

The Townships Sun



BILLY'S BLUE RIBBON BOYS



The Spring Issue

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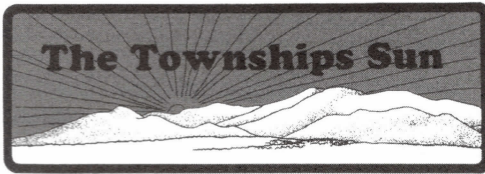
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COVER PHOTO courtesy of Bruce Patton

Bill Foote's Blue Ribbon Boys. Seated with the guitar is Norman Boucher. In the back row, left to right, are Jerry Haseltine, Olaf Knutson Jim Gemmell, Ed Cromwell, Stuart Gemmell, Bill Foote, Gordon Shipway and Len Lobb.



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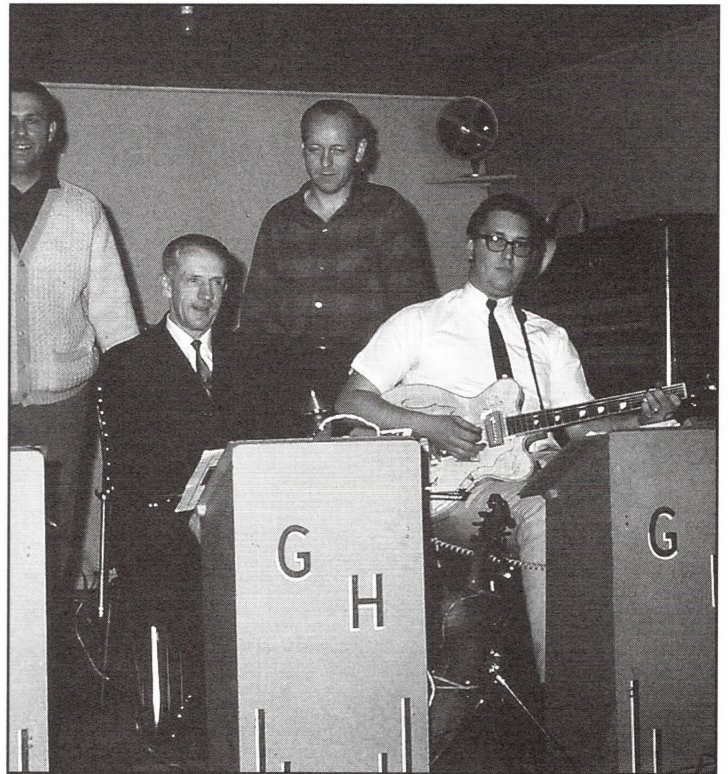
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Photographed at the La Paloma Dance Hall in Milby, this was the Jerry Haseltine Dance Band. Pictures , left to right are: Cliff Woodard, Stewart Deacon, Jerry Haseltine, Bruce Patton and Dale Bessant.

The Townships Sun

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Shall We Dance?

Memoires of a dance band pianist

By Bruce Patton

With the passage of time, changes in society always occur. For those for whom Saturday evenings in the 1940s and '50s meant either listening to or, better still, dancing to the music of local dance bands, the changes in musical styles were not particularly welcome, inevitable as they were.

Many of the people who provided the local music of that era are no longer with us. For this reason I deemed

it appropriate to step back in time and recall some of the names of those who provided so many of the people of this area with reasons to look forward to Saturday evenings.

My earliest recollection of a full-sized dance band was that of Rollie Badger. I never heard this band, but I have seen a photograph of this ensemble. I remember also, that its leader lived in a large house, which is still there, on Woodward Street in Sherbrooke.



Cliff Woodard (seated behind the music stand on the left) composed a song titled, I Love You. On a Sunday afternoon, the combined bands of Les Beaulieu and Jerry Haseltine assembled to record the song. The three Ewin sisters (left to right: Dale, Lynda and Paulette) sang the lyrics. Seated, left to right are: Lindsay Woodard, Cliff Woodard, Roger Boudreau, Charlie Coates and Omer Labonté. In the back row, left to right, are: Jerry Haseltine, Stewart Deacon, Ron Haseltine, Les Beaulieu and Bruce Patton.

As a young lad living in Sherbrooke's West Ward, I remember how I would stand on the sidewalk and listen to another band, directed by Giz Gagnon, rehearse on Friday evenings in his home on Champlain Street.

I also remember spending many pleasant Sunday evenings on the lawn of the park on the corner of Queen and Portland streets, listening to the music of The Sherbrooke Regiment band, directed by Ozzie Lewis. It had earlier been led by Professor Havard and later came under the direction of John Pille. This band also provided the music for the occasional military ball.

In the late 1940s, at 5:15 each Saturday evening, a 15-minute radio show dealing with the activities of the local Cub packs and Scout troops was aired, live, from the studio of radio station CKTS, located on the top floor of the La Tribune building on Dufferin Street. I had the honour of playing the entry and closing music for that show each week. It was my very first encounter with a grand piano. In those days, the French-language radio station, CHLT, shared the same studio and each Saturday, immediately following the Scout broadcast, several French Canadian musicians would be waiting to perform on CHLT. It was because of this that I became acquainted with bands that included those of Beboul Blouin et ses joyeux compagnons, Ti-Blanc Richard and Aurèle Lacroix.

“Other than Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians, whose orchestra played at the “Roosevelt Grill” in New York City from 1929 to 1959, I know of no other musical group that played more than the 13 consecutive seasons in the same location as did the Haseltine band at that popular red barn in Huntingville.”

By the time I was into my teen years, Saturday evenings were most often spent at the carefully supervised Teen Town dances held in the YMCA on Dufferin Street. Most of the time, the music was supplied from recordings. It was then that I had the good fortune to meet Ivan Amery, whose father was the local Baptist church minister. Ivan played guitar, and with the addition of another teenager,

whose family name was Bourque (I cannot recall his first name) who played trumpet, we then formed a very amateurish-sounding dance band that would play each week for the first half of the Teen Town dance. Thus my career as a dance band pianist was launched.

A few years later, when I was a student at Bishop's University, Ivan introduced me to Toby Rochester, an



An early photo of the Sam Hopper ensemble. Left to right are: Stewart Deacon, Winston Nutbrown, Albert Nutbrown, Aveline Hopper and Sam Hopper.

accomplished drummer from the Ottawa region who also attended Bishop's. One night the three of us were playing at the Royal Canadian Legion on the corner of Queen and Prospect streets in Sherbrooke, when a man came in and sat in front of the three of us for the rest of the evening. I later learned that he was none other than Les Beaulieu, the leader of a well-known and very popular dance band at the time.

Les Beaulieu was also a friend of Jerry Haseltine, the leader of another dance band, who at that time, happened to be in need of a piano player for his group. Having contacted Les Beaulieu who in turn suggested the name of this young college student, I then received a phone call from the man who would later become my father-in-law.

