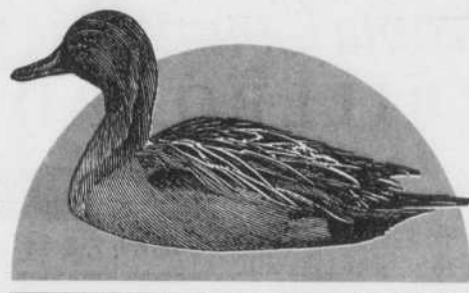


Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1997

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION WEEKLY IN BROME-MISSISQUOI



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Family and community roots intertwine Mini-museum in Mystic

By Maurice Crossfield
MYSTIC

For the Walbridge's, history is a family affair. In drawing on their rich history in the village of Mystic, the descendants of Solomon and Betsy Walbridge have managed to collect a wide variety of artifacts, oddities and stories that reflect not just their own genealogy, but the history of the surrounding community as well.

One hundred acres of the original family farm, including the region's only 12-sided barn, has been turned into a museum over the years, managed by the Walbridge Conservation Area Limited. While Frances Walbridge lives on the lower floor of the family home, the upstairs has been turned into a museum, filled with artifacts rarely seen anywhere.

"Calling it a museum is an overstatement," said Frances Walbridge in an interview Monday. "It's more like a collection of family memorabilia."

Nevertheless the farm attracts curiosity seekers by the dozens, as people stop by to get a look at history, and learn about the family's past from Frances Walbridge or her sisters Edith Walbridge and Dorothy Near. Though their brother Steven doesn't live in the area, he still takes an active interest in the farm and its future.

The story of the Walbridge family's Mystic experience dates back to 1822 when Solomon and Betsy first settled on the property. They had three daughters and one son, Alexander. He went on to become the head of the railroad works in Malone, New York. He returned to Mystic on the eve of the Civil War, where he founded the A.S. Walbridge, General Founder and Machinist.

The foundry prospered, and with it the fortunes of the tiny town. From one of the first horse drawn mowing machines to repairs on railway and steam



MAURICE CROSSFIELD

Frances Walbridge and Dorothy Near... family home turned into a museum filled with artifacts rarely seen anywhere.

engines, A.S. Walbridge did it all.

In 1882 Walbridge had his 12 sided barn built, similar in many ways to a railroad roundhouse. Using water power from the nearby brook, a horse and wagon could be driven in, the turntable rotated to the proper section of the barn, and the load removed. Once complete, the horse and wagon was rotated again so the horses could walk straight out the way they came in. The cattle lived in the area below the turntable.

Today the barn still stands, but over the years the elaborate turntable became unsafe and was eventually removed.

He then dammed up the brook, creating a small lake out of a nearby pasture. The lake became a popular skating rink in the winter. When the dam gave out years later, the lake disappeared.

Walbridge also built an elaborate house, the likes of which had not been seen in the area before. The conservatorium housed a large aquarium and even banana trees, which yielded fresh fruit even in the winter.

Dorothy Near remembers playing in the house as a child. When she was sent to England during the Second World War and stationed in a castle, she wasn't impressed.

SEE MYSTIC, PAGE 3

MUNICIPAL POLITICS

Kenneth Hill elected by acclamation in Sutton

With no one to run against him, Kenneth Hill has been elected mayor of the town of Sutton by acclamation.

The period for candidates to enter into the election for mayor ended last Friday. With no other candidates, the election that had been scheduled for March 11 will not be held.

Hill, a town councillor, has been acting as interim mayor since popular mayor John Sleeth died of cancer last Sept. 2.

Because Sleeth's death occurred more than 12 months before a general municipal election, a byelection must be held to select a new mayor according to provincial law. The next general elections are scheduled to take place in Nov. 1997.

But Hill may not be in the mayor's chair much longer anyway. The Town of Sutton, led by Hill, and Sutton Township, led by mayor Peter Stasny, are currently in the process of merging the two municipalities. If the amalgamation goes ahead as planned, it's expected to be completed before the next election.

BUSINESS

Deal expected to re-open Auberge Le Malard

One of Brome Lake's most auspicious tourist spots, Auberge Le Malard, may be re-opening its doors following financial problems.

Samson, Belair, Deloitte and Touche, the Sherbrooke holding company responsible for Le Malard since last Nov. 28, said it has received a number of offers to purchase the elegant auberge. Once a formal deal is signed, the establishment is expected to reopen.

Le Malard is made up of two parts, run by different owners. The auberge, including the restaurant, reception hall and bar, was the section that declared bankruptcy. The division which owns the hotel rooms and condominiums has continued operations untouched by the bankruptcy.

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PG

MADONNA in EVITA
Daily 2 & 7
PG

12 Academy Award (Nominations) THE ENGLISH PATIENT
Daily 3:45 & 8:30
R

DANTE'S PEAK
Daily 4:15 & 9:15
PG 13

Walt Disney's THAT DARN CAT
Daily 2 & 6:30
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Feb. 28

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #82, Philipsburg will hold Cribbage Night, at 8: p.m. Registration, \$5.00. Prizes and lunch served. Please bring your own crib board!

March 1

Crib tournament at the Odd Fellows Hall, Knowlton at 1:30 p.m. \$10.00 per team. Door & cash prizes. Everyone welcome!

Calvary United Church will hold their Annual Coffee House Benefit at 6

Maple St., Sutton in the church basement, 7:00 p.m. Tickets, \$4.00, available at the door. For more info. or tickets call 263-3421.

March 2

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #158, 2 Curley St., Sutton will hold a "Western Breakfast - all you can eat", from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Admission: \$4.50 per person, children under 10, \$2.50.

March 7

World's Day of Prayer will be held at St. Leon Community Center, 13 Brown St., Cowansville. Bilingual service. Everyone welcome!

ARTS CALENDAR

March 7, 8, 14, 15, 16

Knowlton Players present "Circus in the Wind", by Aurand Harris, directed by Beverly Pascoe, at Theatre Lac Brome, Knowlton, at 7 p.m. Matinees, March 8, 9, 15 & 16, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets: adults, \$7.00, children, \$4.00. Proceeds go towards the restoration of the Church of St. Andrews. Reservations preferred (514) 263-1061. Group rates available.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Victims of Violence and Abuse HELP Lines: SOS Violence Conjugale, 1-800-363-9010; Hebergement Horizon Pour Elle, 1 (514) 263-5046; Hebergement Pour Elle, 1 (514) 776-6700; Cavac, 1 (819) 820-2822. Association Pour Femmes Victimes de Violence.

