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128th YEAR

Huntingdon, Que. Wednesday, December 22, 1992 - 18 pages 52 cents

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Ghosts of Christmases past, present and future hover over National Assembly

Ghosts of Christmases past, present and future hover over National Assembly as break looms

There are a few days left before the National Assembly shuts down for Christmas, but already ghosts from the past, present and future have appeared in the Vieille Capitale.

Like Marley did to Scrooge, the two-year-old municipal tax reform came back to haunt Quebecers.

On December 4, Transport Minister Sam Elkas announced his Department plans to cut 1,750 of its 12,000 jobs. It's part of a massive transfer of responsibilities — and financial burden — from the cash-strapped provincial government to municipalities.

Under the new arrangement, municipalities will assume control of 33,000 kilometres of secondary roads — one third of the provincial network. The move is expected to save Quebec \$200 million over the next four years.

The road to Hell...

How municipalities will deal with the additional responsibility and cost is still unknown. One option is to allow private companies to build and maintain roads, then collect tolls. Another is to hire more staff and increase property taxes.

The decision is on hold until next February when Elkas announces where, and on whom, the axe will fall.

The minister tried to sweeten the deal by offering to subsidize regions which hire laid-off workers. Municipal Affairs Minister Claude Ryan added \$23 million to an existing compensation package, bringing the total to \$95 million.

Coping with meningitis threat

Fortunately, the government's penny-pinching tactics stopped when the ghost of the present — meningitis — came knocking.

Following the advice of experts, Health Minister Marc-Yvan Côté called for a massive, province-wide vaccination program which will cost Quebec \$16 million. About 1.65 million people between six months and 20 years of age are eligible for free shots.

Local public health officials are responsible for administering the vaccine, which will take place in two phases.

Phase one, aimed at 150,000 kids who live in remote or heavily affected areas, will take place before Christmas. The areas include Roberval, Valleyfield, Rock Forest, the Gaspé, the Lower North Shore and the Latik territory in Northern Quebec.

Phase two will occur in January and February, when another 1.5 million young people will get shots.

Want a job? Who do you know?

Taxes and disease scare everybody. Add Quebec's civil servant watchdog to the list, and bureaucrats must feel like running for cover.

Auditor-General Guy Breton tabled his annual report in the national Assembly on December 8. After examining eight government departments, he concluded Quebec could save \$30 million if civil servants took shorter coffee breaks. He also said that the Education Ministry grants college diplomas to students who haven't fulfilled the requirements.

But his claim that widespread hiring favouritism occurs in the public service sent shivers down many spines, especially for people from "target" hiring groups: women, handicapped people, visible minorities and anglophones.

Just a few weeks ago, Treasury Board President Daniel Johnson reassured anglophones that he's still committed to increasing their presence in the civil service to 10 per cent. As of March 1992, anglos held 0.8 per cent of government jobs.

At a press conference on December 9, Johnson acknowledged that favouritism exists. Government officials "are not robots", he said, and cannot be forced to adopt unbiased attitudes. His department is looking into the problem, however, and will propose changes to the hiring system by March 31, 1993.

1993 = 101 - 178?

And finally, Claude Ryan, minister responsible for Quebec's language laws, introduced the ghost of the future — Bill 101.

On December 11, Ryan formally launched a major language debate which promises to be in the news throughout 1993.

He sent a letter to the Conseil de la langue française outlining five areas of the 15-year-old charter to be reviewed. The list includes: Bill 178, Quebec's controversial sign law; access to English schools; bilingual status of municipalities; traffic signs; and exempting companies with fewer than 50 employees from needing francization certificates. The Conseil must report back to the Minister by March 31.

Ryan said he hopes Quebec will ease Bill 178, so the government can avoid renewing the controversial notwithstanding clause, the measure used in 1988 to override a Supreme Court of Canada decision in order to ban the use of English on most commercial signs. The clause's five-year lifespan runs out in December 1993.

It all depends...

If updating and improving Quebec's language legislation is on the government's wish list — Merry Christmas! If all that's in store is a year-long, fruitless language debate which takes precedence over economic recovery, then — Bah humbug!

Dorothy Guinan is a writer and researcher working out of the National Assembly Press Gallery in Quebec City.

Huntingdon United Church

The wondrous event in Bethlehem instills the Christmas spirit



The Nativity Scene -- Mary (Jessica McCaig); Joseph (Rev. Neil Wallace and Jesus (Fiona McCaig).

Everyone at a congregational pot-luck supper at the Huntingdon United Church was greeted by sandal clad servants of the "Bethlehem Inn" who ushered them downstairs to be members of the cast. They joined the rest of characters in a play and dinner program for Christmas.

The lights dimmed and Eli the innkeeper, played by Ian Gill, welcomed his guests who were in Town to pay their taxes. In modern times these are known as GST taxes, he said. Great pains were taken by the cast to be dressed in authentic-looking garb of ancient times — bathrobes, dresser scarves, ties and sarongs were fashioned into costumes. Servants,

played by Lynn Forster, Shirley Wallace, Fraser Moore and Sarah Rennie were kept busy serving the guests who dined from the well-laden "board."

A thunderous knocking at the door announced the arrival of two more would-be guests — Mary and Joseph, who have no where to stay.

In the stable (upstairs) Mary (Jessica McCaig), Joseph (Rev. Neil Wallace), took their places with the baby Jesus (Fiona McCaig). Shepherds, played by Rodney Moore and Murray McCaig, who were in the hills, saw a bright beautiful star and heard the voices of angels saying that a baby had

See page 10



Eli, the Innkeeper, was played by Ian Gill; Sarah, the innkeeper's wife, was played by Jennifer Gill; the parts of their children were played by Iain Baranowski, Sabrina Moore and Kim Baranowski.

For-owner-profit-only projects on firing line

Regional threats, international problems rouse citizens

Valerie Furcall
THE GLEANER

A bilingual information evening billed as a "Trans-border Citizens' Action Meeting" motivated a couple hundred people to Grove Hall in Huntingdon Dec. 8 hear what spokespeople for environmental groups had to say about "incinerators, dumps and the border."

Don Rosenbaum of CRRC, Yves Pagé of Option Verte, Dr. Paul Connett, a world recognized authority

on incineration, and environmentalist Blad Hansen reviewed various projects, both proposed and existing, and those which are seen as potential regional threats and international problems.

This meeting, which was moderated by Scott Disher, was intended to be more than a protest or anti-incinerator forum.

Rosenbaum stressed how Canadians "must find ways to collaborate and communicate with American neighbours since they are just as concerned as we are about Mother Earth." Hansen

summarized in detail the grandeur of the Chateauguay River basin and the absolute need for the inhabitants to manage the environment for its biological health in the long run.

"This region isn't wrecked yet... it is a bio-region which has its economy based on its resources."

Chateauguay project

A wood-burning facility in Chateauguay, N.Y., due to fire up next month, drew mixed reviews from members in the audience and several of the speakers.

Representatives of the Kenetech company which bought the project from Chateauguay developers were invited to make a presentation. They answered what questions they could. There remained predominating qualms by some concerning the purity of the wood source, the monitoring and control of emissions from the stack, and the quantity of heated effluent which would be draining into the Chateauguay River.

Industrial waste wood and cut-off scraps from mainly Canadian industries will be

used as fuel in the power-generating plant. Connett commented, "There is big money in getting rid of dirty (contaminated) wood." The fact that Kenetech will be paid in many instances to take the wood was disturbing. He supposed if a company wanted to get rid of dirty wood, it might pay, but if the wood was clean, it could be sold.

Kenetech project manager Jeff Nelson was quick to reassure that the company intended to maintain its in-

See page 4

Huntingdon share of Municipal Housing deficit \$15,373

Dan Rosenberg

The Huntingdon Municipal Housing Office released its 1993 budget at the last Town Council meeting Dec. 7.

The municipal contribu-

tion towards defraying the \$153,734 deficit was projected at \$15,373 compared to \$14,411.90 in 1992. The lion's share of the deficit will be paid by the Societe d'Habitation du Quebec to the tune of \$138,360...up from \$129,707.10 last year.

The 1992 deficit was \$144,119. The deficit evolves from the fact that the 1993 expenses are forecast at \$249,496, exceeding the anticipated revenue of \$112,907 by \$136,589. Administration expenses total \$17,145.

Breakdown of 1993 expenses is as follows: exploitation \$54,042; maintenance of immovables \$9,326; replacements, improvements and modernizations \$7,000; financing \$145,041; taxes and permits \$34,087.

In other Council news, al-

derman Yvan Cadoret was named Pro Mayor for a period of four months. He would run meetings or attend functions in case of absence on the part of Mayor Gerald Brisebois.

Council decided to donate \$150 to the Association of Defence of Social Rights (ADDS) which provides emergency food for the needy in the region. But Council turned down a request by the Town of Bristol, Conn. asking Huntingdon to purchase a personalized brick for \$100 that will go towards the reconstruction of Bristol's Town Hall, destroyed by fire recently.

"They should ask Ste-Barbe to send them bricks from the school they just demolished," suggested Councilor Francine Lalonde with tongue in cheek. Huntingdon resident Gary Richer received Council's permission to dig a ditch leading from CN property to a nearby road at his own expense because water accumulates on his neighbouring property whenever it rains.

