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It's criminal

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Brome County Community Billboard

Community Calendar

Friday, March 1

World Day of Prayer will be held at St. Edwards Church at 2. The country to be honored this year is Kenya. Everyone welcome.

World Day of Prayer will be held at the Baptist Church in Mansonville at 2. An Ecumenical service with participation by Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Pentecostal and United churches. All are welcome. Theme: "On the Journey Together".

Saturday, March 2

An ecumenical service will be held in honor of **World Prayer Day** at Ste-Thérèse Church in Cowansville. The 1991 World Day of Prayer service was written by women in Kenya, and was edited, printed and distributed by the Women's International Church Council of Canada. The special day will be celebrated in more than 170 countries around the world. All women, men and children are welcome to attend.

There will be a **skating party** from 1 to 4 at All Saints Anglican Church Hall in Dunham. There will be refreshments, and admission is free. If the weather is uncooperative, there will be indoor activities instead. For more information contact Alice Hadlock 298-5377, Brenda Lapaine 295-3252 or Julie-Anne Montage 295-3196.

The **Ladies Auxiliary of Granby** will be holding its monthly **flea market** from 9 to 3 at the Legion Hall, 172 Court St., Granby.

A **hot dish supper** will be held from 5 to 7 at Knowlton United Church. Admission is charged.

Sunday, March 3

The **Royal Canadian Legion**, Branch 158 at 2 Curley St. in Sutton will hold a **western breakfast** from 10 to 1.

Philpsburg Branch 82 of the Royal Canadian Legion will be serving another one of their popular **roast beef dinners** with an open salad bar between 4 and 8.

Monday, March 4

The **Honorable Judge Andrée Ruffo** will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the **Canadian Club of the Yamaska Valley**, to be held at 2 at Le Château Bromont, 80 Stanstead in Bromont. Ruffo is the author of many publications, and has made the news lately as a champion and defender of young people's rights. Her subject will be "The Language of Children."

A general meeting for the members of the **Royal Canadian Legion**, Branch 56, Granby at 7:30 at 172 Court St., Granby. For information call 372-5303.

A **500 Card Party** will be held in the Knowlton Legion Hall at 7:30. Admission is \$3.

Thursday, March 14

The March meeting of the **Sutton Women's Institute** will be held at Cecil Carr's Studio, 40 South Main St. in Sutton at 11:30. New members and guests are welcome. A sandwich lunch will be served.

Monday, March 18

A **500 Card Party** will be held in the Knowlton Legion Hall at 7:30. Admission is \$3.

Arts Calendar

Arts Sutton Gallery presents paintings and drawings by **Janet Logan** and **Bernard Gamoy**. The two artists use their work to depict the major political and social events which influence society. The exhibit opens with a vernissage on Saturday, 2 till 5. See story below for details.

February 28 to March 9

The **Knowlton Players** present the Neil Simon comedy **Come Blow Your Horn** at Theatre Lac Brome. Performances on Feb. 28, March 1, 2, 8 and 9, start at 8:30. There will also be a **matinée** March 3 at 2. Tickets are \$5 each and are available at The Townslipper, Paddie's Boutique, Oh! La! La! Chocolates, or by calling 243-1061.

March 9 and 9

Brome Beaux-Arts presents the **Trio Fantasia** with Valerie Kinslow at the **Old Brick Church** in West Brome Saturday at 8 and Sunday at 3. The trio consists of **Sophie Rivard** (baroque violin), **Mary Cyr** (viola de gamba) and **Sandra Mangsen** (harpsichord). They will perform works by Rameau, Marais and Leclair. Admission is free. For more information call 263-2346.

Saturday, March 16

Sound Unlimited presents an evening of rock & roll at the **Knowlton Playhouse**, featuring **Beyond** and special guest **Stonehenge**. Starts at 9 o'clock. Admission is \$3 at the door.

Community Notes

All those interested in meditating for peace are invited to come to the **Center of Inner Light** in Sutton on Thursday evenings at 7:30 for group meditation. For information, please call Kitty Nunnelle, 538-3624. No charge.

Brome County Community Billboard is published as a free service to the community. If you have a notice you wish to have appear in the Billboard, send it to: Brome County Community Billboard, c/o The Record, 88 Lakeside Road, Brome Lake, Quebec, JOE IVO; or 2850 Delorme St., Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1K 1A1. Or just drop it by the Knowlton office. Material must be received by Monday noon, the week of publication. Always be sure to include a phone number.



Freda Hudson, a long-time literacy advocate, was presented an award for her work in the field by **Brome Missisquoi MP Gabrielle Bertrand** last week.

The **Literacy Volunteer Award** is sponsored by the **Canadian Library Association** and presented to volunteers who give their time and energy to teach adults to read and write. **One in five Canadians** have a reading deficiency.

The **Yamaska Literacy Council**, one of 141 Laubach-affiliated councils across Canada is working to reduce the problem of illiteracy in this area. The council trains volunteer tutors to teach literacy skills to older youth and adults. The service is free, confidential and given on a one to one basis.

Hudson is an executive member of the **Yamaska Literacy Council**. She was instrumental in developing publicity material for use across Canada. She designed a "student kit" distributed to 2800 students and has been writing stories and books for use by the literacy council clientele. As past chairperson of the YCL Mrs. Hudson continues to promote literacy and publicize the issue on a local and national level.

Bertrand extended her congratulations to Hudson and her colleagues at the Yamaska Literacy Council for their wonderful work.