The Haseltine group played every Saturday night during the summer and fall at Nick Dean's Barn in Huntingville and it was there that I joined his group. Other than Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians, whose orchestra played at the "Roosevelt Grill" in New York City from 1929 to 1959, I know of no other musical

group that played more than the 13 consecutive seasons in the same location as did the Haseltine band at that popular red barn in Huntingville.

Prior to that time, there was a family dance group in North Hatley known as the Lakeside Serenaders. It was made up of various members of the Woodard family



Waterville's Sam Hopper.

including Cliff, Guy, Lindsay and a sister who played piano. The members of this dance ensemble were so popular, especially among the several American cottage owners around the lake, that this group, on some occasions, was known to play every night of the week.

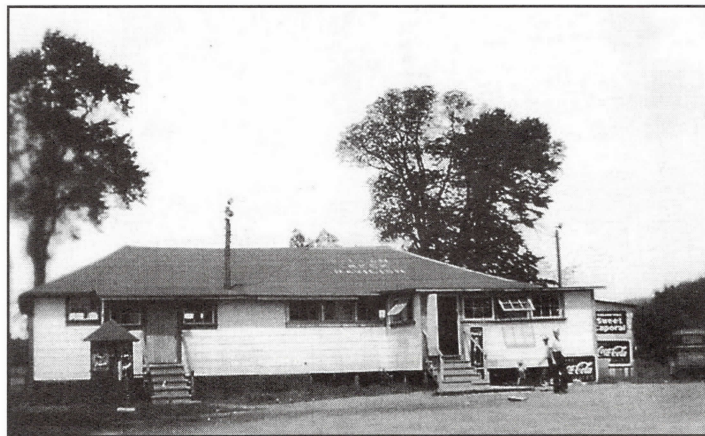
Jerry Haseltine's association with dance bands went back to 1937 or earlier when he played with Bill Foote's Blue Ribbon Boys (see accompanying photo on page 7). Norman Boucher is seated with the guitar in the front row of the photo. Boucher later established a very successful guitar factory in La Patrie. Known as "Norman" guitars, they were sold throughout North America, including at least one that was purchased by the legendary Johnny Cash.

When the Blue Ribbon band ceased operation, some of its members formed a new musical group known as Jerry and the Hayshakers, which eventually became the Haseltine band with which I became involved. Over the years many local musicians were part of this group including Charlie Coates, Cliff Woodard, Doug Sterling, Ron Haseltine, Gordon Shipway, George Irving, Garnet Bennett, Elizabeth Green, Dale Bessant, Yvon Heatherington, Ashley Carroll, Ben Smith, Sharon Patton, Stewart Deacon, Bill Copeland, Ron Ward, Richard Majury, Norman Boucher, Ed Cromwell, Al

Hill, Ashley Hunting, George Dwyer and Perley Herring. (My apologies for those whom I, no doubt, omitted) This group played for dances all over the area, but most frequently at Nick Dean's Barn, the La Paloma dance hall in Milby, the Legion on Bowen Street in Sherbrooke, the Legion in Richmond or, during the winter months, at the Odd Fellows Hall in Sawyerville.

During this era, the Les Beaulieu Orchestra was booked nearly every weekend to play for dances throughout the area. It included a section that included two saxophones and a trumpet and as such produced a sound reminiscent of the larger American ballroom bands that found their way to Sherbrooke each summer. Among the musicians in the Beaulieu group were those that I can remember as being Omer Labonté, the piano player, Charlie Coates, Lindsay Woodard, Ron Haseltine, Howard Sawyer, Garnet Bennett and Belle Willard. When Omer Labonté was no longer able to play the piano, I replaced him and stayed with the group until it also ceased operation.

There were, of course, other bands playing in the area during this period which included Irving Richards and his "Black and White" dance band and the Stan McMann dance band.



The Salmon Creek Pavilion. It was located on the Melbourne side of the river, opposite Richmond. Autoroute 55 passes right over its former location.

In the 1950s, just about every household had a large obnoxious-looking aluminum pipe rising from the roof of the house with several cross pieces, called 'Yagis' attached to it. The era of television had arrived and that meant that viewers could now watch local artists including Ti-Blanc Richard, Levis Boulianne and Ernie Lindell perform from the studios of the local channel 7 station. That, however, was not all they could watch because two

musical giants now became household names among the English-speaking viewers, namely, Don Messer and Lawrence Welk.

Another name that became popular during that time was that of Waterville's, Sam Hopper. The "Sam Hopper and his Hoedowners" band had a 15-minute radio show on CKTS every Saturday evening that would attract loyal followers wherever his group was performing. In most cases, this would have been either at the Canon Gustin Hall or the Memorial Hall in Fitch Bay or at the Salmon Creek Pavilion. The music this group played was well-suited to its name, but also included lots of country and western tunes that were popular. The original band consisted of Sam and Aveline Hopper, Albert Nutbrown, and Norman Masters and was later augmented to include Stewart Deacon who sang, called square dances and announced on the radio shows. Countless local musicians were members of Sam's group at one time or another including the following: Terry Howell, Bruce Dustin, Buck Sayers, Larry Dougherty, Garth Call, Winston

Nutbrown, now known as Winston James, Elaine Morse and Jimmy Piper.

During the 1950s, at least one of the big name American bands would perform each summer, usually in the old arena on the Sherbrooke Exhibition grounds. The musicians would normally be booked into the New Sherbrooke Hotel on the corner of Depot and King Streets and as a youngster, I can vividly remember sitting on the front steps of that hotel eagerly awaiting the arrival of these bands, which included those of Ray Anthony, Les Brown and his Band of Renown and Harry James.

But the real highlight for me came each summer during the Sherbrooke Exhibition. As a Boy Scout, I was one of the ushers on the grandstand each evening and that's when I listened in awe as the large pit bands on the ground in front of the stage accompanied the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes and other performers. These pit bands always included a few local musicians and it was thus that I came to admire the show drumming skills of



Bill Foote's Blue Ribbon Boys. Seated with the guitar is Norman Boucher. In the back row, left to right, are Jerry Haseltine, Olaf Knutson Jim Gemmell, Ed Cromwell, Stuart Gemmell, Bill Foote, Gordon Shipway and Len Lobb.

Mel Hatcher. Mel, many years later, was a solid performer in the pit bands, which I directed, for several musical variety shows at Alexander Galt Regional High School.

There were, of course, other well-known bands performing in the area. Most notable among these were Don Messer and His Islanders and Mart Kenney, with his "The West, a Nest and You, Dear" theme song. These two groups would normally appear at the White House Pavilion, located on the road between Magog and



Belle Willard, who for a period of time played the piano with the Les Beaulieu Orchestra.