"We wrote to Conrail about this problem but received no answer," explained the Mayor.

Chateauguay Merchants Association president André

Castagnier said that a contest would be judged on Dec. 17, awarding prizes to the top three establishments with the nicest Christmas decorations. He also requested that Chateauguay Street be closed from the Bank of Commerce to the Henderson Street Bridge during the hours of 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. while the annual Summer Festival is taking place July 8-10.

Since the thoroughfare is part of the provincial highway, the municipal council will make a formal request for the temporary closure to the Ministry of Transport.

Armed robbery investigated

The Huntingdon detachment of the Surete du Quebec is on the lookout for two individuals who committed armed robbery at a Covey Hill residence last week.

The two suspects are described as being about five-foot-eight and weighing 150

pounds. One is said to have blond shoulder-length hair and the other has brown hair.

The suspects were reported to have threatened senior citizens at knifepoint before leaving the premises with an unspecified amount of cash last Dec. 11.

The same modus operandi was used for similar crimes in the Lacolle area recently.

The S.Q., which is investigating the case, would appreciate any relevant information. The phone number is 264-5384 and all calls will be kept confidential.

Meningitis vaccination clinics

Parents of children ages 6-months to 5-years-old who intend for their children to be vaccinated against meningitis need to call the CLSC serving their territory and make an appointment.

The vaccinations are free of charge; bring the child's health card to show proof of age and identity. The vaccination protects against 4 types of bacteria which cause the disease. However, for the type B strain no vaccine exists. Parents still need to be vigilant, explained a Department

of Community Health spokesperson.

The meningococcal vaccine protects against types A, C, Y or W-135. The vaccine takes two weeks to take effect and is 90 per cent effective.



Photo: Phillip Norton

Icing the park

Huntingdon firemen Daniel Gauthier and René Mailloux hose down the grass to create the skating oval across from Prince Arthur Park. The mobile building is the warming hut.

H'don Firemen vs

"No Stars" Jan. 9

The Huntingdon Volunteer Firemen vs CFCF Radio Station Stars will cut up the ice in their 10th annual hockey game. The benefit match will be played Jan. 9, 1993, in the Huntingdon Arena, starting at 7:30 p.m.

All proceeds will be divided between the Minor Hockey Association and Little Green Library, of Huntingdon.

Everyone is encouraged to come support, watch and enjoy this attraction.

Protestant School Board takes care of business

Dan Rosenberg

The Protestant School Board of Chateauguay Valley has unanimously decided to renew its lease with Murray McClintock for a further 15-year period.

Rental fee was set at \$1,200 per year for the first five years and \$1,500 a year for the next five

years. Rate for the final five-year period will be negotiated in 10 years' time.

It was also resolved that the existing lease with Garth Cavers (which has 15 years to run) be adjusted according to the terms of the lease agreement to reflect changes in annual rental to \$1,975 per year for the next five years.

The rate for the next two five-year periods will be negotiated later.

It was understood that both lease agreements would be drafted by the School Board's finance and property committee headed by Peter MacHardy.

Upon that committee's recommendation, the Board agreed to make

arrangements necessary to remove its old school building in St. Anicet as demanded by the municipality.

The Board also upheld the committee's recommendation that the contract for window replacement at Hemmingford Elementary School be awarded to Northall Construction Ltée. in the

amount of \$105,400... the lowest of the tenders received.

This project is a shared-cost project, requiring a contribution of approximately \$68,400 from the Board.

In order to facilitate the transport and moving of equipment, materials, sup-

See page 2

This and That in Town



Photo: Phillip Norton

Corn drying continued without interruption last week despite the dummy who lost his head in the grain pile at the George Leggett farm on Ridge Road in Hinchinbooke.

UP ON THE ROOFTOP -- these days everyone seems a little frazzled, getting ready for Christmas. Poor Santa was seen lying prostrate on a roof of a house along Hwy 138 near Dewittville. Either the high wind on the weekend blew him over, or he too is having trouble finding the energy to get through to Thursday night.

IN THIS WEEK'S POEM -- we are asked to follow the Christmas Star, the Star that led the Wisemen to Bethlehem and still shines for everyone that will take time to look for it.

Eryn Murphy receives Frances Taylor bursary

Eryn Murphy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Murphy of Huntingdon, is the 1992 recipient of the Frances Taylor Memorial Bursary.

Eryn is now in her first semester in commerce at Marianopolis College in Montreal. She attended French elementary school at Huntingdon Academy for grades 1-5 and also attended grade six there before completing her high school education at CVR last June.

At CVR Eryn was an excellent all-around student and was also active in sports activities. She made the school's honour roll upon

graduation and received several scholastic awards.

The bursary was made possible through an open memorial fund founded by the family of the late Frances Taylor, a dedicated member of the Women's Institute from 1950-70. The award is administered by the executive of the Quebec Women's Institute and is offered to a student from this province entering a CEGEP or university.

Members of the Women's Institute convey congratulations and best wishes to Eryn, along with continued success in her studies.



Photo: Provided

Florence Ellerton, Provincial President of the Quebec Women's Institutes' presented Eryn Murphy with the Francis Taylor Memorial Bursary on Sunday, November 8. Publicity Convener Carol Petch (right) looks on.



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THE ANGLICAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES -- will be held at Trinity Church in Havelock at 4 p.m. on December 24 and the midnight Christmas Eve Service will be held at St. Luke's in Hemmingford at 11 p.m. Everyone is welcome. (F.E.)

GERALD BRISEBOIS -- has accepted to be the honorary president of the Huntingdon sector for 1993 campaign of the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Quebec. Muguette Rémillard holds the position as president.

CORRECTON -- a photo which appeared in the Dec. 2 edition should have correctly identified Claudette Melcher and Rejeanne Marcl as craftspeople at the Havelock Community Centre bazaar. The error is regretted.

Royalty for Ormstown Carnival

This year's royalty in the Ormstown Carnival include Martin Chartrand (Commerce Bank); Tanya Pogelsk (Salon Olive); Dominique Crête (Tessier Dépanneur); Carole Perreault (Bar 201); Daniel Berthiaume (Loisirs Service); Chantal Tremblay

(Lions Club); Melanie Couture (Caisse populaire).

One highlight will be the Amateur Contest on January 23: musicians, comics, dancers, jugglers and anyone with a talent should register his or her act with coordinator Marc Bourdon. Call 829-3214.

CVR Christmas boxes

For two decades Ruth Graham, school nurse at CVR high school in Ormstown, and her band of helpers have organized and distributed Christmas boxes for underprivileged families in the Valley. This year 43 well-filled baskets with the makings for a dinner, including a turkey plus presents for under the tree, and other goodies were again distributed. Every basket is designed for an individual family's

needs. Donations of non-perishables covered eight cafeteria tables -- you

should have seen all the food! Volunteers packed all the boxes last Wednesday night and dis-

tribution took place on Thursday morning. Pillsbury of Ste. Martine donated forty cases of canned corn and peas. Various community groups raised money. CVR students turned over the proceeds of their candygram sales. (V.F.)



Photos: Valerie Furcell

Just a few of the many, many volunteers who helped organize the CVR Christmas baskets last week. They include Alton Graham, Ruth Graham, David Aikman, Helen Barrington, Lois McCaig, Harold McCaig, Jean McClintock, Irene Hamilton, Willand Hamilton and Pete Barrington.



Elaine Wood and Ruth Graham giving a food basket a final check.

Origins of first names

The Quebec Family History Society will meet on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30 p.m. at La Maison du Brasseur, 2901, St. Joseph Street, Lachine, Quebec.

The speaker will be Ms Sheila James on the subject of Christian Name Patterns in England Before 1850: Guidelines for Family Historians.

Sheila James will show how most of the first names that are considered traditional and ordinary today, are really significant clues to

their origins. A genealogist can use this knowledge of names, their variations and the patterns in which they were used, to sold and avoid problems that make family history research more satisfying.

Sheila holds an honours degree from Sheffield University, in studies that included Latin, Anglo Saxon and Middle English history. She has worked as a genealogist in England and Canada for over ten years

and has computerized genealogical records with private custom designed software. This work has included many large One-Name studies of different surnames across a wide variety of English counties. This led to a special interest in Christian name and migration patterns and to surprising discoveries about the names regularly used in families. The subject will be illustrated.

For additional information contact Betty Chalmers -- 738-6604.

Residence Elle prepares...

Christmastime can bring out the best in people, and sometimes the stresses and financial pressures bring out the otherwise.

Women's shelters and CLSCs are all too aware -- the holiday season is often a time when its services are most often sought, and needed.

Residence Elle, which is located in Ormstown Village, a safe house for women and their children, can offer refuge or provide referrals to

those in need. Volunteers will be at the house on a 24-hour a day basis, continuing to respond to one of society's needs -- an end to violence

and abuse towards women.

Call Residence Elle at 829-2235. The mailing address is P.O. Box 1006, Ormstown, Quebec, J0S 1K0. (V.F.)

Free skating H'don Arena

The following dates which are available free of charge to the municipalities who represent the Régie, namely Elgin, Dundee, Ormstown, St-Malachie, St-Anicet, Ste-Barbe, Godmanchester, St-Stanislas de Kostka and Huntingdon.