SNAP FLAP: Brome County News still has a supply of the snaphappy spelling game for children and adults. The game pits players against one another in a race to turn letters into words. Games cost \$25 plus postage. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Words for Women literacy program.

Waterloo Ladies Auxiliary meeting

The Waterloo Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion met on January 14 with nine ladies attending.

In the absence of the president, vice-president Connie Peacock declared the meeting open.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted. Moved by Lucille Arthen, seconded by Juliette Champagne.

Correspondance was read and treasurer Grace Rainville reported a very satisfactory balance. Rita McGovern moved it be accepted, seconded by Helen Ramsey.

Since there was no business from

last year, the new committees were appointed, namely: Health and Welfare, Helen Ramsey; Telephone, Lois Campbell and Ann Harsell; Membership, Audrey Blampin; House, Pat Cote and Juliette Champagne; Publicity, Ann Harsell, for Sherbrooke Record; Calls, Connie Peacock.

At the next meeting Gladys Thompson, Ruth Lyebvre and Juliette Champagne will be installed as executives.

The President of the Senior Branch, Michel Lapointe wished everyone a good year and good luck to new president, Connie Peacock; secretary, Lucille Aitken and treasurer, Grace Rainville.

All business being completed, Juliette Champagne moved that the meeting be adjourned.

A lovely lunch was served and door prizes were won by Rita McGovern, Ann Harsell, Juliette Champagne and Marcelle Brien.

February 11 — Thirteen ladies braved the weather to attend. Seargent at Arms, Audrey Blampin, with colour party, Pat Cote and Toodie McCullagh deposited the colours.

President Connie Peacock, after the

singing of O Canada, opened the meeting for the transaction of business. The minutes of the last meeting were read by secretary Lucille Arthen. Pat Cote moved they be accepted, seconded by Juliette Champagne.

Treasurer Grace Rainville reported a healthy balance Audrey Blampin moved it be accepted seconded by Helen Ramsey.

Audrey Blampin reported that there are 13 life members, one new member, 28 regular members and one death, making a total of 41. Other committees announced many activities through 1996.

The Ladies Auxiliary will host their annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon. Ham, potato salad, coleslaw, etc. will be served from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Price \$4.00.

Mr. Ed Godfrey of the Senior Branch installed the new executive: Gladys Thompson, Ruth Lefebvre, and Juliette Champagne. Congratulations ladies.

There will be a district meeting in Waterloo March 2 and a convention in Granby May 16, 17, 18 and 19 at the Castel de l'Estrie. Final plans for this

are not yet confirmed.

All business being concluded, Juliette Champagne moved the meeting be adjourned.

A valentine lunch was served by hostesses Helen Ramsey and Ann Harsell.

Don't forget the next meeting, March 11.

Golden Age Club news

MANSONVILLE — The club had its dinner catered today by Grant and Monique Foster in honor of St. Valentine's Day, Carnival week and February birthdays. Ida MacKay was our sole birthday girl today (Feb. 20). We had a huge carrot birthday cake and the club supplied wine for this special occasion. Kathleen Bailey had brought a cake as well (to be used next week). She and George donated a huge can of coffee also.

Alfred Vintinner won the half and half today. Another bonus today, each member was given one Loto 6/49 ticket for the Wednesday night draw, this was from the club. Hopefully some will be winners.

500 winners were Cecile Hamelin and Gerry Gaboriault.

Door prizes were won by Louise Oliver, George Hamelin, Juliette Laliberte, Ida MacKay, Alfred Vintinner, Dorothy Woodard, Huguette Levoy, Jacqueline Maranda, George and Kathleen Bailey, Gerry Gaboriault, Mr. Kolba, Rose Alma Pouliot, Jackie Jersey, Rita Mossa and Judy Gaboriault.

Game winners were Juliette Laliberte, Rita Mossa, Irene Carrier, Bertha Smithers, Dorothy Woodard, Judy Gaboriault, and George Hamelin.

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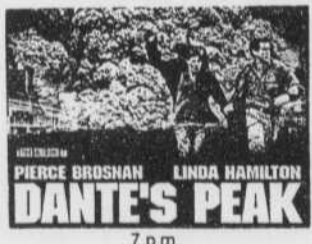
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Winter fun at Bromont this weekend

KNOWLTON

If winter carnivals in Brome Lake and Sutton weren't enough to help you get rid of the winter blues, Bromont will be celebrating winter this weekend.

The second annual L'Hiverenfête kicks off this Saturday and wraps up Sunday at the Centre Plein Air Davignon, and will feature a variety of events, aimed at individuals, families and larger groups.

Activities will be making use of what the popular outdoor recreation area has to offer, from ice fishing to making use of the facility's 85 kilometres of cross

country ski trails.

For the cross country skiers there will be two family-oriented races on Sunday. The first race will feature an obstacle course with two people on the same pair of skis. The second race will be a little more conventional, with family teams taking part in a relay race. Skiers will also be able to test their skills against members of the Canadian Ski Patrol who will be on hand for the races.

Snow sculpture and ice sculpture competitions will see a wide variety of talents in competition for top honors. First made popular by the Quebec Win-

ter Carnival, the Bromont version will feature 12 teams competing in the snow sculpture category on Sunday and another nine teams competing in ice sculpting on Saturday.

Saturday afternoon will also feature dog sled racing, using teams of four and six dogs each. The races are expected to attract leading teams from across Quebec. The races will be fairly short, with the four dog teams racing four kilometres and the six dog teams racing six kilometres. With \$2500 in prizes the four dog race gets underway at 1 p.m. and the six dog race starts at 2:30.

If cars are more your speed, Sunday will feature automotive snow racing. In order to qualify the car must have a cockpit for the driver, a hook to pull it out of the snow, and most importantly, brakes. The junker cars will race in three categories according to their ages. Racers must sign up beforehand at 534-2277. For more information about L'Hiverenfête, or to register for the events, the number to call is (514) 534-2277.

Mystic:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I have no regrets. I'm leaving the party with the feeling that I've done my work. I had something to offer the Bloc and I gave it. I would have liked to have been leader for longer but that's not how it worked out," he said.

"I had one year as party leader and it has given me a chance to reorganize the party. What I'm leaving behind is a vehicle that works. We have mobilized our party members of which we now have 113,000 members, and I'm leaving behind a party that is ready for an electoral campaign. We're much more organized than we were in 1993."

BQ elected officials like Maurice Bernier, MP for Megantic-Compton-Stanstead, and Gaston Leroux, MP for Richmond-Wolfe, have recently said they felt Gauthier was crucial in keeping the party together after Lucien Bouchard left for provincial politics.

