Roadwork on King, Bourque

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THE
RECORD
THE VOICE OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SINCE 1897

Kingdom Games making a splash

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$1.00 + TAXES | PM#0040007682 | TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

Provincial, regional Covid numbers continue to improve

Record Staff

The number of people in hospital with COVID-19 across Quebec dropped by 111 over the weekend, decreasing to 1,177. Although the report from Public Health registered an increase of four people in intensive care from Sunday to Monday, the overall number went down over the weekend, going from 36 on Friday to 33 on Monday.

The most recent data shows that about 38 per cent of the 1,177 was people with a primary Covid diagnosis, as was about 45 per cent of those in intensive care.

There were 12 new Covid-related deaths recorded across the Province from Friday to Monday for a total of 15,412 since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020.

The number of health care workers absent for Covid-related reasons dropped back down to 3,680 after having risen slightly at the end of last week.

In the Eastern Townships the number of people hospitalized with COVID-19 dropped back under 100, with two in intensive care. Although lower than it has been in months, this level is still well above the lowest point the region has seen in 2022, which was 60 total at the end of March.

There were, once again, no new Covid-related deaths reported, keeping

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BCS Cadet Inspection back in action



AIDEN WILSON

By Aiden Wilson
Special to The Record

Bishop's College School held its 159th cadet inspection this past Saturday, May 28; a tradition carried on since the cadet corps was establishment in 1861.The morning-long event consisted of multiple marches, drills, and band performances with students clad in the school's traditional ceremonial garb.

Former cadet Luke Fedida explained that all students go through the cadet program as a means of learning valuable lessons such as leadership, teamwork and self-discipline. Through rain or shine the cadets stand strong, though as he experienced from being on the field, it's sometimes more taxing than one might think as the thick overcoats and pants can lead to overheating and even during Saturday's interaction with clouds and rain, some students fainted under the humidity.

Fedida recalled some particularly

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Weather



TODAY:
MIX OF SUN AND CLOUD

HIGH 21
LOW 8



WEDNESDAY:
MIX OF SUN AND CLOUD

HIGH 21
LOW 11



THURSDAY:
MIX OF SUN AND CLOUD

HIGH 21
LOW 11



FRIDAY:
RAIN

HIGH 16
LOW 11



SATURDAY:
RAIN

HIGH 17
LOW 10

Catching up



Dishpan Hands

Sheila Quinn

During the summer, when we were kids in the 80s, a stretch of summer was always spent on the shores of Lake Champlain visiting our Bampi Chatfield and, in the mid-to-late 80s and beyond, our stepgrandmother, Grammy.

Being there was a lot of work for our Mum, but so much fun for us. For that I will always be grateful, because time at Alburg was a mash-up of things we needed. It was waking up in Bampi's camper and seeing the treeline across the street that edged the beach sway in the breeze, and a few summers between those trees spiking up out of the water, the brightly coloured sails of catamarans for the annual races.

Our hair got wild and beachy. We spent so much time in the sand, in the water, we ate our weight in candy from the small general store on site, and not only did we have the lake, but also a pool at the campground that we were in every day.

And our cousins.

Tracy, Lynn and Katie.

Our Mum's older brother (and my godfather) Uncle John's girls.

They were fun embodied. Never bored, always playing, whether it was some kind of physical game or tumbling, or infinitely many board games.

Also at the campground were all of the children of the seasonal campers – the Berry family, the Colangelos, and many French-speaking families – the St. Jeans, the Hugues. The campground was owned by a French Canadian family, the Gravels, and the last I heard pre-pandemic it had a long list of seasonal families who are from Quebec, ours included.

Many of the seasonal kids came from affluent homes. They had outrageously cool cars, and the latest in camping structures, and the kids looked like they stepped out of fashion magazines. They were cool, and they knew what was cool, and they were ten steps ahead of us in pretty much every way possible.

In the heart of the campground was the rec hall, or as we called it, The Wreck Hall. I was a building that opened with large garage doors on two sides, it was a dark wood log cabin type of structure with a pool table and shuffle board. Occasionally bigger events were held there.

There was never much real, direct bullying, because it was a small village of a place, and word would get around. No one particularly wanted to get grounded, and so most of the time everyone tolerated everyone, and found a way to be in the same place at the same time, most of the time that place was the Wreck Hall.

Due to a lifelong love of eccentricity, I never learned much about following the absolute fashion of the minute, but what I did inherit and pay attention to was the music that was played as the pool games took place, as we biked around, that blasted from various radios in the summer, and the band that drifted to the surface with our cousins was British electro-pop legends Depeche Mode.

This was music that my cousins brought to the Wreck Hall – it was one of the few things that we 'had first', and soon, it was everyone's soundtrack. Their strange sounds and often edgy lyrics, not to mention lead singer David Gahan's smouldering sex appeal made them probably the first music that was 'ours' and that our parents just didn't get – and that was okay – it's an important generational distinction, and as parents ourselves now, we all understand as many of our kids become fans of music we 'don't get'.

We loved them. We loved them and their music brought us to life somehow.

We brought them home with us to Richmond, and my girlfriends and I obsessed.

I was devastated when a possible ticket to see their 101 tour was turned down as it was during final exams. I levitated in 2001 when I finally saw them perform, and what a frenzy the crowd found itself in, a hive of fans singing together, swooning together, love in unison. I saw them again in 2013, further away from the stage, but no less devoted. You can feel the adoration swirling right up to the rafters at a DM show.

Some of their biggest songs include People Are People, Strange Love, Never Let Me Down Again, Black Celebration, Enjoy the Silence, Everything Counts and Just Can't Get Enough.

Depeche Mode are a band whose members, like too many who have risen to fame and fortune, have struggled with addiction, and mostly overcome the worst of it. They have stuck together through everything, including the departure of some key members and still continued to create and tour together since forming in Basildon, Essex, England in 1980. The undeniable faces of the band are leads David Gahan and flaxen-haired Martin Gore, but always there, present since the beginning, was Andrew Fletcher, known to the band, and many fans, as Fletch.

There was no chipping away at the straight and narrow vibe his short, classic red hairstyle and glasses gave. He looked like the serious one, the one who kept everyone sorted, and at times over the years that has weighed heavily.

On Thursday, May 26, 2022, the world said goodbye to Fletch. Andrew Fletcher died at 60, of natural causes, at home.

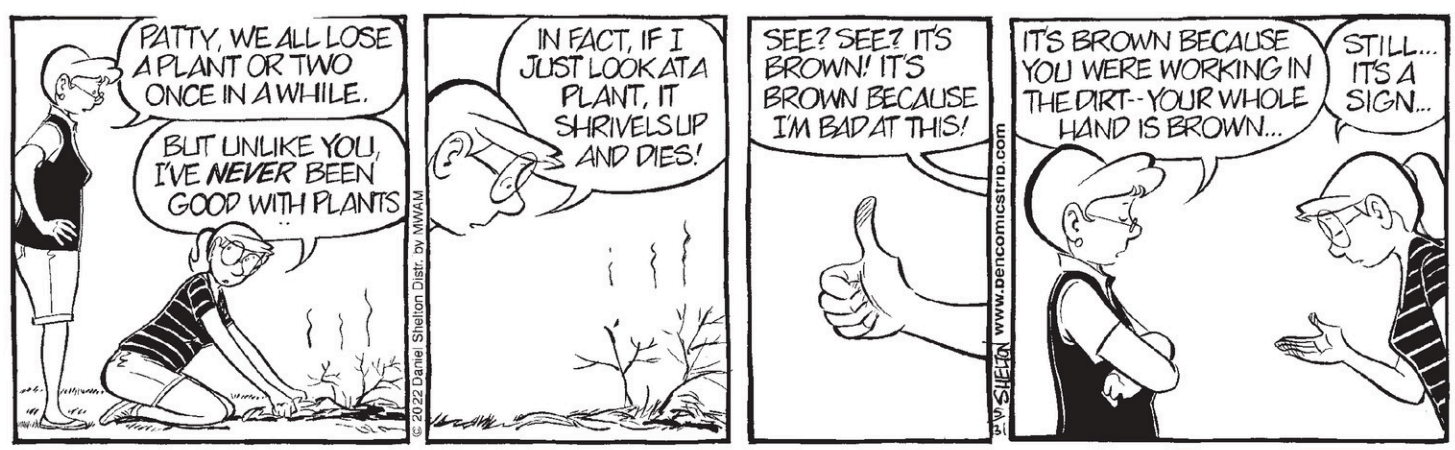
And suddenly, there we are through time, in so many places, in the sun and in the dark with only the music to take us, swallowing us whole, making us theirs, our hearts, our pulse and our strangely shaped selves growing and shaping ourselves to their music.

In every group of friends, there has to be that one who, while still capable of enough fun, also acts as the glue, the hinge, the voice of reason, the reminder of not straying too far, and Andrew Fletcher felt like that in Depeche Mode. For that, we can be forever in his debt, ensuring the soundtrack we kept time to.

Thank you Andrew/Andy/Fletch for always being there, even if the limelight was not something you reached out to steal. You made it glow steadily for over forty years.

'Everything counts in large amounts.'

Ben by Daniel Shelton



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Local News | *While adherence to tradition remains an important part of the inspection, the students are well cared for during the event and a complimentary lunch is provided afterwards for cadets and guests alike.*

BCS Cadet Inspection

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

hot years that had "dozens of students collapse under the heat... but the student reserves and medical aid are ready for when they go down."

While adherence to tradition remains an important part of the inspection, the students are well cared for during the event and a complimentary lunch is provided afterwards for cadets and guests alike.

The BCS cadet inspection was actually the longest running version of such an event in Canada until it was put on hold for the pandemic; having run 158 times without cancellation. An affiliate of The Black Watch, Royal Highland Regiment of Canada, is in charge of inspecting the cadets as friends and family gather to watch.

Tough one might think that all eyes would be on the cadets, a star of the gathering is Zelda, the 25-year-old horse still trotting along to the beat while donning the BCS colours.

Zelda, who belongs to faculty member Marguerite Lévesque, happily marched for her ninth and final time before retirement this past weekend, having become a staple of the event in the past few years.

"At home, she is very quiet [but] when she is down here with the cadets, she's so happy and acts like a young thing," Lévesque said.

The Faculty member also shared some students' thoughts on the inspection from when she asked how they'd feel it was no longer a school tradition. She said that many felt it was an important tradition and "the soul of BCS," with one adding that it is "a burden that everyone shares, [and] brings the group together."

Outside of the inspection the program gives the students the opportunity to participate in all manner of camping, outdoor activities and team building exercises.

While the school's uninterrupted streak may have been broken due to factors outside their control, BCS plans to keep running the cadet program and the inspection far into the future, believing it's an amazing opportunity for students to learn and improve.



AIDEN WILSON

Pressure on King, Bourque to increase with new projects

By Gordon Lambie

The City of Sherbrooke announced two new road works projects due to start later this week that will likely add to the pressure already placed on King Street and Bourque Boulevard by other work already underway.

According to David Bombardier, the representative of the city's communications staff delegated to public works for the construction season, paving work is set to take place for at least a week and a half beginning Wednesday, June 1, on Galt Street West between Saint-Gérard and the intersection with McManamy/Kitchener as well as on Denault between Galt West and Edward-Rose.

"There will be major slow-downs and complete closures on certain days," Bombardier said, pointing out that the work will be done at the point where the two directional avenue divides into westbound traffic on Denault and eastbound traffic on Galt West. Because work needs to take place on both branches of the fork, the flow of traffic on any given day might be unpredictable in the sector and drivers are encouraged to avoid the area if at all possible until at least June 10.

"As we have repeated for weeks, take King if you can," Bombardier said.

The second area where significant work is set to take place is at the intersection of Mi-Vallon boulevard and Pavillon Streets in Rock Forest. From June 2 to 6 Mi-Vallon will be closed to traffic completely to allow for the construction of a pedestrian walkway. Given that the boulevard is the main access for a large residential area to get to Bourque Boulevard, Bombardier encouraged drivers in the area to prioritize nearby René-Lévesque for trips in and out of the area during the time this work is taking place.

Although the estimated timeline of the Rock Forest work is only three days, it will need to be repeated in a few weeks' time so that the work can be completed.

With regard to the work already underway on Galt West between Belvedere and Alexandre, Bombardier said that work is proceeding as expected with no serious delays. He also noted that the city is "a few weeks," away from major repaving work on Portland Boulevard that will divert more cars onto King Street. Asked for more specifics, the communications rep said that the work is expected to start at some time in July.

Drivers in the city are encouraged to continue to consult Sherbrooke's interactive public works map to plan their routes around town. The online tool can be found at sherbrooke.ca/travaux.



GORDON LAMBIE

The area where Galt West divides into Denault and Galt West will be the site of the next major traffic disruptions due to construction in Sherbrooke.

Covid-19

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

the regional total at 622 since the start of the pandemic.

Quebec continues to offer COVID-19 vaccination, with another 21,441 doses being administered over the weekend. Most of these came as booster shots for people who have already received a first, second, or third inoculation against the virus. Roughly 42 per cent of those 60 and older in the province have now received four doses of a vaccine.

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A sad, sad story



Dian Cohen

A month ago, we read or heard that: "Quebec and the Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec have reached an agreement in principle that would see doctors have to allocate a portion of time—otherwise used for normal appointments—to take care of urgent care needs as they arise. The province made a statement on Sunday, May 1, 2022 that under the new agreement, "Quebecers with a family doctor will be able to see their own doctor or another in their family medicine group (GMF) in between 36 and 72 hours."

Furthermore, those with no family doctor are invited to phone a GMF for an appointment. Or they will be given access to the Guichet d'accès à la première ligne—an online service still being developed. Through the service, Quebecers will be able to consult a healthcare professional within a "reasonable" amount of time. Health Minister Christian Dubé told Radio-Canada that "those using the online service will also be able to get appointments in that 36-to-72-hour timeframe."

I try hard not to be skeptical. My local co-op clinic is open and welcoming although I have no family doctor, but I was curious for others. I wanted to see how the new arrangements might work for them. I started off using the Quebec government website for people with no family doctor. I entered my postal code and the site gave me four health centres to call (none of them was my co-op.)

The first voice recording said I had to have a family doctor there to get an appointment at their emergency clinic.

The second voice recording said if I had no family doctor but lived in the area, I could press 2 other extensions for a consultation. They didn't answer and there was no voice message.

The third voice recording said their emergency clinic was closed but to press another extension for their walk-in clinic. That extension said that if I was hearing this message, their walk-in clinic was either closed or full.

The fourth voice recording said there would be no new appointments for three weeks. It also said I could no longer dial zero to speak to anyone.

I asked my son-in-law, who has been on the orphan-patient list for more than two years when he thought he'd get a doctor. He checked with the Family Doctor Finder website. Whereas two or three years ago when you registered, it told you how many days it would take for you to get a doctor, his update sheet now says, "It is not possible to know how long you will be on the waiting list." It then gratuitously offers, "Until you get a family doctor, certain resources offer same-day or next-day medical consultations. They are available with or without an appointment."

I wondered how those with a family doctor were faring. A friend who has had the same doctor for the last 40 years says she has a hard time getting an appointment because she's not sick, she just needs some attention. She couldn't reach him by phone so she snail-mailed him a letter asking for a requisition for a blood test and a bone density scan. He got back to her 4 weeks later.

This story is playing out across the country – no matter which province or territory, we hear stories of longer wait times for everything, even the most necessary primary care, and of nurses, doctors and other health professionals' burned out and leaving their professions. The Western Premiers' Conference has healthcare at the top of their agenda this year.

Sad as all this is, the saddest thing is that governing politicians are wasting our time on the wrong problem. I notice that those aspiring to govern – Mme. Dominique Anglade for example, have jumped on the same bandwagon. Yes, an election is coming, but do they really not know they are barking up the wrong tree? It's not more family doctors we need, it's a whole new structure for keeping us healthy.

Public pressure is the only thing that moves politicians to action. It happens when they know from our demands that we will not vote for them unless they act.

Dian Cohen, C.M., O.M., economist
cohendian560@gmail.com



The Record will be publishing a keepsake special section for E.T.S.B. High School Graduates of 2022

The Record wants to honour the E.T.S.B. High School Graduates of 2022 with a special section on June 21.

We are inviting proud parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbours to send a message of congratulations – FREE OF CHARGE – to be published in this section.

Email your submission, with the graduate's name and high school, to classad@sherbrookerecord.com before June 14, 2022

Sherbrooke Archdiocese supports Moisson Estrie

Record Staff

This coming weekend the Sherbrooke Archdiocese of the Catholic church will be marking 10 years of support for Moisson Estrie, a community organization dedicated to reducing food waste and redistributing food items to people who are experiencing financial vulnerability. The annual collection will be held on June 4 and 5 in churches throughout the Eastern Townships as well as online.