Tuesday	December 22	2:00 - 4:00 p.m. 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday	December 23	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday	December 26	2:00 - 4:30 p.m. 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Monday	December 28	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	December 29	2:00 - 4:00 p.m. 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

"We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone 'Best Wishes' for the holiday season and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year," says Paula Larocque, secretary-treasurer of the Arena.

Protestant School Board

from Page 1

plies and personnel for maintenance and repair purposes between schools serviced by the CVR maintenance centre, it was decided that a suitable second-hand van be purchased at a cost not to exceed \$12,000 (taxes excluded).

Don't let your child go to sleep in the dark. Read together tonight.

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Trio Zimmerman in concert

It's Christmastime, and Trio Zimmerman is back for a concert at the Rockburn Presbyterian Church. Spend a Sunday afternoon enjoying the music of this baroque trio featuring Rachelle Taylor, harpsichord, Claire Tremblay, oboe, and Mark Fraser, cello. The concert will take place at 3 p.m. on December 27.

This will be the third annual Christmas concert for

the trio, although two of the members have appeared more frequently before Valley audiences. Rachelle wowed the house with her performances of Bach concertos at the closing concert of the Project Renaissance summer season. Mark is familiar as the musical director of Renaissance.

Come hear these two musicians join forces with Claire

Tremblay performing works by Handel, Telemann and Quantz. For more information, please call 827-2829.

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Hemmingford development conference unites people of ideas and action



Photo: Phillip Norton
Michel Prieur



Photo: Phillip Norton
Frances Ravensberger and Vincent Ierfino animate a workshop summary on community groups development.

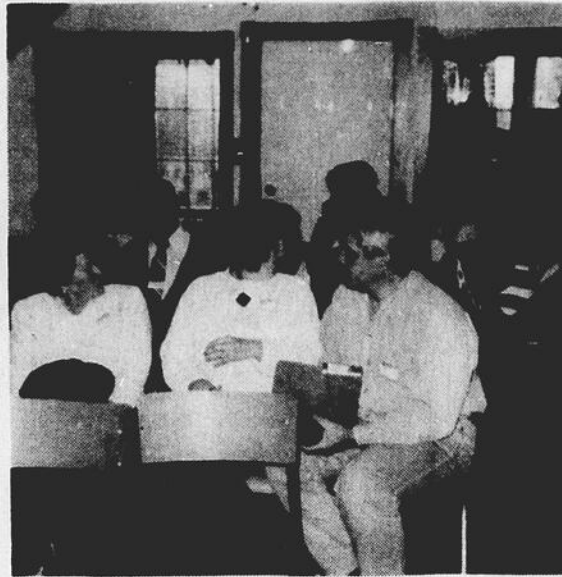


Photo: Florence Ellerton
Participants at the conference in Hemmingford.

Phillip Norton THE GLEANER

The movers and shakers of the Hemmingford community gathered on November 21 at the Old Convent for a day-long conference entitled "Our Development". Organized by the Chamber of Commerce this event drew about 50 participants ranging from business owners and community group leaders to municipal officials and the Member of National Assembly André Chenail.

Through specialized workshops, guest speakers and conversations over lunch, the conference participants identified local problems and proposed local solutions.

Some general feelings surfaced during the day: a strong sense of community and a lack of awareness of the diverse attractions and activities which exist in Hemmingford.

The community's key annual event is Old Home Week which places a focus on all of Hemmingford's assets during one fun-filled summer period. Homestyle

meals and a rural friendliness count for a lot in bringing people back year after year.

In summarizing the points raised during the touristic development workshop, Pierre Philion outlined other natural, cultural, and touristic attractions Hemmingford can offer. He listed the golf club, Parc Safari zoo, green space and forests, hunting and fishing, maple syrup and apples, horseback riding, camping, cross-country skiing and generally unique landscape scenery. On the point of motels and restaurants, the committee felt there is a need to improve these services so that visitors don't make Hemmingford simply a one-day visit.

"How do you get people to stay when we are only 35 minutes from Montreal," was one comment.

There was discussion about offering weekend package deals to tourists, including bus tours of the Southwest Quebec district. Neighbouring attractions such as boat cruises on the Richelieu River, wineries, and hotels could be among the stops. Andy Latour operated bus tours in Hemmingford a few years

ago and was named as a resource for developing this strategy for the Chamber.

Linda Van Der Meer of the Hemmingford Golf Club noted that she receives many calls asking for package deals which include golf outings.

Pierre Philion refused to suggest ways to promote the local apple industry without representation at the conference by the growers.

Participants agreed that Hemmingford remains one of the best-kept secrets in Quebec, a situation many would like to change. It was also stated that the local population is not aware of the potential for tourism here and that it is the role of the Chamber of Commerce to educate them. They would like to create an awareness among the promotional organizations which already exist such as the Ministers of Tourism and Loisirs, the MRC Jardins de Napierville, the Corporation de développement économique, and the Société montréalaise de développement.

During the afternoon session, Gérard Laberge from the Hemmingford Golf Club stated to the audience: "It

was mentioned this morning that we don't know a lot about Hemmingford". The comment was appropriate because it followed a long intervention by school board representative François Dupuis who had an idea for a youth exchange between France and Quebec. Young people from France would come to pick apples here and our young people would travel abroad to pick grapes. Pierre Philion then pointed out that such a program already exists in the area. No one knew.

Carol Gregoire brought up the thought that the reason people would settle in Hemmingford could be more sentimental than logical. He said that there is a "welcoming spirit" here, an attitude that doesn't cost anything to promote. He suggested that we smile at the tourists as we are happy to see them and answer their questions.

The Chamber of Commerce's representative to the Corporation de développement économique de Napierville is Lyne Notargiovanni.

Ms. Notargiovanni noted that attendance by local industry at the conference was not high. Out of 250 invitations sent, 107 were sent to companies and only five came. It was felt to be important to the Chamber that the larger members partici-

part. Michel Prieur of the Corporation de développement économique de Napierville (CDE) said there are several good businesses in place that should not be kept secret: Crane-Drummond, Dudley, and Hemmingford Aerospace.

Prieur said that, yes, people want commercial and industrial development to create better quality jobs and to utilize the competence which exists locally. Industry would be attracted to the Hemmingford area by the low tax rates, the well-trained, bilingual manpower, the access to Montreal and the United States, the com-

of Commerce should put most of its effort into the highest potential actions such as creating jobs in the enterprises which are already in place.

"We have to show the youth that a job is not the only way to be employed; you can create an enterprise too," he said.

Through his experience he has found that prospecting at-large for new industry is very expensive and must be conducted over the long-term. He says Hemmingford could be specific in its search for an industry with 250 employees, favouring industries similar to those which already exist such as metals, plastics, forestry and agro-alimentary.

The tradition of agriculture in the region, and the labour force, are advantages of Hemmingford he named. Others included stability, as in the ownership of farms, a strong spirit of entrepreneurship, good location and a good environment to protect.

The Economic Development Corporation has produced an attractive map of the MRC Jardins de Napierville territory indicating points of interest in the nine municipalities.

Yvon Gravel, Mayor of Hemmingford Township, stated that the CDE cannot do the job alone: "The citizens have to participate, each in their own area of expertise. Camping, golfing, and fishing, tell the CDE about the interests of the people of Hemmingford."

Gravel, who is also a biologist for the provincial government, noted that the wealth of game has an economic impact in Hemmingford. François Dupuis observed that fishing would also have an economic impact if there was a way to bring the English River back to life.

"There are many, many, many people from Hemmingford who go fishing in the United States," he said. "And there are many, many, many Montreals who go fishing in the United States. It's not far."

Dupuis was also one of several to endorse the concept of a multidisciplinary center, a common building for the community groups which are now using various church halls and schools throughout the village. He said that it was an historical moment when the mayors of both village and township councils put their signatures on the document favouring this center.

Amalgamating those two municipalities became an important topic of discussion at the conference. Both mayors heard the message from participants in favour of such a merger. Village mayor Maurice Patenaude stated that it could help bring the French and English closer together.

Speaking with The Gleaner, Alex Ross, one of the conference organizers, noted that such a merger would not have been considered years ago by farmers in the Township who did not

want to pay for services in the Village. But today, with the Ryan Reform, where municipalities assume the costs of more road and bridge maintenance, the merger is beginning to look more reasonable. All would like the question opened to the general population.

The Chamber has helped solve the problem of Hemmingford citizens not aware of their own community and local businesses by publishing a business directory featuring members of the Chamber of Commerce. It also publishes a regular newsletter.

The conference was deemed a success by all who attended. The Chamber hopes to hold others to deal with specific themes such as tourism.

Chamber President Richard Priest thanked everyone for participating and he congratulated the conference committee of Lyne Notargiovanni, Andy Latour, Alex Ross and Linda VanDerMeer and the 10 to 15 people who are working actively in the Chamber of Commerce.

After the inspiring day of talk he said: "I see that things are going to move."

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Riding enthusiasts organize in Hemmingford

Several months ago, a group of horse riding enthusiasts in the Hemmingford area came together and decided to form a club that would promote trail riding in the area. The group became a legally constituted corporation under Part III of the Companies Act and received its Letters Patent in June 1992. Les Cavaliers de la frontière sud-ouest is a non-profit corporation with the following goals:

1. To promote equestrian recreational activities for the residents of Hemmingford and the surrounding area.

2. To promote safety in equestrian recreational activities for the rider as well as the horse.

3. To develop and maintain a network of horse back riding trails in Hemmingford and the surrounding area, with the cooperation of local landowners.