The BQ leadership race has been heating up lately with Yves Duhaime, who has Leroux's support, taking shots at front runner Gilles Duceppe.

Duhaime recently accused Duceppe of being one of the people who forced Gauthier out of the picture. Initially there were also rumors that candidate Daniel Turp wanted Gauthier gone as well.

Yesterday, Gauthier would only talk in general terms about the leadership race which started in late December and won't end until the party's convention in Montreal on March 16.

"The race is taking place over a long period of time, some candidates are starting

to stick out but they're all good candidates," said Gauthier, who has decided to remain neutral and won't publicly support a candidate.

Leadership candidate Rodrigue Biron has said he would consider running in the Sherbrooke riding against Charest if he were made the party boss. Gauthier said he thought Biron was a suitable candidate to run in Sherbrooke but added that there were plenty of local people to fill the role.

"I've been hearing people circulate names of people who would make for quality candidates. Locally there are people who can run here against Charest," said Gauthier, adding that he wouldn't name any potential candidates because they've requested anonymity until the Bloc's convention.

"There are local people who are interested in running against Jean Charest and they are people who are well known," said Leroux, who added that too much shouldn't be made of Biron's comments.

"It was a surprise, but I think Mr. Biron was just thinking out loud, I don't think he necessarily wants to run here," Leroux said.

Leroux also said he wasn't surprised to see his choice for party leader being the most aggressive.

"He's coming from the outside of the party and so he's a challenger. He wants to make his sovereigntist position clearly known," he said referring to Duhaime. "The solidarity of this party has to fall on someone who comes from outside the party. Mr. Duhaime represents the best candidate from outside the party and as he said himself if there were problems with the Bloc in the past, the people who were MPs at the time, and want to lead the party now, were part of the problem."



MAURICE CROSSFIELD
Dorothy Near and Frances Walbridge with one of the heirlooms at their museum.

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From mess to makeover

It may have something to do with having to clean the house as a child before the cleaning lady arrived, but I've never quite had the confidence in my persona to place my warts and blemishes in someone else's hands for refurbishing. Consequently, I cut and perm my own hair and am walking witness to my own amateur performance.

So it was with some trepidation that I agreed to expose my bad hair and harried look to two very professional beauticians, Andrée and Josée for a 'make-over'.

As the day approached, the 'appointment' weighed on me like a visit to the dentist. I caught a cold and my nose betrayed Kleenex burns. Blemishes suddenly sprouted on my face. My eyes were watering. I was a mess. Worse, the appointment was for 8:30 a.m. which meant I had to leave home at 7 a.m. The bags would still be under my eyes.

Andrée and Josée pretended not to notice.

They draped me with several swaths of colored cloth before nodding in agreement. I was definitely 'a fall'. I felt a bit like a wilted leaf hanging onto a limb for dear life, so I didn't argue.

I was game for a burst of color, but turned down the fire-engine red in favor of a more subtle auburn hue.

Andrée took out a paint brush and

BROME CLOSET

SHARON
McCULLY

after dividing and quartering, began painting from the roots. It was somewhat humbling to be sitting in a bright room with strangers and not only have my head painted,

but be photographed in the process.

Andrée assured me the tangerine tint would wash away and it did.

She cut, thinned, toned, conditioned, massaged, moussed, and sprayed my hair into submission. It's hard to say whether my normally obstinate hair was feeling pampered or just plain baffled by the sudden attention, but for once, it did what it was told.

Josée took over with a detailed plan for my face. Twelve different colors in all. I learned that even the sparse bit of make-up I ever use is all wrong for 'a fall' with an elongated face. And to think I've been walking around with the wrong blush. Thank goodness my ears turned out to be the right size.

Josée painted, powdered, puffed, brushed, buffed, colored, outlined, highlighted, and hid.

After three hours of intensive work, Andrée and Josée assessed their efforts and decided I looked younger, more energetic.

I didn't recognize myself.

If the rest of my body requires as much work as the top five percent, I should be ready to leave the house each day for my eight hours work after eight hours preparation.

La longévité

Les "Baby Boomers" ont maintenant 50 ans, ce qui veut dire que les gens âgés formeront bientôt un fort pourcentage de la population.

En cette fin de siècle, on fait beaucoup de recherche dans le domaine de l'anti-vieillesse.

Je viens de lire un livre américain récent "Stopping The Clock" par les Drs Ronald Katz et Robert Goldman. Ils y présentent les plus récentes découvertes et renseignements après avoir travaillé avec les instituts de recherche sur l'anti-vieillesse et la bonne forme.

À la 3e conférence annuelle sur la médecine anti-vieillesse en décembre 1995, le Dr Marvin Minsky de l'Institut de Technologie du Massachusetts a demandé à son auditoire de 1400 des scientifiques les plus éminents dans ce domaine, en provenance du monde entier: "Qui ici veut vivre jusqu'à 150 ans?" Quatre-vingt pour cent des mains dans l'auditoire se sont levées sans hésitation. "Bon, dit-il, nous sommes donc prêts pour le prochain millénaire".

Le slogan de l'"American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine" fondé en 1993 par un petit groupe de médecins et scientifiques dédiés au ralentissement du processus de vieillissement est: "Le vieillissement n'est pas inévitable! La guerre contre le vieillissement est commencée".

Selon ce livre, les trois causes principales de décès aux États-Unis en 1896 étaient l'influenza, la diarrhée et la pneumonie. En 1996, il s'agit de maladies cardiaques, du cancer et des accidents cardio-vasculaires. Selon les auteurs, en 2046, il s'agira du suicide, de l'homicide et des accidents aérospa-

tiaux!

Dans "Stopping The Clock", écrit avec la collaboration d'un nombre impressionnant de spécialistes dans le domaine, on fait état des décou-

vertes récentes quant aux hormones telles que la mélatonine et le DHEA. On parle aussi longuement des minéraux "miracles" tels que le chrome, le sélénium et le magnésium et des antioxydants essentiels tels que les vitamines C, A et E et le CoQ-10.

Au chapitre sur l'exercice physique, on dit que voilà l'élément le plus important. La liste des bienfaits de l'exercice occupe deux pages du livre (seulement la liste, sans les explications qui suivent). Le contrôle du stress est aussi un facteur essentiel.