As the era of the 50s evolved into those of the 60s and 70s, local dance bands slowly disappeared. Two groups did however hang in a bit longer. One was a group I formed, along with my daughter, Sharon, Stewart Deacon, Charlie Coates and Wayne Nutbrown, known as the Polka Cats. Other dance groups included those involving George Irving, Kenny Majury, Ashley Carroll, Ben Smith, Marilyn Stickles, Harold Nutbrown and Ron Ward.

Dance halls were everywhere during the earlier years. I can remember hearing my parents talk about the dances they attended at the Winter Gardens, on Wellington Street in Sherbrooke, near where the L.O. Noel lumber yards were later located. The following will no doubt kindle memories for many readers: Nick Dean's Barn, Wilson's Barn, Batley's Pond, The White House Pavilion, La Paloma, numerous Legion halls, including the ANAF 'Hut', the Rifle Club, Salmon Creek Pavilion, Canon Gustin Hall, the Odd Fellows Hall in Sawyerville, Bourrough's Falls and in nearby Newport, Vt, the Red Wing and the Stardust Room.

"Dance halls were everywhere during the earlier years. I can remember hearing my parents talk about the dances they attended at the Winter Gardens, on Wellington Street in Sherbrooke, near where the L.O. Noel lumber yards were later located."

In recent years the traditional dance bands gave way to numerous country and western bands. I have not attempted to explore any of these, preferring rather to leave that to someone who has more knowledge of them than I. Rather, I chose to conclude this account at a point in time that roughly coincided with my exit from playing for dances, although I still play at various social events.

I am certain that many readers of this article will say, "But you forgot to mention", and I'm sure that I did. But as we age, we tend to forget the details of our past.

One thing, however, is certain. The era of the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s were great years for those of us who were lucky enough to have been there. But like everything else, time moved on. I just wish that the dance band era hadn't ended quite so soon!

Bruce Patton was a science teacher at Alexandre Galt until his retirement, but always played music whenever and wherever needed. His musical legacy is enormous.



The Politics of Seed

More Than Meets the Eye

By Brian Creelman

Bring up the subject of seeds in polite conversation and you are likely to be met with a blank stare. Within the scope of allegedly more important considerations in current public discourse, reference to seeds takes a decidedly marginal position. This should come as no surprise. As passive members of a complex, industrialized, hyper-technological society we have become inured to the keystone role that seeds actually play in undergirding everything we now take for granted.

Since the dawn of what we now call civilization, we humans have been on a journey of manipulating the natural world around us to suit our own ends. We invoked our own cleverness in nudging our material and evolutionary inheritance to fit our own needs. Domestication of formerly “wild” populations of plants and animals had set us on a path to an agrarian lifestyle. This was a tectonic shift in the way humans made their way in the world, to be superseded in consequences only by a similar upheaval some ten to twelve thousand years later, with the advent of the Industrial Revolution.

No longer were we as tethered to the limited capacity of natural environments and ecosystems to provide for us. Neither were we required to move about as nomadic hunter-gatherers in search of fresh plentitude. We could settle down, build civilizations, and we did. This had profound implications as to how human societies came to structure themselves. Food surpluses, increased specialization and the necessity for more hierarchical distribution of social roles are but some of the changes that ensued. It also set us on a trajectory of “mutual coevolution” with the plant species we had come to domesticate. From a strictly Darwinian perspective, it could be argued that our chosen plants (and animals) domesticated *us* as much as we domesticated *them* – they permitted or restricted to what extent we could grow and flourish in our new incarnation as “civilized” agriculturalists. The further we pursued this successful strategy, and the more distant we became from our hunter-gatherer lifestyle, the more our fate was inexorably linked to the well-being and success of what came to be our “crop plants”. In other words, we embarked on a course of mutual reciprocity with our



Representative of the small seed companies of the late 18th century and 19th that all but disappeared with the consolidation of the industry.

newfound “domesticates”.

All of this anthropological preamble is brought up to remind us in this discussion that we are the heirs to an agriculturalist civilization, and that is not likely to change in the foreseeable future so long as we remain carbon-based life forms with appetites and need for sustenance.

Despite the aforementioned increase in specialized societal roles brought about from the shift to a settled,

place-based societal configuration, most people in their lives, throughout the arc of recorded human history and beyond, were either farmers or pastoralists or at least had an intimate, experiential familiarity with agriculture. And so, to bring up the subject of seeds in any kind of conversation throughout that epoch was to engage in a matter that was everybody's business – at the forefront of human consciousness. The *connection between seeds and food security* was implicitly internalized knowledge – tacit and collective knowledge.

Fast forward to the twentieth century, perhaps before. The momentum toward technological complexity, large-scale economic determinism and urbanization brought on by the Industrial Revolution came to pervade the human condition with an accelerating relentlessness. The age-old wisdom referred to above was relegated to the margins of collective societal concern. We were no longer acting participants, but incidental beneficiaries of what



Three horses pulling a hay teddar, ca. 1900 (Eastern Townships Heritage Foundation)

Brewster Kneen calls “distancing”. Someone, somewhere was taking care of that pesky need of ours – to eat. We now live in a world where the “getting of our daily bread” is farmed out (pardon the pun) to the “Food System”, to anonymous entities whose well-being is not necessarily aligned with our own. It has become industrialized in much the same fashion as the “entertainment industry”. I say nothing new or novel here: the fact that this need of ours – our need for sustenance – has now become “outsourced” and, in most respects, alien to our experience and knowledge is part of the landscape of modernity.

But I do not want to talk so much about food as I do about seeds, and the foundational role they play in our

food supply, and consequently our well-being. And I must confess, dear reader, that I would like you to bear witness to my own bewilderment as to how we could have come to a place where the issue seems to have dropped from public consciousness.

“As the 20th century played out, this concept of seeds as property became more entrenched and institutionalized. Early on there were many local and regional seed supply houses answering the needs of their localities and regions.”

Throughout most of human history – as alluded to earlier – most of us had a profound connection to the importance of seeds in our everyday survival. For millennia, the saving of seeds by farmers and gardeners was a given, a practice woven into the fabric of lived lives. Seeds were understood to be our common biological inheritance – a part of the common wealth, freely grown, harvested and protected from the vagaries of weather and vermin. And they were for the most part freely exchanged and distributed.

This was all to change – and drastically. Toward the end of the 19th century, a commercial seed industry as such was to emerge, based on a socioeconomic paradigm of capitalism. Seeds were now things to be owned – commodities. The established cultural understanding of seeds as a source of life tilted toward a concept of seeds as a source of profit and subject to ownership. The right to ownership leads to questions of the right to control and who has access to the seed supply. Bear this in mind in light of the connection between seeds and our food supply.

As the 20th century played out, this concept of seeds as property became more entrenched and institutionalized. Early on there were many local and regional seed supply houses answering the needs of their localities and regions. But as the logic of ownership progressed, furthered by parallel developments in technology and economics, the inevitable result was consolidation within what had become the Seed Industry as we now know it. The vast majority of local and mid-sized regional seed houses were consolidated through accelerating mergers, takeovers,

acquisitions and global market manoeuvres.