4. To organize fund raising events in order to achieve the above mentioned goals.

At the present time there are twenty-five active members in the club. During the fall and winter months the group intends to approach landowners in the vicinity of Montée Giroux, Route 202 and Hurley Road in order to obtain permission to make trails on their property. Once this is granted they will maintain the trails and use them only for horse back riding activities. Subsequently, they intend to further the trail-making activities to other sections of the region, and eventually to link them up into a network of horse-back riding trails.

Les Cavaliers de la frontière sud-ouest will be insured for liability through its membership in Québec à Cheval.

Hospital receives \$20,000 subsidy

The Huntingdon Hospital Centre has received a \$20,000 subsidy from Québec Health and Social Services Minister Marc-Yvan Côté.

Beauharnois-Huntingdon MNA Andre Chenail, in making the announcement, said that the money will enable the hospital to purchase new equipment in order to improve dispensation of services and the quality of life of both patients and staff.

Cheval, the Association québécoise pour le Tourisme Equestre et l'Équitation de Loisirs. Québec à Cheval, a reputable organization linked to the Ministère des Loisirs, de la Chasse et de la Pêche, has just celebrated its tenth anniversary. Across the province of Quebec there are 900 individual members, 400 family members, 13 equestrian centres and 29 clubs that make up Québec à Cheval. Les Cavaliers de la frontière sud-ouest will increase this number to 30 clubs.

As landowners and residents of the region, the organizers understand the concerns of the people whom

we will be approaching right of way permission.

"We are looking into all the issues so that everyone is protected," says President Jacqueline Redmond. "We wish to promote an image of responsible citizens who will not take advantage of the property or the owners who agree to allow us to use their land".

On last October 5 the Town Council of Hemmingford Township passed a resolution of official support for Les Cavaliers de la frontière sud-ouest. For further information about the club, please call Linda O'Neill at 826-3379 or Cynthia Bishop at 247-3501.

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2- OUT-OF-AREA \$32⁰⁰ (Taxes and postage included)
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EDITORIAL: PHILLIP NORTON, VALERIE FURCALL, CYRILALARY

Editorial Policy

The Gleaner will publish commentary and news of interest under certain conditions: first, all text must be received by the office the preceding Friday, and preference will be given to typewritten, double-spaced articles; the name, address and telephone number of the sender must also be included. The Gleaner cannot always publish all that is received. The Gleaner reserves the right to excerpt or shorten a text, and to complete information. News releases will not be repeated, nor will text and photographs be returned.

Editorial

BACK TO THE BASICS OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a wonderful festival, but it is full of contradictions. Why is it that in this season of joy and celebration so many persons seem depressed and stressed-out?

I believe so! Advertisers entice us to pick the "perfect" gift for our children or spouse or someone special, but after we've bought it, somehow it still doesn't seem good enough. It is a time of extravagant spending and one could even say "obscene" spending in the light of millions of people starving abroad and thousands in need of our very doorstep. Old Christmas movies and sentimental, romantic songs sung by people like the king crooner himself, Bing Crosby, make single people, widows and widowers feel more alone at Christmas than at any other time of the year.

Every year I try to remind myself, and preach to others, that Christmas is more than the superficial trappings of Christmas trees, lights, gift-buying and gift-giving, turkey suppers and carol-singing. Christmas is about

Jesus, born in a manger, God being born among us. Christmas is about John 3:16 which says: "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Christmas is all about loving. Let's try and keep it simple. Life is far too complex as it is. Let's not expect from Christmas more than it can possibly deliver. Let's not expect Christmas to be a quick-fix solution to our personal problems or the world's. Rather, let the simple truth of the Christmas message enter our hearts.

My hope and prayer is that we can get back to the basics of Christmas and find the Peace, Joy, Hope and Love that came to all of us at Bethlehem. On behalf of the clergy of the Chateauguay Valley, I invite you to the Christmas services of our many local churches and I wish you God's blessings, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Rev. Neil Wallace

GLEANER ARCHIVES...

125 years ago

December 20, 1867
... a severe shock of an earthquake was felt in this locality. Stoves rattled and beds were felt to shake. This noise accompanying the shock was loud enough to waken many from a sound sleep, and continued a considerable time.

Farmers of Elgin and Godmanchester ... starting a cheese factory. Jas. Stephen stated to the meeting (16 farmers) that if the farmers would guarantee him the milk of 300 cows for the first season, he would be at the expense of erecting the factory himself, or the farmers may have the privilege of making a joint stock company of it, and that he will allow 1 lb. of cheese for 10 lbs. of milk, deducting 2 cents per lb. for making --, he having ascertained that this is the usual practice in other factories.

MISCELLANEOUS
Why are women like churches? Firstly, because there is no living without one; secondly, because there is many a-spire to them; thirdly, because they are the objects of adoration; and lastly, but by no means lastly, because they have a loud

100 years ago

December 22, 1892
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY HUNTINGDON NO. 1
... yearly meeting ... receipts \$3169, expenses slightly exceeded the receipts, owing to about \$400 having been spent in building new stalls...

Letter ... asking that a new class be opened for standard bred horses and offering \$2 towards the increased cost... Several spoke about such a move being premature, as Mr. Trainer is the only one who owns standard bred horses and others objected to giving prizes to stock fit only for trotting.

W.F. Anderson said there was not a standard bred stallion in the country, but plenty would come in from the states. James Bell thought the society should make it rule not to give prizes to any but pure-bred stallions...

Geo. McFarlane suggested it would be a great-help to show if the ladies could be induced to make the display in the buildings larger...

W.D. McCallum asked that use of the grounds be given to lacrosse club, who would put them in order and pay as much in rent as the society now makes...

CANADA
Quebec -- A mass meeting of unemployed and distressed working men was held in order to take measures for

50 years ago

December 23, 1942
A one-act play, "What's in a lie," was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Rember and Mrs. Alvin Gruer, members of Y.P.S. Butter is rationed by coupon, one-half pound of butter per person, per week.

Fire at Braithwaite Bros. store... picture shows the fire after it had been raging for some time and had broken through the roof of the three storey building. ... soldiers from Chateauguay Barracks who came to lend a hand in fighting the fire. ... thousands of dollars

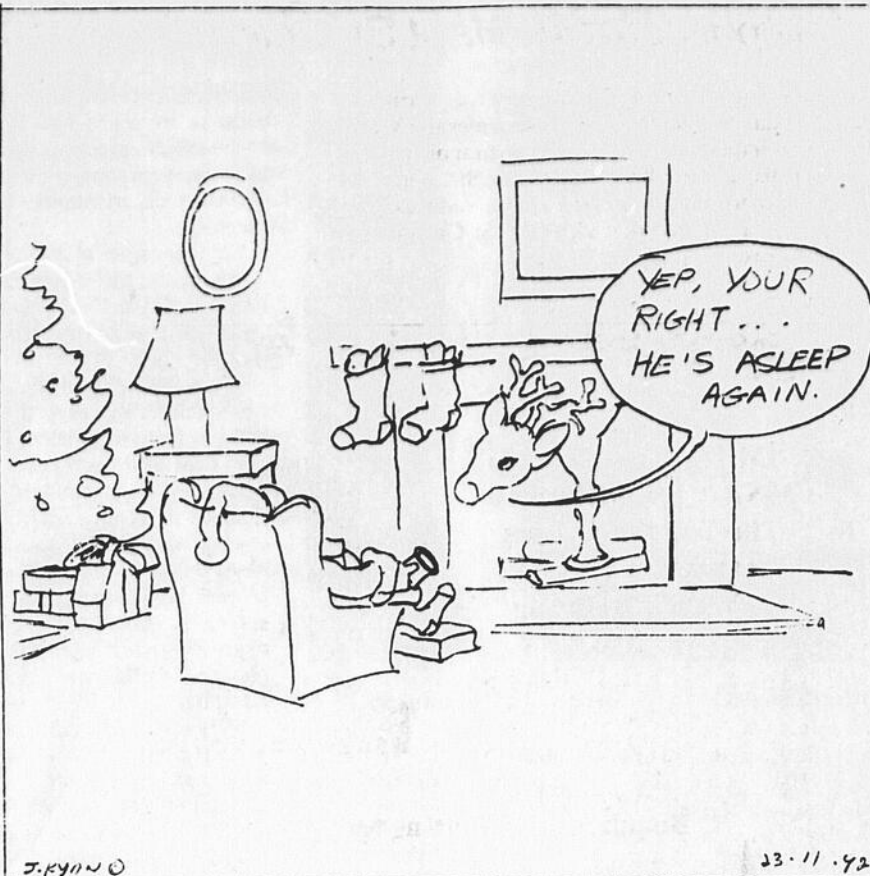
calling on the government, as well as the city, to open public works to save them from starving during the present winter. About 800 were present...

HUNTINGDON
-- The Xmas service, given by the S.S. in St. John's Church ... was not so well attended as its merits deserved... The service was bright yet devotional and calculated to impress on the youthful mind the true nature of Christmas tide.