Il est très intéressant de noter les secrets personnels de longévité de 30 des pionniers de la médecine anti-vieillesse détaillés dans ce livre. Tous font de l'exercice, aiment leur travail, prennent beaucoup de suppléments de vitamines et de minéraux, boivent peu d'alcool, consomment peu de gras et de sucre, boivent beaucoup d'eau pure et ont de bonnes habitudes de sommeil.

Il y a, à la fin du livre, un long test de LONGÉVITÉ qui vous aide à déterminer si votre mode de vie actuel vous permettra de vivre encore bien longtemps. Pour plus de renseignements, vous pouvez communiquer avec le Longevity Institute International, 89 Valley Road, Montclair, NJ 07042, tél. (201) 746-4385 ou L'American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine, 7034 West North Ave., Chicago, Il. 60635, tél. (312) 622-7401. "Stopping the Clock" est publié par Keats Publishing Inc.

Friendly Society meets

The Friendly Society of Trinity Anglican Church, Cowansville met in the church hall on February 11 with 11 members present.

The President, Mary Lechasseur, welcomed everyone, especially our new member Irene Jones. The meeting was opened by repeating the members' prayer.

Minutes of the January meeting were read by the secretary, Mary Douga, and accepted.

A favourable report was given by the treasurer, Evelyn Lewis.

The agenda for the year was discussed and among the events are a coffee party on February 25 in the hall from 10 a.m. - 12 noon with all types of delicious goodies including coffee cake, muffins, etc. Everyone is welcome and we hope the weather will be favourable. Our semi-monthly meeting will follow.

On March 15 the Parish is having a roast beef dinner at 6 p.m. and on March 21, Soup and Dessert Luncheon in the hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., cards will follow.

The meeting was adjourned and delicious sweetbreads, cheese and tea and coffee were served, we were pleased to have some of the men who were preparing the pancake supper join us at the tea hour and a social time was had by all.

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Brome Lake council rallies, roasts for BMP

By Diahann Nadeau
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
KNOWLTON

The ninth annual roast beef dinner, held by the mayor and town councillors of the Town of Brome Lake, was a rousing success. It took place on Sunday, Feb. 23rd at the Auberge West Brome. More than \$2000 was raised for the hospital.

BMP foundation director Paula Rozanski was delighted with the turnout. In a warmly received speech she thanked George Bristol and his team and "the wonderful band." There was a chorus of "Paula, Paula" at the end of her speech, as many there realized it might be the last time they hear her speak in her capacity as director.

"It is a very successful event," Rozanski said later. "I am glad to have such a wonderful turn-out. It is thanks to the community and their support that the hospital is able to provide such excellent service." She thanked the Auberge, whose staff donated time, and praised the band, "The Isle of Dan," who donated their services, for their "excellent voices," a sentiment echoed by organizer George Bristol.

"That whole gang is out of this world," he said, "without them it wouldn't be the same. We hope they'll come back next year."



PHOTOS: IAN CROSSFIELD

The Echo Art gang entertained dinner guests.

Bristol is also pleased to be able to have the dinner in West Brome again. Nine years ago the fundraiser started as a spaghetti dinner in the old Loft. After the restaurant closed it was moved to Knowlton. This is the third year it has been held at the Auberge West Brome. "I'm so happy to be able to do it here again. The roots of this event were in West Brome, and thanks to the support of Mr. and Mrs. Pathy, and their hard work, we are back. As long as we can, we'll keep doing it."

Bristol was also pleased with the turn-out - 250 tickets were sold for two sittings; anyone there would have assured him that it would have been very hard to accommodate many more. "I love it," he said happily. "I have real joy from this part of my life. It is a very positive effort. And I cannot sing enough

praises for this group."

"This group" - The Isle of Dan - consists of Dan O'Donnell (the Dan of the Isle), they practice in his barn, hence the name), Sacha and George Dmytruk, Chris Severs, Rick Ricciardi, Darleen Bell, Kate Wisdom, Sheila McManus and husband Ralph Steiner, and a surprise guest, violinist extraordinaire Simon MacDonald. MacDonald, a McGill student doing a Masters in Performance, and Severs' cousin, added a depth to the sound that thrilled the audience after just a 20-minute rehearsal with the group.

There was a raffle for a trip to Toronto, donated by Via Rail. Howard Partington won a first class trip for a weekend in Toronto. The raffle raised an additional \$550. But beyond the pleasures of good food, excellent music, and aiding the hospital, there was the strong bond of community. As Laurence Pathy, owner of the Auberge West Brome, noted, "It really brings the community together. It's great raising money for the hospital, but what I liked most of all is how this event pulls people together."



Brome Lake town councillor Paula Richardson, Mayor Homer Blackwood and councillor and chief organizer George Bristol served roast beef to more than 250.



The Isle of Dan played some torch and twang.

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Letters to the Editor

Thank you to organizers of Brome Lake winter carnival

Once again we find ourselves reaching inside for that last gasp of strength until the brown and white of winter turns to green. In the south they have Mardi Gras. In our small town a few dedicated souls put on a carnival. I have always said you have to get out in winter to make it through.

Many thanks to our organizers. Among the more imaginative activities this year were winter rugby and golf on

the lake. I met representatives from our twin city of Gimont France at the 60's dance and many others at the casino. Although these events were poorly attended, great fun was had by all. Let's hope more participants get out next year. Thank you to all those who put so much effort into another great carnival.

SINCERELY,
PHYLLIS SISE
Knowlton

Thanks to all Brome Lake carnival participants

DEAR EDITOR,

The 1997 Winter Carnival events were appreciated by many and we would like to thank the various organizations, schools, clubs, and individuals for their contribution and participation.

We would also like to thank the merchants of Lac Brome for their warm response to our requests for prizes.

We sincerely hope that future carnivals will be even bigger and better.

Any suggestions or recommendations for next year would be greatly appreciated.

YOURS TRULY,
GIB ROTHERHAM
ON BEHALF OF WINTER
CARNIVAL COMMITTEE '97
Knowlton

Coffee house in Knowlton

It was a wise person who once concluded that to be successful one didn't necessarily have to be original, but merely find success elsewhere and emulate it.

A group of local musicians/singers and all around busybodies took this advice to heart and have decided to follow the lead of the nearby community of Stanbridge East. They will be introducing to Knowlton a monthly family entertainment event that has become extremely popular in Stanbridge East over the last several years.

On the second Sunday of every month from 6 - 9 p.m. the Knowlton United Church will be holding a Coffee House. The first one will be held on Sunday, March 9th. Admission will be free as will the coffee, juice, and homebaked

treats. Donations as always will be gratefully accepted. The musical organizer of this event is Ralph Steiner. Performers can make arrangements with Ralph by calling him at 242-2510.