During the same period, various technologies came online that served to fill in the gaps of the seed control business. The introduction of hybrid corn in the 1930's was but one example. On the face of it, hybrid corn was more "productive". But the important thing to know about modern hybrids is that they have the effect of eliminating the farmer or grower from the equation balancing equity and autonomy: hybrid seeds cannot be saved with any assurance that the offspring of such seeds will produce plants that are "true-to-type" – like their parents. The "user" of hybrid seeds is obligated to return to the supplier year after year for a new supply. Furthermore, the production of hybrid varieties is an expensive and capital-intensive proposition, capital that must be recouped by the developers of hybrid varieties. This is reflected in the increased cost of such varieties, contributing to spiraling dependency of farmers on suppliers and the infamous "cost-price" squeeze that farmers fell victim to in the Post-War period.

"The manipulation of varieties through the 'insertion' of genetic 'traits' constituted sufficient industrial novelty that varieties could now be 'patented', just like any other technological 'innovation' – like the light bulb, Velcro and low-flush toilets."

Hybridization was but the tip of the iceberg in what was to ensue regarding biological and technological control of seeds. The interlocking directorate of technology and economics had yet another "innovation" on the horizon: genetic engineering and patenting. The manipulation of varieties through the "insertion" of genetic "traits" constituted sufficient industrial novelty that varieties could now be "patented", just like any other technological "innovation" – like the light bulb, Velcro and low-flush toilets. Worse, many of these traits necessitated the use of a suite of agrochemicals to accompany them, patented in turn by – you guessed it – the same companies that held patent rights to the varieties themselves.

The continuing logic of control within the seed industry took a turn in the direction of pathological and

even biocidal with the advent of Genetic Use Restriction Technologies. You may have heard of "Terminator Seeds". The salient feature of such technologies is that they extend control of proprietary ownership further by causing the crop to produce sterile seeds, incapable of germination. This development effectively eliminates the possibility of saving seeds.

All of these developments within the seed industry (and I have excluded many others for the sake of brevity) amount to a level of proprietary and corporate control that ought to elicit more concern, outrage and a sense of urgency by the public. They defy our culturally inherited common sense. Seeds are the linchpin of our current civilization, because they are first link in the food supply. The increasing pace of consolidation and corporatization



*Blueberry picking near Sawyerville, ca. 1900
(Eastern Townships Heritage Foundation)*

of the seed supply is in no uncertain terms the same fate for global food supply. What it amounts to is a modern form of enclosure – like so many other dimensions of what we call the "public domain". The problem is that many of these issues are beyond the realm of public scrutiny. It is a tragic irony of a media-saturated culture that we are more likely to be aware of last night's hockey scores or Lady Gaga's unseemly birthmark than we are to have an even cursory awareness of global seed issues and their critical implications. And yet these issues affect us, and will affect our children with profound consequences. They will come to narrow available options; to eliminate alternatives.

Too, the issues are, finally, political. There is no escaping that fact. They have to do with people and decisions and power – and who gets to make the decisions. There is a plethora of grassroots and community advocacy groups out there on the horizon monitoring the situation and trying to bring the issues to political and public attention, but until rank and file citizens come to realize the important implications of the issues, change will not be effected soon enough. The damage will have been done, and we will have to resign ourselves to living in a diminished world.

This may sound reactionary and unwarranted, but consider the phrase “climate mitigation strategies”: how did we get from a point of understanding the problem of climate change, skip over any proactive solutions, and find



Jack Reid on a binder, ca. 1920 (Eastern Townships Heritage Foundation)

ourselves in the unenviable position of merely resigning ourselves to “adaptation”? The science was indeed “in”. We had enough science. The problem was that the political will was unwilling. Prudent and precautionary voices were castigated to the wilderness of public legitimacy, and the gravity of the situation was diminished by a strange combination of corporate agendas, economic determinants and public fatigue and resignation.

One of the hallmarks of modern industrialized society is its tendency to assault us with a never-ending stream of “information”, and engenders a state of cognitive and emotional overload. When confronted with “bad news”, we often tune out as an adaptive response. We throw up our hands and try to insulate and exempt ourselves from

the causes and effects surrounding “bad news”. Who can blame us?

Nevertheless, if we are to be an informed, engaged and participatory citizenry, we must find a way to cut through the psychological miasma and summon our capacity to care. If we do not, we only have ourselves to blame for the inevitable consequences of “adaptive disengagement”.

If the “seed issue” and its related concerns of “food sovereignty” resonate with you, may I humbly suggest some resources that are useful as a starting point in the quest to be informed and perhaps even take action - however small, personal and seemingly insignificant. (Oh, and by the way – plant a garden, however small, if you don’t already. Grow a bit or more of your own food. Learn the satisfying and fulfilling skill of saving your own seeds. Share the seeds with your friends and neighbours.)

etc group - A Canadian-based watchdog organization that tracks “erosion, technology & corporate concentration” in the global “life sciences” industries (a catch-all phrase that includes global seed giants, agrochemical companies, biotech, big pharma, synthetic biology and more).

GRAIN – (Genetic Resources Action International) – an international non-profit organization that works to support small farmers and social movements in their struggles for community-controlled and biodiversity-based food systems.

USC Canada – civil society advocacy organization that works to promote awareness about seed security and diversity and the intersection of those issues with related concerns of global justice, the environment etc.

Seeds of Diversity Canada – formed in the 1980’s to address the concern of diminishing agricultural biodiversity within Canada. A member-based seed exchange network that actively constitutes a “living gene bank” through member preservation and exchange of rare and threatened crop cultivars.

Seedsavers Exchange – the American sister organization to Seeds of Diversity in Canada. Worldwide membership network.



Everything's Coming Up Roses!

By Christine and John Hodge

"Spring is here the grass is riz, I wonder where the flowers is!"

This is a little rhyme we used to chant as children. April is a little early to call spring, but we get so anxious when the snow recedes and we actually see and smell dirt!

April is the time when plants at "Rose des Champs" start to show signs of life. This is when we find out what roses actually made it through the winter. It was a very strange season this year that did not actually get started till late December, and even then was relatively mild.

We lacked snow this winter. Roses need a good blanket of the white stuff to protect them from the cold. We worked early December to cover the plants with a good layer of compost. So we are hoping we did enough and our winter mortality rate is low!

The first thing we do, weather permitting, is spray with dormant oil.

You may or may not know what dormant oil is. Dormant oil is the most important preventative spray you can make, and the only one that is recommended to apply every single year. It is usually a combination of fairly benign horticultural oil and a fungicide like lime sulphur or fixed copper. A dormant spray smothers insect eggs and kills disease organisms and spores that have overwintered on the plant.

