. But after 20 years, those high school kids are totally different people. I went to my 10-year reunion a few years back and discovered that the class clown was a college professor, and several "screw-ups" had straightened out — some even owned successful businesses. A few notorious bullies turned out to be loving parents, proudly passing around pictures of their children.

I believe "Illinois" will be missing a lot if he decides not to attend the reunion. I hope he listens to your advice and works through his anger. Let me know if you hear from him again. — Older and Wiser in Wisconsin

Dear Older and Wiser: Several readers wrote to express the same viewpoint. If I hear from "Illinois" again, I'll print his letter.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday wishes to Ruby Alden on March 13.

Love and best wishes from the staff and residents of the Grapes Residence.

seaux and L. May continue this service.

The program for the day takes the format of meeting at 10 a.m. every second Tuesday, exercises for 3/4 of an hour, information by a designated professional, a nutritious meal, then visiting and games. Sometimes small competitions, music and 'living helps' info are enjoyed.

These sessions serve 20 to 40 persons every time and as high as 50 have taken advantage of them. A total of 2000 meals have been served, throughout this time. It's a way of 'touching - base' with one another, though the actual distance is 30 or 40 miles apart.

The accompanying photos are of the Senior Activity Group exercising, and of the volunteers.

Submitted L. May



'Exercisers enjoying' Senior Activity Group, Coaticook, Que.

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: I equals M

'GWYCAXN AE Y IWYXE TU
SRAXHAXN FASR YXTSRWG
LWGETX'E IAXC; AS UTGVWE OTM
ST ESGWSVR OTMG TFX.' -

VRYGKWE EVGAPXWG ZG.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "I couldn't believe it really happened. I'm never going to doubt myself in anything." — (Grand Slam winner) Jennifer Capriati

KIT N' CARLYLE



HERMAN



"If he can't talk, how do you know his name is Kevin?"

ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



THE BORN LOSER



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



GRIZWELLS



SOUP TO NUTS



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100 Job Opportunities

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and bindings: Rossignol Super 9.9 carving 184 cm, "all-around" intermediate/expert skis, 4 years old, Rossignol FKS bindings, \$250.; Dynastar Speed SF 192 cm, Giant Slalom parabolic race skis, Look binding with plate 10 mm, retail value: \$1,300., used 30 days, like new, for \$450. (819) 566-0446.

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LOST CAT - White adult male in Stanstead area. If found, please call (819) 876-2013. **Reward.**

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Sacred Heart of Jesus for favors granted. J.C.

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Sher-Lenn Fifty Plus Club meets

Feb. 7: Welcomed by the president, Irene Decoteau. The birthdays for February were Charlotte Stratton, Helen Mac-

donald, Beryl Imbeault, Harold Munkit-trick. Whist was played at five tables the highest flags of 23 a piece was tied be-

tween two teams. 1st team was Evelyn Graham, Claudette Cyr, Gertrude Nut-brown, Anais Verlinden. 2nd team Glen-

na Ross, Helen Macdonald, Freda McLeod, Vera Gillam. Low captain Beryl Imbeault, Violet McNag, Annie Fortin, Jessie Mackinnon.

Feb. 14: Welcomed by our president, Irene Decoteau. It was our monthly meeting Anais Verlinden and Ilene Hol-sam won 1st and 2nd prizes for prettiest valentine cards brought in. 500 was played at four tables with Helen Macdonald high score at 4220 and Edna Bryne low score at 1300.

Feb. 21: Welcomed by the president. Half and Half won by Gerald Decteau. Auction sale for food by St. George's Church. 500 was played at four tables with Jessie Mackinnon high score at 4020 and Eileen Hollham low score at 1420.

Feb. 28: Welcomed by the president, Irene Decoteau. 500 was played at four tables with Violet McNab high score at 2960 and Edna Bryne low score at 1620.

Submitted by
Nancy Barton

Your Birthday

Tuesday, March 13, 2001

Chances are in the year ahead you'll finally shed the notion that fortuitous things can happen for others but not for you. You're the one who everybody will be ending up envying.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) It's time to let go of an intrinsic desire you've been sheltering which, in reality, you know its possibilities for fulfillment are long gone. Get on with your life with something else.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It's good to be focused on a goal, but don't be so targeted today that you have no thought for those who are helping you. Be sure to acknowledge their input and express some gratitude.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) There's only one person you should count on, and that is yourself. If you expect others to do for you what you should be doing for yourself, you're going to be

sorely disappointed today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Harboring a grudge is always a major mistake, and today you could prove that to be true by shunning the very person who can help you out of a mess you've gotten yourself into. It's your loss.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) The only thing holding you back from success today is continuing to interpret things darkly and foreseeing trouble where none exists. Turn that mood around.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) If your focus today is narrowed on only one objective, you might not see all the bulls-eyes you could hit that are around you. Open your mind to peripheral targets.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Be careful today not to divide your attention to the point that you befuddle your mind. It's okay to have a lot on your plate, but digest one morsel at a time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You're able to distinguish between doing things the hard way and doing things the easy way, yet today you may knowingly make