"Last year, even though the collection was held virtually, we succeeded in raising more than $56,000 through our network." said Luc Cyr, Archbishop of Sherbrooke. "This amount was all given to Moisson Estrie to feed people in need. I am proud that parishioners have been responding to this call of solidarity for the past 10 years."

During Services on June 4 and 5, parishioners will be invited to drop off food items in specially marked boxes or to donate money. From May 30 to June 12, online donations will be possible via the diocesedesherbrooke.org website.

For each dollar raised, Moisson Estrie can redistribute the equivalent of $16 in food items. By collecting in June, the Archbishop of Sherbrooke contributes to replenishing the organization's shelves just in time for the summer season.

In a press release, Geneviève Côté, Executive Director of Moisson Estrie, said the organization is thankful for the support.

"We are very fortunate to be able to count on the collection organized by the team at the Sherbrooke Archdiocese for a tenth year," she said. "The great generosity of the population allows us to replenish our shelves with much-appreciated food items, such as pasta, canned vegetables and fruits, legumes, and canned meats. Donations of money and food items allow us to offer variety to the 18,000 people helped monthly by Moisson Estrie and the 50 organizations in the region that it supports."

Volunteers
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Kingdom Games ready to make a splash in Lake Massawippi

By Michael Boriero

The Kingdom Games is making its return across the border this summer, following a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic that limited the fitness-focused for-profit business from entering into Canada, as well as accepting Canadian participants in the United States.

"This year we have one swim at Lake Massawippi. We used to bike around the lake that was very popular. We're not doing it this year, but we may do it again next year, just because we weren't sure whether the border would be open," said Director and Owner Phil White.

The Kingdom Games runs over 50 days of swimming, running and biking events in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont and the Eastern Townships. They vary in skill from challenging high level endurance athletes to newcomers and beginners, both young and old.

According to a press release, Lake Massawippi swimming event will take place on Aug. 8, as part of the NEK Swim Week held between Aug. 6 and 14. Participants will have the opportunity to swim and explore eight lakes over the course of nine days — a total of 46 miles.

There will also be nine windows open throughout the summer for athletes eager to swim from Newport, Vermont to Magog, Quebec. White told The Record that there are 14 participants signed up as of Monday, and there is a build up of excitement since the border reopened.

Participants heading across the border have been asked to fill out the ArriveCAN app. And as a safety precaution, White has used his connections in Stanstead to provide lodging for anyone who catches Covid while in Quebec. He will submit everything in advance to avoid confusion.

"We get pre-approved, so when we actually get to the border in the middle of the lake, often in the middle of the night, we call in and Canadians say 'welcome to Canada.' I've been working very closely with Canadian border authorities for years," White said in a phone interview.

Although he hasn't been able to run events in Quebec since the pandemic, White continued his operation in the U.S. The infection rate was quite low in Vermont throughout the first year of the pandemic, before the vaccines, he explained, so they held events with protective equipment.

"I'm 73 now. I'm diabetic. If I had caught Covid before the vaccinations, I would probably be dead. But Vermont had a low infection rate and they allowed us to do small group gatherings of up to 25 people. You had to wear a mask right up until the event," White told The Record.

The only catch, though, was people were not allowed to hang around after the event. They couldn't participate in the typical cook out, White said, adding they were basically asked to leave as soon as the swim, bike or run was completed. But now it's returning to normal.



COURTESY KINGDOM GAMES

"We went through Covid and now we're back flourishing. Everybody still needs to be vaccinated, except for our bike event coming up on June 11. We have a 103-mile event called The Moose. So that one we don't require people to be vaccinated," said White.

Participants for The Moose will be allowed to either provide proof of vaccination or a negative result 24 hours before the event. His decision to keep vaccinations mandatory for the majority of the Kingdom Games' offerings has caused some division, he said, but it's worth it.

"I've taken some grief from some people, but there are a lot of people that say they feel safe coming to these events because everybody is vaccinated. There are crossover infections, but so far that hasn't happened at our events, and now we're at full strength," said White.

There are only two Canadian participants this summer, according to the director, however, he is always working to attract athletes from the Eastern Townships. He even provides a 25 per cent discount for Canadians registering in the U.S. to bring the dollar up to par across the border.

And while he runs a for-profit business, White said any net profits automatically go towards a charity. He also makes it a point to support local goods and services. He has already given a donation to the Ukraine Relief Fund, and more money will come in for other charities.

"Each year we probably donate anywhere between $10,000 and $20,000 to various different charities. With some events we designate it right at the top because we know what it will cost us," he said, sharing that 20 per cent of fees for the Dandelion Run went to a women's shelter.

#NEWSMATTERS: THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY REPORT

Bill 96 makes waves on Quebec political scene

By Raquel Fletcher

Bill 96, the government's controversial reform of the French language charter, was officially adopted into law last week, but voters can expect it will continue to make headlines throughout the upcoming election campaign.

"I know of no linguistic minority that is better served in its own language than the English-speaking community in Québec. We are proud of that," said Premier François Legault in English during a press conference at the National Assembly following the adoption of the bill.

He continued, "We are also proud to be a francophone nation in North America and it's our duty to protect our common language. I invite all Quebeckers to speak it, to love it and to protect it."

The speech, in the language of Shakespeare, was meant to assure English-speaking Quebecers that their rights are still protected under Bill 96. However, many Anglophones remain unconvinced and opposition parties accuse the Legault government of dividing the province along linguistic lines.

"I know that there are some who are adding fuel to the fire by claiming that Bill 96 will prevent English-speaking Quebeckers from receiving health care services in English. We know that some of the people are worried. We are committed to protecting your access to health care in English. It's a historical promise that we will keep," Legault said.

Liberal Leader Dominique Anglade said she is not reassured by this promise. "It's the government's responsibility to dissipate all doubt regarding health. I think there are many questions that this bill raises... and no, I don't think he [Legault] has answered all those questions."

Quebec Solidaire (QS) co-spokesperson Gabriel Nadeau-Dubois told reporters that he thought the Coalition Avenir Quebec missed an opportunity to unite Quebecers by taking too much time to clarify the issue of access to health care services in English.

QS voted in favour of the bill, but says if elected, it will modify various aspects of the legislation, including applying Bill 101 to companies with more than 10 employees (Bill 96 applies to companies with more than 25 employees). The party will also "scrap" the six-month deadline after which agents of the state are prohibited from communicating with immigrants, including refugees, in any language other than French.

This deadline is one of the most contentious aspects of Bill 96. For many opposition MNAs, this touches a personal nerve. "When I arrived in Québec at 10 years old, I didn't speak French," said QS MNA Ruba Ghazal, whose family immigrated from Lebanon in the 1980s.

She explained how many teacher-parent conferences were conducted in English so that her parents could understand. "And it was this kindness that made it so I had a good experience learning French, and today my life, like many, many children of Bill 101 is in French."

"When we arrived, my father and my mother, they didn't have time to go to school to learn the language. They had to work... we had to pay the rent, we had to pay the groceries, you know," said Liberal MNA Carlos Leitao.

"Learning a language in a formal setting is perhaps not the first priority of the recently arrived immigrant," he said.

If elected, the Liberals say they would do away with the caps made to enrollment in English CEGEPs. The party would also make sure there was no government interference in how Quebec judges are named.

The Parti Quebecois also voted against Bill 96, but unlike the Liberal Party, it will campaign on beefing up what the CAQ has put forward, including extending Bill 101 to CEGEPs.

"We hear Anglophones when they say it's a lot of administrative measures, a lot of blurry statements in the law. I think it is a genuine, legitimate criticism. So, it's not going far enough, but it's also creating burdens," said PQ leader, Paul St-Pierre Plamondon.

The Conservative Party of Quebec is also against Bill 96, mainly because of the pre-emptive use of the notwithstanding clause, which leader Eric Duhaime says only serves to block court challenges.

"If the Government thinks that the decision is not good and it's not serving the public interest, it has the right to ... use the notwithstanding clause to apply what they believe is essential. But at least there's a debate. At least, there's political accountability," he said.

Despite the use of the clause, several groups, including the English Montreal School Board are preparing to challenge the bill in court.

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Editorial

Our local historical societies are hugely important. Not only important, but they're also integral.

It doesn't take a lot to learn a lot

By Bethany Rothney

I'm going to preface this with some information about myself. I grew up being told the history of Eaton by my grandmother. I visited the Eaton Corner Museum at some point in elementary school, and it's been one of my favourite places to visit since. As I grew older, my love for history grew until I finally decided that I wanted to study history. I entered Bishop's University in 2017 and graduated with honours in History and Global studies. I was lucky to have landed a job in an archive that gave me a direction to what kind of career I could make out of my love. I went on to Western University's Library and Information Studies program and graduated with a Master's degree in 2021.

While at Western, I wrote a fourteen-page essay about the importance of local historical societies and their archives (if you would like to read the essay, please drop me an email, I'd be happy to send anyone who wants to read it a copy). It was the easiest essay that I have ever written. In my essay, I state that they are the driving force behind our collective memory, the creation of our sense of Place and finally, the formation of our very identity. It may seem far-fetched. I used a lot of flowery academic language and brought in some psychological terms like Place and Identity to prove my point. But I did prove my point. Not only was it the easiest essay I've ever written, but it was also my highest graded essay; my professor had nothing bad to say about it.

Okay, I think I may have just crossed the line into bragging territory, but here's my point. Our local historical societies are hugely important. Not only important, but they're also integral. We may all know the major events in history: the fall of Rome, the American Revolution, the Civil War, and World Wars one and two. But how much do we really know about the people? I'm not talking about the Cesars, the MacDonalds or the Churchills of the world. I'm talking about the people from our hometown. What were our great-grandparents doing while the world was at war? How were our ancestors affected by the stock market crash? What did they think about Canadian confederation? When was the town even settled? Were there indigenous people here before then?

Our historical societies know these answers. They know the answers, and they're itching to tell us. The Eaton Corner Museum has pieces of glass nailed into wood by the fantastical Mister Bill McCallum. Uplands in Lennoxville offer an excellent tea and the history of the families who built Lennoxville. The Richmond County Historical Society is planning on exhibiting local artists this summer. And if you're willing to travel a little further down the road, the Abenaki Museum in Odanak will tell you the story of the first peoples in our little corner of the world.

Museums are some of my favourite places in the world, and small historical societies especially. But they are struggling. Even before the pandemic, our historical societies were fighting to stay afloat. When the world shut down for COVID-19, these societies lost almost all hope of having an income. Most are only open during the summer months, limiting the kind of income they can make. There is such a simple solution, though.

So here we are. This is it. Things have opened up, meaning our local historical societies and their museums will be opening in the coming weeks. I'm sure people will be eager to get out and travel now that restrictions have been lifted, but I have a call to action for everyone. Let's all go out and visit our local historical societies. They are all over the place, in almost every town across the Townships and beyond. They're cheap to visit. In fact, most offer yearly memberships ranging from $10-$30 that will allow you to visit as much as you want. You can't go to La Ronde or Canada's Wonderland for that. You can't even visit the Canadian Museum of History or the War Museum in Ottawa for that.

We all have so much to gain from supporting our local historical societies in every way we can. We can buy memberships and visit the museums. Suppose we have old diaries or historical documents left behind by our grandparents, great-grandparents and beyond. In that case, we can donate them and know that they will be saved and preserved for future generations. When the historical societies hold events, we can visit and support them. We have finally been let out of the house. Let's put our newfound freedom to good use and visit our local historical societies. It's the least we can do for the carriers of our history.



Letters

Dear Editor,

The Americans were given the right to bear arms. Was the intention that individuals bear arms in day to day routine, or did it mean that a state could bear arms collectively in times of invasion or uprising. Either way the right to bear arms was given to defend oneself and not for sport or hobby pleasure.

Warren Begbie,
Sherbrooke

The Record welcomes your letters to the editor. Please limit your letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity, legality and taste. Please ensure there is a phone number or email where you can be reached, to confirm authorship and current town/city of residence. Names will not be withheld but the address and phone number of the writer are not published, except by request. Please email your letters to newsroom@sherbrookerecord.com. Preference is given to writers from the Eastern Townships.

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Local Sports | *Jean-Sébastien Dessureault and Ismaël Ballard provided insurance markers for the Cascades in the third with a one-run double and a two-run double, respectively. Oscar Rodriguez was chased from the mound in the same frame.*

Expos suffer loss to Shawinigan in home opener

Record Staff

In their first game at home on Sunday evening, the Sherbrooke Expos failed to stop the undefeated Shawinigan Cascades, and dropped to one win and two losses in the early stages of the Ligue de Baseball Majeur du Québec (LBMQ).

The Cascades topped the Expos 10-6 at Amédée-Roy Stadium, scoring nine runs in the first three innings of the game. Shawinigan's Vincent Bourget clocked a two-run homer in the first inning and then notched a double in the third to lead his team to victory.

Jean-Sébastien Dessureault and Ismaël Ballard provided insurance markers for the Cascades in the third with a one-run double and a two-run double, respectively. Sherbrooke pitcher Oscar Rodriguez was chased from the mound in the same frame.

His replacement, Christophe Dubé, managed to fend off Shawinigan's dangerous offence, however, the Expos had nothing left in the tank to complete a comeback. According to a press release, there were 365 spectators in the stadium, showing their pride for the home team.

They reportedly erupted in cheers follow a four-run performance by Sherbrooke in the seventh inning. Benoit Émond, Ismaël Pena, and Nelson Ercia Jr were responsible for breathing life into the Expos in the final frame. But it has been a start to forget for Sherbrooke, as they sit in last.

The Expos kicked off the season with a 5-3 road loss to the Saint-Jérôme Cardinals on May 15. And they followed it up with a convincing 16-4 victory over the Drummondville Brock. They also had their match against the Coaticook Big Bill postponed due to rain on May 27.

After just one game at home, Sherbrooke heads back on the road to face Saint-Jérôme again on Tuesday evening. The Expos will also play back-to-back this weekend. They face Shawinigan on the road on June 4, and then they're back home against Montreal on June 5.



VINCENT LEVESQUE ROUSSEAU

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Celebration of Life

Celebration of Life
BARBARA STEVENSON SMITH
on June 11, 2022 at Lennoxville United Church



In loving memory of Barbara Stevenson Smith, who passed away December 6, 2021 in her 94th year. Devoted wife of the late William (Bill) Smith, beloved mother to the Mitchell children- Malcolm (predeceased), Bryan (Donna), Mary (Jim, predeceased), Jane, Susan (Vince), and Martha (Frank); as well as Bill's children Peter and Linda Smith. Treasured Nani to David, Michael, Andrew, Patrick, Catherine, Jessica, Jennifer, Kendra, Razvan, and Lara. As well as seven great-grandchildren.

The Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, June 11 at Lennoxville United Church, 6 Church Street, Lennoxville, QC. Visitation will be from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. followed by a funeral service. There will be a private family interment.

The family will join friends in the Scott Hall of the Church after the interment for refreshments, where we can share memories of a wonderful person who is greatly missed.

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Death Notice



Robert James GIFFORD
1946 - 2022

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Robert James Gifford on May 29, 2022, at the age of 76, after a short battle with cancer. Bob was surrounded by his family and truly loved to the very end. He was the first son of the late Elwin and Bessie (St-James) Gifford.

He leaves to mourn his devoted and loving wife of 52 years Barbara (Aulis) and his loving children Christine (Michael Schumacher), Mark, Paul (Melany Boucher). He was the beloved grandfather of Rachel and Lauren Schumacher, Alyssa and Tyler Gifford, Evan and Derrick Gifford. Also mourning are his siblings William (Diane Abercrombie), Beverly, Sandra (Richard Beaudoin), and many other relatives and good friends. He will be sorely missed by those who knew and loved him.

In addition to his parents, Bob was predeceased by his son Danny.
Visitation will take place at Cass Funeral Homes, 295, Principal S., Richmond on Thursday, June 2 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Cremation has taken place. A private Graveside Service to be held at a later date.

Donations may be made in Bob's memory to the CHUS Foundation, Association de Syndrome de Down de l'Estrie or the charity of your choice.
https://www.asdet21.org/, https://www.fondationchus.org/

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Date Book

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

Today is the 151st day of 2022 and the 73rd day of spring.

TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1790, President George Washington signed the first U.S. copyright law.

In 1889, the failure of the South Fork Dam on Pennsylvania's Lake Conemaugh caused a huge flood that engulfed Johnstown, claiming 2,209 lives.