There are certain conditions necessary to apply the oil.

- the plants must have no open buds, ideally no buds at all.
- no wind, you do not want it to go to vegetation that will not accept it.
- no rain for 48 hrs
- above freezing for 48 hrs.

Please be aware that protective glasses, a mask and protective clothing are a must when handling this



product. As you can see there is a very small window of opportunity to apply the oil. At Rose des Champs we have around 2,000 roses to spray, so sometimes we don't get to them all before conditions change. Ideally dormant oil should be applied on the rose after it is trimmed. But because of the sheer numbers we are dealing with this is just not possible.

April is a good month, weather permitting, to clean your flower beds. A clean rose bed is a healthy rose bed. Old dead leaves from the previous season often contain disease spores just waiting for the proper conditions to come alive.

April is also the month our potted and bare-root roses arrive. Most of our potted plants are for sale. The bare-root roses, depending on the variety are either planted directly in the garden or potted for sale. Why do we buy bare-root plants? Because they are much cheaper! We are sure that many of you rose lovers have bought a bare-root rose at one time or another. They are the plants that come in a bag filled with a potting medium. It is preferable to soak a bare-root rose in a bucket of muddy water overnight before planting. Water moistens the roots and mud coats them to slow drying out. Prune your rose bush back to about 5 to 8 inches; this forces the new canes to start

April			~ May	
Sundav		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesd
			1	2
6		7	8	9
13		14	15	16
20		21	22	23
27	Kidney Foundation Walk 10am at Parc Lucien Blanchard, 755, Cabana St. Sherbrooke	28	29	30

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3 Dr.Cheryl Gosselin talks at the Delta Sherbrooke 12pm: How can the Anglophone community help newcomers better integrate in the Townships?	4	5
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lower on the plant- it will be bushier. Before putting any rose into the ground (or pot) cut off any broken or mushy roots.

One key idea to remember: Don't plant a \$10.00 rose bush in a 50 cent hole.

Dig a hole at least 2 feet deep and 2 feet wide. Put the backfill into a wheelbarrow where you can mix it with fertilizers, peat moss or compost. Planting depth is very important and goes according to the hardiness of the plant. You can plant the "bud union" as deep as 6 inches if necessary. If the plant is a zone 4, put the bud union 4 inches below the soil. We think you get the idea. You may be wondering what the "bud union" is? This is

***"Just a little history on who WE are.
Our names are Christine and John
Hodge. We work as gardeners for Rose
des Champs. Rose des Champs is a
visiting garden situated in St Catharine
de Hatley."***

a large knob just above the roots. The bud union needs protection against cold. If you don't plant it deep enough you will have to add extra insulation during the winter to avoid killing the rose.

If you are planting in the ground make sure your soil is slightly mounded up in the bottom of the hole. You will spread the roots over the mound. Before you put the plant in you can throw in a handful of Epsom Salts, this gives the plant magnesium which helps it to form more new stocks and produce bigger brighter flowers. We also throw in some crab meal, which enriches the soil, and this is the time to do it. So, put the plant in, cover the roots with a few inches of soil, then pour water around the roots. Add more soil, more water and continue till the hole is filled. Keep the plant well watered. It takes around 2 weeks for the rose to "put" its roots down. If you really want to help it along, mound the top of the plant with compost. It will ensure that the top of the plant stays dormant and all its energy goes down into the roots. We don't do this but it does work well.

The month of May is the time to talk about trimming and the first feeding of the season.

Trimming is important for two reasons. One because when you trim a rose you encourage it to grow and two because you get rid of the old dead wood that has died off during the winter. Dead wood is an ideal place for bugs and disease to take up residence. We will talk about trimming and feeding next month!

Just a little history on who WE are. Our names are Christine and John Hodge. We work as gardeners for Rose des Champs. Rose des Champs is a visiting garden situated in St Catharine de Hatley. RDC opened its doors to the public in 2007. We have worked in the garden since the beginning.

Learning all there is to know about roses is an on-going process, we learn from trial and error, from books and from visitors. We meet some of the most knowledgeable people during the summers.

Having such a large monoculture of roses, we set ourselves up to experience every bug and disease out there! We are constantly researching and finding new homemade remedies to use on the roses. We are as green as possible. We have a large source of natural springs. No hydro power. Electricity is supplied by solar panels and a wind turbine. We also have composting toilets for the visitors.

If you have any questions about Roses please email us at crisjon74@hotmail.com and put Questions about Roses as your subject!

Till next time "Happy Gardening"



What Do Estrie's Farmers Want?

By Valéry Martin

Representatives of the Fédération de l'UPA-Estrie recently asked the above question at an agricultural commission.

«If you want to go fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, walk together»

African proverb

As you may already know, the Quebec government is holding a parliamentary commission on the future of its biofood policy. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAQ) published what it considers to be a consultation-based Green Paper entitled *Donnez le goût du Québec*. In September of 2011, the Fédération de l'UPA-Estrie was heard by the Commission. As for its ten local Unions, they were heard in January 2012.

First we can say that the producers of the Estrie are generally happy about the proposed policy so long as it continues to reflect their vision. The UPA considers what we can term "The power to feed ourselves": an issue that rests upon an agricultural sector administered by a multitude of farms based in every region and providing people with healthy food produced on principles of sustainable development and equity.

This future agricultural policy has to accomplish a realizable social contract between producers and the rest of society. Quebecers should be proud of collective feeding capacities based on the principles of food sovereignty.

Food sovereignty means the right of each nation to define its own agricultural and food policy, to protect and regulate its domestic agricultural production and trade in order to achieve sustainable development objectives, and to determine its level of food self-sufficiency and eliminate dumping in its markets. The policy also has to offer ways to reach its goals, while taking care of regional particularities. It has to maintain the following pre-existing tools:

- Loi sur la protection du territoire et des activités agricoles

- Loi sur les producteurs agricoles

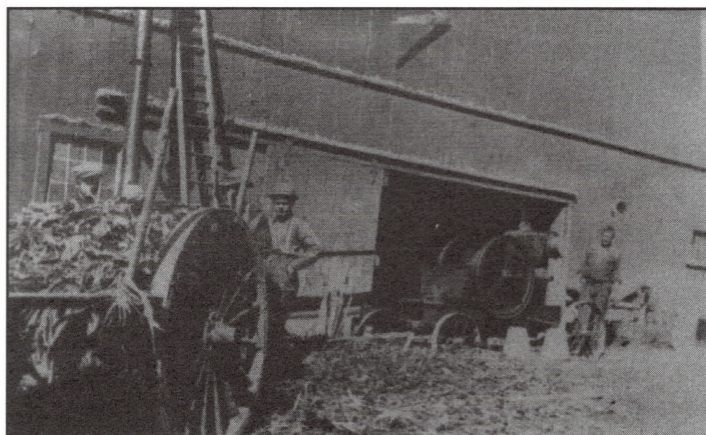
- Loi sur la mise en marché des produits agricoles, alimentaires et de la pêche

- Loi sur La Financière agricole du Québec.