everything tough on yourself because of a closed mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't stew over not being able to finalize a matter today that you want to get out of the way. Concentrate on what you can do so that you'll at least get something done.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) If you turn your life into a military installation where no one around you is allowed to think for him or herself, your harsh commands and rules will hamper creativity from contributors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You can marshal your negative thoughts to vanquish failures and replace them with positive thoughts to achieve victories today. The mind is a remarkable mechanism that will perform either.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) The reason you may not be able to get into a position today to capitalize on your opportunities is because you might refuse to believe they exist, even though they're in front of your face.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 _ Jessica Parker
- 6 Poetic rhythm
- 11 E-mail period
- 14 Hersey's bell town
- 15 Texas shrine
- 16 Unspecified individual
- 17 High point in Europe
- 19 Neon or argon
- 20 Snooze
- 21 Own up to
- 23 "Respect" singer Franklin
- 27 Chicago cow owner
- 28 High point in Antarctica
- 32 Acclamation
- 33 Fred Astaire's sister

- 34 Profound dread
- 37 Hind part
- 38 Conductor Walter
- 39 Linen source
- 40 _ Lanka
- 41 Polish spots
- 42 Wheel spokes
- 43 High point in Asia
- 45 Popularized myth
- 48 Happenings
- 49 Tall tales
- 50 Mall unit
- 53 _ Got a Secret
- 54 High point in Africa
- 60 Butterfly catcher
- 61 Seething

- 27 Capital on the Aker River
- 29 Cheech's surname
- 30 Mature
- 31 Meaning
- 34 Messenger for Standish
- 35 Middle measurement
- 36 Goes out
- 38 One bit per second
- 39 Cabbie's cargo
- 41 Providing traction
- 42 Tit for tat
- 43 Fellows

- 44 Aloe _
- 45 Perjuring
- 46 Roof's overhang
- 47 Actress Garbo
- 50 Lambaste
- 51 One of The Jacksons
- 52 Harbinger
- 55 Anger
- 56 Tight spot
- 57 Letters openers
- 58 Agile deer
- 59 Raw mineral

Monday's Puzzle Solved

O	L	G	A		B	E	T	E	L		L	O	C	O
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3/13/01

DOWN

- 1 Sleuth Spade
- 2 Fuss
- 3 Writer Santha Rama
- 4 _Margret
- 5 Up-and-comer
- 6 Masculine
- 7 Hamburg river
- 8 Infield cover, briefly
- 9 Ostrich cousin
- 10 Romberg operetta
- 11 Doctrine
- 12 Where lovers walk?
- 13 Snappish
- 18 Spirited vigor
- 22 Dict. entry
- 23 Declares
- 24 Kitchen gadget
- 25 Zhou of China
- 26 Russian ruler

TMSpuzzles@aol.com

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
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63						64						65		

By Verna Sult
Silver Spring, MD

3/13/01

Haldol is dangerous

DEAR DR. GOTT: My elderly grandmother, who is in a nursing home, became combative and uncooperative several weeks ago and was prescribed Haldol. Now she has involuntary twitching of her face and arms and complains of weakness. Could the drug be to blame?

DEAR READER: Absolutely. It should be stopped immediately. Haldol was, until recently, considered to be a useful drug for the treatment of certain emotional upsets associated with behavioral disturbances, such as dementia and psychotic disorders. Despite its benefits, the medicine has one serious drawback: It can cause tardive dyskinesia, a syndrome consisting of involuntary movements of the tongue, face, mouth and jaw; on occasion, the extremities may

be involved. Haldol is no longer recommended because the dyskinesia may persist even after the drug is stopped.

I urge you to insist that your grandmother's Haldol be discontinued and that she be examined by a neurologist. Such a specialist will be able to determine whether her symptoms are caused by the Haldol or by some other condition, such as a primary nerve disorder. Also, the neurologist will be able to prescribe safer, more effective medicine to treat your grandmother's symptoms and her combative



By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

behavior.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "What You Should Know About Nursing Homes." Other readers who would like a copy should send \$2 plus a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box

2017, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: How does a cardiac pacemaker work? Should I have one to control atrial fibrillation? I'd certainly like to get rid of the many drugs I take for this affliction.

DEAR READER: Cardiac pacemakers are electronic devices that trigger the heart to beat. In simple terms, the typical pacemaker consists of a battery pack, somewhat smaller than a cigarette package, that is surgically implanted under the skin of the chest.

The battery is connected to wires leading through the veins of the neck into the heart. A tiny computer next to the battery senses pauses in the pulse and instructs the battery when to fire a charge down the wires to stimulate a cardiac contraction. The computer is programmed to activate at a certain rate if the natural heartbeat slows or stops.

Modern pacemakers are engineering marvels. They can sense and fire in a variety of ways to stimulate normal cardiac action. For instance, some pacers will automatically speed up if a patient exercises; also, they can be programmed

to ignore certain heart rhythms or override others. In choosing a pacemaker, the surgeon takes into account the patient's particular cardiac abnormality.