In 1970, an undersea earthquake off the coast of the Ancash region of Peru caused a massive avalanche that resulted in approximately 70,000 fatalities.

In 2005, an article in Vanity Fair magazine revealed that former FBI official W. Mark Felt was the anonymous Watergate scandal whistleblower known as "Deep Throat."

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Walt Whitman (1819-1892), poet/journalist; Pope Pius XI (1857-1939); Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993), religious leader/author; Clint Eastwood (1930-), actor/director; Johnny Paycheck (1938-2003), singer-songwriter; Joe Namath (1943-), football player; John Bonham (1948-1980), drummer; Tom Berenger (1949-), actor; Lea Thompson (1961-), actress; Darryl "D.M.C." McDaniels (1964-), rapper/producer; Brooke Shields (1965-), actress; Archie Panjabi (1972-), actress; Colin Farrell (1976-), actor.

TODAY'S FACT: Copyright laws established in 1998 state that copyright protections last for the lifetime of the author, plus an additional 70 years.

TODAY'S SPORTS: In 1937, New York Giants pitcher Carl Hubbell's 24-game winning streak came to an end with a 10-3 loss to the Brooklyn Robins.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "The art of art, the glory of expression, is simplicity. Nothing is better than simplicity, and the sunlight of letters is simplicity." – Walt Whitman, "Leaves of Grass"

TODAY'S NUMBER: 2.6 – diameter (in miles) of the widest tornado in recorded history, an EF5 tornado that struck El Reno, Oklahoma, on this day in 2013.

TODAY'S MOON: Between new moon (May 30) and first quarter moon (June 7).

In Memoriam

THOMPSON, Stephen Douglas - In loving memory of our very dear friend who passed away on May 31, 2019.
Beautiful memories are wonderful things
That last till the longest day,
They never wear out,
They never get lost,
And can never be given away.
He will always be forever in our hearts.
Miss you, my friend!
CARL & SHERRY TURCOTTE

Stephen Douglas Thompson
September 11, 1960 – May 31, 2019

In Loving Memory to my wonderful son
Of all the special gifts in life
However great or small
To have you as my son
Was the greatest gift of all.
A special time
A special face
A special Son
I can't replace,
With an aching heart
I whisper low
I miss you Son
And love you so.
I will always love you,
MOM

Stephen Douglas Thompson
September 11, 1960 – May 31, 2019

In loving memory of a dear brother, father and Papa
Your life was a blessing,
Your memory a treasure,
You are loved beyond words
And missed beyond measure.
We love you always,
GINNY, CAROL AND LYNDA
WILLIAM, CHELSEA AND BABY
STEVIE
VICTORIA AND TONY

TURCOTTE, Jean - In loving memory of a very special brother who passed away on May15, 1982.
You had a smile for everyone,
Your heart was made of gold,
You left the dearest memories
This world could ever hold.
To us you were someone very special,
What more is there to say,
Except to wish with all our hearts
That you were here today.
He will always be forever in our hearts.
Miss you Bro!
CARL & SHERRY TURCOTTE



RATES and DEADLINES: ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

BIRTH NOTICES, CARDS OF THANKS, IN MEMORIAMS, BRIEFLETS:
Text only: 40¢ per word. Minimum charge $10.00 ($11.50 taxes included)
Discounts: 2 insertions or more: 15% off
With photo: additional $18.50. DEADLINE: 11 a.m., day before publication.
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Text only: $16.00 (includes taxes)
With photo: $26.00 ($29.90 taxes included) DEADLINE: 3 days before publication.
WEDDING WRITE-UPS:
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For Monday's paper, email production@sherbrookerecord.com or call 819-569-4856 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday. For Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday's edition, email production@sherbrookerecord.com, call 819-569-4856 or fax 819-569-1187 (please call to confirm transmission) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the day prior to the day of publication. The Record cannot guarantee publication if another Record number is called. Rates: Please call for costs.

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TOWNSHIPS' CRIER

TOWNSHIPS

If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, we can help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous 1-888-424-2975, www.aa.org

LENNOXVILLE

The Lennoxville Youth Center will be hosting its Annual General Meeting on Friday, June 17, 2022 at 6 p.m. at the Salle Amédée-Beaudoin, located at 10 rue Samuel-Gratham, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1M 2J4. If you wish to attend, please reserve by calling or emailing their Executive Director Brooklynn Roy as public gatherings are limited, people who RSVP will have priority. Email: dg@lennoxvilleyouthcenter.org, phone: 819-821-4805.

LENNOXVILLE

The United Church of Canada celebrates its official Pride Sunday on the first Sunday in June. We encourage you to mark this day and celebrate the lives and ministry of LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people in all their diversity. Lennoxville United Church will be celebrating with worship on Sunday, June 5 at 10 a.m. All are welcome. Refreshments **will be served after the service.**

LENNOXVILLE

Lennoxville and District Community Aid is inviting those caring for loved ones with age-related challenges or chronic illnesses to a workshop with Alessandra Froelich, Psychologist, on the topic of "The Caregiver's Journey Through Grief". The workshop will discuss grief as it relates to death and dying, and grief associated with caring for a loved one, as well as ways to cope with the constant losses, changes, and stress that long-term caregivers meet along the way. Please join us on Friday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 256 rue Queen, Borough of Lennoxville. Free admission. For information and to register, please call 819-821-4779, ext. 305.

LENNOXVILLE

Townshippers' Association invites its members, stakeholders, and the community to join us at our Annual General Meeting on Friday, June 10 from 5-7 pm at the Rivière de la Marais aux Cerises (Centre d'interprétation), 69 ch. Roy in Magog. A light meal will be served. To register, contact Cathy: ct@townshippers.org.

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Love from your
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Craving some quiet

Dear Annie

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

Dear Annie: I recently moved in with my sister, who is two years older than me. We got into a fight recently because, while she is an extroverted, warm and beautiful person, she has a great deal of personality for me to handle.

She is always talking about anything and everything. I snapped at her when we were coming back from work together and she had spent the entire 30-minute ride talking nonstop about whatever was on her mind.

I'm an introvert and a very quiet person who doesn't like to be noticed, which is probably the reason why we get along so well most of the time.

Is there a way I can let her know about how this is annoying without hurting her feelings since she is the best person ever? But honestly, there was even a guy who asked her to keep it down since she also talks very loudly. Any advice will be appreciated.

And thank you so much for all the good work. – Opposite Sisters

Dear Opposite: Acceptance, expectation and communication will help you two. Focus on the qualities that make your sister "the best person ever" while at the same time respecting your own boundaries. There is nothing wrong with being an introvert or an extrovert. It's just a matter of understanding each other and what the other person needs.

A great book for extroverts to better understand introverts is called "Quiet" by Susan Cain. Maybe the two of you could read it together and do a little book club about it. Then maybe you could read a book about extroverts. The point is to get curious about what she needs and for her to get curious about what you need. That way, you can accept the differences in each other more easily.

Let her know if you had a long day at work and need some quiet time; just say that to her in a polite way – that it has nothing to do with her stories or talking, but it is what you need to recharge your system. If she can't do that, then maybe you can find another ride and recharge on the train or bus quietly. But the most important thing for success is to communicate to her that it doesn't have anything to do with her; it has to do with how you need to relax and unwind.

Dear Annie: I read your column faithfully. I am often tempted to write, but your replies are often quite on the money.

Your observation in response to "In a Quandary" that the brother may have donated the money from other sources was a good comment. He maybe took a mortgage against it to give to the charity and is using the rental income to service the debt.

Nevertheless, I would add to this that all folks should seriously consider a trust for all their assets. A trust has many protections that just a will by itself does not have, and also, in most cases, they can be executed immediately with only a note being sent to the probate court that the trust was executed.

In most cases, the decedent's attorney will ensure all the final wishes are executed precisely.

Our family is in a similar situation, but it is more complex since it involves a family member who passed away, who lived overseas and who had not executed a final will. Luckily, we are confident that a local family member is handling it precisely as she wished.

But in the long run, without some kind of trust and will together, if money or property is directly inherited, it is the receiver's wishes as to how it will be spent that will prevail, as you've indicated. – A Faithful Reader

Dear Faithful Reader: Thank you for your knowledgeable insight. You are correct to highlight that a will or trust could be the best way to ensure that all your wishes are carried out. However, you should always consult a lawyer because different states, such as California with community property, may have different laws.

Dear Annie: My wife and I divorced seven years ago. She received the house in the divorce, but there was a mortgage attached to it that was in my name only.

Our divorce decree stated that she should secure her own mortgage, but she still hasn't done that yet.

Unfortunately, the divorce decree did not specify the amount of time she had to secure that mortgage, and my lawyer says I have little legal recourse as a result.

She has been late on the mortgage payment several times in the past few years, and this has damaged my credit rating severely.

There are 10 years left on the original loan, and the balance due is $40,000. I have asked her numerous times when she is going to have the mortgage put in her name. She just deflects and says that she is "working on it."

Annie, I'm at my wits' end and don't know how else to convince her to take care of this. Would it be wrong of me to threaten legal action, even though it probably wouldn't be upheld in a court of law? – Frustrated Nice Guy

Dear Frustrated Nice Guy: No, it would not be wrong to threaten legal action. It is understandable that you are at your wits' end. Most people would be. She is hurting your credit score and taking advantage of you. Why just threaten? She is acting very immature and callous.

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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.

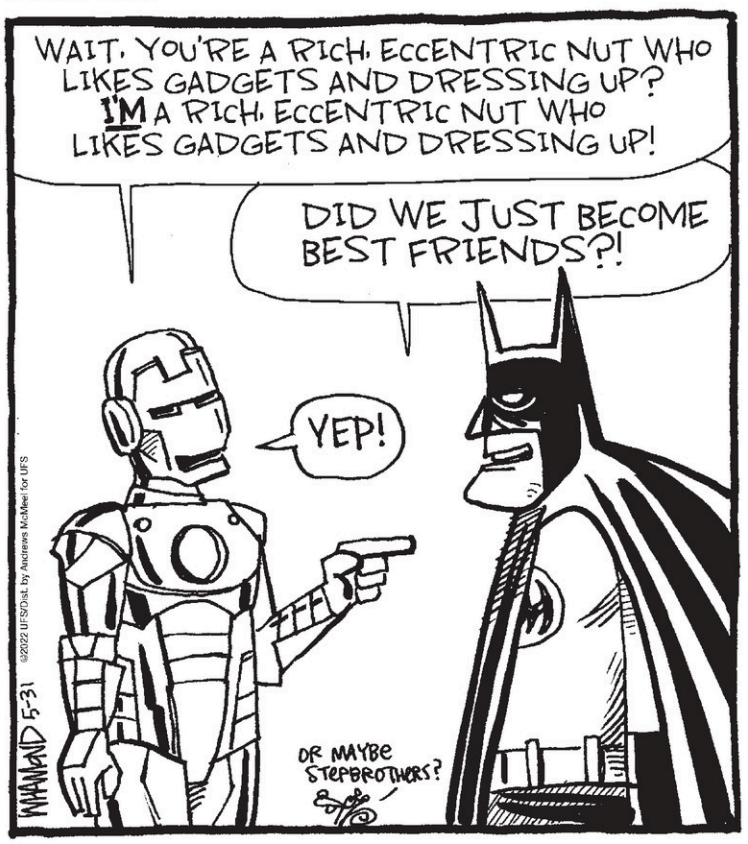
"RGLD GI NYTADD, NYDB, PDKRGHD; RGLD GI PDNFU — NHP DSDWXFUGHA DRID GI TYDH FT PGIKZIIGTH."

— KTRGH LNWWDRR

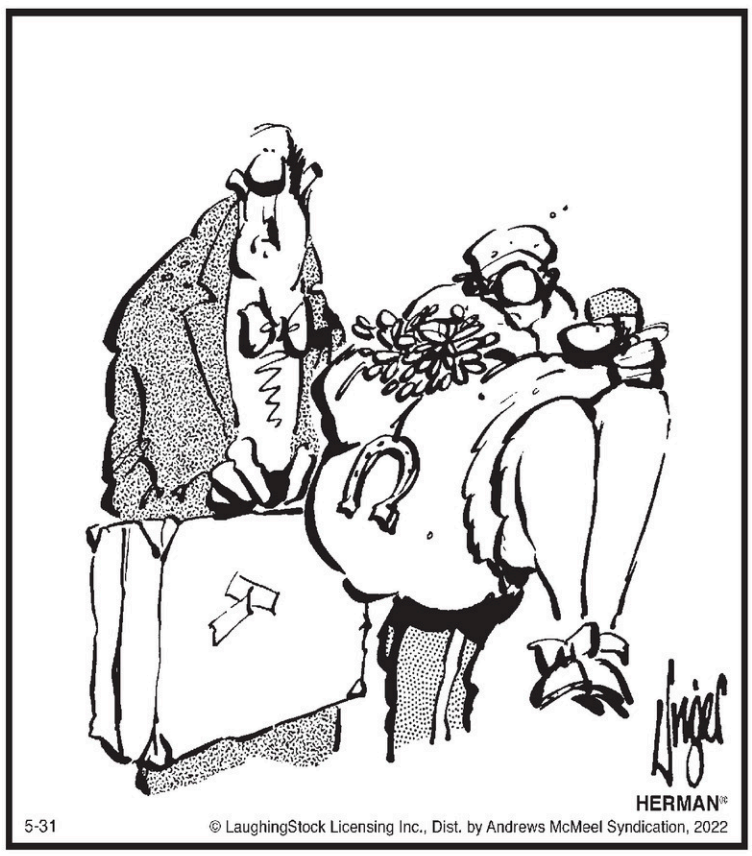
Previous Solution: "Most of us are imprisoned by something. We're living in darkness until something flips on the switch." — Wynonna Judd

TODAY'S CLUE: Λ ʇuǝuqɐ S

Reality Check



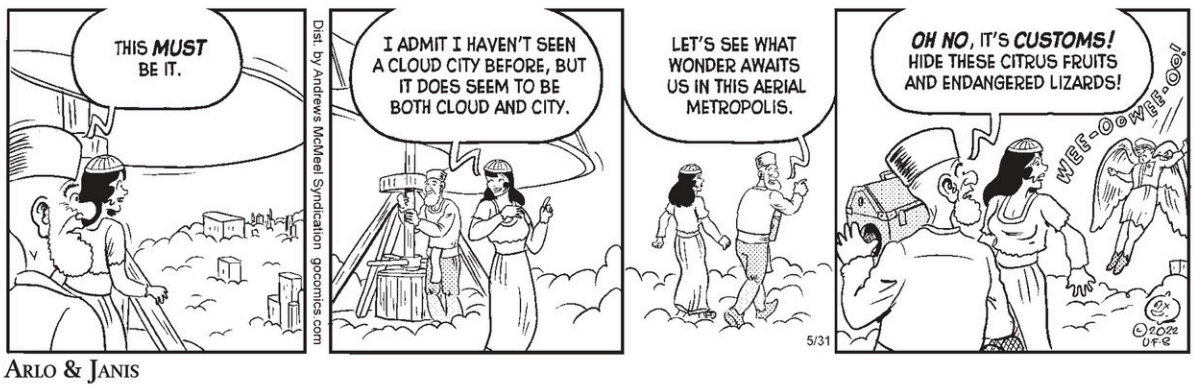
Herman



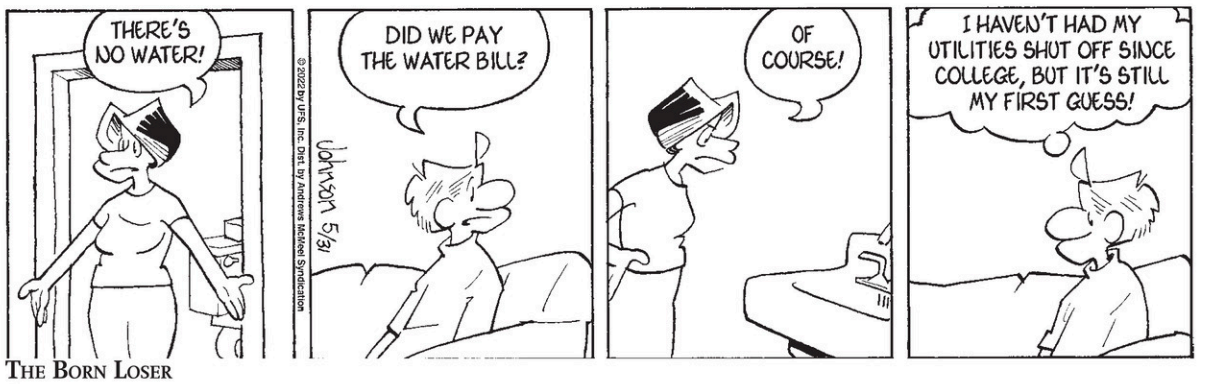
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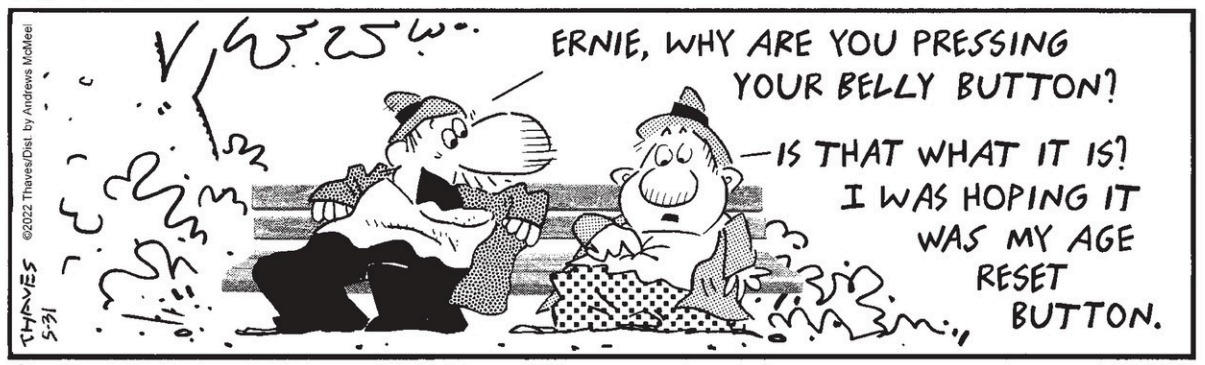
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