These tools have proven to be effective in many production types and are fulfilling the following objectives:

Ensuring producers have comparable income levels to those who make their living from other economic sectors.

Stimulating dynamic land inhabitation by helping agricultural businesses of all sizes and types of production.



Corn husker, ca. 1910 (Eastern Townships Heritage Foundation)

All agricultural producers contribute to Quebec's economic success and to the vitality of every region. The single agency accreditation in agricultural union is also a cohesion tool for the sector which facilitates exchanges between producers and those who work with them. The fact that almost all producers belong to the same organisation in the Estrie helps them to keep focused and work all together towards the same vision. This has proven to be successful in many ways since its inception 79 years ago.

Three demands:

-Developing agriculture, rural communities and regional economies

The demographic weight of agricultural producers is decreasing constantly. So, it is important for the governments to pay attention to their needs and realities in order to avoid that some regions lose their primary source of economic activity. Citizens with good educations and information represent the best way to reach an optimal social contract between producers and the community. People often ignore the modes of production of agriculture, the constraints of it and their economic impacts.



A farmer using oxen, ca. 1910 (Eastern Townships Heritage Foundation)

Even worse, most citizen-consumers do not understand the collective marketing system. Supply management system is an example. It controls the supply to secure the producer's revenue. Meanwhile, it keeps a relatively low and regular price for the buyers. We find this system in egg and poultry productions. The nice part of it is that it functions without state subsidies! This is an effective social contract. But it often seems that only agricultural circles are aware of it. This, among other reasons, is why agricultural unions have to take part of the action in all communities.

-Protecting agricultural lands

Agriculture is at the heart of land-based activity in Quebec's rural regions. However, over the years, there are fewer farms and fewer people in farming families. These facts contribute to a decrease in the population in rural areas which is followed by a decrease in available services.

It is important to maintain schools, post offices, daycare, health care and social services, etc.

Presently, federal, provincial and the MRC regulations are crossing each other and multiplying administrative constraints, most of the time at the expense of agricultural enterprises and the environment. Moreover, in the past few years, a lot of provincial responsibilities have been transferred at the regional or municipal levels without the assurance that all employees have the ability to deal with the changes.

It is difficult to inhabit such a huge territory as our province, so it is important to have common marketing tools such as equal transportation costs, veterinarian fees and other services that all the milk producers have in common, for example, in a equalization type system. It favours unity provided that only one organisation represents every agricultural producer.

Settling "remote areas" is much more essential since the peripheries of big cities are strongly pressured by residential, commercial and industrial developments. All of this without taking into account the population increase in Quebec. Unfortunately, the best arable lands of the province are exactly where promoters want to increasingly build. The urge to reinforce legislation to protect agricultural land is evident. But realistically, what is lost won't come back. It then seems important to help producers better settle their land. Why? They feed us! Help can come in many forms: It can be by helping new producers buy farms, through Research & Development, by training or education and respecting the farmer's will to have an inclusive union to represent, defend and offer them services at lower costs than if they were divided.

-Keep them together

At the Commission, every Union representative explained why they should remain united in only one association in Quebec. The agricultural union movement is a strong tool by which to improve living conditions for Quebec agricultural communities. The Estrie's UPA leaders strongly demonstrated that their organisation has been acting for the past 79 years for every producer, regardless of their membership status. They favor mobilizing and offering collective work, agriculture technical development and a better rural life for everyone.

cont'd on page 20

Scratch Magazine

In keeping with our mission to transmit culture and promote the arts in the Townships, the Sun has teamed up with Scratch magazine to showcase our up and coming talent. Alexia Coulombe-Lévêque (Chief Editor of Scratch magazine, 2010-2012) describes "Scratch magazine as Champlain College Lennoxville's literary, arts, and culture magazine. The project was created five years ago as a way for students to express themselves: it is a magazine featuring poetry, short stories, essays, as well as various forms of visual art. In the fall of 2010, in addition to the print version of the magazine, editors have decided to create a Scratch website, providing a wider audience for the student community: www.scratchmag.ca We hope you enjoy the creative explorations that will be unfolding on the Sun pages.

Ageless

By Cynthia Dawn Roy

"Excuse me... You?"

"Yes, Carla?" She gave a startled gasp, dropping the blue crayon on the floor as she leaned back in her chair. The young man looked up from his book with nervous eyes. Carla was scared, and he didn't know why. "What's wrong?"

"How do you know my name?"

"Well..." Joey sat there for a moment, thinking of a good excuse. "All the pretty girls are named Carla."

"What?" said Carla, blinking those blue eyes. "You really think I'm pretty?"

"I think that you're beautiful." Joey flashed a smile before looking back at his book, a collection of short stories from Australia. As much as Joey loved Australia, he was not really reading. Hidden behind the pages of the book was an ipod, his baby-sitting saviour.

"No, you're just saying that," she giggled, flipping her hair with a flick of her wrist. "I don't remember the last time a boy called me pretty..."

Oh brother! She's flirting with me again! When Carla wasn't busy with her coloring books or watching the Disney channel, her favourite thing to do was flirt with Joey. He was a young high-school kid who loved soccer and hated the Disney channel. Long blond hair flopped over his narrow face, and he had a little scar on his nose where a friend hit him with a shovel last year. Carla just

thought that he was *so* handsome. Joey hated it. Sometimes she was really creepy. That was one of the reasons he was afraid to have friends over anymore. They just wouldn't understand Carla.

A familiar rattling sound echoed through Joey's empty house. Carla was shaking in her chair, trying to bend down and break free. He quickly put his book down and stepped to her side.

"What are you doing?" Joey cried, a little more forceful than he meant to.

"I can't get out!" screamed Carla, banging on the sides of her chair. The straps that held her in place were too complicated for a girl like Carla to understand, and it made her so angry. She began to cry, her voice raging with terror and anger. "I can't get out!"

"God in Heaven, help me!" Joey prayed desperately. He saw the crayon on the floor and put it on the table in front of her, but she flicked it away. Her face was turning red as the tears poured down. She was finding it hard to breathe, and Joey knew he had to do something fast. Without a second thought, he spun her chair around and flicked on the TV. As sing-a-long music filled the room, Carla began to breathe slowly. The crying died down as she swayed her head to the music. Within three minutes, she was singing along, the terror of the chair forgotten as she immersed herself in the world of Disney. Instead of going back to Angry Birds, Joey pulled up his chair beside Carla and for the next hour, they watched the children's shows together.

With more than one union they also predict that working with farmers would be harder. We only have to think about the buyers, the governments, the specialists they hire, the furnishers, etc.