The event will provide us all with a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an evening of live entertainment by many of the talented musicians that live in our community.

Good coffee, good music, good company, and a good time are all guaranteed. The Knowlton United Church Coffee House committee (The KUCCHC) urges you to make a quality of life decision. Get your friends and family together, on Sunday, March 9th. Come enjoy a relaxing evening with us.

CHRIS SEVERS
Knowlton

Knowlton Academy girls win tournament

By Bobby Kaye
KNOWLTON

The Knowlton Academy 'A' girls basketball team captured the District of Bedford Elementary Tournament on Friday, Feb. 21st. The girls went undefeated, winning all three games by the following scores: Knowlton 37, Heroes' 16; Knowlton, 32, Bultler, 14; and Knowlton 31, Parkvies 28.

The final game against Parkview was extremely exciting as the Knowlton girls came back from a 12 point half

time deficit. Stephanie Kay and Erin Lefebvre led the attack with 39 and 24 points respectively. Other members of the team were Jamie Kerrigan, Kristin Colvil, Eliabeth Ratcliffe, Michelle Duncan, Abby Allen, Nikki Johnson, Meaghan Allen, Sandra Frizzle, Vanessa Page, and Angie Dawes.

The Knowlton 'A' boys were also victorious in their section of the tournament. They won all four of their games very convincingly.

Canadian Heart Foundation fundraising drive in March

The Canadian Heart Foundation will be holding a telephone fundraising drive March 8 and 9.


The Granby office of the Quebec chapter of the foundation will be working with the towns of Bromont, Waterloo, Ste-Cecile-de-Milton, Roxton Pond, St.-Alphonse-de-Granby, Brome, and

Cowansville to raise funds for research into heart attacks and strokes, two of the leading causes of death in Canada.


On Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. a team will be on the telephones contacting people across the region for donations. Please give generously.

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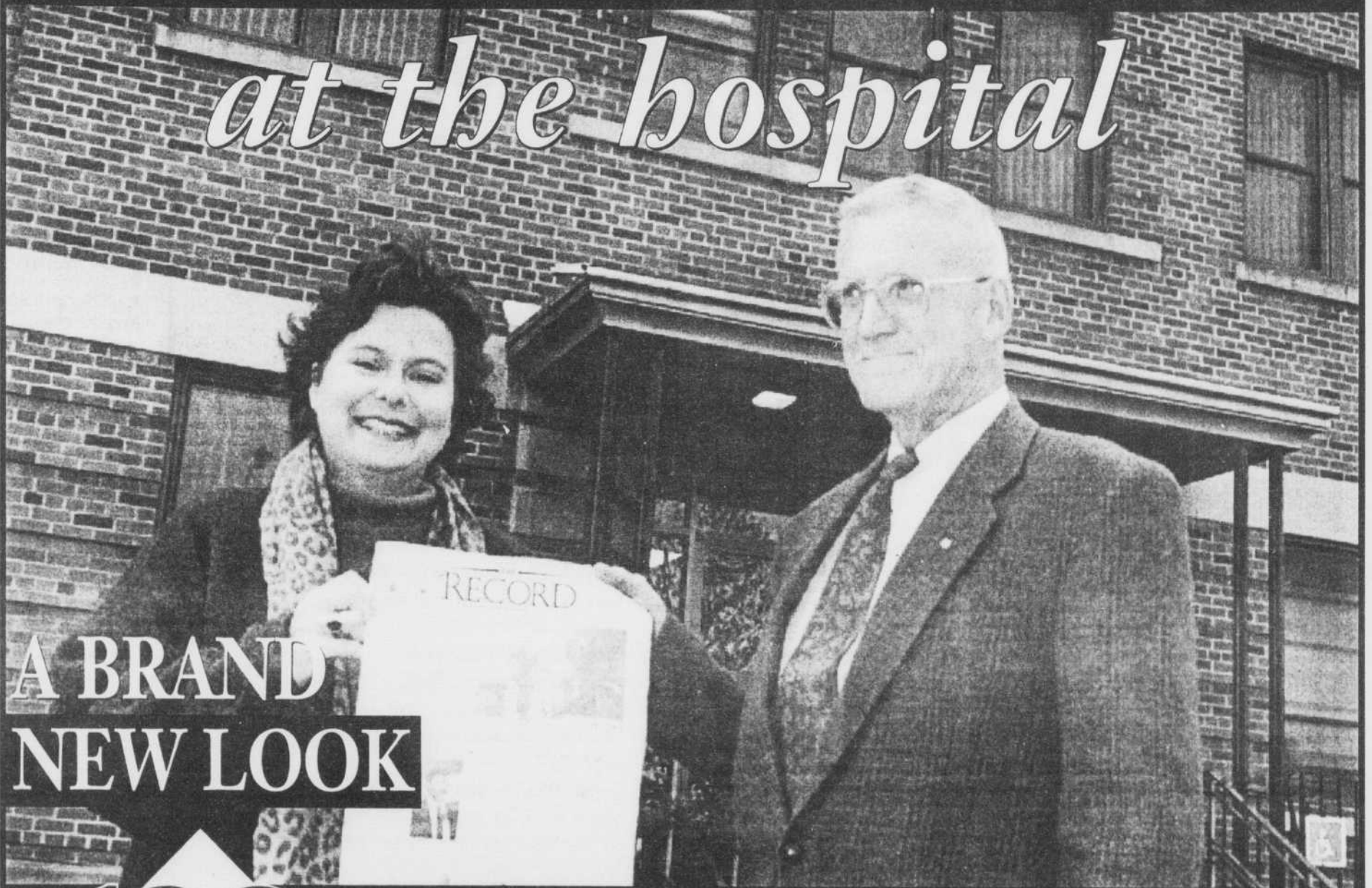


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Happy Gang news

SUTTON (MB) noon, February 12
 — Thirteen mem- in spite of the
 bers of the Happy snowy weather.
 Gang met in the Arnold had set
 church hall on up our tables,
 Wednesday after- thanks again. The

president Dora
 Page welcomed all
 and extended
 birthday greetings
 to Angie Sherrer
 and Charlie Dy-

mond, whose birthday this
 month. The birth-
 days are in Feb-
 ruary. She
 also noted that
 Julie Paul who
 was absent, has a

out printed finan-
 cial reports with
 balance to date.
 We were glad to
 have some of our
 regulars back who

have been absent
 for some time due
 to illness. Gladys
 Frizzle and Rosa
 Mailloux were with
 us again.