CHRISTMAS GOODS
Fresh groceries, biscuits, spices, raisins, currants, tapioca, chocolate, cocoa, sago, rice flour, arrowroot, figs, pulverized sugar, candies, nuts, oranges and lemons... toys, fancy articles, cups and saucers, boys' sleighs.

MORRISON BROS., HUNTINGDON
A select stock of Xmas Goods including plush and Morocco goods in collar and cuff boxes, toilet sets, ladies' handkerchief and glove boxes, jewel cases. Our stock of Japanese Goods is immense comprising baskets, cute little tables and real hand-painted fire screens. Also, China sets, hand-painted in various designs. Examine our stock of silk handkerchiefs in cream, plain and embroidered. Gents' braces, from 35¢ to \$1.50. Gents' smoker's sets in Japanese silver. Our stock of dry goods, groceries, etc., is as usual -- complete.

damage and loss -- distinct loss to the community -- owner decides not to rebuild ... fire, believed to have started when a gallon container of Naphtha gasoline exploded. ... Charles Helm, who has worked for the store for many years, suffered burns on the face, hand and legs when the explosion occurred. Mr. Braithwaite, valiantly fighting the blaze with a fire-extinguisher, suffered a severe burn on his nose. ... hardware store known as the best equipped retail store of its kind in rural Quebec.



Letters

Incinerator protesters respond

The Concerned Citizens of Ellenburg, Chateauguay and Westville and surrounding areas here in the U.S.A., along with the concerned citizens of Canada met in Huntingdon on December 8 to try to solve the pollution problems that both the U.S.A. and Canada are trying to promote all along the border.

The Chateauguay wood-chip burning incinerator was a major concern. It really scared the people when the vice-president of K.E.S. could not answer questions like how much water was put from this facility into the Chateauguay River. How many chemicals. What kind of chemicals. What amount of insurance this company had. Did insurance cover loss of health. Property. Water. Loss of crops for the people of these communities. Loss of property values.

There was no mention as to what would be done in the case that there was a malfunction in the incinerator while burning at full capacity. There was a mention of probes picking up excess emissions while burning IF a contaminated load of chips were being burned. Probe, heck, what good are they when these hazardous pollutants are already in the air? What if the stock piles or the conveyor caught on fire? Are there enough firefighters on hand to handle an emergency? What about medical staff?

Are the people in Chateauguay going to have lower electricity bills? No. Are your taxes going down? No. Why? Have you asked?

Who will inspect the so-called clean wood chips?

Can anyone be appointed by you, the people, for this job? Doesn't it scare you people that K.E.S. is being paid to transport and burn this whatever kind of wood? It scares us because we would not pay anyone to take something good off our hands.

Mr. Carter stated that most of this wood is being brought across the border into Chateauguay. He thinks there's a skunk in the woods on both sides of the political border. Can't say for sure but it smells. Doesn't it?

I do sympathize with Mr. Garth Stephen who was given such a hard time by the DEC. Well, the DEC will raise Cain with anyone who stirs the water on wetlands and issues such as Mr. Stephen's. These issues do not

The rights of all living creatures

There is a revolutionary betterment in human rights and human welfare. The invention and service of dialing 911 has brought immediate help to the sick and injured, although criticism is rampant in many cases about the time required for the police or ambulance to get to the scene.

Independent of the distance or traffic congestion, help has to be provided almost before the accident happens. People forget that no system is perfect and that security is an illusion. The critics, especially passive individuals who don't contribute physically or in a monetary manner, have the strongest voice when added taxes are applied for the necessary service. But everything has a price, the better the service, the higher the cost. If one wants more policemen, one seen at every corner, it will cost more, needless to say.

Regarding animal rights, animal help and its welfare, concerned citizens and animal lovers try to get involved in some

50 years ago

O'CONNOR THEATER
Ship ahoy, Land of Quintuples, Pacific Blackout, This Time for Keep, The Spoilers, True to the Army, Don Winslow of the Navy.

Maple Leaf Grange (Kensington) Christmas Dance... Wilson - Milne Orchestra. Adm: 30¢ per person. DAHLIA'S WHATNOTS
The cutting down by some vandal hand

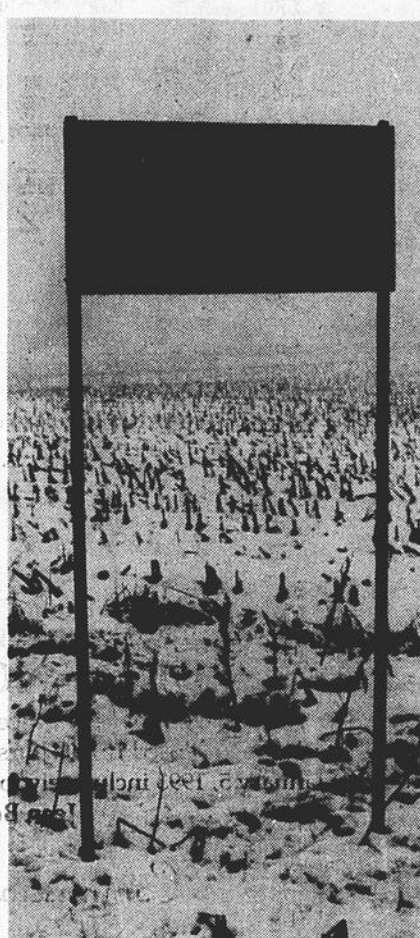


Photo: Phillip Norton
An incinerator protest sign along Route 11 by the concerned citizens of Ellenburg, New York.

affect the profitability of the Government. No big payoff from such things as wetlands on farmland or fisheries, etc. So we poor hicks are made to believe the DEC is protecting us when I think it is the greed for money they are protecting.

The staff of the DEC has been cut so much that they do not have the ability, time or energy to follow up on all of the very important issues.

It's time our Governments on both sides of the border realize that we hayseeds who just fell off the turnip truck put food in their mouths every day. Money may be great but it wouldn't make a very nourishing diet.

Let's all fight to keep our God-given environment clean for us and future generations.

Elsie Hart
Ellenburg, New York

way. If they are not able to give time to a shelter, caring for the animals, they try to pay for the medical expenses for the operations or the purchase of food.

Anyone who sits on the fence, observing the many needs, who objects to a poor service, for lack of funds and manpower, who does not contribute to the urgency of a better world, is luring himself thinking his "non-participation", except his demands, requests or criticism are the way to go. How quick we are to judge, how fast we complain, yet how slow and utterly silent we praise the good deeds. "No man is an island." The beginning of December will be remembered by horrendous crimes involving humans. The authorities are swamped with extra work and the shelter has not been except of horrendous cases involving cruelties to animals where priorities.

Jackie Marcl
SPA Shangri-la

Births and Deaths

Cards of Thanks, In Memoriams, Marriage Notices, Engagements, Announcements.

BORN

ENDERLE - Michelle is excited to announce the arrival of her brother, Sean, born December 14th, 1992, weighing 7 lbs. 9-3/4 oz. Happy parents are Joey and Nancy.

JEFFERY - Frances and Glenn, of Edmonton, Alberta, are thrilled to announce the early arrival of Thomas William, on November 27th, at 3:17 p.m. weighing 6 lb. 7 oz. A little brother for Samantha, proud grandparents are Jim and Alice Leahy of Franklin Centre, Que., and Lorna and Roy Jeffery of Edmonton, Alberta.

McADAM - Robert and Deborah (née Coffey) are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child, Michael Edouard, at the Barrie Memorial Hospital on Dec. 14, 1992, weighing 9 lbs. 5 oz. Proud grandparents are David and Dorothy Coffey and George and Annette McAdam.

BORN

ROULEAU - Phyllis (née Danforth) and Alain are very proud to announce the arrival of Mathieu Allan born December 9, 1992, weighing 7 pounds 13 ounces. Proud grandparents are Gisèle Danforth of North Hatley and Denyse and Simon Rouleau of St-Chrysostome.

DIED

STONE, Helen - At the Barrie Memorial Hospital, Ormstown, Que. on Dec. 20, 1992, age 81 years. Dear sister of Mrs. Lenore Kinsella of St. Catharines, Ont., Frederick of Edmonton, Alta. and Robert of Athelstan, Que. Funeral service was from the Kelly Funeral Home on Tuesday, Dec. 22 at 2 p.m. Interment: Athelstan Cemetery.

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Walshaven Community Centre for the beautiful floral wall hanging I was given on my retirement. Special thanks to Jean Forrester, for her beautiful picture. May your Christmas be as happy as you have made mine.

Mona E. Mason

The family of the late Alvin Gruer would like to express our sincere thanks to all who gave their support, cards, flowers and memorial donations. It's times like this that we realize that our relatives, friends and neighbours are second to none.

The Gruer family

Thank you to all who expressed their sympathy with visits, cards, flowers and donations in memory of our mother, Ethel MacDonald. Your kindness is sincerely appreciated.

Lois & Gerald Goldie
Roy MacDonald
Edith & Stephen Blair

A sincere thank you to everyone for the many kindnesses shown me while in hospital and recuperating at home. All were greatly appreciated.

Iris Bisson

Thanks to Dr. Héту and the staff of the maternity ward at the Barrie Memorial, for making our stay pleasant and comfortable.