1	9	2			8			4
6			4	2				
4	8			1		5		
	1	4	6		5		3	2
5			7		3			1
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				5	6			7
2			9			6	8	3

5/31

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HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

1	6	5	4	2	7	3	8	9
7	2	9	3	6	8	1	4	5
4	8	3	9	5	1	7	6	2
9	1	6	7	3	4	5	2	8
2	5	4	8	1	6	9	7	3
3	7	8	2	9	5	6	1	4
6	3	2	1	8	9	4	5	7
5	9	7	6	4	2	8	3	1
8	4	1	5	7	3	2	9	6

Celebrate chocolate with a rich, homemade cake

The dawn of a new year presents plenty of opportunities to look to the future. Resolutions are made each January, with most centering on ways to get healthy. Not all resolutions need to be of the healthy, however. Once in a while it is fine to indulge, so a resolution to entertain more or to explore new baking opportunities can spice things up in the year ahead.

People aspiring to spend more time in the kitchen can celebrate winter baking and National Chocolate Cake Day (January 27) simultaneously. This recipe for "French Silk" from "Classic Stars Desserts" (Chronicle Books) by Emily Luchetti is for serious chocolate lovers. This fudgelike mousse cake pairs plenty of rich flavors and showcases the chocolate in this decadent cake.

French Silk
Serves 12

Crust
3/4 cup walnuts, toasted
1 cup pecans, toasted
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
4 ounces (8 tablespoons) unsalted butter, melted

Filling
11/4 pounds bittersweet chocolate, chopped
6 ounces (12 tablespoons) unsalted butter, at room temperature
3/4 cup granulated sugar
6 large eggs (use pasteurized eggs if you are concerned about eating uncooked eggs)
1/4 cup heavy whipping cream
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

Topping
1 cup heavy whipping cream
2 tablespoons granulated sugar

To make the crust: In a food processor, combine the walnuts, pecans, brown sugar, and cinnamon and pulse until the nuts are coarsely chopped. Pour the nuts into a bowl, add the butter, and stir until the nuts are evenly moistened. Press the nut mixture evenly onto the bottom of a 9-inch round springform pan. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

To make the filling: Melt the chocolate in a double boiler. While the chocolate is melting, combine the butter and sugar in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and add the eggs two at a time, mixing well after each addition. Scrape down the sides of the bowl, increase the speed to medium-high, and whip until well blended, about 2 minutes. The mixture will look curdled.

Remove the melted chocolate from the heat and stir until smooth and warm but not hot. With the mixer on low speed, add the chocolate to the egg mixture. Scrape the sides and along the bottom of the bowl and then continue to mix on low speed until the chocolate is fully incorporated. Add the cream and vanilla and mix until blended. Spread the filling over the crust. Refrigerate until firm, about 3 hours.

To make the topping: In a bowl, whisk together the cream and sugar until soft peaks form. Cover and refrigerate until serving.

Using a spatula, spread the topping over the top of the cake. Run a hot, dry knife around the inside edge of the pan to loosen the cake, then remove the pan sides and set the cake on a serving platter. Slice the cake with a hot, dry knife and serve chilled.

(Metro Creative)



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NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

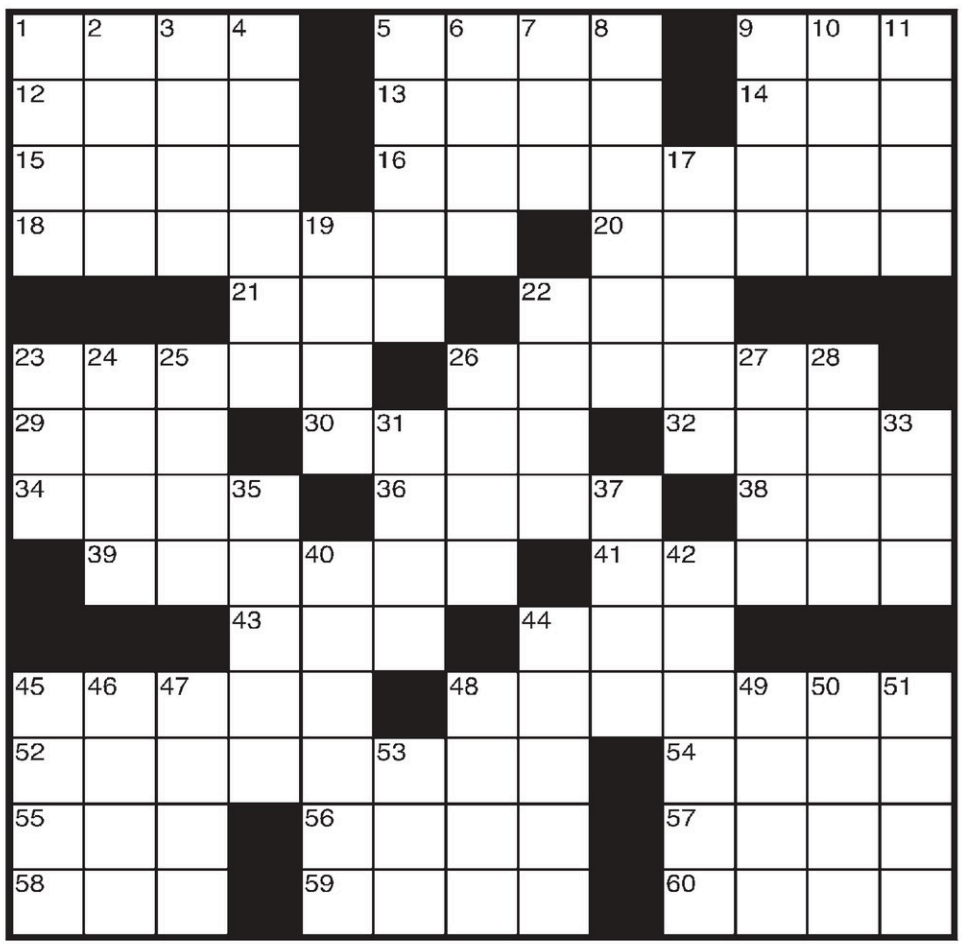
1 Legend
5 Immerse
9 Note taker's need
12 Iridescent stone
13 Unit of length
14 "Gotcha!"
15 — Minor
16 Genetic change
18 Pringles competitor
20 African country
21 Wimple sporter
22 Hush-hush org.
23 Narrow down
26 Feudal tenant
29 Completely
30 Celts, to Romans
32 Oklahoma town
34 Debt memos
36 — spumante
38 Piano part
39 Man on a date
41 Oater classic
43 ER staffers
44 Speculator — Gould
45 K, to a jeweler
48 Cook's contest (hyph.)
52 Brilliant, as a poem
54 Nonexistent
55 Election mo.
56 Plant parasite
57 On the briny
58 Economic ind.
59 "By Jove!"
60 Fawn's parent

DOWN

1 Garden hopper
2 Lhasa —
3 Hideout
4 May or Stritch
5 Senor Bolivar
6 Heavy burden
7 Statute
8 Army duds
9 Suffering
10 Popeye's greeting
11 Carvey of "Wayne's World"
17 Pester
19 Territory
22 Hurled
23 Asian language
24 Lotion ingredient
25 Advantage
26 Goose-down garment
27 Tuneful Paul —
28 Bank holding
31 Dinghy's movers
33 Color
35 Toss out
37 Ms. Dinesen
40 Not late (2 wds.)
42 Doglike scavengers
44 Tired and cynical
45 Monarch
46 Soon
47 Host's request
48 Frat letter
49 Eject
50 Pesky hopper
51 Grow weak
53 Outfit

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	S	I	■	F	O	R	K	■	T	A	C	O
O	U	R	■	A	L	D	A	■	E	M	I	R
O	F	A	■	T	E	S	T	D	R	I	V	E
H	I	N	G	E	■	■	E	A	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	D	D	■	■	V	E	E	R	■
U	S	E	R	■	U	G	L	Y	■	V	I	N
T	I	D	Y	■	P	A	Y	■	■	E	C	O
A	L	I	■	■	E	L	I	■	B	R	E	D
H	O	C	■	A	S	A	N	■	E	T	R	E
■	S	T	A	B	■	■	G	E	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	B	C	■	■	I	D	A	H	O
U	N	C	H	A	R	T	E	D	■	P	E	G
P	A	N	E	■	U	R	G	E	■	E	R	E
S	E	N	D	■	D	I	O	R	■	D	E	E



5-31

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Your Birthday

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

Put a plan in place and set off on an adventure. Take the initiative, set high standards and keep the momentum going until you are happy with your progress. Don't let anything come between you and what you want. Take care of the paperwork, and get approval first to avoid setbacks. Expand your vision by participating in events that encourage you to be unique.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) – Get your facts straight before passing along information. Protect your possessions, reputation and position. It's OK to dream, but don't get carried away with something that isn't feasible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) – Keep your reactions minimal. Listen to reason and be practical regarding money and the changes you want to make. Look for an original way to make your skills profitable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) – Concentrate on getting things done. Don't offer information that someone can use against you. Rely on your strength, courage and experience to outmaneuver anyone who tries to compete with you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) – Walk away from anything or anyone causing stress. Consider making some changes that will boost your happiness. Take nothing for granted or leave anything to chance. Go after what you want.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) – Learn from experience and carry on with discipline and the intent to make things happen. Do the best job possible by using the latest and greatest methods and technology.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) – Don't let a change someone makes throw you off your game. Assess the situation and adapt your plans to reach your goal. A unique idea will separate you from the masses and give you a needed edge.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) – Verify information before passing it along or relying on it. A change at home will give you more space to get things done. Spread out and work diligently to realize your dreams.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) – Gather information and downsize your plans. Be creative in how you assess what's necessary. Come up with a reasonable goal, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) – Observation will be crucial when dealing with a friend, relative or peer. Don't feel obligated to make a move if you aren't ready. Consider your options and prepare appropriately.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) – Put in the time and effort, and you will bring about positive change. Getting together with someone who makes you think and offers a unique perspective will lead to new beginnings.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) – Think big, but pay attention to detail, be precise and finish what you start. Don't let anyone stand in your way or disrupt your plans. Separate your emotions from your responsibilities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) – Keep your plans to yourself until you are sure you will execute your intentions successfully. If you say you will do one thing and then do another, you will be harshly criticized.

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

Play from down under

By Phillip Alder

A woman called a bookshop in Sydney, Australia. "Do you sell bridge books?"

"No," replied the salesman. "We sell only science fiction and fantasy."

The woman giggled for a moment and said, "But you haven't seen my husband's bridge game!"

Bridge is very popular in Australia and New Zealand. The magazine Australian Bridge has been published for decades, now with six large-page issues a year containing something for everyone.

Today's deal was played at the Double Bay Bridge Centre in Sydney. After South reached seven hearts, West led a trump. How should declarer have planned the play?

When North received a positive response in hearts to his strong opening bid (which dates the deal as decades old), he used the Grand Slam Force. This asked South to bid seven with two of the top three heart honors. He duly obliged.

Perhaps West should have guessed to lead a minor, especially as a diamond defeats the contract. However, against a grand slam the textbooks recommend a trump.

South drew two rounds of trumps ending in the dummy. Now he saw that if the spades were breaking as in the diagram, a club ruff would have to be his 13th trick. Declarer cashed the club ace, ruffed a spade in hand, ruffed a club in the dummy, ruffed another spade, drew the last trump (discarding dummy's low diamond) and claimed as dummy was high. South's 13 tricks were five spades, five hearts, two minor-suit aces and the club ruff in the shorter-trump hand. He also won a bonzer sum of Australian dollars.

	North	05-31-22
	♠ A K 10 9 6 3 2	
	♥ Q 10 8	
	♦ A 2	
	♣ A	
West		East
♠ Q J 8 7		♠ 5 4
♥ 9 6 5		♥ J 4
♦ 10 9 8 6		♦ K J 7
♣ 9 2		♣ K J 10 8 7 6
	South	
	♠ —	
	♥ A K 7 3 2	
	♦ Q 5 4 3	
	♣ Q 5 4 3	

Dealer: North
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
		2♠	Pass
3♥	Pass	5NT	Pass
7♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 5

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Brome County NEWS

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

Home renovation section

Pages 6 and 7

Annual plant sale to benefit Stephen Lewis Foundation

By Louise Smith

Jane Patrick's back yard is filling up with plants. Starting on Saturday, June 4 and usually for a few more weekends in June, the plants will go on sale to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation of Grandmothers Campaign. Money goes directly to the women in need. Africa is still affected by HIV AIDS and on top of that, COVID has added further burdens. Many children are being raised by grandmothers after the loss of parents.

The sale will take place at 8 rue Gagne, in Sutton, and it goes from 8 am to 4pm.

CONT'D ON PAGE 3



LOUISE SMITH

Jane Patrick and Margaret Marshall from the Townships Grandmothers linked to Grandmothers in Africa, were pleased with last year's plant sales and hope to be as successful with this year's sales.

Cheeky Creek moves to the rhythm of the next generation

Kristen Gingera, Corey Wilson, and family make bold dive into Townships' farm life



SCOTT STEVENSON

The farm's raison d'être: Scout, Hunter, and Corey, with Mackenzie and Kristen behind.

By Scott Stevenson
Townships' Farmers

The door was open as I approached Kristen Gingera and Corey Wilson's house for an early evening interview last week. I could hear Kristen instructing her daughter, Scout, to take an egg carton and go gather late-afternoon eggs. Ten-year-old Scout and I crossed paths in the mudroom as she put on her boots, and I took off mine.

"How many laying hens do you have?" I asked.

"About 50," Scout answered.

"Ah, so about three dozen eggs a day?"

"No, about four," she corrected before skipping off, not missing a beat.

The kitchen was a buzz of activity, Kristen greeting me, followed by Corey who was cutting potatoes. Friends continued the supper prep while Corey and Kristen took precious time out for our interview.

"In the beginning, it was survival mode," Kristen said as they told their family story of picking up roots and moving to a 25-acre farm near Fulford in 2015. "The priority was spending as much time together as possible."

Crisis had struck early. Six months after moving, their son, Hunter, a toddler at the time, was diagnosed with cancer. Kristen took a year off teaching—and has never returned since.

"That was the kick in the pants to get the farm going," she said.

After years of treatments, Hunter, 8, is now cancer free, though affected by a rare auto-immune disease related to his diagnosis.

His little sister, Mackenzie, joined the family four and a half years ago. The three kids, plus young friends,

CONT'D ON PAGE 5



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Brome County Community Bulletin Board

Lac Brome Food Bank - If you need assistance, please call 450-242-2020 ext: 319. Pick up at 270 Victoria at the back.

June 2

Great news from the Wellness Volunteer Centre! Our 50+ Club is starting up on Thursday, June 2. Open for drop in every Thursday morning between 9-12. Come for a chat or bring along a game/cards and enjoy a coffee and muffin with friends. We look forward to seeing you at the Depanneur Rouge!