Anyone interested in more information can contact **Donna Ross** at the Literacy Council at 263-3775.

the Record

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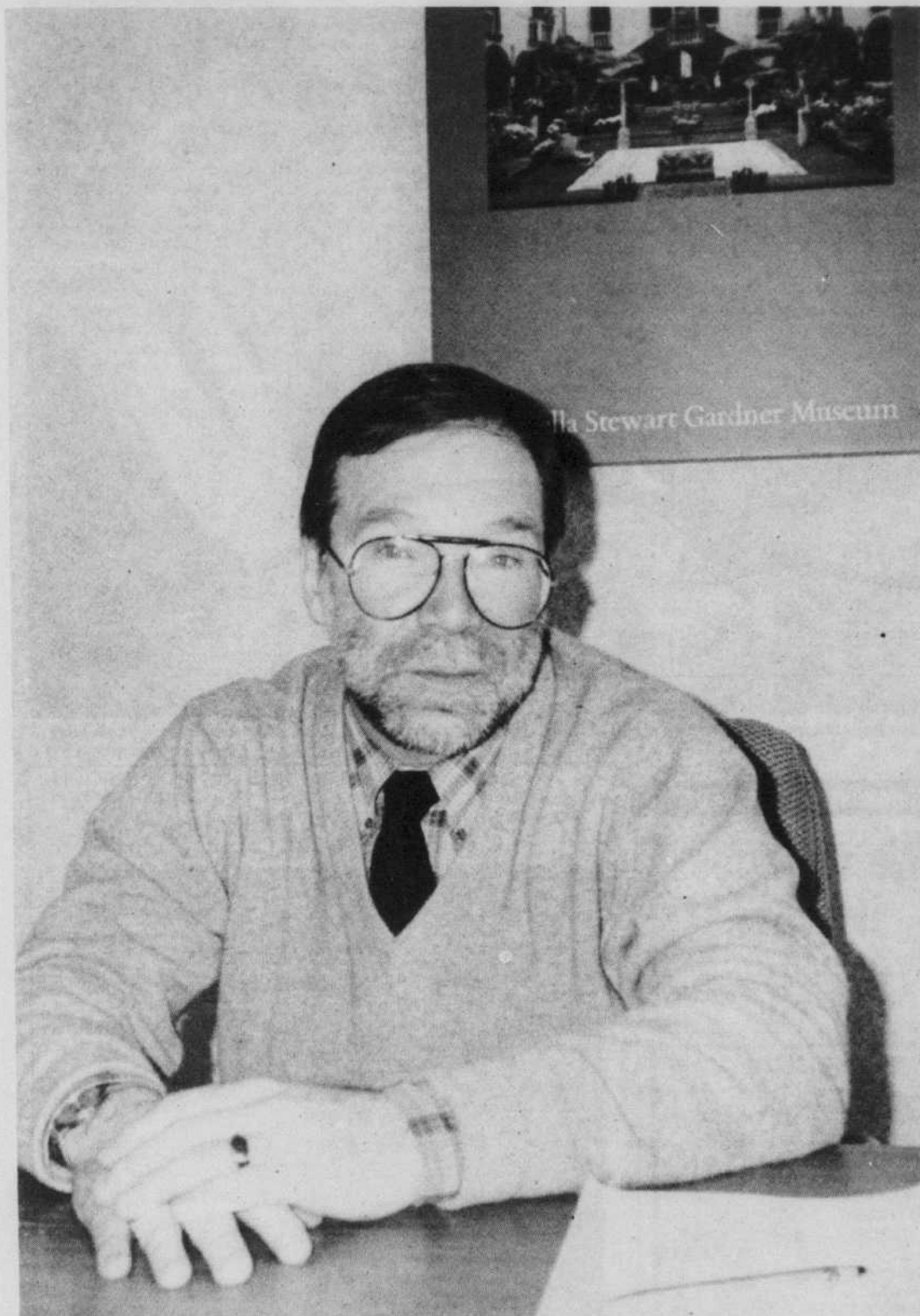
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CONSERVONS NOS SOLS

Creary honored for work with mentally handicapped



Ron Creary... 'Our aim has always been the integration of our clients into the community.'

By Sharon McCully

GRANBY — He's done it again. For the second time this year, Ron Creary, Director General of Butters Center has been recognized for his outstanding contribution to public health and social services.

Creary was honored last May by the Association of Quebec reception centers at a gala event in Quebec City. He received the provincial award for his work in the area of deinstitutionalization of intellectually-handicapped people.

Last month, Creary was honored by the Montérégie regional health council for his efforts in responding to the needs of intellectually-handicapped people.

Candidates for the awards are

evaluated by an impartial jury on the basis of their work with clientele, the long-term impact of their work, and the image they have helped create of their health establishment and its clientele.

LIKELY CHOICE

Creary's 16-year career with the Butters center makes him a likely choice for the honors.

The Butters center and its branches serve 600 intellectually-

handicapped people in Brome Missisquoi and Haute Yamaska region.

"Butters is a unique concept," Creary said in an interview this week. "Because of our structure we've been able to do a lot of things others would be unable to do."

In 1975, the Butters Center for intellectually handicapped people established a foundation to help meet some of its objectives.

"Our aim has always been the integration of our clients into the community," Creary said. "Once the objective became clear in our minds, everything else was negotiable."

Last year, the remaining 235 intellectually handicapped residents of Butters' Austin campus were placed in private or groups homes, ending an era of institutionalized care.

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION

When the deinstitutionalization process kicked into gear, the Butters Foundation purchased homes in the communities which resembled any other house on the street. Residents were gradually integrated into the community with the help of Butters staff members.

"In 1985, the operation started to get too big for the foundation, so we started a new corporation called Butters Homes," Creary said.

Because one handicapped person sits on the Board of Directors of the non-profit corporation, Butters Homes is eligible for funding from *La Société d'Habitation du Québec*. Funding from the SHQ has helped Butters purchase 18 homes for clients.

What we are seeking is an integrated living environment where

we have handicapped people living side by side with the non-handicapped, Creary said.

In addition to clients who live in Butters Homes, many are living in substitute or foster families, or with their natural families.

PHILOSOPHIES EVOLVED

Creary says just as the philosophy of providing services for intellectually handicapped people has changed dramatically over the past 20 years, so too are major changes forecast for the future.

"At one end of the scale, we have children and parents requiring a certain type of service, and at the other end, we have the process of community integration for those who were institutionalized.

"We don't wait anymore for a handicapped person to be 20 years old before we start providing services," Creary said.

"We begin to train parents to be good teachers at birth," he said. "By the time their child is five or six, we help get them integrated into school. When he's 20, we have a much person with very different needs."

Adapting to the changing needs of its clientele has been one of the strengths of the Butters Center.

"We have 150 people living normal who have been integrated into the community have demonstrated we have the right philosophy," Creary said.

Creary credits the 400 employees and the 1700 volunteers and donors who have contributed to the success of the Butters network.

"There's a long tradition in the Eastern Townships of doing things for ourselves," Creary said. "It's a Townships mentality."

RECORD/SHARON McCULLY



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Volunteers help poor stretch their food

By Sharon McCully

COWANSVILLE — Keeping bread and butter on the table three weeks after the monthly cheque arrives, is a challenge of Herculean proportion.