I do not believe that pacemakers are generally useful in treating atrial fibrillation — an irregular, rapid and usually harmless cardiac rhythm that can ordinarily be slowed by medication such as digoxin. (Remember, however, that most patients with AF are at high risk for stroke, so they should routinely use an anticoagulant drug, such as Coumadin, to prevent formation of blood clots.)

In view of your concern about your therapy, I suggest that you obtain an opinion from a cardiologist, who can advise you about medication or, if yours is an unusual case, suggest the kind of pacemaker that would best suit you.

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a 79-year-old man who recently developed toenail fungus. I don't understand why, but I would like to treat it nevertheless. Years ago, my wife had the same problem, which was corrected when a foot doctor removed the nails. For obvious reasons, I would like to avoid this drastic step. Is there any medication that would solve this annoyance?

DEAR READER: Two relatively new prescription drugs — Lamasil and Sporano — are now being marketed for treatment of fungus infections of the nails. Ask your doctor about these medications. If, on the other hand, you would prefer a more natural, less expensive option, try soaking your feet in La Pacho tea three times a day. This herbal tea is available in most health food stores and, I have been told, can produce miraculous results.



MAGOG

St. Patrick's Buffet Luncheon of Sandwiches and Squares at the Church of St. Luke Hall, Pine St., Magog on Thursday, March 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by the Magog Social Service. Door prizes, food sale, novelty table. All welcome.

SHERBROOKE

Plymouth-Trinity United Church Women's annual Shamrock Salad Buffet and Sale at 380 Dufferin St., on Saturday, March 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Includes sales tables of home-baking, handicrafts, novelties, etc. Everyone welcome.

LENNOXVILLE

The Local Association of Girl Guides, in Lennoxville, is having their annual St. Patrick's Day Coffee Party on Saturday, March 17, 2001, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church. Chinese Auction (don't forget your dimes), silent auction, and bake table.

AYER'S CLIFF

St. Patrick's Roast Turkey Supper, United Church, March 17. Turkey, stuffing, potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetables, coleslaw, tomato juice, pickles, homemade rolls and cakes, coffee, tea. Top quality food and service in a pleasant atmosphere. Green door prizes. Seatings at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Reservations only. Please call early, Alf (819) 838-4953, Mervyn 838-5603 or Wendell 846-7180.

HUNTINGVILLE

St. Patrick's Tea, Thursday, March 15, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at the Howe home. Proceeds for St. James Church, Compton.

TRENHOLM

Please be advised that the Official Church Congregation for Trenholm United Church will take place Thursday, March 15, 2001 in the vestry of Trenholm United Church at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend this important meeting.

SHERBROOKE

Sherbrooke Outreach Meeting. Townshippers' Association and Eastern Townships CEDEC invite area residents to discuss community needs/strengths, Sherbrooke Elementary School, 242 Ontario Street, March 17, 7 p.m. Info: (819) 566-5717.

STANSTEAD

Wine and Cheese Party on Saturday, March 17 at Le Baron Hall, Stanstead College, Stanstead from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission charged. Entertainment to follow. Everyone welcome. Proceeds to benefit the Frontier Animal Society. For reservations or information call (819) 876-7785 or 876-5016.

LENNOXVILLE

A.N.A.F. Unit 318 "Hut" general meeting on Wednesday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. for all ladies and men of the Unit.

ABBOTSFORD

Christian Library of Books, Audios and Videos. Help needed. Call Laura (450) 379-5578, Abbotsford.

SOUTH DURHAM

Advance notice. April Fool's Brunch at South Durham United Church on Sunday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission charged. Everyone welcome.

NORTH HATLEY

The annual meeting and pot-luck supper of the Old North Church Cemetery Association will take place on Sunday, March 18 in St. Barnabas Church Hall in North Hatley beginning at 5:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

...

This column accepts items announcing events organized by churches, service clubs and recognized charitable institutions for a \$6.00 fee, \$9.00 for 2 insertions of same notice, \$12.00 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.

From the Pens of E.T. Writers

There Is Power In Wit & Wisdom

"There is power in wit & wisdom" those
Clever ideas that seem so amusing, oh such power
If you don't keep your wits about you then you'll lose some of your power
So keep your wits about you and your power will remain.

Look no further you've found what you've been seeking
Where? Right here in me I'm sure that's what you've been looking for
Don't you know you've been looking for someone to hold
And I'm sure that you started even before with your power and wisdom.

Yes "there is power in wit and wisdom" and your wit made even troubles disappear
and seem amusing
Some say if you don't use your wit & wisdom, you lose power
You can use me as I can take it if you're not abusing.

If you can change sad faces to happy faces
And hold on tight to gladness that only time erases
Remembering to hold on tight to your power and wit 'till the end
There will be constantly power in "wit and wisdom."

Knowing that "there is power in wit and wisdom."
Clever ideas that are amusing
So hold onto your power and amusing never abusing
If you don't hold onto your wits you will lose power and when power is lost, there
is no more honey.

Eloise Irwin