June 4

Annual Kids Fishing Day (ages 3 to 17), sponsored by the Brome Bolton Fish and Game Club, Saturday June 4, 8:30 a.m. to noon, at the pond, 454 Brill Road, West Bolton (south of Spicer Road). For information: 450-243-5885. Volunteers welcome.

June 4

Knowlton Lions Club Garage Sale at Brome Fair. Following a two-year absence, the Knowlton Lions Club Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, June 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Brome Fair Arena at 345 Stagecoach Road, Brome. Donations will be accepted directly at the arena on Friday, May 27 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, May 28, Sunday, May 29, Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For those who want to support us, we accept just about anything in good condition: toys, sports and gardening equipment, electronics, small appliances, etc. (please no books, ski equipment, TVs, sofa beds, mattresses, suitcases, clothes or large appliances).

Each year, over $10,000 is raised through the sale of items donated by our generous supporters, bringing our total to over $100,000 over the years.

June 4

Royal Canadian Legion, Shefford Branch # 77, will hold a Special B.B.Q. on Saturday, June 4, 5 to 7 p.m., as a final stop for ''Les Semences de la Culture'' (a musical tour of Waterloo). Music at barbecue by Gary Darling. All welcome. Come and enjoy. Our regular Friday night barbecues will start next week.

June 4 and 5

TOWNSHIPS GRANDMOTHER'S ANNUAL PLANT SALE, all proceeds will go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation Grandmothers Campaign. Africa is still in the grips of not only the HIV AIDS pandemic, but now, COVID pandemic, as well. Donations of all kinds of plants are welcome - annuals, perennials, vegetables, houseplants, herbs, bulbs and seeds, etc. They may be delivered earlier, 8 rue Gagne, Sutton, or pick up is possible - call us at 450-538-5294. Selling of plants will begin on June 4 and 5 and will continue the following weekends if plants remain. Chairs will be available to sit, relax and chat with your gardening friends, and possibly there will be a cool summer drink, too. 8 rue Gagne, Sutton 450-538-5294.

June 7

The Town of Brome Lake Wellness Volunteer Centre will hold its annual general meeting at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at the Community Centre. All Wellness volunteers, supporters and clients, as well as any interested TBL citizens are invited to attend.

CHURCH BULLETINS

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH – DUNHAM

Sunday services at 10 a.m.– all welcome! Our weekly church service will also include a celebration of the Eucharist. The Reverend Sinpoh Han. Information: 450-295-2045.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME

Sunday services cancelled until further notice. See the announcement for Grace Anglican Church to join the online meeting on Sunday mornings. Information: Rev Tim Smart 450-538-8108

BEDFORD PASTORAL CHARGE

Join us for Pentecost in Stanbridge East with Rev. David Lefneski at 9:30 a.m. You may also attend the last Zoomed hybrid service from Emmanuel at 11:00 a.m. Church office: 450-248-3044; email: bedford.pastoral@yahoo.ca. This is the day that God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! – Psalm 118:24

CREEK/WATERLOO PASTORAL CHARGE

Effective immediately, Creek United Service has returned to in person worship at 9 a.m. Sundays. St. Paul's Waterloo has returned to in person worship at 10:30 a.m. Sundays. Both services require masks, distancing and remaining seated the entire time. As previously, the St. Paul's service is also available via the Facebook page of Dave Lambie for those unable or unwilling to attend in person. For information 450-539-2129.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Pentecost Sunday, June 5, is our last hybrid service. Special music with Linda Wand and Serge Racicot. We will be in-person only for the summer and outdoors as much as possible. The Zoom link for the hybrid service (11:00 a.m.) is in our weekly Friday newsletter. Please contact the church office to sign up. Our COVID-19 protocol is: Masks highly recommended for indoor attendance and events. Check our Facebook page for a short video of the latest drumming circle gathering. (facebook.com/emmanuelunited). Minister: Rev. David Lefneski. Church office: 450-263-0204; email: capcchurchoffice@bellnet.ca

ÉGLISE CATHOLIQUE ST. ÉDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our 10:30 a.m. Sunday mass has resumed. However, we must comply with the latest Quebec Public Health restrictions. Thank you for your understanding. For more information, call: 450-263-1616 or visit the website http://unitedesvignes.org

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

We are now open for in-person worship for our regular 10:30 a.m. Sunday services. Everyone is welcome. Alternatively, you can attend online. For an invitation to join, please email the Rev. Tim Smart, revtimsmart@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page "Grace Church, Sutton" for the Sunday link.

KNOWLTON MOUNTAIN VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE

Welcome to in person and online worship beginning March 2022 at Knowlton United Church, 234 Knowlton Road, Knowlton at 11 a.m. Worship services will be held on the first 3 Sundays of each month unless otherwise stated. For further information, please contact Rev. Steve Lawson at 450-242-1993.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

St. Paul's has re-opened for Sunday in person worship at 8 and 10 a.m. We continue to livestream our Sunday morning worship at 8 and 10 a.m. at St. Paul's Knowlton on Facebook. All services are also available for replay, at 24 St. Paul's Road in Knowlton. St. Paul's is a dynamic diverse community pursuing and serving Jesus in the Eastern Townships. Our mission is to grow in members and spiritual maturity so that we can reach as many people as possible with the love of Jesus. Everyone welcome! Telephone: 450-242-2885, email: stpaulsknowlton@gmail.com

TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

We welcome you to join us for our 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning church services in the church. We adhere to the protocols established by the Quebec Public Health Department and the Anglican Diocese of Montreal. To leave a message, please contact the church office 450-955-3303.

Avante June newsletter

We're winding down for the summer months and gearing up for our first annual general meeting in two years. It's gonna be a doozie... Keep an eye out for our summer activities, we have a few ideas up our sleeves.

June 1

Health Matters is back and this month we will be "looking" into Eye Health and Vision Care via Zoom at 10. Please register before May 27 to receive the link.

June 2

Last chance to reserve your plate for our summer lunch and bowling on Thursday, June 2 at 12:30 at the Chevaliers de Colomb Hall located at 224 rue Chrstoph Colomb in Cowansville.

June 6

Crafty Cathy is back at it at the Lac Brome Community Centre. At 10:00 she'll be hosting a hybrid version of Yarn for a Cause. Bring a 4.5 crochet hook, we have plenty of yarn. Register by June 1 if you'd like to join via zoom. That afternoon at 1:30 she will lead you on a leisurely walking scavenger hunt around Knowlton.

June 23

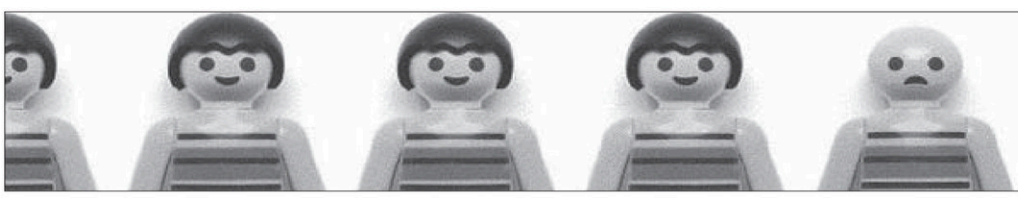
Enjoy a bowl of Nancy's homemade soup with us in-person at noon or call ahead to reserve a to-go container which can be picked up between 10 and 2. Stick around after lunch or pop-in at 1:30 to watch the riveting documentary We were Children that explores the profound impact of the Canadian residential school system through the eyes of two Indigenous children.

June 28

Due to the pandemic and social distancing we were unable to hold our annual general meeting for the past two years. We are looking forward to holding this 3-in-1. All members in good standing will receive an invitation to join us in the mail.

Stop by anytime, our door is always open. We are always here for you for a chat, counselling, resources, referrals, etc. We are available to meet with you in-person at the centre (9 rue de la Rivière, Bedford) or by phone 450-248-0530.

Avante Women's Centre welcomes English-speaking women from all walks of life in Brome-Missisquoi and supports them to reach their full potential through educational and informational programs and services and collective action for social change.



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Study shows rise in domestic violence faced by men

By Ruby Irene Pratka
Local Journalism Initiative

A recent study from the Université de Sherbrooke suggests that the prevalence of domestic violence in Quebec has reached alarming levels since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the rise in violence against women has been well documented, this study suggests that as many as one in five Quebec men who are in relationships are also victims of forms of violence.

In an echo of a similar study done with women, the results of which were released last month, male respondents were asked whether they had faced physical or verbal abuse, insults or threats from their partner, and whether they feared their partner. The study did not contain questions about sexual or financial abuse, and did not ask the gender of the respondent's partner.

Philippe Roy is a researcher in the school of social work at the Université de Sherbrooke and a member of the Collectif estrien pour la santé et le bien-être des hommes. He collaborated with Dr. Mélissa Généreux of the school of public health on the study.

Roy is quick to say he and his colleagues "have no intention of minimizing" the scale of violence faced by women and trans and gender diverse people.

"Women are more likely to deal with extreme violence from an intimate partner – there is no equivalent of the [spike in] feminicides among men," Roy said, referencing the 26 Quebec women killed by partners, former partners or family members' former partners in 2021. "However, this study found that more men than women were experiencing some form of physical violence in their relationships. The data challenges a lot of our preconceived beliefs."

Roy said the study showed that men who were subjected to intimate partner violence suffered from depression and suicidal ideation at three times the rate of men in nonviolent relationships. He also noted that young men were more likely to experience violence than their older counterparts.

He said the data shows the importance of talking openly about domestic violence faced by men. "Men, particularly men in gay relationships, are subjected to ridicule when they talk about violence," he said. "There's this whole idea of, 'You weigh 250 pounds, why didn't you defend yourself?' But you can't defend yourself against 200 [threatening] text messages."

Augustin David is a counselor at Momenthom, a Sherbrooke-based nonprofit that helps men navigate difficult situations, including financial and relationship distress. He said the data collected by Roy and his team "isn't necessarily surprising."

He said men experiencing violence go through "a lot of fear of shame and judgment" when talking about their experiences. There is also a dearth of specialized services for male victims.

For fathers with children leaving violent or unstable homes, a provincewide network of shelters, Les Maisons Oxygène, has existed since 2010 to provide temporary housing and support services, according to spokesperson Audrey Cloutier, who said demand for emergency housing and counselling has shot up over the course of the pandemic. However, single, working-age men leaving violent relationships have few options, apart from homeless shelters, last-resort financial assistance or sleeping on friends' couches, David observed.

David encourages men who think they may be in a toxic relationship to seek help, by talking to a friend, calling a helpline such as InfoSocial or contacting an organization like his. "So many people are in violent relationships, but a relationship should be comforting and encouraging," he said.

Townshippers' Association re-acts to adoption of Bill 96

Townshippers' Association was extremely disappointed with the news of the adoption of Bill 96 this week in the National Assembly. Despite opposition from numerous groups and organizations across the province – who have been voicing their concerns about the bill's shortcomings since it was first tabled more than a year ago – this ill-conceived piece of legislation was adopted without any significant changes. Today, we join our voice to the voices of other groups and organizations across the province who are expressing their concerns and frustrations about this new piece of legislation. We wish to make it clear that this bill does not reflect our hopes, or our vision, for an inclusive Quebec.

While in full agreement that the protection and the promotion of the French language and culture is imperative to preserving Quebec's unique character, we do not agree that Bill 96's sweeping use of the notwithstanding clause is the way to accomplish this goal. We firmly believe that there are more effective and inclusive ways to celebrate and protect the French language – and specifically to do so without taking away the rights and freedoms of Quebecers.

Bill 96 will have a significant impact on all Quebecers. It will place caps on the number of students who can attend English-language CEGEPs, it will criminalize the use of the English language in countless situations, it lacks clarity around access to services in English, and it will have a significant impact on legal and justice procedures. Bill 96 will also have important repercussions for small businesses, and it will remove the bilingual status of several municipalities across the province.

As an organization that is committed to helping English speakers access services in English, Townshippers' Association is particularly frustrated by the lack of clarity in the bill concerning access rights and eligibility criteria for services in English, in both the private and the public sectors. Despite assurances that the act respecting access to health and social services will be maintained, we remain concerned about how accessible these services will be for English speakers and about the kind of structure that will need to be put in place to enforce the new regulations brought into effect by Bill 96.

Going forward, our organization will continue to work in partnership with other English-language organizations across the province to rally against this deplorable piece of legislation and to continue to bring attention to its shortcomings. Townshippers' Association is committed to supporting all Townshippers who wish to use English as their chosen language of expression and we will continue to advocate on their behalf, and on behalf of other English speakers across the province.

Submitted by Townshippers' Association

MS lives here.
Canada has one of the highest rates of multiple sclerosis in the world.
MS Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada | Société canadienne de la sclérose en plaques SP
1-800-268-7582 www.mssociety.ca

BUYING CEDAR LOGS
Call for specs and prices.
GOODRIDGE LUMBER
Albany, Vermont Tel. 802-755-6298

plant sale

Cont'd from page 1

Jane and other members of the Townships Grandmothers will be happy to sell you plants, and have good conversations about the program in Africa or to have a good plant talk!

The plants vary from annuals, perennials, vegetables, house plants, and herbs, to bulbs and seeds. If you have any plants to donate, please deliver them to 8 Gagne or call 450-538-5294 to arrange for free pick-up service.

Thousands of dollars have been raised over the past years for this worthy cause. Community support has been wide and is greatly appreciated by the organization here in our midst, and most certainly by the recipients in Africa.



LOUISE SMITH

MNP
Partout où mènent les affaires
Wherever business takes you
127, rue Principale, bureau 105, Cowansville, QC
450.263.4123 | cowansville@mnp.ca MNP.ca

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Letters

Secondary 3 French Immersion

Dear Editor:

I am writing today to share my discontent with the ETSB and Massey Vanier High School for arbitrarily deciding to remove the secondary 3 French Immersion program. I say arbitrarily because they tell me they sent the notice to parents through the Publi-sac in January and apparently mentioned it during a virtual open house in January. We don't get the PubliSac and having had two children recently go through the school, I didn't think it was necessary to attend an open house. I find it extremely hard to believe that a decision of this weight just breezes through the system. If a child excels in sports, it is plastered all over the school's social media pages. However, a decision to remove more ways for Anglo kids to learn French was stuck in a publi-sac, I feel, with the hope that it would simply pass through unnoticed, which it did.

I find it shocking to remove more ways for our kids to learn French especially given the climate in the province right now. This program, which has been in existence for more than 30 years has been available for Anglophone students, to continue to be in the English education system while have their core subjects in French for Secondary 1,2,3. It has traditionally been a high achieving class, one that goes onto higher education. Why then, would the school remove a year instead of adding years??

The answers vary wildly. From the school direction I was told it was a scheduling issue (despite being the same issue for 30 plus years). They also told me the kids didn't want to be in bubble classes, that it was too difficult on them psychologically, after two years of the pandemic. Once again, keep in mind, this separate French Immersion class has existed in this way for 30 years plus. I was also told it was a way of making it "equal" for all students. None of these reasons seem plausible or possible given the fact that you can walk down the corridor to the French side of this publicly funded high school where there are 20 concentration programs offered, ranging from all different sports, dance, dramatic arts, art and outdoor sportsmanship. At one time, Massey Vanier offered a few options, but then removed them claiming dwindling enrollment. This has also been an excuse offered for pulling the immersion program. Rather than making this a boon for the school and advertising it as a plus, an advantage, they decided to simply eliminate it.

This discovery, so late in the school year, puts our family at a disadvantage. We are now forced to make important decisions for our youngest child, who was about to enter MV in the fall. We had been counting on her getting at least 2 years of French. One year, just won't be enough to make her bilingual enough to survive in this province. I refuse to watch, as I've watched so many people I know, jump in the car and head west because they felt their language skills were not strong enough to survive here in the professional world.

Sadly, our options are extremely limited. If we don't send her to the English side, our options are only French. That is not a bad thing, in our books, but we have always supported the English school system because we feel if we don't it just gives the government a reason to get rid of it. That being said, we are examining what few options are available here.

If you, like us, are upset with this decision, I advise you to please write to the ETSB and to Massey Vanier to express this to them, who claim no one complained about it. Most of the parents I've spoken to, had no idea this was happening. Only the parents of children going into Secondary 3 seem to have been fully advised.

Disappointed in the system,
Jessica Brown

Brome County News welcomes your letters to the editor. Please limit your letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity, legality and taste.

Please ensure there is a phone number or email where you can be reached, to confirm authorship and current town/city of residence. Names will not be withheld but the address and phone number of the writer are not published, except by request.

Preference is given to writers from the Eastern Townships.