But there's help. A group in Cowansville, under the auspices of the *Centre de Bénévolat*, has initiated a community kitchen program to help the monthly cheque go farther.

The project was launched this week when volunteer Regina Lapointe and her first client went shopping.

Lapointe and the single mother of two small children spent Monday afternoon mulling over the sales circulars distributed by the two major grocery outlets in the town. After studying the specials of the week, the two constructed a weekly meal plan.

PLAN MENUS

"If beef is on special," explained Odette Sanborn of the volunteer centre, "they will plan a menu for the week around beef."

After snipping coupons and planning the meals, Lapointe and her client go shopping.

"If they buy a cheaper cut of beef, they could have stew one day, and maybe Shepherd's pie with the leftover beef, then make soup with the bone," Odette said.

Stretching the food dollar is the

object of the exercise. Once the groceries are bought, the cooking begins.

Lapointe is no stranger to the community kitchen at Ste. Thérèse Church. For the past seven years, she has been preparing meals for Meals on Wheels and operating a weekly soup kitchen for the hungry.

This week, she will help the young mother prepare meals for a week with the groceries purchase.

"Once the meals are prepared, she can bring them home and freeze them," explained Lapointe, the mother of one and grandmother of two.

EXPAND PROGRAM

"The program will expand gradually," Odette said.

Beneficiaries will be drawn from the group who regularly frequent the soup kitchen and food bank.

"Sometimes people look in their fridge or their cupboard and they think there's no food," Odette said. "But with some creativity, they could prepare a casserole, or a nourishing soup for their families."

The community kitchen project is designed to help families on low and fixed incomes maximize their food dollars.

For more information on the project, call the Centre de Bénévolat at 263-3758.



Regina Lapointe and Helene Salois run a community kitchen which helps poor people plan food budgets.

RECORD/SHARON McCULLY



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St. James Evening Guild meets

FOSTER — The February meeting of St. James Guild was hosted by Doreen Gibbs at her home on Wednesday afternoon, February 13.

The President, Dot de Solla called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. The Lord's prayer and Guild prayer were recited in unison, followed by a prayer for peace by the president. Ten members and two visitors were welcomed.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. The treasurer gave her report. The corresponding secretary reported two sympathy and two get-well cards sent and two thank-you notes received, one included a donation.

The work convenor had some hand towels donated. A number of quilt blocks had been given. As no one was prepared to make a quilt, it was decided to put them in our rummage sales.

A petition was circulated for those against using the book of alternate services instead of the prayer book.

As there will be a confirmation service in Foster this year, prayer books will be ordered for presentation to those being confirmed.

The March 13th meeting will be hosted by Frances Johnson at 2 p.m. at her home.

The lucky draw was won by Suzy Allen.

The president moved the adjournment, seconded by Elvia Johnson.

Following the benediction, re-

freshments were served by the hostess who was thanked by the president and seconded by all present.

Card parties

KNOWLTON — The Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion held two very successful card parties during the month of February.

On the 4th 500 was played at 18 tables, winners being ladies first, score 5440, Annie Ladd, 2nd, 5420, Elvia Johnson, consolation, Helen McJovern, 2100. Men's 1st 6400, Roy Tinkler, 2nd, 5100, Gordon Marsh, consolation, Sid de Solla, 2820.

Several door prizes were won and a floating prize went to George Wilson.

On February 18 at the Legion hall 500 was again played at 15 tables with prize winners: Ladies 1st, Eva Page, score 5890, 2nd, Mollie Jones, 5860, consolation, Lee Anne Gravel 2280. Men's 1st, Peter Dixon, 6160, Lawrence Marsh, 5900, consolation, Brian Badger, 2590.

Floating prize went to Kay Gummer and the 10 spade bid to Barbara Tremblay and Lawrence Marsh. Several door prizes were also won by lucky people.

There will be another card party on March 4 and also on March 18. Thank-you all for supporting us.

Unraveling access-to-info myths: Just what is a document anyway?

You learn something new in this business every day. Last Friday was no exception.

I learned my something at a workshop on access to information sponsored by our newspaper association — the Association of Quebec Regional English Media (AQREM).

Now I come from the school of thought that if there's a bank of information somewhere that affects you should be able to cash in on it.

The government has narrowed that view somewhat to exclude those things which may compromise another individual's right to privacy. The (Quebec) act respecting access to documents held by public bodies outlines which documents are accessible to the public — and how we can go about obtaining them.

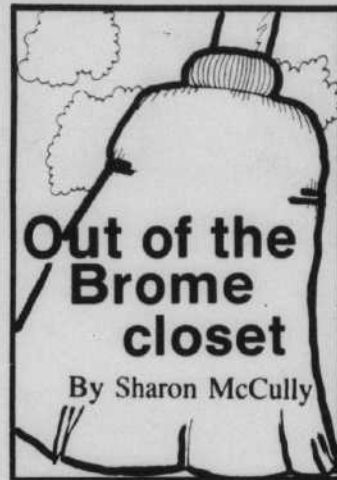
At last Friday's workshop, Diane Poitras, a lawyer with the *Commission d'accès de l'information* gave the textbook response to the question: what constitutes a document?

There are 3800 public bodies in Quebec which must provide information to the public under the law. She then proceeded to elaborate — and that's when I became edu-

cated.

WHAT'S A DOCUMENT

Any written, graphic, sound, visual, or computerized document of



a public body is considered a document. Poitras said the definition includes the notes and minutes of work meetings which often precede regular public meetings.

Moderator Charles Bury aptly pointed out some town councils have a habit of conducting their business behind closed doors, then

appear before the public with a fait-accompli.

Poitras said the deliberations which take place in private, and ultimately become part of the public record, are open to public scrutiny — whether they're typewritten or scribbled on a piece of paper.

Poitras added that another tactic of elusion often employed by public bodies is to stamp DRAFT on the document, believing only final documents are accessible to the public.

Some agencies NEVER finish their work, Bury pointed out.

It's academic. Drafts are equally accessible, according to Poitras.

Public bodies I suspect will want to send requests for such documents to the tribunal for a decision. Don't be deterred.

If there's a scrap of paper you feel you have a right to see, make the request in writing. Wait the compulsory 20 days, then allow the ten day extension. If the request is not honored by that time, submit the refusal to the *Commission d'accès a l'information*, 900 Place d'Youville Bureau 720, Quebec, G1R 3P7.