Winners at
 cards were Angie
 Sherrer, Hilda
 Lahue, Charlie
 Dymond and
 James Robertson.

Door prizes
 were drawn for,
 the winners being
 Mable Boyce,
 Bernice Boule,
 Dorothy Reid and
 Gladys Frizzle.

The drawing
 was won by Jim
 Robertson.

Pot luck re-
 freshments were
 enjoyed around
 the big table
 topped off with
 Valentine cake
 and ice cream, a
 complimentary
 dessert furnished
 by the president
 and secretary.

Tea and coffee
 prepared by
 Dorothy Reid as
 usual, thanks
 Dorothy.

The next meet-
 ing will be on
 February 26 at the
 usual time.

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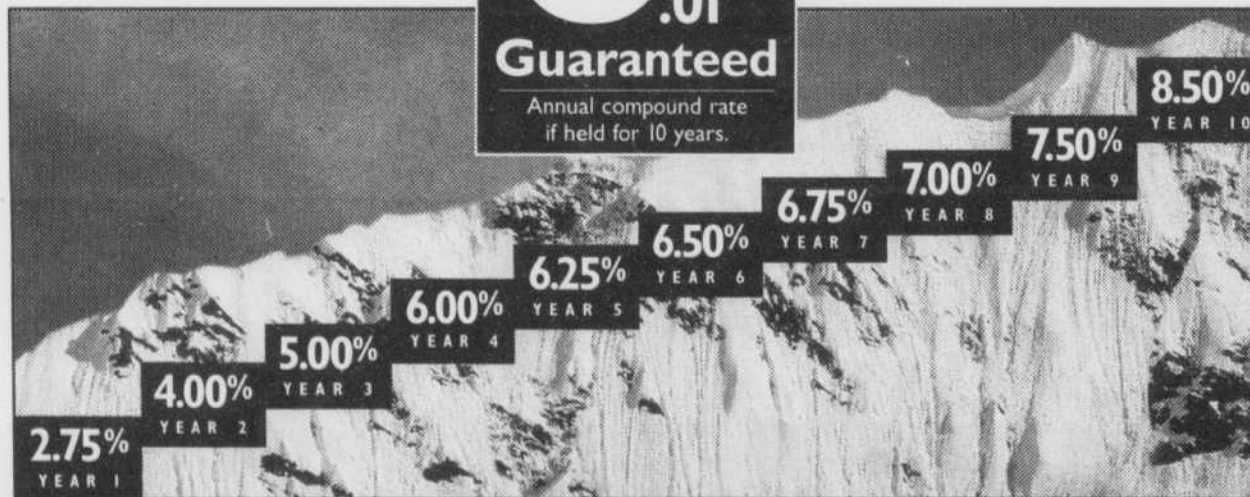
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"By not making use of foreign content in their RRSP, Canadians may be costing themselves thousands of dollars over the long haul. This could make the difference between a comfortable retirement and just getting by," says Larry Sarbit, vice-president and portfolio manager at Investors Group, one of Canada's leading financial services companies.

Many Canadians aren't aware that Revenue Canada rules allow you to invest up to 20 per cent of the cost amount or "book value" of your plan in eligible foreign securities. Book value is the cost of your original investment—as opposed to the market value, which is what your original investment is worth today.

For example, assume your original investment in a number of mutual funds totals \$20,000. You may invest

up to 20 per cent, or \$4,000 of that amount, in units of a fund that qualifies as a foreign investment.

To take it a step further, your \$20,000 may be invested in an RRSP with one mutual fund organization and you may have \$40,000 with another. If you want to buy units of a foreign-content eligible fund offered by the first organization, you can only invest 20 per cent of the cost of the plan, not 20 per cent of your total \$60,000 holding.

Sarbit outlines five good reasons to increase the foreign content in an RRSP:

- Canada's domestic stock markets constitute less than three per cent of the world's stock capitalization. By expanding your choices you can expand your opportunities.

- Some very attractive companies just aren't available in Canada.
- The global economy doesn't move forward in lock step. Even if Canada is moving ahead, some region of the globe may be spiralling upward, carrying savvy investors along.

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A small corner of the empire in Brome County

Even with the funny way they talk notwithstanding, the British are a curious lot. Who else would consider serving you cold toast and warm beer, especially at the same time? Or, as a National Lampoon article observed a while ago, what other nation could conquer half the world and still not be able to figure out central heating?

One of the many traditions passed on around the planet from the tight little isle is the idea of 'the Club', a place to mingle in serenity, comfort, maybe even secrecy with one's own kind. Going down to, or dropping by, or taking important guests to 'the Club' reassures a person that he has arrived.

The term 'he' is used advisedly. For centuries, any club that mattered was strictly male-only territory. Rumor persists that the word GOLF is an acronym for 'Gentlemen Only - Ladies Forbidden'. Our research department has not been able to confirm this, or find its definitive origin if there is one. The women-not-allowed thing ended, of course, when Meryl Streep barged into the old boys' establishment in Mombasa, Kenya, in the film *Out of Africa*, demanding to be served.

COUNTRY SQUIRE

BRIAN EDDINGTON

Or at least this was a popular symbol to mark the end of an era that had been slipping away, mercifully some would add, for decades. Any number of clubs dot the landscape

these days, serving a wide range of compulsive joiners with a host of different needs and interests. Most are open to broad sections of the population and even operate under some variant of the democratic principle of which we claim to be so fond. Organizations that resisted the trend frequently found themselves face-to-face with petitions, protests, lawsuits, and miscellaneous other weapons in the arsenal of political correctness. (Once again, though, I am nagged by Groucho's point about whether you really want to belong to any club that would have you personally as a member.)

We have golf clubs and curling clubs, clubs for youths and seniors, social and service clubs, and really bright folks have something called the Mensa Club. (Funny, Zellers and Book-of-the-Month solicit me almost weekly as a potential member, but I've never heard a thing from Mensa.) There are special and secret organizations still, which have strict requirements for would-be mem-

bers, like riding a goat and kissing a chicken. And now that I've spilled the beans, I guess there's no point applying to any of them.

Back around 1981, a group of active citizens worked mightily to establish a club that would offer three varieties of racket sports in a community that most marketing people would judge too small to support such a venture. The devotees were determined, however, and Raquettes Brome was the happy result.

The new structure offered one court each for tennis, squash, and something called racketball, a kind of Americanized or suburban form of the game wherein a very lively ball does more work so the players may do less. But once the racketball thing had run its course, the third playing surface was converted to the more basic, durable, and traditional squash.