Shortly, the Quebec government will have to demonstrate that it is moving in this direction by putting into action financial incentives that meet real needs, taking into account each enterprise from a developmental point of view, and production type, remembering that agriculture in Quebec evolves in a northern climate.

Also, it would be nice if society as a whole would concretely recognize every farmer's contribution in his community by protecting the environment, the arable land and even the landscapes. These efforts are made for the collectivity and have to be compensated by the collectivity. Moreover, Canadian farmers have to compete with importations that do not respect the same level of standards. This wastes a lot of gas during transportation which doesn't favour freshness.

Finally, the leaders of Estrie expressed that the agricultural world needs to have a common vision to be able to counterweight the economic power that dictates their will only in terms of profit. Most of the time, these multinationals are really far from here and removed from Quebec values.

The Fédération de l'UPA-Estrie is convinced that by placing farmers and their productions at the center of the future policy, the Green Paper will achieve its objective; offering consumers good products.

Quebec biofood industry could exist without farmers. It could place the buyers in the center of all decisions. But, when the food crisis will come, no country wants to depend on others to feed their people. What would the rest of the world think of us, having such vast and fertile lands and plenty of water?

Another question is in the air: will Agriculture Minister Pierre Corbeil terminate all the consultation process before next elections? Time will tell.

By Valéry Martin, Communication counselor at Fédération de l'UPA-Estrie

As the front door opened, a dry voice called Joey's name.

"We're in the dining room, mom!" he replied, looking up from the dinosaur picture he was coloring.

"Your mom is here?" Carla asked, still working on the bird picture. "What is her name?"

"Emily," Joey said quietly. "Her name is Emily. I'm going to say hi." Carla nodded without taking her eyes off her page. Joey stepped out of the room to greet his mother.

"Thanks for baby-sitting, Joey. How was she?" his mom whispered, leaning forward so they wouldn't be heard.

"Grandma had one fit, but I put on the TV and she calmed down good. We've been colouring mostly." Emily slipped a twenty-dollar bill into Joey's hand. "Thanks. What did the doctor say?" His mom shook her head, fighting back hopeless tears.

"Mom's heart is so bad, she only has a few months to live. Don't tell her though. She wouldn't understand."

"Grandma's dying?" The words felt like lead on Joey's tongue. Alzheimer's was hard enough, but he couldn't even imagine life without Carla, even if she thought she was a child. He was stunned. Without saying another word, he stepped back into the dining room.

"Little boy?" Carla said, sitting straight in her wheelchair. "I finished coloring the bird!"

"Wow! Great work! Help me with the dinosaur." Joey sat back down and continued coloring with his Grandma. He knew she was eighty-six, but Alzheimer's had rendered her ageless forever, and that was just fine.



Unexpected Urban Discovery

By Tom Moore



Well, winter seems to be over, such as it was around here this year. For anyone interested, this year's unusual weather resulted in the poorest yield of winter bird photos since I began chasing around trying to capture images of Canadian winter species back in the last century.

But wait! While running errands last week in the industrial area of south-west Granby, I spotted two people with BIG cameras and tripods on the side of the road, dodging tractor trailers and pickups in the dust from leftover winter road gravel. As any experienced photographer knows, a sure sign of interesting birds!

A flock of several dozen bohemian waxwings had discovered the "malus sugartyme" shrubs planted along the sides of the road and was having a feast on the small cherry-sized fruit which still covered the branches after the wind and snow of winter weather. Despite the unlikely setting, I joined in and took a bunch of great photos of these nomadic northern birds, the first time I'd ever seen the species.

The bohemian waxwing is similar to the cedar waxwing, which commonly breeds in this region. The bohemian variety breeds in the far northern taiga and boreal forest areas of Alaska, British Columbia, and the

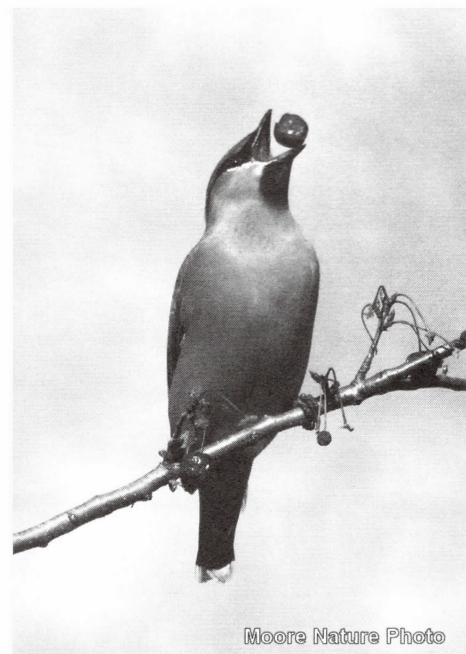


Moore Nature Photo

Yukon but, in keeping with its name, heads south in winter in nomadic flocks in search of sugary fruits, its main cold weather diet. The bohemian waxwing differs from the cedar waxwing in size (slightly larger) white wingbars and wingtips, a reddish brown undertail and more elaborate "wax" coloration of the wingtips.

Waiting for fruit to ripen, the bohemian waxwing breeds late in the season compared to most songbirds. They are monogamous, and because of their dependence on scattered and short-lived fruit crops, they are non-territorial, living and feeding in concentrated nesting areas. Bohemian waxwings have no distinctive song, a VERY unusual trait in a songbird, apparently because they do not advertise territorial control as do most passerines. They do make a variety of trills and whistles, believed to be a means of communicating to other members of the flock. All this gregarious and seemingly cooperative behaviour leads scientists to assume that waxwings have an unusual social system compared to other songbirds.

After this experience, I'm planning on planting a few of the same "malus sugartyme" shrubs in my yard.



Moore Nature Photo



Community Activists, Food, and Financial Support

By Brenda Hartwell

Townshippers' Research and Cultural Foundation's grant-giving luncheon

The mood was festive on Tuesday April 3, as people from across the Townships gathered at St. Paul's Church hall in Magog to attend a grant-giving luncheon hosted by Townshippers' Research and Cultural Foundation (TRCF). Many dynamic people working on interesting, worthy projects shared a few thoughts concerning their initiatives as the Foundation's volunteer Board served up a savoury pie and salad lunch, and Foundation President Jane Loiselle handed out cheques.

improve the lives and skills of local young people. It was also heartening to see fresh, youthful faces among the crowd, as young leaders within our community step up to help shape a better future.

One example of young community leaders was Kohl Kelso, the new coordinator of the Lennoxville Youth Centre, who gladly accepted a cheque to support the "Better Tools for Healthier Eating Project." This grant will enable the youth centre to buy kitchen equipment and appliances, providing a safer and more functional space for youth to explore the world of cooking and healthy eating. The goal of this project is to equip participants



How delightful to see so many enthusiastic, involved people willing to give of their time and expertise to create a better life for their neighbours! So many well-thought out projects!