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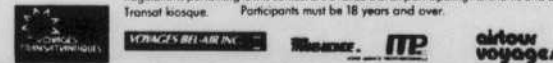
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Cowansville food bank provides nourishment to needy



Ed Bruhmuller... 'When he got there the cupboard was no longer bare.'

COWANSVILLE — When Frances Arnauld and her husband suddenly found themselves without an income, they weren't sure where to turn.

"My husband was laid off and we were down to our last \$50," Arnauld recalls.

"I started looking around to see where we would be able to get help if we need it," Arnauld said. "You feel so alone."

"Fortunately, things worked out for us. But the thought of having no place to go for help when you're down and out stayed in my mind," she said.

"At the time my mother had mentioned, it's too bad there wasn't a food bank in town. I thought about it for a while, then called our church minister to see what he thought about the idea," Arnauld said.

Minister Charles Morris brought the idea to his congregation and last January a small group of volunteers opened a weekly food bank at Trinity Church in Cowansville.

Every Wednesday when the volunteers open the church doors, some 20 families filter in.

BUSY MONTH END

"We see a lot of single mothers, and people on welfare — especially towards the last week of the month," noted volunteer Mary Lechasseur.

"There are some really sad cases," she added. "We try to arrange three meals a day for them until pay-day."

Last Wednesday, Lechasseur and volunteer Evelyn Bruhmuller wrote grocery orders for more than a dozen families. But they didn't shop at the store. The lists were given to volunteers Reg Miner and Ed Bruhmuller to be filled in the church pantry.

The most asked for items are spaghetti and potatoes, they say.

"But we try to encourage recipients to plan their meals to make the food go farther," commented Lechasseur.

"And we try not to be judgemental," added Bruhmuller.

Nobody leaves the food bank empty handed, Miner adds.

"If they come from another town and there's a food bank in their own town, we encourage them to go there next time," she said. "But nobody gets turned away."

PARISHIONERS GENEROUS

Nearly all of the food stockpiled in the Trinity Church pantry comes from parishioners. But thanks to the donations of community groups and organizations, the food bank has been able to add fresh food to the weekly diet of clients.

One local grocer has made the food bank a cause celebre.

"Maheu grocery has a box at the front of his store and he's devised a system so people can shop and donate non-perishables to the food bank," added Miner.

The food bank is open every Wednesday afternoon from 1 till 3 at 405 South Street in Cowansville.

If you would like to make a donation to the food bank, drop by any morning from Wednesday to Friday.

Cash donations are tax deductible. Make cheque payable to Helping Hands Food Bank, 405 South Street, Cowansville, J2K 2X6.

Cadets move to Waterloo school

WATERLOO — During the evening of February 15, Mr. Richard Staples, Principal of Waterloo Elementary school officially welcomed the Waterloo Sea Cadet Corps to the school. The cadet corps will become yet another aspect of the school's multi-faceted offerings to Waterloo youths of both languages.

Several noted personalities were present, including Claudette Boulanger of the Waterloo Service des Loisirs, Jim Wilkinson of the Royal Canadian legion, Oliva Tremblay of the Optimist Club and Marc Courtemanche of the Knights of

Columbus.

During the inauguration ceremonies, the cadets expressed their deep appreciation for Staples' support and cooperation. Without his help, the 80-odd cadets would have had no permanent locale as of January, 1991.

They were squeezed out of the Sacré Coeur school in December, where they had been since the founding of the corps seven years ago. This was due to the fact that renovations will be undertaken very shortly on the Ste Anne de la Rochelle school and the pupils of

that school will be transferred to the Sacré Coeur school for the duration of the work, leaving no room for the cadets.

MILESTONE

The move to the elementary school is a major milestone for the cadets.

The new school provides an improved setting for their activities, both pedagogical and practical. The cadet program is particularly effective in allowing a cadet, girl or boy, between the ages of 12-18 to learn the skills of effective and responsible citizenship and leadership.

The Commander of the Corps, Lieutenant Sylvie Robidoux, indicated the move was timely considering the very active agenda of cadet activities for the coming months.

She also highlighted contributions, both financial and otherwise, of the many friends of the cadets which have enabled the continued existence and progression of the corps over the years, particularly in the last few months.

Robidoux re-iterated her thanks to Mr. Staples for allowing the transition to have been effected so smoothly.



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Anna wins French speaking prize at Sutton School

By Sharon McCully

SUTTON — Walking away with top honors in a public-speaking contest is enough to cheer about. But 10-year-old Anna Bellavance had an even greater cause to celebrate.

The grade five anglophone student was competing against her French-speaking classmates — in French.

She scored top marks last week after delivering her speech entitled "Friends of peace" in impeccable French.

Anna is enrolled in the French section of one of Quebec's most unique schools. École Sutton School is actually two separate schools with two different school boards under the same roof. The joint school project was born from necessity five years ago.

Enrollment was declining at both elementary schools in the town prompting administrators to explore various scenarios.

COMBINED RESOURCES

Parents and educators at both the French and English language schools agreed they would like to see the elementary aged school children remain in the community. The two school boards agreed to combine their resources within one building.

"I don't know where else such a project could have been possible," noted Linda Bellavance, Anna's mother. "Sutton is a very bilingual community and it just seemed like a natural thing to do."

Both Linda, a teacher and her husband Allan, an architect, are English-speaking.

"Our total home environment is English," Linda said. "Our TV, books, conversation — everything is English."

"We wanted to ensure our children would be able to participate fully in this bilingual community," Linda said.

They opted for the fast track to French language training, enrolling Anna 10, and Erik 7 in the

French section of Sutton school.

Anna says she doesn't recall any particular difficulty.

"I mixed with both the English and the French kids, at the school!" she said. "Sometimes I played with my English friends and sometimes with my French friends."

TOTAL IMMERSION

Her younger brother Erik admits that being immersed in a totally French environment has its frustrations.

"Like when you're trying to figure out the right words to say," he says.

Anna's easy command of both languages at age 10 has allowed her to participate in community activities with friends from both language groups.

"When Anna was in figure skating in Cowansville, most of the children and instructors spoke French," Linda said. "When she was involved with skiing, a lot of the kids were English."

"It's like having double the number of friends," added Anna.

Last week's victory has particular significance for Anna's family.