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To The Editor,

We would like to thank all those who helped in any way at the Fundraiser for The Canadian Red Cross Ukraine appeal held Sunday afternoon, May 15, 2022.

The musicians who volunteered to play, the Knights of Columbus Cowansville who lent their hall and the couple who looked after the receepts from the event, as well as those who attended and/or donated to the cause.

Thanks again for your participation.

Jim Edwards Bailey/Fred Jacobs
Organizers

Dear Editor,

We've noticed in the last couple of years articles regarding the well-known Turkey Hill maple products industry. It was thought that they were the first in the Sutton area to use the new plastic tubing system for sap collection in the 1970s.

Out father, Ethan Macey, installed this innovative system in our maple sugar woods in the early 1960s. It was done with much consultation under the guidance of Walter Hughes, representative of the 3M company in Waterloo. We used this system until the untimely death of our father in May of 1970.

Pamela, Valerie and Graham Macey

Pet of the week: Franceska

Female, adult, sterilized, dewormed & vaccinated





Franceska (#8872) is a gorgeous long haired grey tabby with worried eyes; she's approximately 5 years old. Franceska was found dumped near the shelter and was in pretty rough shape (her fur was extremely matted, her ears were blackened by frostbite and she was quite skinny). This poor baby must have been trying to survive outdoors for some time...Our veterinarian decided to clip her ears and shave off her fur, but otherwise, this great beauty is in good health.

This cutie pie has a pleasant personality and is tranquil & affectionate. She loves to get her chin scratched and be gently caressed but doesn't enjoy being picked up or resting in your arms...yet. We hope that with time, her fears will subside, she will gain confidence and be a happy kitty again! Franceska will make a wonderful life companion for cat lovers who want a precious and sweet fur baby!

Franceska will be happiest in a warm & welcoming environment with calm and caring people who will take the time to comfort this wonderful feline and give her lots of love. We recommend a home without children or other animals as she is still anxious/nervous and gets startled easily. Loud noises and abrupt movements scare her and too much stress would be detrimental to her overall wellbeing.

Angelic Franceska truly deserves to find a loving family and to be treated like a little princess for the rest of her life! In return, she will be eternally grateful and will shower you with so much love.

If you wish to adopt Franceska, please write to us at:

adoptionspcamonteregie@gmail.com.

BCN RATES & DEADLINES
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Brome County News Community Calendar is reserved for non-profit organizations only. **Deadline is noon on Fridays.** Must be pre-paid. Up to 40 words: **$8**, 41-70 words: **$12,** 71-100 words: **$15,** all prices include taxes. **Special rates:** $2 off for 2 insertions, 1 BCN and 1 in the Friday Record "What's On" section. Please forward notices to 5-b Victoria St., Knowlton, QC J0E 1V0, email: bcnnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.



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Openness to languages is the key!



JUNE DOWNIE

At Ingeborg Fulford's 90th birthday party last Sunday many languages could be heard. She is a great example of how knowing more languages opens up communication between people.

By Louise Smith

Perhaps I can blame my error on typing one letter at a time on my cell phone last weekend in Ottawa by candlelight. I was visiting friends when the violent storm whipped through the Ottawa area and power was lost. When I wrote about Ingeborg's special ninetieth birthday, I wrote that she and Jim Fulford had spent five years in the Netherlands where they were raising their five daughters. However, it was fifteen years! Their three youngest girls were born in Holland.

The girls came back from Holland all fluently bilingual in English and Dutch. Their oldest daughter was also fluent in Danish while the other girls knew a lot of that language from Ingeborg and from visits to Denmark. In school in Holland they learned English as a second language and German as a third language and they picked up quite a bit of German. In their last year of living in Holland, the girls were given French lessons as they were coming back to Quebec. How marvelous it is to have a wide range of languages to be able to better communicate. Ingeborg and Jim then learned Spanish when they lived in Mexico.

As we are living in the aftermath of the passing of Bill 96, the Fulford family is an example of how openness to languages is the way to go instead of the suppression of languages.

Cheeky Creek

Cont'd from page 1

and a gentle yellow lab kept the house humming as their parents and I chatted at the kitchen table.

Neither Kristen nor Corey had any direct or indirect farming experience when they moved. Even then, their dreams were inspired by their kids.

When their eldest, Scout, began eating solid food as a baby, Kristen wanted to make sure it was the healthiest possible. She knew that meant growing and raising some of their own. But Greenfield Park, on Montreal's South Shore, didn't allow backyard chickens in those days, so Kristen was ready to mount a lobbying campaign to change the municipal policy.

Corey suggested they move instead. And Corey's parents proposed bi-generational living: that they all buy a small farm together in the Eastern Townships.

At first, Kristen and Corey continued working in the Montreal area, commuting each day for teaching and electrical contract jobs.

While exploring their new property one day in 2015 and admiring the creek flowing through the back, they were surprised to turn and find their kids stripped naked and heading for the water. Kristen snapped a photo of them bare bummed on their way in.

The name Cheeky Creek Farm was thus baptized.

Now raising their own pork, chicken, eggs, milk cows, sheep, ducks, and garlic, they've gone a long way to ensuring the healthiness they wanted for their children's food, which they also sell to families, restaurants, and butcher shops.

And their farm sales have reached the point that they pay the mortgage, "plus a little," Kristen said.

Their main product is pork. From the 10 to 12 Berkshire sows and 2 boars they keep (recommended by their farm mentor, Elwood Quinn, of Quinn Farm on Île-Perrot), they finished 115 pigs last year.

"During Covid, we were slammed!" Kristen said of the sudden surge in demand they enjoyed.

But still happy with his off-farm work, Corey also just started his own electrical contracting business, CC Électrique Inc., which is the other major part of the family income.

Neither expressed the least regret for their old life.

"We'll never go back!" Kristen said.

"I can't imagine it," Corey added. "We haven't turned the TV on in six months."

"Our life isn't scheduled anymore," Kristen said, "but it's a rhythm."

The enthusiasm and joy for it all was bursting from everything they said in our short interview, just as projects were bursting out of their farmyard, eager for attention.

"It's the gratitude," Corey said.

"It's that intimate connection of knowing what you're eating," Kristen added.

The gratitude was also heaped on Corey's parents, Anne and Curt Wilson: "They've been a godsend, our life saviours," Kristen said, with Corey adding like words.

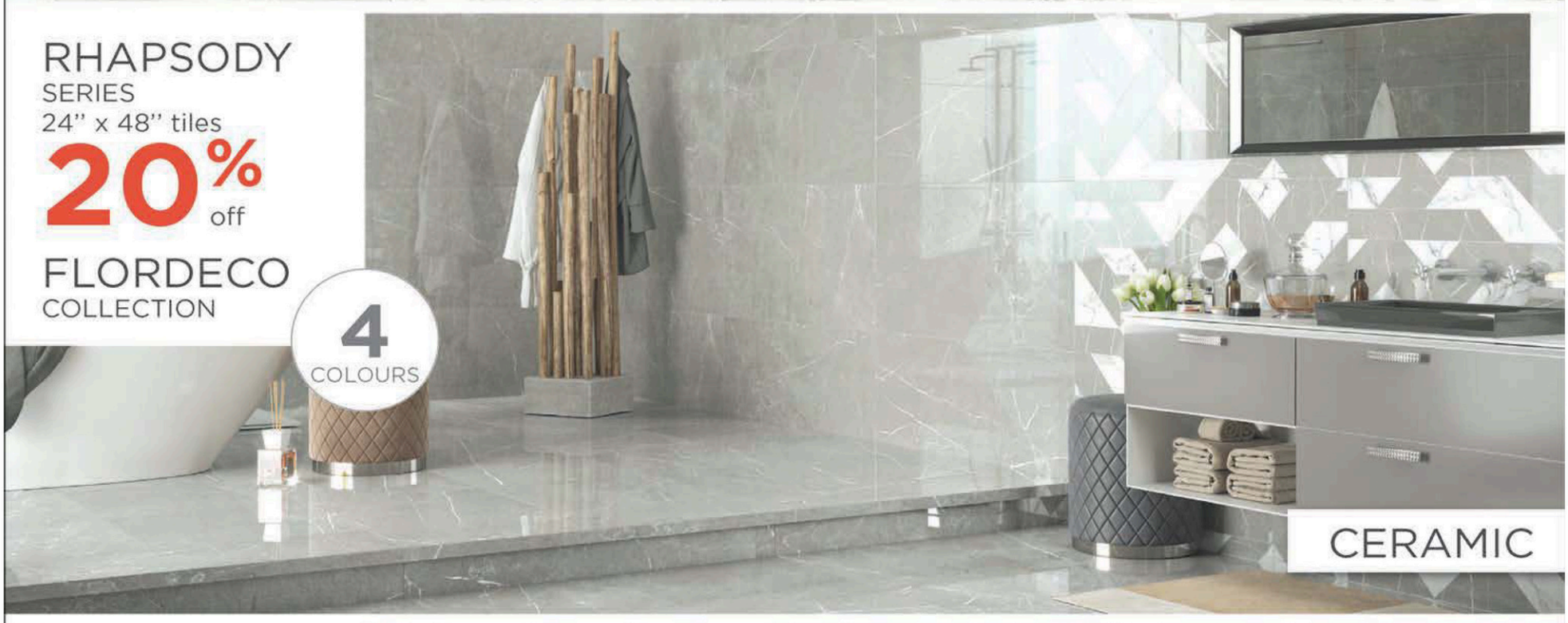
Supper was probably overdue as our interview wound down. Perhaps on cue, Hunter showed up to change the pace, asking if his parents had shown me his painting, a watercolour full of sea creatures and animals, of bright blue water and gentle flow—of so much rhythm inherent in bringing one's dreams from the imagination to paper to life.

Scott Stevenson farms and writes at his home in Newport, Quebec.



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Planning ahead is vital to a successful renovation

(MC) Remodeling projects are significant undertakings. Homeowners must consider a host of variables before any such project can begin. While planning ahead may take time, it is essential to ensuring successful completion of a renovation project. Consider these pre-renovation planning pointers to help any job go smoothly.

Determine your motivation for renovating

Renovation projects often involve balancing needs and wants, and determining if a project is a necessity or a luxury can set the timeline and course of the project. Is the roof leaking? If so, immediate action is necessary. Could the kitchen be a bit more functional? If the kitchen is still manageable, a homeowner may be able to wait a little bit to get better prices on appliances or contracting services.

Separating needs from wants helps homeowners map out a viable timeline that maximizes productivity and affordability.

Get professional advice

Many homeowners are under the impression that doing the work themselves can save a considerable amount of money. This may be the case for homeowners with renovation experience. But by and large, professional contractors are an asset to any renovation. They can provide a realistic overview of the project, map out projected costs, point out areas that could be troublesome, and may have industry contacts that can keep supply costs low. Even if a homeowner will do a portion of the job, a contractor can do the bulk of the work and keep the project on budget.

Get necessary permits

Permits are designed to ensure the work is being done to code and in a safe manner. However, they are not without additional costs and processing time, and that can cause some homeowners to skip this step. According to the home information site The Spruce, building permits cost anywhere from $400 to about $2,200 for new home construction. Building permits for smaller projects can cost $100 or less, and typically are based on a percentage of the anticipated cost of the project.

A permit may be issued the day the application is submitted, while other cities and towns may issue permits up to two or more weeks later. Factor permit fees and processing times into the renovation plan.

If it comes to light a homeowner did work without a required permit, he or she may face penalties; may have to tear out work done to have it inspected or redone; some may be unable to sell a home until permits have been obtained and work has been done to code. Homeowners insurance coverage also may be affected if homeowners do not obtain the proper permits.

Other considerations when planning a renovation include writing out a strict budget, gathering inspiration, drawing up to-scale renovation plans, pouring over material reviews, and getting recommendations for reliable professionals to do the job. While not every obstacle can be avoided, planning is a good way to start successfully.



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Renaissance Brome Lake releases 2021 and 2022 updates

BCN Staff

After two years of pandemic restrictions, Renaissance Brome Lake (RBL) recently held in-person meetings on May 15 and May 26 to reconnect with its members, partners, local governments, and other environmental organizations in the region. During these meetings, RBL shared the organization's recent achievements and priorities for 2022.

According to RBL's press release, the group determined its top priority was to work with the Town of Brome Lake to limit the effects of boats designed to create large wakes. Hélène Drouin, President of RBL, explained that wakes have negative ecological impacts. "While Brome Lake is a good-sized lake, it is shallow and has many fragile areas," she said.

Latest studies have recommended that boats designed to generate wakes operate at least 300 meters from shore and at least seven meters deep in water to minimize environmental impacts. Currently, the lake limits speeds on all boats to under 10 km/hr (clutch speed) within 150 meters of shore, conditions that are much less protective than experts recommend.

The final recommendation from RBL was to establish a boating zone for the operation of Wake and Surf boats on Brome Lake's northwest side.

After discussing the organization's top priority, Drouin took the opportunity to review RBL's 2021 results and the projects completed by its volunteers and interns under the guidance of resident biologist and Project Manager Anaïs Renaud. The results can be seen below in the President's Report.

In addition to supporting the Wake and Surf boat operating zone recommendation, RBL intends to participate in other projects and studies this year, such as water quality monitoring, surveying private ponds in the watershed, and controlling invasive exotic species like the Eurasian milfoil and the Rusty Crayfish.

Drouin also informed members and partners that the board of directors decided to select a new name and logo by the end of the year. "It's time for our name to reflect our mission," said Drouin. 'Renaissance' was chosen many years ago, and the board believed the name no longer represented the organization's purpose. Attendees responded positively to the news at both events.

President's Report: 2021 rundown

In Renaissance Brome Lake's President Report, the organization revisited various initiatives from 2021. Last year would have marked the 20th anniversary of RBL's founding, but celebrations did not go forward due to the pandemic. Despite this, the RBL team still successfully went ahead with other initiatives and projects.

At the end of 2021, the Board of Directors had eleven active members who met virtually eleven times during the year. Although in-person in 2020, the Annual General Meeting was held virtually in 2021, an event that marked the election of Gail Watt (West Bolton) and Daniel Morris. Over the following months, Richard Bickley, Bernard Côté (Bolton-Ouest), and Françoise Stanton joined the organization's ranks.

Drouin thanked Caroline Renaud and Daniel Morris, who, during their last mandate, were valuable members of the organization. Special thanks went out to Pierre Fortier, who served as a director for more than ten years and resigned in 2021.

The organization also welcomed two interns from the biology and environment programs at the Université de Sherbrooke, Daphnée Gaudreault and Kayla Trempe-Kay, in addition to two students who operated the boat cleaning station, Ève Pelchat and Jacob Pelchat. Alix Tremblay, communications officer, also joined the team, and according to Drouin, has since done a tremendous job on the organization's communications initiatives.

In addition to taking care of the organization's regular activities and membership program, the team concentrated its efforts on the implementation of multiple projects.

First, the president reviewed the results of lake quality monitoring in 2021. From eleven outings, the organization determined the water transparency in Brome Lake was 3.0 m, comparable to the average of the last ten years (2.9 m), but much worse than the previous year (3.9 m).

The summer of 2021 was characterized by a great drought followed by a hot and dry autumn. The water temperature remained high in September and October, which contributed to the appearance of cyanobacteria blooms and the lake's level dropping 15 to 25 cm below its median for the last 15 years. As a result, the lake was classified as meso-eutrophic in 2021 and is therefore at an intermediate-advanced stage of eutrophication.

During RBL's eight trips to measure water clarity (SQE), the organization noted an increase in the average concentration of phosphorus, nitrogen, and suspended solids compared to the 2008-2021 and 2020 averages. Cold Brook appeared to be the smallest nutrient and sediment contributor in

Cont'd on page 9

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COURTESY

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Maple syrup producers see climate change as a threat to industry's future

By Meghan McGee
The Canadian Press

Paul Renaud is only too aware of what the power of wind can do to trees.

After violent windstorms recently swept through southern Ontario and Quebec, uprooting trees and leaving a trail of damage across a vast territory, Renaud's thoughts went right to his sugar maples in Lanark Highlands, Ont., where storms once considered rogue now seem more frequent.

"We've had two in six months," he said in an interview. "Each one has taken out maple trees."

Worsening storms aren't the only changes Renaud sees. As chair of the climate change working group for the Ontario Maple Syrup Producers Association, he says dramatic weather is having a serious effect on his industry.

Syrup producers are recording declining yields due to increasing global temperatures, which are leading to more invasive pests, sap that is less sugary and shorter harvesting periods than the normal four-to-six-week season.

Longer and more severe droughts kill seedlings and stunt root growth. Unpredictable spring frosts, meanwhile, can shock and destroy new leaf buds, while milder winters with less snow cover leave bare roots exposed.