The building has a pleasant lobby or foyer area on the entry level, with an intimate bar-restaurant-multipurpose space on the second floor. The decor is bright and cheerful, with a fresh clean aura about at all times. Rules, directions, procedures, and a few posters hang about tastefully at appropriate spots. A visitor here will quickly get the

feeling that there is at least one small corner of the universe where logic, order, fairness, and propriety still prevail.

It's a good feeling, one you don't get to experience in a lot of places there days. Squash and other court or racket games had a long tradition of being civil and genteel activities....which ended when the John McEnroe generation came along. Except for major competitions there are no referees. Something called a 'let' allows a disputed point to be replayed. It is considered poor form for a clearly superior player to run up the score on the opponent, a practice for which I for one have been most thankful.

Complementing its primary function, Raquettes Brome has provided its facilities for a variety of community uses. A major annual antique show occupies one weekend in May. At different times it has hosted benefit events for the usual good causes. The regional high school has held several eminently successful prom nights there. And with all this stuff coming to mind again, I may be talking myself back into a membership that has lain dormant far too long.

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Citizens seek solution to high deer population

KNOWLTON

About 70 people gathered at the Knowlton Community Centre Sunday to discuss the growing problem of the deer population.

The meeting began with presentations by Eric Foster and Rod Bailey of the Brome, Bolton Fish and Game Club. They explained the history of the club, which dates back to an era when landowners in the region were often plagued by too many hunters chasing after too few deer. But over the years the tables have turned, and now the club is looking at ways to reduce the deer population.

Their review was followed by a presentation from the provincial wildlife ministry, which agreed that the deer population is indeed too high in the region known as Zone 5. Some studies indicate that there are as many as 14 deer per square kilometre of forest in the region.

"One interesting thing that came out is that in some sections of Zone 5 there are almost no deer," said Brome Lake police chief Peter Stone, who attended the meeting. "In East Hill there are very few deer."

*Biologists say they think part of the answer to the lower population in East Hill may be the lower number of cedar

trees, a preferred part of the white-tailed deer's winter diet. Over-hunting in the sector may have also been a factor.

Stone says his main concern is with the increasing number of deer-related car accidents. In 1996 deer accidents accounted for 31 per cent of all accidents, up from 25 per cent a year earlier. Though the overall number of accidents dropped from 280 to 225 in the last year, 1996 registered one more deer accident than the year before.

Strangely these accidents are more common in populated areas which have become home to numerous deer.

"The Knowlton and Bondville areas account for maybe 50 per cent of our deer accidents," Stone said.

Stone said another thing that came out of the meeting was the fact that there are about ten females to every buck deer. That has hunters and biologists alike concerned that the herd is becoming weaker due to poor genetics. A lack of natural predators such as wolves and coyotes also means weaker deer live longer and contribute to the reproduction of the herd.

Stone said he believes that the police, fish and game clubs and the government are working in the same direction. But he said the wildlife ministry is

taking its time before making decisions.

"They indicated that there will be changes in hunting," Stone said. "But they will be taking it one step at a time."

Stone credited people like Bailey and Jim Flannigan for their hard work studying the deer population problem. He

said the time has come for the ideas raised at the last two meetings to be put into a plan of action that will look at the long term survival of the herd.

"We need more than a band-aid solution," Stone said. "We need a long term solution."

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1860: First Methodist Congregation in Magog

By Phyllis Hamilton
PART ONE

Since the early 1800s, there has been some form of Methodist worship in and around Magog. We know that in 1804, the families of William Bullock, Jeremiah Lord, and Richard Packard formed the first Methodist class in nearby Georgeville.

For many years after this, the records are sparse. The Rev. Edwin Peake was the resident minister of the Georgeville circuit in 1859-60, followed by the Reverends John Davies, James Thornloe, and John Stewart, who each stayed for one year, and probably served the English speaking Protestants of the Magog area as well. Since 1864, a Register of Civil Status has been kept in Magog, and the first entry was the burial of Henry Albert Sawyer, on April 21 that year.

The first established congregation of Methodists in the Magog area for which there is any record were French Methodists. They were guided by the Rev. Thomas Charbonell who originally came from the Roxton Pond area. In

1860, Mr. Charbonnell established a church called the Stanstead Mission, which included members from the Townships of Stanstead, Magog, Orford, Barnston, Barford, Hatley, and Compton. This mission lasted until 1865.

Until the arrival in the village of the Rev. Joseph Fowler as its first full time minister in 1878, Magog was integrated within the Georgeville Methodist circuit. This was an extensive circuit and every week the minister was required to either walk or ride from Georgeville to Fitch Bay, then to Magog, Brown's Hill, Stukely Mills, and Currier, Boynton, and Dingman's schoolhouses. From there, the minister continued on to Oliver Corner and Cherry River before going home.

The first church in which Magog's Methodists worshipped was the Union church, which was built in 1830 on south Merry Street. The building still exists today, now serving as a church for French Protestants from the Magog area. When it was first constructed, the Union church was used by every denom-



St. Paul's United Church in Magog.

ination in the village including Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Baptists, First Day Adventists, and the Methodists. However, Magog's population was rapidly growing, with the result that congregations were increasing as well, and it became difficult for the Methodists to continue to share the Union church with other denominations. In 1885, represented by the Rev. Melvin Taylor, they offered to purchase the church for their own use. The offer was refused, but the Methodists still wanted their own house of worship, so they made plans for building a church. On February 8, 1886, a Board of Trustees made up of R.B. Lindsay, Artemus Taylor, J.H. Ellis, C.C. Manning, Fred Porter, Levi E. Rexford, and V.E. Chamberlain was established to hire a contractor. Land was purchased from S.A. Abbott for \$275, and contractor, A.I. Wallace from Waterloo, was hired. Construction of the church began in September 1886. Four months later, the building, including the tower and cedar shingled roof, was finished, at a cost of \$2,200.

The church was dedicated on March 19, 1887. Soon afterwards, the Board of Trustees, which now included Erasmus D. Smith, had to borrow \$1,000 from John D. Moore to pay for the extra expenses incurred by the contractor. At the same time, the Rev. R.A. Mitchell notes that the board also hired a caretaker for "the tremendous cost of \$40 per annum." In 1894, a new reed organ with a pedal board was purchased. Aside from providing music for services, the organ turned out to be a wonderful disciplinary tool, as described by the Rev. Mitchell: "A boy who was unruly in Sunday school could be disciplined by being required to pump the organ

throughout the service." The pew rents, which had begun as a means to help pay the church's expenses, were discontinued after 1894. The records show that by 1896, church membership was 116, an increase of 57 over the previous three years. By the late 1890s, with the church's debt fully paid, the Board of Trustees felt confident enough to lend \$100 to St. James' Methodist Church in Montreal.