"It makes us feel really proud that here we are, an English family, and our daughter is on stage giving a speech in French — and winning," said Linda.

But for Anna, the language was secondary. She thought she had a pretty good speech — in any language.



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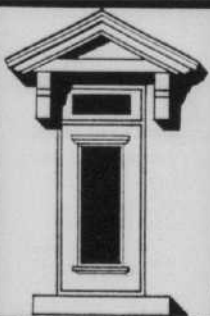
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How does one master the art of leading a pig with a bridle?

At a county auction I attended recently a bundle of old Family Heralds tied in baling sold for nearly \$2.00 each, and I was so intrigued by the spirited bidding that I went to some trouble to make the acquaintance of the buyer.

I was surprised to find him so young a man. "No," he said, "I'm not a farmer. Didn't even come from a farm family. I'm not a collector of antiques either. I teach English, High School English, and I spend more time than most on the short story; and I've yet to find any stories that go over better with my classes than what I can find in these old Family Heralds. Most of them are Canadian stories too! Happy ones! And Canadian short stories with happy endings are practically extinct, you know!"

Now had I not determined last New Year's to be more modest I would have told this teacher why I was so interested in his purchase! That for 20 years I had been an editor of the now deceased Family Herald, and that more than anyone else I had been responsible for the selection of the stories he now had under his arm.

It was in 1948 when I surrendered a very comfortable position in the University of Michigan's English Department to come to Montreal and the Family Herald and my first meeting with the Editor was a memorable one. I had of course been warned that this man could be quite difficult.

R.S. Kennedy was a gruff, self-assured man who had been wounded four times in World War I. The last time he had been hit he lay for three days in No Man's

Land before someone detected signs of life in him and ordered the stretcher-bearers to retrieve him. He had only one eye now.

H. Gordon Green



"I see you come from pioneer Canadian stock," Kennedy said as he leafed through my pedigree that first morning. "Good, good, and I hope Michigan didn't make too much of a Yank of you. For the job you have with us now it's pretty important to be Canadian... I don't know what you know about the late Lord Atholstan who founded the Montreal Star and the Family Herald. He wasn't exactly a saint, you know, but he was a great Canadian. And ever since this journal began publication back in 1869 he had this compulsion to find and promote Canadian writers. Published Charles G.D. Roberts long before Charles was a "Sir", he did. Lucy Maud Montgomery, Frederick Philip Grove, H.A. Cody, James Oliver Curwood, Ernest Buckler, Theodore Goodrich Roberts, -the Family Herald was where they all got their start.

"How come then, that we've never been given much credit for our contribution to Canadian letters? Well in spite of the fact that we enjoy the largest paid circulation of any magazine in Canada, we're still a farm magazine, and our

literary people just don't pay much attention to farm magazines...

The Family Herald was a weekly and every issue carried at least one complete short in addition to a serial, and over eighty percent of this fiction, so I was proudly told that first morning, was the work of Canadians. It was hoped that I could keep it that way and that I would continue the policy of encouraging beginners who showed distinct promise. I would have two assistants to share the reading with me.

"And I hope you'll be especially kind to any writer who can put a lump in your throat," Kennedy told me. "I don't know about you but whenever I'm reading something that starts dampening this black eye patch of mine, I know I've met a writer I'd like to meet again."

He wasn't particularly partial to blood and thunder stories, he said. He'd had enough blood and thunder in real life.

I was with the Family Herald now sometimes referred to lovingly as "the grand old lady with all the petticoats"-until at the age of 99 years and with no warning whatsoever she ceased publication. Subscribers and staff alike were shocked and angered, but I knew that I had been singularly fortunate to have been part of this historic journal so long. Had I elected to stay in Michigan back in '48—and I very nearly did—I am sure that the University could not have added more to my education, nor could it have given me a richer, more satisfying life.

But one of the most surprising things I was to learn when I took over my new desk was that even then so many Canadians knew so

very little of country life. And even more disturbing was the fact that so many Canadians were rather proud of such ignorance.

"Capon, mister? You're tryin' to tell me a capon is a castrated rooster? Come on now, a rooster had no testicles!"

Then there was the cute little schoolteacher who blushing confessed that she thought you had to have a rooster to make the hens lay eggs, and the college graduate who was sure I was pulling his leg when I tried to convince him that you don't get milk from a cow until that cow has had a calf.

"Even a dairy cow?" he asked. "Really?"

But nowhere was the gulf between town and country so evident as in some of the stories I now had to read. The Family Herald never appeared on newstands and made no attempt to sell subscriptions to city dwellers. Nevertheless with every mail came manuscripts bearing city addresses.

Trouble was that so many of these came from writers who supposed it would be easier to make a sale to us if they would only make sure that their stories were suitably countrified. And I saw so many of these countrified tales that I got to know most of the plots by heart.

Heading the list I think would be the story of the slightly soiled, slightly spoiled city girl who finds herself the wife of a struggling young farmer in some dismal backend of nowhere. Her eyes were always blue, her hair the colour of ripe wheat or clover honey or fresh dairy butter. But her cup of bitterness finally runneth over and so one day after a year or so of the weary endurance of married bliss she decides to leave it all — her drab and faithful husband included.

So she waits until the drab and faithful husband is sweating it out in the farthest end of the back forty, packs her bags, steals the egg money from the cracked teapot on the top shelf of the cupboard and goes out toward the highway where there always seems to be a convenient bus heading for civilization.

I used to see that beginning so

often that I got into the habit of jumping to about page eight or ten, because somewhere around pages eight or ten I used to see some rather remarkable things happen to our heroine. Once I saw God Almighty resolve the plot very neatly by manufacturing a sudden storm and striking the barn with a bolt of lightning. (No woman with any self-respect can desert a man when his barn is afire.)

I have also seen the tractor turn over in the back forty just as the bus was in sight, and her drab and faithful husband pinned hopelessly beneath it. I remember that once as she waited for that bus she was unexpectedly met by an old girl friend seeking a few days of escape from the city because the devilish speed of the place was setting her wild.

Another time the transformation proved to be strictly internal. Just as our heroine was taking a last look at the lilacs by the gate the Lord appeared unto her as he once did to Sarah somewhere in the suburbs of Sodom and discreetly revealed that the real reason for the queasy feeling in her stomach was morning sickness! Yes, by God, she was pregnant!