"Trees get stressed and then they are more susceptible to pests and pathogens," said Joshua Rapp, an associate at Harvard University's school of forestry.

The attacks keep coming. An infestation of tent caterpillars in 2018 left some Ontario producers with 30 per cent less syrup than the year before. The caterpillars eat the leaves, which help make the sugar, leading to less sugary saps.

With earlier and shorter tapping seasons, producers are scrambling to find workers. One third of North American producers said they missed their first sap flow of the season several years in a row, according to a 2019 survey of nearly 400 producers.

Each year between late February and early May, maple syrup producers rely on the delicate freeze-thaw cycles of spring. When nighttime temperatures drop below zero, the maple tree contracts and sap rushes up from the roots into its branches. When temperatures rise during the day, the tree's wood expands, putting pressure on the branches and forcing the sap back down the trunk and into the taps.

The sap is boiled until most of the water evaporates, leaving behind the dense, sweet liquid we know as maple syrup. It takes about 40 litres of sap to make one litre of maple syrup.

By 2100, some U.S. states could see production shift one month earlier _ and become nonexistent in some regions like Virginia. "As you go farther north, there's still a sap season but it moves earlier in the year," Rapp said in a recent interview.

The effects of changing temperatures are felt unequally. Warmer temperatures could benefit northern parts of Ontario and Quebec, which could see up to 40 litres more sap per tap each year.

"Moving it earlier in time actually makes the season better, because it lengthens the season out," Rapp said. But he warned that higher temperatures produce less sugary sap, and as a consequence, more sap is needed to make the maple syrup consumers are used to.

Meanwhile, the growth in global demand for the sweet syrup shows no sign of abating. When the balmy 2021 winter and abrupt spring thaw brought low harvests, the industry had to dip deeply into its strategic reserves to meet global demand, which rose by 23 per cent. In response, Quebec Maple Syrup Producers drained nearly half its reserve _ 23,000 tonnes worth $150 million.

The industry says keeping up with global syrup demand will require tapping 120 million more trees by 2080. That rise in consumption will add to the carbon levels in the atmosphere due to the wood or other fossil fuels burned to boil the sap.

"Eighty-five to 90 per cent of emissions that a maple syrup producer has relates to the boiling of sap," Renaud said.

In their defence, producers contend that tapping more trees protects those trees from being harvested, ensuring that the industry sequesters more carbon than it releases.

Whatever the carbon math, the growing demand for maple syrup and diminished yields are requiring producers to look for ways to mitigate the effects of climate change. For example, thinning of maple stands encourages the growth of larger crowns on the remaining trees, "and that's going to help them be healthier and produce more sap and sugar," Rapp said.

But, he acknowledges that to save the industry, "the biggest thing is addressing climate change."

Renaissance Brome Lake

Cont'd from page 8

2021, with the other creeks falling in the following order, from the best to the worst water quality: Quilliams, Pearson, Argyll, Inverness, and McLaughlin.

The shoreline revitalization program, a joint effort between RBL and the Town of Brome Lake, was in its 5th and final year. Unfortunately, this program did not have the expected success. However, this past fall, two biology technicians visited properties on the waterfront to update RBL's data to prioritize locations that need focus. This revaluation effort will allow the city to establish a new plan for the coming years.

As Quilliams Creek is the most significant water contributor to Brome Lake, RBL monitors activities in its watershed and works to preserve its integrity. In 2021, two field teams

walked more than 20 km of the stream's bank to obtain an accurate portrait of its condition and then draft a conservation plan for the creek and its habitats. This work was in addition to

RBL's efforts to stabilize sections of Quilliams' by rebuilding and replanting critical areas along the floodplain.

In June 2021, a team from RBL worked with community volunteers to clean Cold Brook. More than 20 tires were collected, along with many plastic bags and metal artifacts that dated from the brook's historical past.

RBL also worked to monitor the presence of rusty crayfish in the tributaries of Brome Lake. By doing this, RBL has observed that this invasive species is present in all the streams now, which has caused the native crayfish species to no longer be present in Brome Lake or its streams.

To prevent new invasive species from finding their way into Brome Lake, RBL continued to operate the boat wash station from May to October. Still set up across the road from Les Érables campground, 823 boats were cleaned in 2021.

In consultation with a group of boaters and city representatives, RBL developed a watermilfoil monitoring and control plan. As a result, RBL initiated a five-year monitoring plan of four of Brome Lake's important grass beds. The monitoring will help RBL follow the evolution of the species. In addition, RBL conducted a characterization of shoreline wetlands at the mouths of the tributaries. The study revealed the presence of watermilfoil in the Cold and Argyll creeks.

RBL's pond mapping project in 2016 found that many of the ponds in the watershed were 'problematic.' To follow up, the field team studied 24 ponds on private properties. The final findings were that the ponds did not have enough vegetation surrounding them and that many were struggling with invasive species and a high concentration of suspended sediments.

In addition to its environmental initiatives, 35 people joined RBL in September to paddle Brome Lake by canoe, kayak, and paddleboard. According to the report, the activity was a success and will likely return in 2022.

Drouin ended the President's Report with a strong message. "Unfortunately, the future and the health of Brome Lake remains fragile. As we have done for the last 20 years, I can assure you that RBL will continue to protect and preserve the Lake as we enter our 21rst year."



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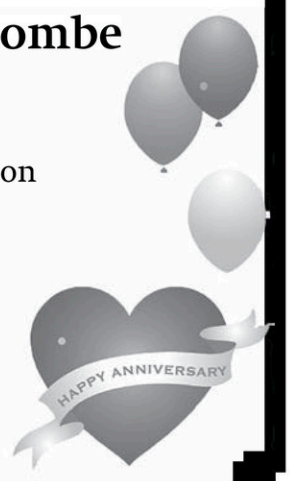
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Death



Gisèle (nee St-Pierre) DARMO
1932 – 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Gisèle St-Pierre at the age of 89. She fought a courageous battle against Crohn's disease and died peacefully with her family by her side at the B.M.P. Hospital in Cowansville on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

Gisèle is survived by her loving husband Albert Darmo, dear mother to Marc (Tiscar) and Caroline, cherished grandmother to Sofia. She leaves to mourn her sister, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends.

A memorial service and a celebration of Gisèle's life will be scheduled at a later date at the St-Edouard Catholic Cemetery of Knowlton.

Arrangements entrusted to the

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Death **Death**



Ruth Ann WILSON-TALBOT

Ruth Ann Wilson-Talbot, of Lethbridge, Alberta, passed Friday, May 20, 2022 at Lethbridge Chinook Regional Hospital after a valiant struggle with health challenges. She passed with family beside her (Earl, Jason, Tammy, Ron and Kathy).

Left to mourn her passing are her beloved husband of 52 years, Earl Talbot, her son Jason (Tammy) Talbot of Lethbridge, AB, sister-in- law Dorothy (Jim) Manson of Cowansville, QC, brother-in-law Ronald (Kathy) Talbot of Lethbridge, AB; her Crazy eight sisters Joan (late Wayne Goyette) of Sutton, QC, Jean (late Cyril Soule) of Knowlton, QC, Brenda (late Peter Goodhue) of Cowansville, QC, Rosemary (Terry Scott) of East Farnham, QC, Bonnie Wilson of Cowansville, QC, Sandra Wilson of Cowansville, QC & Donna Wilson of Cowansville, QC; her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces/nephews and great nieces/nephews and friends. Predeceased by her parents Irene and Harold Wilson and in-laws Dorothy and Roland Talbot.

Ruth was born November 16, 1947 at home in Knowlton, QC. She attended Knowlton High School and was employed at Clairol Canada for 20+ years. Ruth married the love of her life, Earl Talbot, on January 16, 1970.

Ruth's greatest joys were spending time with her family, being on the Clairol softball team with her sisters Sandra, Donna and their mom, running the roads with Earl, becoming Director/Game Warden of Brome/Bolton Fish & Game Club, playing Bingo, horseshoeing, bowling, fishing, watching sports & NASCAR. She moved with her husband to Lethbridge, AB in 2014 to be with her son (& daughter-in-law), grandchildren and brother-in- law (& sister-in law). She dearly missed her sisters in Quebec, and cherished her memories, having spent her entire life in the Eastern Townships.

A Memorial Service will take place at a later date.

In memory of Ruth, donations to the ALS Foundation are greatly appreciated.

To send a condolence, please visit www.salmonandsons.ca

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Death **Death**



Margaret (nee Paige) STONE
1947 - 2022

Passed away peacefully in Sherbrooke, on May 20, 2022, at the age of 74, resident of Bolton Est, beloved wife of 52 years of Garnet Stone, daughter of late Earle Thomas Paige and late Elsie Hurlbut.

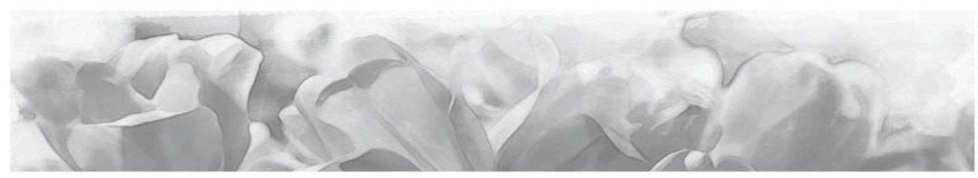
Besides her loving husband, she is survived by her children Mark (April), Matt (Laura), her five grandchildren Sydney (Alex), Megan (David), Emma-Ann, Taylor-Lee and Jackson (Ella), her brother Warren (Holly), predeceased by late David (Lilianne), her sister-in-law Margo (late Jean-Yves), her nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.

The family will receive condolences at the BROME-MISSISQUOI Funeral Complex, 402 rue de la Rivière, Cowansville, QC, 450 266-6061, complexebm.com, on Friday June 3, 2022 from 7 to 10 p.m. A Graveside service will take at the Bolton Center Community Cemetery at 11 a.m., Saturday, June 4, 2022. Please note the family will be present at 10 a.m. to receive condolences directly at the cemetery.

The family would like to thank the ICU ward at the CHUS Fleurimont, 9th floor, for the kindness and compassion given through her courageous battle.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the ALS Canada Foundation would be appreciated by the family. www.als.ca

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Great Blue Heron



Behind The Lens

Darren Murphy

One of my favorite subjects to photograph is the Great Blue Heron. It is the most common and largest heron with a grayish blue body and white head. Easy to locate here in the townships, simply go to any

lake, river or pond and you're more than likely to spot one. I'm always in awe watching these birds work a shoreline. They make their way slowly through the shallows until they find a spot that appeals to them. There, they will stand motionless and wait for fish, frogs, turtles or virtually anything they can swallow to approach. Normally what I do is park my truck by a pond and scour the area looking for one. Sometimes you get lucky right away, most often you must wait until they approach close enough to get your shot.

Their eyesight is superior and can easily spot you if you're outside by the water's edge. When they do, they normally move away from you as they're quite skittish. Using your truck or car as a blind definitely gives you an advantage. For whatever reason they don't feel threatened when you're in your vehicle.

The moment you open your door, they're gone! I normally use my longest lens, a 600mm

telephoto, attach it to a monopod, adjust the length and rest it comfortably on my truck's seat. By doing

this I can reduce any possible distortion when I eventually start shooting. Blue herons are not very

particular in what they eat. I've seen them take fish of all sizes, some so big I said there's no way they're going to swallow that. In Lasalle, down by the rapids I've seen herons catch carp that appear to be close to four pounds and swallow them whole. At this location years ago, I watched one swallow a baby muskrat as well. There is no aquatic bird more patient than the blue heron, and they will stay completely motionless until they finally strike their prey. I've even watched as they completely submerged themselves, stay underwater a few seconds, then emerge with their catch.

When we lived in Bolton east, the Missisquoi river ran through our property. It was haven for blue herons and they would line up in a few inches of water and simply wait for the fish to come downstream. I would use the shoreline bushes as blinds and get some great shots. An interesting fact is that these birds also hunt on land for snakes and small mammals. There's a video on YouTube showing a blue heron on a golf course taking baby gophers out of holes, you have to watch it to actually believe it.

For breeding, it's usually in small colonies in isolated areas. They use large platform nests made up of sticks, lined with fine twigs and vegetation. These nests are normally 30-80 feet above ground. This is one of the easier birds to photograph if you're dabbling in nature photography. Again, the trick is to use a blind and wait for them to come to you. You must be ready and willing to put in the time, but if you follow the steps I've mentioned, I can pretty much guarantee you'll reward yourself with some impressive photos.

When all the stars align, and you're ready to click your shutter, here's tip I've learned while in the field. Just before a blue heron strikes, it positions itself with its beak about an inch from the water. It will cock its head, then strike. It will be only a few seconds under water before it emerges with its prey so prepare yourself to start snapping as soon as its head breaks the water. Nothing better than have it come up from the water with a fish, or turtle, or frog in its mouth with the tiny droplets of water beading down.

These are the shots that nature photographers aim for. If these birds interest you, the Lasalle Rapids west of Montreal is one of the top heron rookeries in Canada. It's protected land and boast beautiful walking trails where you can observe and photograph these incredible birds. Whether you're taking pictures or simply observing with a scope or binoculars, it's a great way to spend the day in a place only a few hours from Lac Brome. I highly recommend it!



DARREN MURPHY

Innu poetry exhibit pops up at Brome Lake French literary festival

By Michael Boriero

Brome Lake's first annual Festival littéraire Lac-Brome featured an eye-catching exhibit in Coldbrook Park between May 19 and 22, as organizers set up three large pink rectangles that showcased several poems written by Innu children.

The exhibit is inspired by Nin Auass, Moi l'enfant, a book penned by Joséphine Bacon and Laure Morali, and illustrated by Lydia Mestokosho-Paradis. According to Brome Lake Councillor Louise Morin, Bacon and Morali collected poetry from over 1,000 Innu children.

The Festival international de la littérature (FIL), which helped the town set up its French literary festival, offered to send over the exhibit. Morin told The Record that it was immediately snapped up by the town as an important cultural piece to put on display for residents.

Although she has no way of knowing how well the exhibit did in attracting public attention, Morin noted it's a great way to build bridges between communities. It's also a useful tool to educate the general population about Innu culture and language, she explained.

Laura Carpenter McConnell, the owner of Le Loom, a spiritual shop providing insight into rituals and practices common to Indigenous communities in Knowlton, said she was immediately drawn to the exhibit because the pink made it stick out like a sore thumb.

She expects many people were drawn to the pink rectangles out of sheer curiosity. Carpenter McConnell, who grew up in Maniwaki, a small town north of Gatineau, has been fighting for fundamental human rights within Indigenous communities for several decades now.

Even if the exhibit was only able to bring in a few people, it's a great way to spark a larger conversation around preserving and protecting vulnerable Indigenous language and culture. It doesn't help that Quebec has made it clear where it stands on the language issue, she noted.

"It's so important, especially right now with [Bill 96] it's a language, in my eyes, that is going to disappear slowly and slowly because of the government," said Laura Carpenter McConnell, adding she is worried about the legislation's affect on her daughter's future in the province.

Morin hopes the town will keep the festival alive for years to come, sharing that they haven't had a French-specific literature event in quite some time. The town is steeped in tradition, and culture, she told BCN, adding this event will serve as a great compliment to the town.

"I think it's a very good start and it's better than what we expected. For me, personally, I put a lot of work and hope in this, and it's not me as a councillor, it's me as a person who loves literature and it's a thing I wanted to do for a long time," Morin said in a phone interview.



COURTESY TOWN OF BROME LAKE



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From farm to fork, how farmers are managing risk

(NC) The Canadian food industry fuels and feeds millions of people every day. But farmers battle many risks when it comes to keeping this food supply safe and their businesses successful. These risks include factors like drought, fuel costs, changing demand, and animal diseases.

For local pig farmers, one risk they manage is animal disease, such as African swine fever. Though this pig disease has never been found in Canada, can't spread to humans, and is not a food safety risk, it's still contagious and deadly for the pigs and could devastate an unprepared farm.

So how are pig farmers preparing? While every farmer has their own tried-and-true way of doing things on their farm, practicing good biosecurity is crucial to reduce risks from disease and contaminants like this one.

Here are some of the ways farmers are managing the risk:

Visitors

Ensure that any visitors or workers have clean shoes, clothing or equipment before entering a farm, as these items can spread diseases if contaminated. If visitors or workers are going to a country where ASF is present, they should declare it at the border and stay away from any farm for 14 days after they return.

Feed

The virus can be transmitted through contaminated feed or feed ingredients. So feed must be stored securely and purchased from reputable suppliers. ASF also lasts for months in pork products, whether they're fresh, frozen or cured. So pigs can't be fed food containing meat—it's actually illegal.