Nancy and Sean Enderle

I wish to thank Dr. Aikin, Vondor and Geujkian during my operation, also nurses and staff on the 2nd floor of the Barrie Memorial Hospital. To those who visited me with gifts, flowers and phone calls. All was very much appreciated.

Beatrice Duheme
Fournier

We would like to thank Dr. Lemieux and the maternity staff at the Barrie Memorial Hospital for the excellent care we received while patients.

Michael and Deborah (Coffey) McAdam

We wish to thank the members of the Hemmingford Women's Institute for their visit and the Christmas Cheer Boxes given to each of us.

Nelly Paré

IN MEMORIAM

LOWDEN, Allan
We all miss you very, very much. We are happy for you. Your journey is made, and you are with the Good Lord. The example you left us, we are trying to follow. Of peace on earth, goodwill to all people.

Aleta and family

Regional threats, international problems rouse citizens

from Page 1

tegrity by never knowingly accepting contaminated wood. The company is proud of its environmentally-conscious record and innovations in the area of wind-powered projects, he explained.

There will be monitoring for carbon-dioxide and other gases; however, no monitoring to heavy metals or dioxins will be done.

Fish hatchery owner Garth Stephen expressed every confidence with the Kenetech project and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) mandate to assure adherence to its regulations. Hansen and Connert both gave qualified support for the concept of converting wood-waste into energy.

Three American projects, two of which are private-developer owned, the other is the regional county dump in Westville, have received or are in the review process of receiving permits.

Elfenburg incinerator
"Incinerating bio-medical waste is like taking a chainsaw to cut butter," stated Connert. "Converting biological wastes by burning introduces a host of chemical problems by destroying plastics and chemical substances." He explained that when medical waste is burned it generates acid gasses, liberates toxic metals; burning plastic releases cadmium which gets into the lungs. Try to mitigate these things and toxic ash, a powerful by-product is created. "What the problem cries out for," he pronounced, "is a way to kill bugs (germs, bacteria and viruses) without burning." Autoclaving, shredding and microwaving and chemical disinfection are alternative methods, and all cheaper, he added.

Union producers d'agriculture (UPA) spokesman Stephan Côté stated that there should be an "outright ban on incineration for along both sides of the border. There is a trend to locate on the border. We are not part of the decision-making process but we are the first ones dealing with the outcome.

This region depends on quality soils and water and the concerns need to be addressed to the DEC or Quebec Environment Ministry.

"Incinerators and landfills -- away from the borders!" was greeted with audience applause.

Disher made it known to the elected government representatives of MNA Andre Chenail and MP Jean-Guy Hudon who were audience observers, that "they would have to get their act together with the DEC to share information. What communication is there between New York State and Quebec?"

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Waste management key MRC issue

Waste management will be one of the key issues for discussion in the MRC Haut St-Laurent in 1993.

After listening to a speech on the subject by engineer Pierre Frappier recently, the Council of Mayors set up a meeting with the engineering firm on Jan. 30 to discuss the matter further.

"It was difficult to decide on a winner, and you can't give everybody a prize," Ryan acknowledged. "But we the judges thank everyone for what they've done. I think a lot more people are enjoying this than the owners realize."

Ryan, who judged the first-ever such contest in Huntingdon in 1988, says participation this year was greater than ever. "Putting an exact number on it would be difficult," he admitted, "but every section of town had a group of houses involved. The number was considerable."

Best Wishes

The members of the municipal council and the staff of the municipality of St-Anicet are pleased to wish you all their Best Wishes at Christmas and for the New Year.



MUNICIPALITY OF ST-ANICET

Pierre Caza, mayor

Normand Lavoie, seat no.1

Louise Lachance Legault, seat no.2

Gilbert Quesnel, seat no.3

John MacKillop, seat no.4

Yves Caza, seat no.5

Marius Trépanier, seat no.6

Claudette Génier-Leblanc, sec. treas.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Parish of Tres-St-Sacrement

Mayor: Albert Billette

Councillors:

Ross Craig

James Runciman

Réal Rose

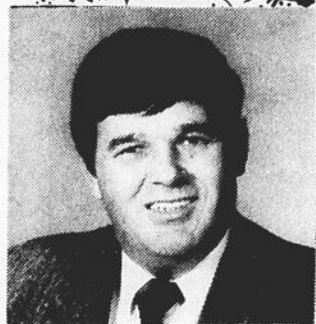
Sec. treas: Gérard Primeau et

Jeannine Couillard

Alvin Chisholm

Normand Bourcier

François Rochefort



Municipal court for Haut St-Laurent?

The Council of Mayors of the MRC Haut St-Laurent will have an important decision to make during the coming year concerning the setting up of a municipal court in the area.

A recent modification of the law enables the MRC to have its own municipal court. Some Haut St-Laurent municipalities, such as Havelock and St-Chrysostome,

already have access to such services in St-Rémi. Ironically, Havelock hasn't had a single case heard yet while St-Chrysostome has about five a year.

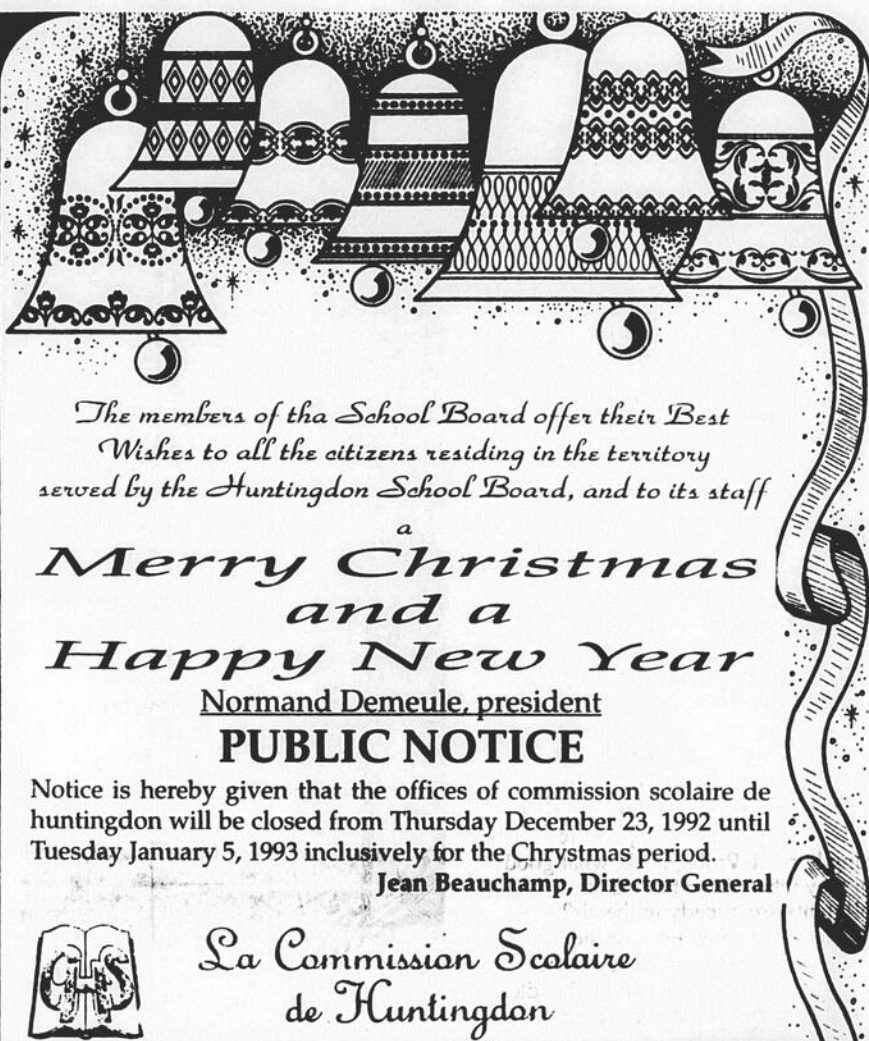
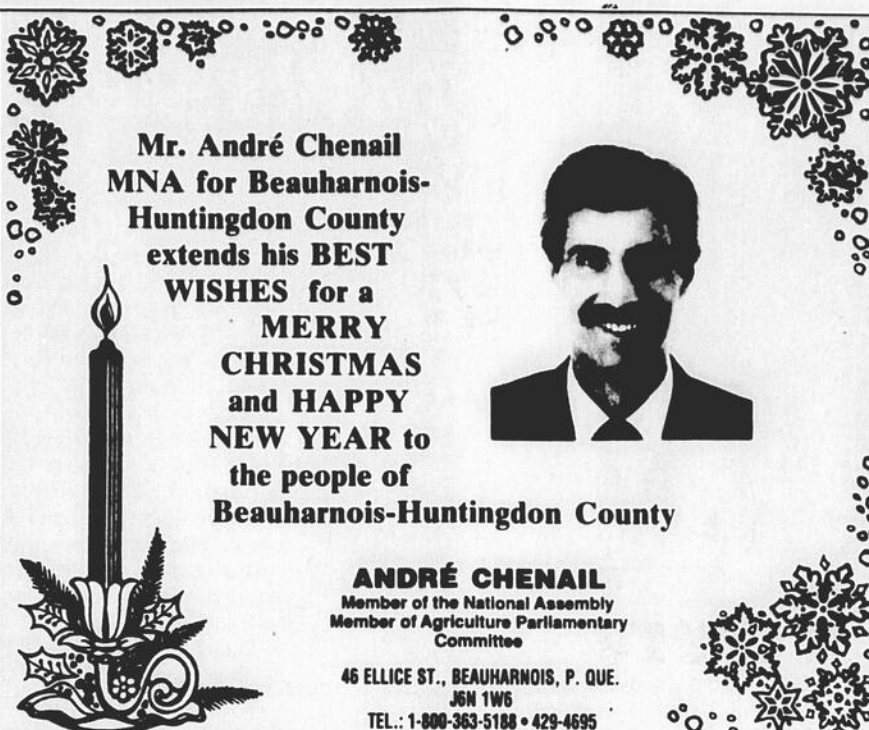
Mr. André Chenail
MNA for Beauharnois-
Huntingdon County
extends his BEST
WISHES for a

MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and HAPPY
NEW YEAR to
the people of
Beauharnois-Huntingdon County



ANDRÉ CHENAIL
Member of the National Assembly
Member of Agriculture Parliamentary
Committee

46 ELLICE ST., BEAUHARNOIS, P. QUE.
J6N 1W6
TEL.: 1-800-363-5188 • 429-4695



The members of the School Board offer their Best
Wishes to all the citizens residing in the territory
served by the Huntingdon School Board, and to its staff

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Normand Demeule, president

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the offices of commission scolaire de
Huntingdon will be closed from Thursday December 23, 1992 until
Tuesday January 5, 1993 inclusively for the Christmas period.

Jean Beauchamp, Director General

La Commission Scolaire
de Huntingdon

SEASON'S BEST



THE TOWN OF HUNTINGDON



May this happy
period of the year be
one of peace and
prosperity for all of
you.

HIS WORKSHOP THE MAYOR
GERALD BRISEBOIS

ALDERMAN YVAN CADORET

SEAT #1

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As it is now time for annual festivities, the members of the
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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR MEDICAL SERVICES

SERVICE POINT	THURSDAY DECEMBER 24, 1992	FRIDAY DECEMBER 25, 1992	MONDAY DECEMBER 26, 1992
Saint-Rémi	10-3 p.m.	CLOSED	10-3 p.m.
Napierville	10-3 p.m.	CLOSED	10-3 p.m.
Hemmingford	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

SERVICE POINT	THURSDAY DECEMBER 31, 1992	FRIDAY JANUARY 1, 1993	MONDAY JANUARY 2, 1993
Saint-Rémi	10-3 p.m.	CLOSED	10-3 p.m.
Napierville	10-3 p.m.	CLOSED	10-3 p.m.
Hemmingford	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

All other services will be available at the CLSC between 8:30
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Craft Centre holds its Christmas luncheon

by Gloria McIntyre

Christmas is the time of year to get together with friends to visit and enjoy a cup of cider then a wonderful meal, which is exactly what we did at our annual Christmas

luncheon at the Craft and Recreation Centre. It was delightful to see so many of our members attend this event.

The scene was set by the beautifully decorated hall.

The tables were dressed for the season with elegantly decorated topiary tree centre pieces, which added the final touch. The holiday spirit filled the hall as members arrived to

enjoy a delicious glass of hot or cold cider.

The guests from the Legion, our entertainers, clergy volunteers, drivers and members were welcomed. Father Clement

said grace, after which we got to sample the mouth watering array of delicious food which was before us.

After everyone was filled to their hearts content, the tables were cleared and the entertainment program began. Helen Stewart opened the program with Season's Greetings to all. I read the poem "Coming Home for Christmas." This was followed by the Chateaugay Valley Glee Club, under the direction of Lynn Harper accompanied by pianist Marion Anderson. The Glee Club sang beautifully as they entertained us with a selection of Christmas music. Bev Watson read us a Christmas story entitled "Grandpa and the Christmas deer."

Bev and I had been dying to try the recipe for "The Best Ever Rum Cake" for the holiday season. We decided to share our recipe with everyone so up on the stage we went. After following the recipe precisely Bev and I found ourselves a little under the weather. My tongue got twisted as I

read the directions while Bev tried to get the large legs into the fluffy bowl! Recipe completed we greased the oven, turned on the pans and of course our cake turned out to perfection.

Next we drew for the door prizes which were our beautiful topiary trees, 36 lucky winners took one home. Marjie Moore read the "Miracle of Christmas" then the highlight of our show, our visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

To everyone's delight they brought an addition this year. Two elves and poor old Grampa Claus who slowly shook his way up front. Santa read letters from Bev and I, who of course have been very good all year. Santa presented us each with a beautiful section veggie and dip dish plus a Christmas sleigh filled with goodies. Bev and I were delighted. We would like to thank everyone for these thoughtful Christmas gifts.

Our program continued with a sing song of carols led by the choir. Marjie Moore then read "How Can I Keep Christmas?". Our raffle followed with twelve lucky winners taking home prizes. Our program wound down with everyone singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas and Auld Lang Syne."

I would like to thank Helen Stewart and Marjie Moore for coordinating the special program which was enjoyed by all. Also a big thanks to the set up crew, people who gave donations or brought in food, the kitchen crew, the workers, the ladies who prepared the cider, the people who worked on the door, the raffle ticket sellers and everyone else involved in making this such a successful event.

On behalf of Bev, the volunteers and myself, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The Centre re-opens on January 6, 1993. See you then.

A cheerful Hello to all our sick and shut-in friends.



Helen Stewart (left), Gloria McIntyre and Beverly Watson were the targets of Santa's joke last Wednesday.

Photos: Phillip Norton



The Craft & Rec Centre's Christmas party with entertainment for the afternoon was the special Chateaugay Valley Glee Club under the direction of Lynn Harper-Welburn with Marion Anderson on the piano. Poems and stories were read by Gloria McIntyre, Beverly Watson and Marjie Moore. Beautiful Christmas musical selections were rendered by the Chateaugay Valley Glee Club (choir) with Lynn and Yvette. Santa (Vera Dooling) and Mrs. Claus (Alberta Steele) came for a visit bringing gifts to the co-ordinator Gloria and assistant Bev Watson who did a beautiful job. A skit put on by Gloria and Beverly called "The Best Rum Cake Ever" was hilarious and enjoyed by all. Helen Stewart presented this programme (with Marjie) and we all sang Christmas Carols to close the happy day for all. Merry Christmas to all members!



Beverly Watson and Gloria McIntyre tasted too much rum while demonstrating a rum cake recipe at the Legion.

Christmas decorations contest

Dan Rosenberg

The Huntingdon Merchants Association wound up its fourth annual Christmas decorations contest with the official judging last Thursday.

The judges panel of Mayor Gerald Brisebois, parish priest Gabriel Clement and internationally acclaimed artist John Ryan voted first prize of \$100 to M. McCarthy, whose home is situated at the corner of Henderson and Fairview.

Second prize of \$75 was awarded to Gilles Riel of 76 Wellington Street and the \$50 third prize went to Harold Taylor of 39 Prince Street. In the commercial category, the perpetual challenge plaque was won by Le Chateau on King Street.

The judges, as Ryan attests, found their task particularly tough this year. "It was very difficult to choose the winners," he related. "Quite a few people put a lot of thought and effort into their displays. If a person was chosen, it wasn't because they were leaps and bounds above the rest. We almost could have flipped a coin."

Ryan firmly believes the contest has become "a potential tourist attraction. People will come to town just to see the lights. If you go off the main streets, you find a lot of surprises. Kids also get a big kick out of it. Since the first year, more and more people are getting involved in the competition."

This year we were all quite impressed."

Ryan hopes the contest can go one step further. "I suggested to Andre (Merchants Association president Andre Castagner) that perhaps we could turn this into a lights festival in future and build a small carnival around it. We could also set up a hayride with carollers aboard. An event like this is uplifting and has hidden benefits, especially in times of recession."

According to Ryan, the amount of effort put into the contest by entrants was considerable. "Some installed lights around most features of their building and one person lit up two garages as well. Some used one color and others employed all different colors."

He said that the ultimate winner had lights on two sides of his house and around the architectural outlines of the dwelling.

"It was difficult to decide on a winner, and you can't give everybody a prize," Ryan acknowledged. "But we the judges thank everyone for what they've done. I think a lot more people are enjoying this than the owners realize."

Ryan, who judged the first-ever such contest in Huntingdon in 1988, says participation this year was greater than ever. "Putting an exact number on it would be difficult," he admitted, "but every section of town had a group of houses involved. The number was considerable."

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Ormsdown blood donor clinic

Eleven first-timers were counted in the 146 donors at the Ormsdown Optimist Club's blood donor clinic last week at the Recreation Centre. A goal of 150 was nearly achieved; some who came had to be refused as they were sick with a cold, were on medication or had taken an aspirin that day.

Next time, says Optimist coordinator, Suzanne Theoret.