But the transformation always came. That heroine never quite made it to that bus, and for some ridiculous reason the story ending that intrigued me most was the one in which she was just turned around to take one last look at the cursed old house she is about to leave forever, and so help me she sees that the old sow has broken through the garden gate again and is sampling the dahlias. And instinctively this remarkable woman dashes back up the lane, raging at the sow in a language she never used before she came to this farm, and with her suitcase as a shield she backed that blankety-blank sow into a corner, put a bridle on it and led it back into the barn where it belonged.

I remember writing that young writer personally. Told her that I had a dozen blankety-blank sows of my own at home and that I would be exceedingly grateful if she could tell me how one mastered the art of leading a pig with a bridle.



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Committee wants Missisquoi Bay biosphere reserve

By Sharon McCully

BEDFORD — A regional conservation committee has been formed with the aim of establishing a biosphere reserve in the Missisquoi Bay region.

France Pelletier, a Philipsburg adult education teacher and ecologist was elected president of the new group at its first public meeting Feb. 12 in Bedford.

"We tried in 1989 to work on a similar project but it didn't work because in the designated territory there were very few protected zones," Pelletier said in an interview this week.

Biosphere reserves, which are recognized internationally, must have some protected ecological sites within the proposed territory.

To receive a designation, each biosphere reserve must have a protected core of undisturbed landscape. The area may be comprised of forests, or a combination of forest, meadows, and waterways.

In neighboring Vermont, an Adirondak biosphere reserve on Lake Champlain has already been established.

SHARED RESOURCE

"Since we share the resource, it

only makes sense that it should be included in a Canadian biosphere reserve," Pelletier said.

The objective of establishing a reserve is not exclusively for environmental protection, Pelletier said, although it is one aspect.

Conservation of ecosystems, the collection of data regarding wildlife, plants and trees found on the reserve, and land management are some of the objectives.

Biosphere reserves in Canada are recognized under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) program, a non-governmental organization associated with the world organization UNESCO.

The designation of "biosphere" signifies the area is a good example of ways in which conservation objectives can be balanced with development.

"We are not against development," Pelletier stressed. "Our objective is to plan development in a way which protects our natural environment."

ECOLOGICALLY-SENSITIVE

"It is possible to plan development outside the buffer zones of

ecologically sensitive areas," Pelletier said. "There are many ways the land in a biosphere can be used for recreational or educational purposes."

Four committees were established following last week's meeting to carry out the objectives of the group.

At the top of the agenda is the collection of all data and studies undertaken by groups, government departments and universities in the Lake Champlain region.

Pelletier said it is too early to say which area of Brome Missisquoi will be included in the proposed biosphere reserve. But early indications point to a 100-mile stretch from the Ruiter Valey to St. Armand, which already includes four protected areas.

The committee will submit a request for acceptance as a biosphere reserve to MAB this fall.

Pelletier says she is encouraged by the response to the concept.

"More than 70 people came to the first meeting from all walks of life and from all communities in the Missisquoi Bay region," she said.

"Many people recognize the unique characteristics we have in our region," Pelletier said. "The motivation to conserve what we have must now come from individuals."

Pelletier said a public consultation will be held before application to MAB is made in the fall.



RECORD/SHARON MCCULLY

France Pelletier... 'We are not against development. Our objective is to plan development in a way which protects our natural environment.'

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Saddlebag preachers began spreading Methodism in early 1800s

Here is another in our series of articles on churches in the Brome County region written by local authors.

By Phyllis Hamilton

"The first adherents to the Wesleyan Methodist Society were those who came under the influence of the itinerant preachers who came up from the New England States, their Bibles in their saddlebags. They crossed the unmarked border and rode the forest trails to search out the small clearings and settler's cabins, in an otherwise unbroken wilderness."

In the "History of the Eastern Townships" by C. Thomas which was published in 1866 it says, "The first Methodist meeting of which we have any record, was held in Philipsburg in 1806. The presiding elder was James Eames and the preacher was Reuben Harris."

"The first register for 15 preaching points which included Bedford and points from Dunham to St. Armand and as far west as Noyan and north to Stone Settlement. (St. Ignace de Stanbridge) was issued "to the people called Methodists and paraphrased by Judge Foucher on paril 15, 1820. This register was granted to the

Rev. Richard Williams of the Wesleyan Congregation of Methodists in St. Armand."

SOCIETY FORMED

"As early as 1838 there was a Methodist Society formed by a group of farmers living south of Bedford (presumably, Morgan's Corner) (from History of Missisquoi County.)"

"In 1842, Pike River was mentioned as having a Methodist Society. A group of Methodists led by Mr. Caleb Corey held meetings in private homes and in the old stone school house, one and a half miles from Bedford. Corey had a portable melodion, which he carried under his buggy seat and played for hymn singing at the meetings."

The Philipsburg Methodist Church built in 1819, served as head of the circuit reaching as far as Dunham. However, by 1870 many of the Methodist adherents in the area began to move from outlying areas into Bedford and from the minutes of a meeting recorded in Philipsburg on June 7, 1871, these words were entered, "Arrangements have been made to build a church in the village of Bedford, an object long sought and wished for by the ministers labouring amongst us in the past."

A Board of Trustees was formed

consisting of Laston Snyder, Caleb Corey, Andrew Stevens, David Smith, Addison Smith, George Halcrow and Nathaniel Shaw.

World Day of Prayer will be held at the Baptist Church on Friday, March 1 at 2 p.m. An Ecumenical service with participation by Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Pentecostal and United Churches. All are welcome. Theme: "On the Journey Together".

GRANBY

The Ladies Auxiliary of Granby will be holding their monthly Flea Market on March 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Legion Hall, 172 Court Street, Granby.

BRICKS AND STONES

On May 30 of that year a piece of land was purchased by the afore-

mentioned Board of Trustees from Martin Beck for \$225. "Mr. Rix is busy getting stones and bricks ready to start building the new Methodist Church in Bedford," the local newspaper reported in Aug. 1871.

In the May 1, 1872 issue of "The Christian Guardian" the Wesleyan newspaper, it is stated, "At Bedford we have succeeded in erecting a nice brick church...to be opened after Conference."

Presumably the church was dedicated as planned with the Rev. Dr. Thomas Kelly as the minister but no other information about the beginning year is available perhaps due to the fact that the records burned in Sweetburg in 1887.

Bedford at that time was an appointment on the St. Armand Circuit where Dr. Kelly was stationed.