President Loiselle explained that many of the projects submitted and approved for support this year were focussed on youth, and that the Foundation was pleased to offer financial support to those who were working to

with a valuable life skill, foster a sense of accomplishment, and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Damon Cox, from the Centre des Arts de Stanstead, was another fresh face to receive funding for his project targeting Stanstead youth aged 12 to 18 years old. This

project will provide youth an opportunity and a platform to learn effective communication as they write and direct a series of film vignettes about their perception of the village they live in, their understanding of its history, what their present views of it are, and how they would like to see it change. President Loiselle explained that since TRCF is a small, local foundation, the grant given would not cover the entire cost of this project; nevertheless Damon said that approval from local foundations is extremely helpful because once some monies have been secured, it is easier to find other funding sources.

Those attending the luncheon had the opportunity to meet Rachel Hunting, the brand new Director General of Townshippers' Association because the Association had submitted a project called YOUTH Townships, which was



Kohl Kelso, the new coordinator of the Lennoxville Youth Centre, who gladly accepted a cheque to support the "Better Tools for Healthier Eating Project."

selected for funding. Ms. Hunting explained that this was her second day on the job as DG of the Association, and her first public appearance. This young, native Townshipper flashed an endearing smile as she accepted the cheque from Ms. Loiselle, who wished her well in her new job.

Renalee Gore accepted two cheques, one for Waterloo Elementary School and one for Mansonville Elementary School. Principal Gore said that she was very grateful for these funds, which would be used to purchase new books to replenish the school libraries.

Of course, not all projects approved for funding were directed towards youth. Initiatives supported this year by TRCF include projects in various domains such as: Seniors, Health and Social Services, Heritage, Education, Literacy, Arts and Culture. It was extremely interesting to hear attendees speak about their particular project. The

room was filled with positive energy as each grant recipient spoke with passion and enthusiasm about their initiative, designed to improve the lot of their fellows within the Eastern Townships community.

Projects approved for TRCF funding this year, from various parts of the Eastern Townships were submitted by: Avante Women's Centre, Arts Sutton Gallery, Brome County Historical Society, Brome Bright Lights Contest, Comité Anglo-Franco, Heritage Sutton, Knowlton Literary Association, Maison de la famille Frontiers, Mansonville Elementary, Quebec Women's Institute, The Ruitter Valley Land Trust, Sunshine Theatre Production, ShazamFest, Waterloo Elementary School, Mental Health Group in Stanstead, Centre des Arts de Stanstead, Lennoxville Youth Centre, Lennoxville Library, Mental Health Estrie, and Townshippers' Association.

After the cheques had been delivered to these worthy projects, President Jane Loiselle explained that TRCF is not a large foundation, but that it works hard to support local initiatives. She thanked everyone who has donated money to the Foundation over the years and explained that the Foundation operates on a shoestring budget in order to earmark as much money as possible for grant giving. Many small foundations have been struggling in these hard economic times, but Ms. Loiselle said TRCF has met this challenge by cutting administrative costs. Staff hours have been reduced to a minimum (12 hours a week) with volunteer board members picking up the slack. She commended the board members, who receive no monetary compensation, and told the crowd that they do not even submit bills for expenses such as gas, even though some travel over 50 kilometres (each way) to attend meetings or to help at functions.

The grant-giving luncheon was an uplifting event on many levels. How delightful to see so many enthusiastic, involved people willing to give of their time and expertise to create a better life for their neighbours! So many well-thought out projects! TRCF's motto is "People helping People" and each and every one of the folks who attended the luncheon exemplified this spirit of caring and sharing. As grant recipients filed out into the April sunshine with seed money to start their projects, and board members filed into the kitchen to do dishes, I could not help but think—I am so proud to be part of this incredible community! Events such as these inspire hope for the future.



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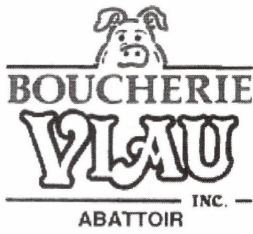
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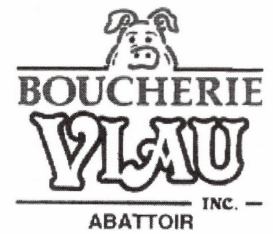
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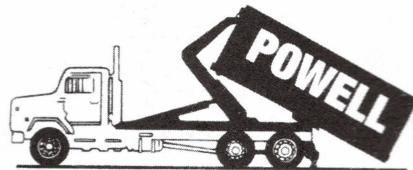
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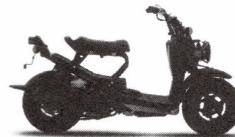
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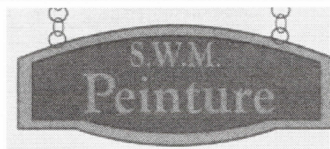
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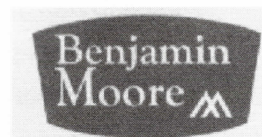
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Plomberie

Give

Mom

Lennoxville enr.

A Hug

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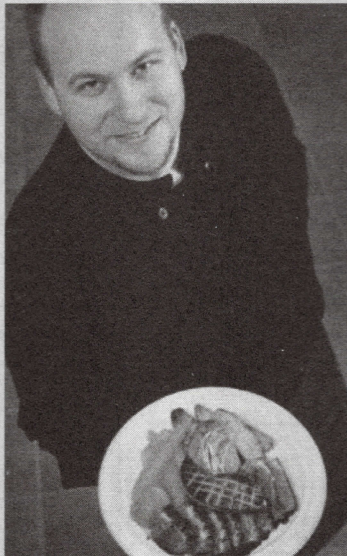
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NOS BONNES TABLES!
OUR FINE DINING!

Bistro Kapzak

COMME À LA MAISON

Kapzak, c'est un chef qui cuisine pour ses invités comme s'il était à la maison, mais aussi un bistro qui fait de la cuisine européenne moderne une de ses spécialités. Perogies, soupe Borscht, osso bucco, stew à la bière et foie gras poêlé, Jason Kacprzak puise dans ses racines polonaises et dans le terroir des Cantons-de-l'Est pour créer des plats tout en saveurs. Des marinades aux sauces en passant par les terrines et les desserts, tout y est préparé à la main comme la maison. Et ça se goûte dans chaque bouchée!



HOME COOKING WITH FLARE

Kapzak may be a bistro that specializes in modern European cuisine but its chef creates each dish as if he were serving guests in his own home. Perogies, Borscht soup, osso bucco, beer stew with pan seared foie gras, Chef Jason Kacprzak draws from his Polish roots and the Eastern Townships soil to create flavourful dishes. From marinades and sauces through to terrines and desserts, just like at home, everything is prepared from scratch and it can be tasted in every bite!

BISTRO KAPZAK

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20, rue Wellington Sud / 819 791-1176 / www.bistrokapzak.ca