Contact

It's also important to protect domestic (or captive) pigs from contact with wild pigs, as the wild animals could spread the disease if they catch it elsewhere – especially since they have wide-ranging habitats and may eat contaminated garbage or scraps. Strong enclosures and secure feed help prevent contact.

Overall, it's important to follow national and regional regulations and recommendations on farm biosecurity to limit the threat of this animal disease. Find more information at Inspection.gc.ca/protect-pigs.





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How farmers can get much-needed support

(NC) If you work in agriculture, you know it can be a precarious businessdespite being so essential for the country's sustenance and success. So, it's important to know about the different kinds of support that could make life and work on your farm a little easier. Here are three financial programs and services created specifically for Canadian farmers:

Canadian Agricultural Loans Act program (CALA)

The CALA loan program provides farms with up to $500,000 to purchase or upgrade farm machinery and infrastructure. CALA offers low interest rates and down payments, flexible repayment options, and incentives for new farmers. CALA may be the program for farmers looking to establish, improve or expand their farming operations.

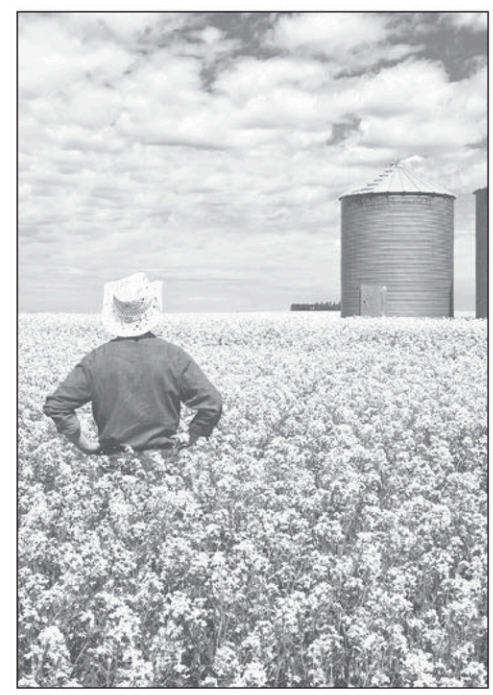
Farm Debt Mediation Service (FDMS)

This is a federal service that brings together farmers and creditors along with a neutral mediator to reach an agreement that works for everyone. It's free, voluntary and completely confidential. If you're a producer who can't pay current debt, this is a manageable way forward.

Advance Payments Program (APP)

The APP offers low-interest cash advances of up to $1 million for farmers based on the value of their inventory or their commodities in production and the Government of Canada pays the interest on the first $100,000. The APP can help improve farmers' cash flow providing them with the flexibility to sell their products when it makes the most sense for them.

Find more information about these programs at agriculture.canada.ca/manage-farm-risk-and-finance.



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Farmers adjust to rising costs and increased wages

By Michael Boriero

Donabelle Farm, a popular strawberry picking farm in Compton, draws in thousands of hungry visitors every summer, however, Quebecers will need to find a new favourite spot this year.

In a surprising move, the farm's owners, Donald Pouliot and Isabelle Breault, revealed the operation would cease all activities indefinitely. The Record reached out to Pouliot and Breault, but neither owner was available for interview. But a voicemail message confirmed the news.

The voicemail states, "our berry picking and vegetable growing activities are definitely over," however, the reason behind the decision remains a mystery. Fruit and vegetable farmers in the Eastern Townships could only speculate as to why the go-to fruit farm closed down shop.

Claire Peneau, the owner of Blueberry Hill, an organic farm in Dunham, told The Record that while she hasn't spoken to Pouliot or Breault, in her experience, the worker shortage and substantial price increase for materials and equipment have put a stress on farmers.

It has been difficult to find employees because people aren't interested in working on a farm these days, Peneau explained in a phone interview on Friday. And with an increase to the minimum wage it can be hard for farmers to maintain a large team, she continued.

Peneau has been lucky, though, as she has felt the support from the community. Her organic practices have also helped to alleviate costs. While most farmers use pesticides, for example, she uses renewable material to grow her crops. The wage hikes have been an issue, though.

"We don't use many external products. We have our own chickens, so we have our own compost and it's a full circle. We're making our own products, managing them and using them, so we don't have to buy outside so much. The main problem is the price of salary," she said.

According to Peneau, the reality of the situation is everything has become more expensive. And farmers are scrambling to adjust their budgets to maintain their operations. She hasn't been able to acquire a new tractor because the cost increased by roughly $30,000.

The government, municipal, provincial, and federal, need to be more proactive in supporting farmers, Peneau said, adding it can be extremely challenging and discouraging for new farmers to get their business off the ground. Unfortunately, it has a lot to do with politics, she said.

And when a competitor like Donabelle Farm shuts down, it sends a message to other farmers, Peneau explained, as little by little it is becoming more difficult to sustain a local strawberry picking operation. Grocery stores are more inclined to stock up on products from overseas.

"The problem is we're not competitive with countries like Argentina or China, these large agricultural producers," Peneau said, sharing, however, that there is an organic wave rushing over Quebec, and people are starting to see value in local products rather than foreign.

This is also the first time Olivier Simard, co-owner of Au Pré Bleu Farm in Ascot Corner, has noticed a difficulty in recruitment. He runs a picking farm. He has two full time employees and about a dozen seasonal workers during the summer. But that's just not the case this year.

"Well this is the first year that I can see my team isn't full yet. I can find workers, but they're like 12, 13, and 14 years old. It's more difficult to find older workers. It's the first year I've had trouble finding people with more experience," Simard told The Record on Friday.

The problem is that prior to the wage increase in May, Simard had been able to create appealing jobs by offering a bonus on top the minimum wage, for example, giving employees a 50 cent or $1 boost, which was attractive to prospective workers. It's hard to do that now.

"The minimum salary increased in May, a good increase, but for the last three years we've been able to give a little more than minimum salary. Now you need to offer a bonus on top of the minimum salary if you want to attract workers," said Simard.

The chemical fertilizer that he normally uses on his farm has also more than doubled in price, he continued. Simard was paying $732 for a ton of Urea fertilizer last year, however, now he is paying close to $1,600. The increase is enough to cause more than a few budget headaches.

But Simard isn't so quick to throw government officials under the bus. The pandemic has been hard on everyone. And there were many efforts to support and sustain Canadian farmers with grants and subsidies, he said, sharing they helped to offload substantial cost variations.

"For the past two years we've had help increasing our productivity. The government and the agriculture minister gave us subsidies to avoid any problems and increase our productivity," said Simard, adding he has always felt supported by every level of government.

Pierre Charbonneau, co-owner of Paradis des Fruits Dunham, said he had no choice but to increase the price of his fruit and vegetable products. The price of gas went up, worker wages went up, so it was natural to do the same for his farm to put food on the table, he explained.

Charbonneau is also a firm believer in buying local. People are too quick to purchase products from China or South America, he continued, and yet, they don't know what kind of pesticides are being used to keep the fruit fresh. But Canada also makes it difficult for its farmers.

"There is a bureaucratic problem in agriculture. There are so many people responsible for the producers, it is bureaucracy, it has also been around before the pandemic," said Charbonneau, adding that apples, for example, need to be certified by Canada before being sold.



Local strawberry plants



COURTESY

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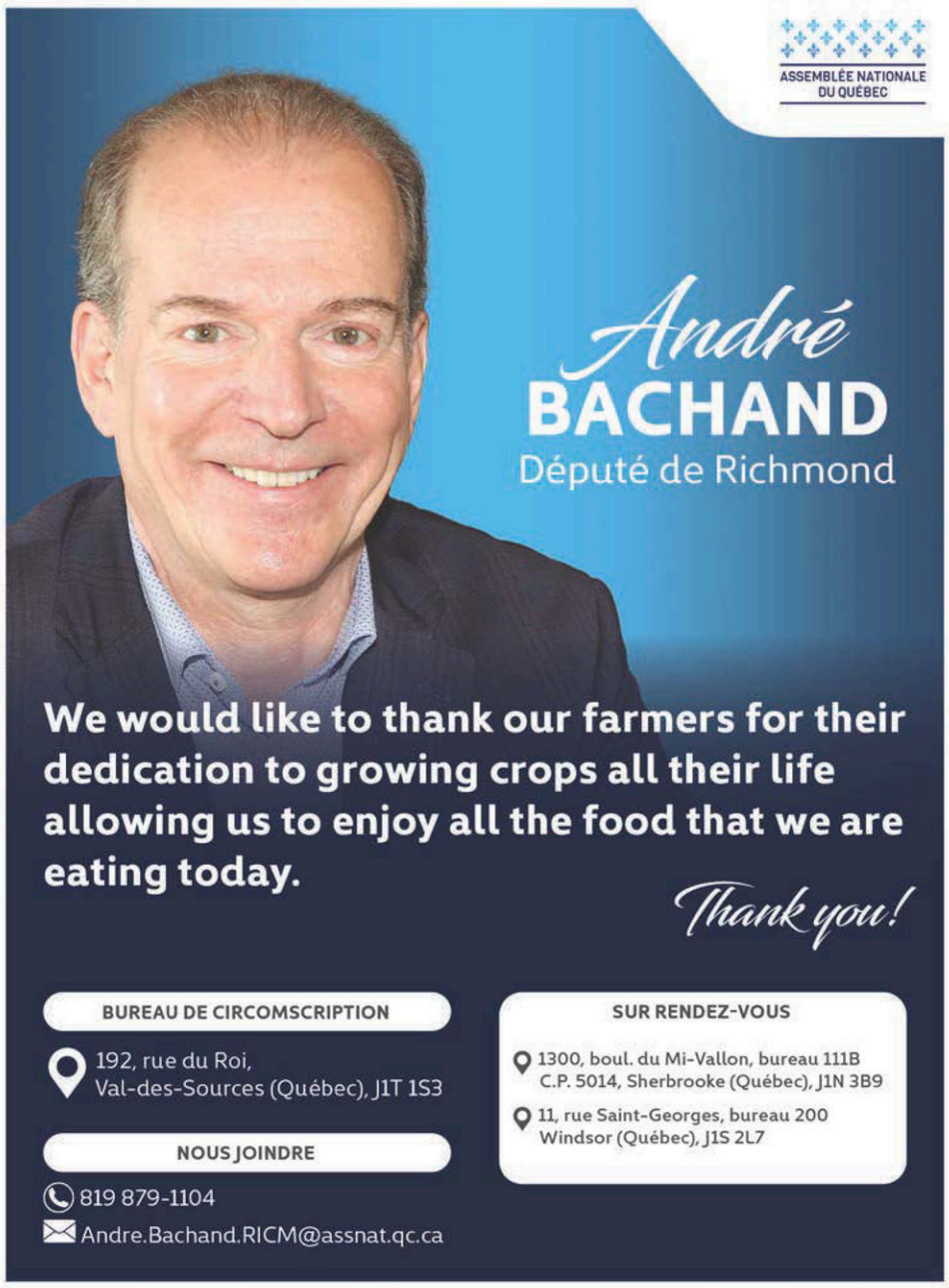
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Tools to help Canadian farmers

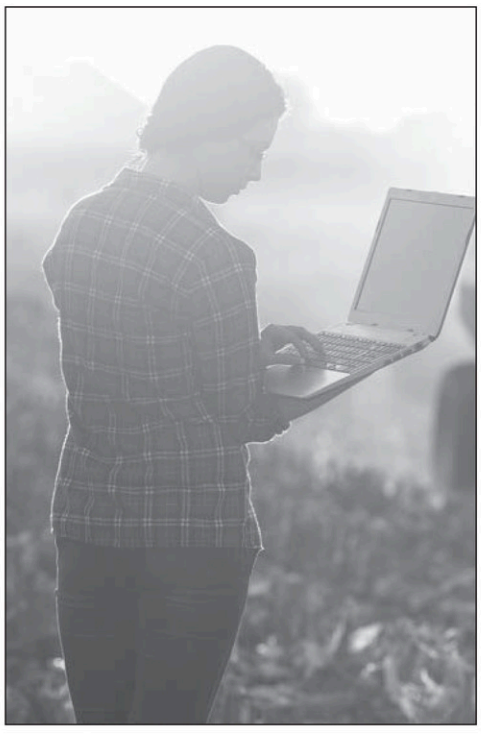
(NC) Being a farmer is a rewarding career and lifestyle for so many people across the country. But it's certainly a tough job that's subject to the whims of the weather, supply and demand, and regulations, to keep farmers and our food supply safe. Fortunately, there are a lot of Canadian programs and services to help our farmers succeed and continue to feed the country.

In the past, it may have felt time consuming or overwhelming to find information or partners you need. Fortunately, a fresh look is making it easier for farmers to find these resources in a single online space. AgPal is a one-stop shop for a wide range of programs, services, market intelligence and research. It offers veterinary services, food safety information, human resources, licensing, mental health resources and more, right at your fingertips.

The webpage is kept up to date with relevant and timely content. For ease of use, you can even search using filters such as region, client type, commodity, topic, service or category.

We can all use a little help sometimes, especially if you don't know where to start looking. Having everything you might need in one place when you do require support makes a big difference.

Find more information at agpal.ca.



Vegetable gardening 101

(NC) If you've been inspired to try growing your own vegetable garden during the pandemic, here are three steps to follow to get your best harvest.

Plan

• Choose a spot with plenty of sunlight.
• Make sure you have easy access to water.
• Map your garden. Plant tall crops like corn north or west of short crops.
• Plan to use companion planting, such as marigolds, in your veggie garden to naturally deter bugs.

Plant

• Start your seeds for tomatoes, peppers and broccoli early indoors.
• Wait until after the last spring frost to start planting outdoors.
• Check with your garden supply retailer for high-quality seeds and plants.
• Plant in straight rows to make cultivating, harvesting and insect control easier.
• Feed your soil with the right balance of nutrients using a good quality fertilizer.
• Water plants regularly, especially in the early stages.

Protect

• Monitor your plants often for signs of pests and disease. (Tip: remove the bottom third of leaves on tomatoes to help prevent mold and rot.)
• Remove weeds and insect-ravaged plants.
• Encourage beneficial insects in your garden.
• If a pest problem persists, apply a pest control product following the instructions on the label.

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The Year of the Garden is worth celebrating

(NC) While each spring we celebrate the return of gardening season, this year's celebrations may be extra special. The Canadian Garden Council and Communities in Bloom are inviting individual gardeners and municipalities to celebrate gardening in Canada.

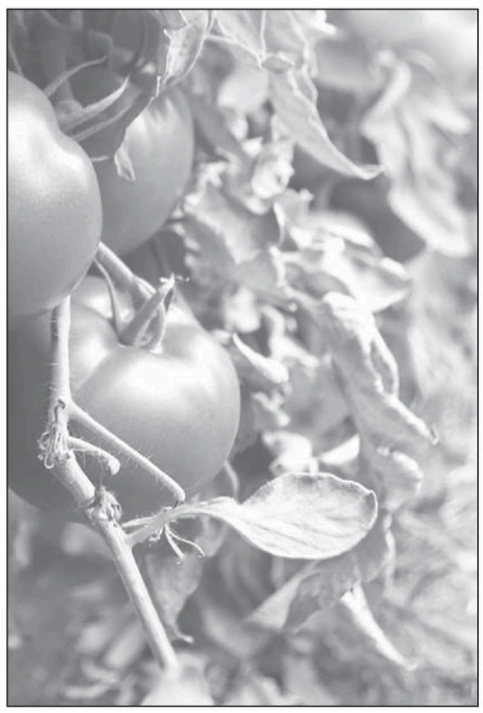
Whether you are a long-time gardener, or just took up the pastime during the pandemic, the Year of the Garden is a great opportunity to grow your interest and your skills.

Gardens and gardening come with a wide array of benefits. Creating more urban green spaces has long-term sustainability benefits. For example, plants and gardens produce oxygen, sequester carbon, and mitigate the heat island effect in urban areas. Gardening also has individual health benefits for gardeners and broader societal health benefits by creating spaces for us all to enjoy active living.

Gardens and gardening also create important economic benefits, including attracting residents and visitors to communities across the country.

But growing healthy lawns, flowers and vegetables can be challenging. Just as farmers must overcome threats from insects, weeds and diseases to grow safe and healthy food for Canadians, gardeners face similar challenges. Careful planning and management are important to success. When pest challenges threaten your lawn or garden, there are pest control tools available that are safe, effective and specifically designed for homeowners' use.

Let's all celebrate The Year of the Garden and the many benefits that gardens bring to our communities.





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