He made a beautiful oak pulpit with his own hands and presented to the Congregation. This was later replaced in 1946 by a new one.

FIRST CLERGYMAN

The first clergyman whose name appears on the church records was the Pastor at St. Armand from 1873 to 1875, Rev. John Davies. He was followed by the John Grenfell who became the first settled minister of the new circuit and the parsonage was erected at a cost of \$1500 in 1877 during his ministry. It became a self supporting circuit in 1882 and the membership grew from 81 in 1877 to 136 in 1896.

The adjoining entry tower was added in 1901 at a cost of \$600. A bell was installed at the time. The church hall dates back to 1828 when it was built further down the road



Bedford's Wesleyan United Church still carries on the work of pioneers who congregated here so many years ago.



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Bedford's Wesley United Church built in 1872

as a school house. It was later moved to its present site and served as a harness shop. In 1956 an extension joining the church and hall was built.

The church has caught fire, once seriously menaced in 1891, and flooded in 1904.

An extensive project between 1914-1917 resulted in a beautiful lawn and added trees at the front of the lovely red brick church with its Gothic stained glass memorial windows and white shuttered belfry which sits atop the entry tower.

MODERN HEATING

The basement was excavated and a furnace replaced the old box stoves and long lengths of pipe in the 1930s. Between 1940 and 1960 many improvements were made including a new hall being built at the rear of the building and a new Hammond Organ purchased.

The church was completely renovated with new pews and altar chairs being installed before the celebration of the Church Centennial in 1971.

In June 1925, the Bedford Methodist Church joined as did the rest of the Methodist Churches, with the Congregational and most Presbyterian churches in Canada to become the United Church of Canada.

The change was accepted easily by the congregation probably due to the influence of the young minister, R.S. Smith, who helped them to feel that the best of the three previous denominations had gone into making the new United Church a reality.

STAINED GLASS GIFTS

The congregation has added to the beauty of the church with many memorial gifts — outstanding of which are the eight beautiful stained glass windows.



The one in the south wall of the sanctuary was given by Forest Lord in memory of the Rix-Lord family. The three on the east wall are in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Martin; Mr. Marvin Smith and Charles Owen Jones, Sr. The one on the north wall is in memory of Mr. and Mrs. W. Harbinson and the three west windows commemorate the Batcheller family, the Stevens family and Mr. and Mrs. Holmes. The stained glass window in the tower entry was donated by Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Gilman.

Many other gifts add to the beauty of the worship services by their continual reminder of others who have worked for and worshipped in this House of God.

This church has had an active Sunday School and other youth groups over the years. Around 1950, the "Young Peoples Union" presented the oak baptismal font to the church.

The active Ladies Aid ran the dining

room for two days during the Annual Fall Exhibition (Bedford Fair) as early as 1912.

What stamina these ladies portrayed to carry out this undertaking! Water had to be carried and heated in boilers on the old black kitchen ranges, and baking must have been done for many days ahead. The amounts of potatoes to be peeled and roasts of beef and pork and pots of gravy must have been unbelievable. Not to mention the mountains of dirty dishes to be washed. All this to support and keep their church functioning. Many of the repairs and renovations over the years were carried out because of the help of the women's groups.

In 1950, Bedford became the head of a four-point charge which included Philipsburg, Stanbridge East and Mystic.

Wesley United Church is still a vibrant congregation carrying on the work of the many pioneers who first congregated here so many years ago. Many of the parishioners are fourth and fifth generation members, who, led by their present minister, Rev. Vicki Cowan, are making a lasting contribution to this church's life, by their gifts and talents.

Sources:

History of the Eastern Townships by C. Thomas

Missisquoi County Historical Society, Vol. 12

Wesley United Church—Centennial Book, Bedford, Quebec, 1871-1971

Appreciation for information to Mrs. Marion Oakes, Mrs. Hilda Soles, Mrs. Esther Gilman.

Settlers coming into a new and challenging land developed their communities around the church and most schools were started by the religious educators of the day. With this in mind the Sir John Johnston Branch of the United Empire Loyalists is researching the history of the old churches of the Eastern Townships. Anyone wishing to submit a history of their local church can send it to: Phyllis Hamilton, 555 Church St., Granby, Quebec, J2G 4S2.

Creek United Church Women hold meeting

WEST BOLTON (AW) — Nine members of the Creek United Church Women met in the church hall at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 20.

The president, Margo Allen called the meeting to order and the UCW Purpose read in unison. She then led the time of worship and had chosen the topic "Grace". The Scripture reading was from Acts, chapter 3 — "A Lame Man is Healed." The article on Grace was taken from "Getting it all Together", a publication from the Division of Missions of Canada of the United Church of Canada. Mar-

go closed the worship by prayer.

Program convenor, Jean Webster had chosen "Women and the Media" as the topic for discussion and consideration. One of the questions was: "of radio, television, comics, newspapers, movies, other, if you could have access to one type of media only, what would you choose?"

Two of the ladies present were celebrating birthdays this month, so Happy Birthday was sung to them.

Three other members had sent their regrets that they were unable to attend this meeting.

Correspondence consisted of three thank-you notes. The minutes and Treasurer's report were read.

New business consisted of planning for a bakeless bake-sale which will be started soon and the May rummage sale.

The next meeting will be March 20 at the church with Margaret Ludovici as hostess.

The singing of the hymn, "Let There Be Peace" brought the meeting to a close, and a time of fellowship followed as refreshments provided by Jean Webster were much enjoyed.

UCW meeting

MANSONVILLE (BN) — Sixteen people enjoyed the noon meal at Reilly House New Horizon Centre as the United Church Women met for their February 7th business session and time of fellowship.

Hostesses were Marjorie Newell, Lila McCoy, Mary Jewett and Lina Tomuschat. Bertha Nichols chaired the meeting, was in charge of the many cards sent out and took care of the Treasurer's report. Jean McNeil presented the worship service choosing hymn, Bible readings and meditations with the theme of "Love". Marjorie Newell acted as Secretary pro tem, reading the roll call and minutes of the last meeting.

Correspondence received was read, a report on January Enrichment Day heard, more mem-

berships received and local announcements given, including the next meeting, March 7 at the same place with a reminder that the Penny Fair will be held.