In 1891, it was decided that the parsonage, located at 41 St. Patrick Street West, which had been acquired in 1884, would be sold. No action was taken however, until October 31, 1905, when the house was sold to retired Methodist minister, the Rev. David Brill. A house at 22 Merry Street North, previously owned by the late J.W. Moore, which was closer to the church, was bought as the new parsonage.

According to the Rev. R.A. Mitchell who wrote the history of St. Paul's: "Records are sketchy in the years before World War I." What we do know is that about this time, the congregation decided they wanted a better organ and an extension onto the church which would accommodate a growing Sunday school. A committee was appointed to plan the building and raise the necessary funds.

After United Church Union, the congregation increased and that, along with a desire for a newer building, combined to persuade the Board of Trustees to contemplate constructing a new church. In 1929, the Masonic order offered to purchase the old Methodist church for \$7,500, and this was accepted. For the past 15 years, the Old Methodist Church, now painted blue, has been a French language Theatre called 'Le Vieux Clocher de Magog'.



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St. James Guild meets

FOSTER — The February meeting was held at the home of Frances Johnson on February 8.

President Muriel Whitehead opened the meeting by leading in the Lord's Prayer and our Guidance Prayer. There were 10 members and one visitor in attendance.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read and approved. Corre-

Knowlton

On Sunday, January 16, several friends and family of Mrs. Beatrice Barnes gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Ellis to help Beatrice celebrate her 80th birthday. The party was a complete surprise to Mrs. Barnes, who was greeted at the door by daughters Joan, Suzanne and Janice with flowers and lots of laughter. A lovely afternoon of chatting, catching up, and a delicious lunch served by the children was enjoyed by all those present. We hope Beatrice will celebrate many more birthdays.

Mr. Frank Stanbridge of Scarborough, Ont., spent the last week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Stanbridge.

South Bolton

Jane Willey

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stairs from Knowlton and Margaret Bloomfield were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Colgrove, Wolcott, Vermont, recently.

sponding Secretary reported sending a sympathy card to Wilfrid Allen, on the loss of his wife, Ada. A sympathy card was also sent to the Inglis family on the death of Clayton Inglis. A thinking of you card was sent to Marlon Rowe, who is recovering from a stroke. Get well cards had also been sent to Jim Eaton and Sandy Martin. Muriel has

received a lovely lamp from Roxton, and has sent a card of thanks. A get-well card was signed by all present for Joan Jones, who is recovering from an operation.

We're planning to repair our Prayer and Hymn books. Frances donated some material for the job. There are three prospective weddings planned for our church

this summer.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Phoebe Eaton on March 8 at 2 p.m.

It was moved by the president and seconded by Nellie Williams that

the meeting be adjourned.

Following the benediction, delicious refreshments were served

by Frances, who was thanked by all. We were all invited to stay and

have a game or two of cards. Several stayed and

Bud Johnson joined us in making up two tables. A very enjoyable time was had by all before heading for home.



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UCW meeting

WATERLOO — St. Paul's U.C.W. held their meeting February 13, in the church hall at 1:30 p.m.

President Joyce Ossington welcomed all and thanked the hostesses Marion Moffatt and Joan Norris. The Purpose was read in unison.

Peggy Stretch read the devotionals which had been prepared by Muriel Bockus. The topic was "The Tongue", a reading from St. James and an Indian story.

Emily Norton read the minutes of the January meeting. 15 answered the roll call and one visitor was welcomed. Five thank-you notes were read and two vocal thank yous were given.

Board report: January 19 was our annual meeting. After a pot luck dinner, Rev. Marion Charles called the meeting to order. Annual reports for 1996 were read and accepted. The proposed budget for 1997 and the proposed names for the Board were given and accepted. The changes for the Board: Chairperson, Gerry Boucher; Vice Chairperson, Betty Black; member at large, Glen Whitehouse.

Barbara Johnston gave the treasurer's report.

Mildred Irwin reported six birthday, three sympathy, seven get-well and one baby congratulation had been sent.

For missions, Joan Norris read an article, "For the Sake of the Children."

We have been advised that World Vision in Toronto will accept knitted bandages, pill bottles, children's new and good used clothing and knitted vests.

Day of Enrichment is February 19 in Cowansville.

World Day of Prayer, March 7 at St. Luke's Anglican Church in Waterloo at 2 p.m.

It was moved by Clara Boyd, seconded by Carolyn Grubb that a donation be given to the Children's Church.

Our next meeting will be March 13. The Mizpah Benediction was repeated, then Whist and Rummicube was played before partaking of a delicious lunch of sweet breads.

Sutton Mable Boyce 538-2946

Friends of Violet Jones are pleased that she is recovering nicely at home after a fall resulting in fracture.

Valery, daughter of Charlie and Iris Dymond, had the misfortune to fall on the ice, breaking a bone. Best wishes go out to her for a quick recovery.

Best wishes go out to Kenneth Miller who is a patient in the BMP Hospital at time of writing.

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Golden Age Club meets

KNOWLTON — On Thursday February 13, 34 members of the Knowlton Golden Age Club met at the Pub for lunch. It was a lovely winter day, and we all enjoyed the pleasant atmosphere in the Pub's sunny restaurant. After a delicious lunch, we returned to the Community Centre for our regular afternoon of cards.

President Lawrence Marsh welcomed everyone and announced that the Legion Ladies will be holding a Whist card party at the Community Centre on February 25 at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. Lawrence then congratulated Beatrice Barnes on her 80th birthday which is coming soon, and the birthday song was sung for her. Jim Eaton reminded members of the 500 card party to be held at St. Luke's in Waterloo on Saturday February 15.

There were two members at the game table where the winner was Geraldine Wheeler. 500 was played at eight tables. The special prize was for 10 no trump and was not taken. Other winners were: 1st Bernard Lefebvre, 5020; 2nd, Pauline LeRoy, 4820; 3rd, Jim Eaton, 4580; 4th, Gladys Frizzle, 4440; 5th, Isobel Tryhorn, 4320.

Since we had all enjoyed a lovely lunch at noon, tea, coffee and cookies were served by Elvia and Phoebe while door prizes were distributed ending a very enjoyable day.

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Congratulations to Rita Bouchard and Georges-Emile Boisvert of South Stukely on their 50th wedding anniversary, Dec. 26, 1946.

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