The highlight of this meeting was a most interesting description by Heather Keith Ryan of her recent visit to Australia and New Zealand via Hawaii. Heather had albums of beautiful photographs to augment her very informative narrations. Her visits to the southeastern coastal regions of Australia, its cities, beaches, snowy mountains and cars with "Roo-bars" gave her listeners insight of the continent not found in geography books.


Members were reminded to try to attend the World Day of Prayer at the Baptist Church on March 1 at 2 p.m.



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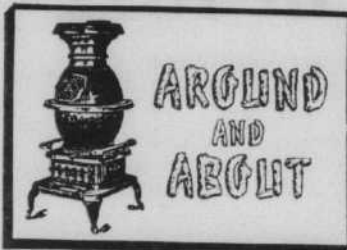


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Abbotsford

Mrs. Arlene Coates

Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the late Mrs. Margaret Neil from her many friends in this community and also to Mrs. E. Marshall in the loss of her sister Miss M. Hodgson whose death occurred recently.

Miss J. Watson of Laval visited her mother Mrs. E. Watson and sister Dianne over the weekend.

Mrs. G. Coates has returned home after spending a few days visiting her sister.

Mrs. B.A. Rowell recently spent a weekend with family in Ontario.

Mansonville

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Warm get-well wishes go to Au-

Golden Age Club News

MANSONVILLE — Golden Agers met on Tuesday, February 19 at the town hall and enjoyed luncheon of baked beans, ham, johnny cake, pickles, chocolate and white cakes, cookies, tea and coffee.

Donors were the club, George Hamelin and Verlie Aiken. Cash donations were received from Rita Marcoux, Elsie Knowlton and Mildred Atyeo. Rita Mossa thanked all for their generosity.

A get-well card was signed and sent to Maurice Côté who underwent surgery in a Granby hospital.

Dinners were sent out to three shut-ins today: Flora Drouin and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Carrier.

Door prizes: Verlie Aiken, Lina Tomuschat and Thelma Wilkins, Rita Marcoux and the club gave the door prizes.

500 winners: (1) Cecile Hamelin, (2) Rita Maroux, (1) Julienne McDuff, (2) Thelma Wilkins.

Game prizes: Mildred Atyeo, R.A. Pouliot, Elsie and Porter Knowlton, George Hamelin, Lina Tomuschat, Raymond Bedard and

UCW meeting

WATERLOO — The February meeting of St. Paul's UCW was held in the church hall on February 14. In keeping with St. Valentine's Day the hall was nicely decorated with red and white balloons and other mementos.

The president, M. Wilkinson, opened the meeting with the reading of a poem entitled "Come In". The Purpose was then read in unison.

Myrtle advised that we are hosting the World Day of Prayer on March 1st.

All were pleased with the new linoleum installed in the church entrance, and thanks expressed to all who helped.

Bobby read the roll call. There were 18 members and two visitors present. The minutes of the January meeting were read and

drey Clark who recently underwent surgery at the B.M.P. Hospital on January 28. She is home recuperating.

Happy congratulations to Tamara Hamelin and Mark Jersey for the arrival of their first child, Elizabeth Isabel on December 1, 1990.

Residents and family of Joseph Côté mourn his passing and sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Yvonne and the family, Yvette, Romeo and René.

Sincere sympathies are extended to Louise Oliver on the death of her sister, Mrs. Mildred (Destromp) Morey of Windsor, Que. on January 31.

This community remembers with fondness the time the late Leonard Noon shared with us as he lived at Highwater. His death occurred on January 8. Condolences are sent to his family.

Due to unusual circumstances, the birthday list was neglected, but belated greetings for January folks go to Mary Barnett, Roland Clark, Oliver Prive, Roger Mossa, Kathleen Barnett, Bessie Brown, Cinthia Marcoux, Marjorie Gibney and Letitia Cousins.

Those celebrating in February

Pearl Greenham.

WATERLOO — The Golden Age Club members met on January 28 with an attendance of 85, which included two new members, Paul Gagné and Helen McGovern, also two visitors, Joyce Blampin and Mary Lavers. Meeting opened in the usual manner with Carlton Ladd presiding.

Tickets were sold on six items, drawn for after the games had been played, winners being Lucy Wright, Edna Wing, Stella Mizener, Hildred Gibbon, Nellie Williams, Mildred McCullough.

500 was played at 17 tables with 17 players at the game tables. Winners at 500: Ladies 1st, Lillian Brown; 2nd, Hilda Marsh; men's 1st, Paul Gagné; 2nd, Roland Johnson. Ticket drawn from game table players was that of Hilda Hadd. Door prizes were won by 68 people (sorry, but space does not permit the list of all the names).

Refreshments were served at the close of the games.

approved. Five thank-you notes were received and 75 visits made.

Mildred reported seven get-well and three sympathy cards had been sent. Many non-perishable items were brought in for the benevolent Society.

The next meeting will be held on March 21 which will be our International dinner. M. Charles will show slides and speak on her trip to Mexico.

After repeating the Mizpah Benediction, a video, "Be Not Afraid" was shown, with the choir leading in the singing of two selections, "Be Not Afraid" and "Walk With Me", with J. Norris at the organ. Joan, Peggy and Marion read appropriate passages. A discussion followed.

Lunch was served by the hostesses, P. Cote and M. Charles.

are Murray Heath, Andrew and Nicholas Marcoux, Maurice Gardner, Katherine Blumenfeld, Ethel George (Mrs. Harry), Hazel Eldridge, Martha Sargent, Jane Woodard, Otto Elmaurer, Barbara Steinbach and Jo Guilbault. Also to Alice St. Onge and Asa Shepherd who are Côté Nursing Home residents. (Please let me know of other birthday people!)

People who heard of the accident on Valentine's Day involving Mer-

ry Webb and Charles Brown will be happy to know that Merry is slowly recovering at the C.H.U.S. in Sherbrooke from her many injuries; Charles suffered bruises and minor cuts which required stitches but he is back at classes at Mansonville Elementary School. During her convalescence, Merry's Holly and Peter are staying with Allen and Linda Jewett. A speedy and complete return to health, Merry, Merry's mother, Bertha Nichols,

sincerely appreciates the many phone calls showing concern and offers of help.

Helma Steinbach was hostess to the Vale Perkins United Church Worship Service on Thursday, February 14 with a group of ten gathering in prayer, Rev. Ryk Allen officiating, hymn singing, listening to God's Word, Meditation and fellowship. Helma served refreshments to close the afternoon.

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