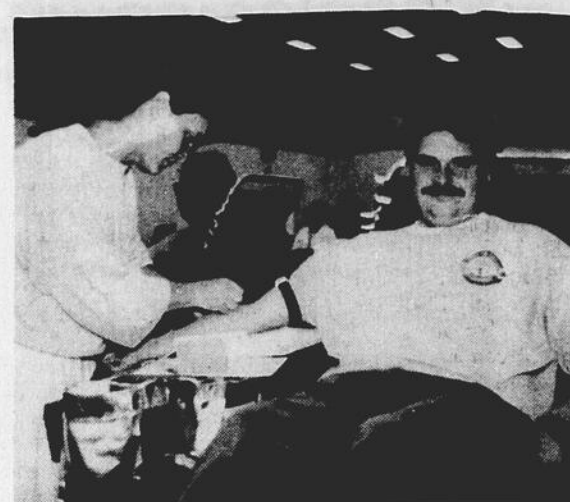


Photo: Valerie Furell

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Jim, Liz and Jamie Morgan

Technology prepares St. Joseph's students for 21st Century

Dan Rosenberg

Technology is moving the children of St. Joseph's School into the 21st Century. So says David Brisebois, principal of the Huntingdon elementary Catholic school.

"We've ordered 10 new IBM computers with built-in hard disks," Brisebois explains. "This will give our students the chance to network with the French schools of our school board. The children will be taught how to think, where to go to get information, and how to implement that data into their daily lives."

The school will use infor-

mation stored on compact disks. "We can buy CDs for just about any topic, especially science," Brisebois says. "There is even an encyclopedia with animation and sound effects available on CD. All a child has to do is turn on the computer and choose a topic."

To make sure the teachers are fully capable of operating the IBM system, an in-service workshop will be held with instruction being given by McGill students.

Former Education Minister Michel Page's Plan d'Action is being implemented in the form of a noon-hour homework program supervised by former teacher



Principal David Brisebois gets a science lesson from St. Joseph students Steve O'Connor and Ricky Van Winden.

Isabelle Smyth. Designed for pupils who "don't have time to do their homework at home," the program is for "children who want to be there or who are asked by their teachers to be there," Brisebois says.

St. Joseph's is also instituting a French reward program where students are rewarded for good behavior, academic results and work habits. Mini diplomas and certificates will be awarded to deserving youngsters.

"This program is designed to accentuate the positive," Brisebois points out. Those involved will see their names go into a hat for a \$200 mountain bike draw next

spring. "Every child will get his or her name in at least once, but they have to earn it," he says. "Everybody in the school can do something well. It's up to us to develop their strengths."

The big brothers-big sisters innovation which began last spring will continue with kindergarten pupils being matched with Grade 5 students. One night will be set aside next June where the two classes will spend an evening together. The older group will read stories to the tiny tots and both will enjoy a spaghetti supper.

Rationale is as follows: The following September, the first day of school is thought to be traumatic for the Grade 1 children as they are moved up the second floor for their first full day of education. "In this way, the Grade 6 seniors, who have already met their younger counterparts three months earlier, can lend them a hand," says Brisebois. "It's a unique project."

The last week of school before the holiday break was a busy one for pupils and teachers alike.

The annual Christmas

concert, under the direction of Lynn Harper, was held last Wednesday. On Friday the entire school body of 185 students partook in the annual Christmas dinner prepared by the parents. The meal was preceded by a John Poupart magic show.

Monday of this week was Christmas Crafts Day and on Tuesday (today) the youngsters were to be treated to a skating session at the Huntingdon Arena. A group of students also went carolling for the benefit of patients at the Huntingdon County Hospital Centre.

School Board votes Fitzpatrick four-year contract extension

Dan Rosenberg

The Protestant School Board of Chateauguy Valley has decided to tender a four-year contract extension to director general Keith Fitzpatrick.

The new contract takes effect on July 1, 1993 and runs until June 30, 1997. It calls for "maximum benefits" provided for by Board policy governing administrators.

According to the terms of the Ministry of Education's administrative

and salary policy, the salary range for a director general in a Class I school board ranges from a minimum of \$68,655 to a maximum of \$85,882 per year. Placement on the salary scale is ordinarily determined by a combination of educational background and previous experience.

The contract extension received only one negative vote at last Monday's monthly School Board meeting in Howick. That vote was cast by commissioner Steve Bobula, who has had a running battle

with Fitzpatrick over access to information.

"David D'Aoust (Fitzpatrick's predecessor) never had a four-year contract," Bobula said. Fellow commissioner Warren McCunn walked out of the meeting before the vote was taken.

"I thank the commissioners for the confidence they have shown in me," said Fitzpatrick in accepting the extension. "In 3-1/2 years (since he replaced D'Aoust) I feel we have made significant progress. My intent is to

continue towards mutual objectives and ensure that they are carried out."

Before the vote was held, Bobula told the Council of Commissioners that "a 3-1/2% salary increase and 6% performance bonus (for the director general) are criminal. In these times, we should be holding the line on salaries."

"We have to be careful what we identify as an increase," said John Watson, head of the personnel and negotiations committee and a former School Board employee. "Only the director general's contract has a perfor-

mance bonus attached to it. His is the only classification that retains it. It would be better for him if the increase was written into the salary scale."

When Bobula asked for an explanation on how Billings can now support the salary of administrative assistant (apparently Joe Pusztai) who was removed from Billings four years ago to work in the Board office, Fitzpatrick replied: "It was determined he should do his job at a level for which he is being paid. Nothing prevents us from making that decision."

Finally, Bobula

announced that he would be taking legal action against the School Board for failing to retract its censure motion against him after Bobula acted on behalf of a handicapped child who was denied entry into Huntingdon Academy.

And Peter MacHardy's motion that all commissioners be provided with minutes of all standing committee meetings because "it's important that we know what's going on so we can ask sensible questions," the request was denied by a 6-4 margin with several abstentions.

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Franklin Elementary Christmas Concert - Chinese, Mexican and Swedish theme



The customs of a Mexican Christmas were demonstrated by Sarah Tully and Daniel Faille.

by Darleen Sabetta
Franklin Correspondent

The students at the Franklin Elementary School provided their parents, relatives and friends with an hour of relaxation and music on Dec. 16 when they enacted their annual Christmas concert.

Lindsay Baker, principal, welcomed everyone and thanked them for

coming. She also spoke about the dedication and professionalism of the teachers which she appreciated very much.

Neil Ednie acted as the Master of Ceremonies during the evening.

The program began with Kindergarten singing S-A-N-T-A and He'll Be Driving Eight Brown Reindeer; Santa's Favorite

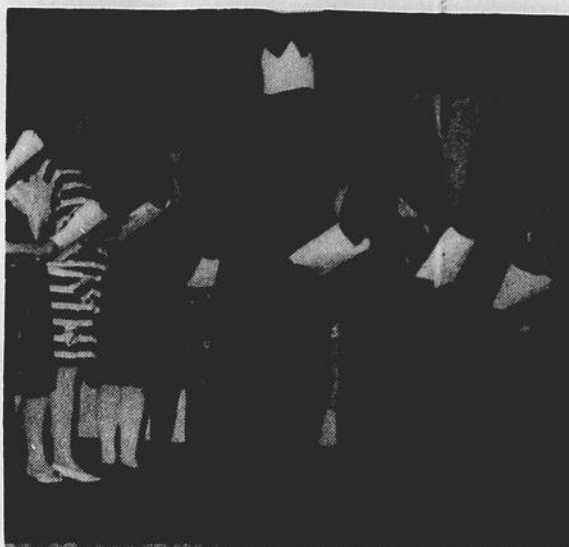


Tarara McAusland dressed as St. Lucia.

Christmas was sung by Levels 1, 2 & 3; and by Les amis de la maternelle, Les Flocons de Neige. The Level 4 girls performed a Christmas Dance.

Level 4, 5 & 6 enacted "A Festival of Lights". The introduction was made by Oren Williams and Todd Lane (who did

the French translation); the reading of the First Christmas was done by Andrea Senchey and We Three Kings was sung by Neil Ednie, Jerry Hull and Jay Fraser who played the part of the Kings; Oren recited the customs of Christmas which could be found in Mexico while fellow students re-enacted them; Andrea read the customs of St. Lucia's Day in Sweden while classmates played the



"We Three Kings" was enacted by Neil Ednie, Jade Fraser and Jerry Hull.



A Christmas Dance was performed by the Level 4 girls

parts of St. Lucia and the family; Oren then told of how the Chinese celebrate their New Year as a gaily painted dragon danced around the gym; and Andrea read the Finale.

The student body then sang It's A Small World After All to bring the

evening to a close.

The drawing made during the intermission was won by Terry Welburn and she was given a poinsettia plant and a \$25 gift certificate to Vau's Abattoir (a gift certificate provided by Gus Hebert).

"Thank you for including me in your special events, for your support and for the encouragement. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone, from my house to yours," D.S.



Kindergarten class opened the concert by singing S-A-N-T-A.

Franklin Elementary Busy first semester -- pre-kindergarten classes begin Jan. 8

by Darleen Sabetta
Franklin Correspondent

There has been many fun things and school things going on at the Franklin Elementary School over the past few months.

First of all, supply teacher Diane Niven, is warmly welcomed to the staff at F.E.S., she will be temporarily replacing Lise Primeau who will be on maternity leave.

Any parents or adults who are interested in learning basic computer skills can contact the school, the basics will be taught by Levels 5 & 6 students which will be giving the students a sense of responsibility and will enrich their inter-personal and communication skills.

Brock Goldie-Blair won first prize in the C.I.B.C. Halloween drawing contest. Congratulations Brock!

A Remembrance Day Service was organized by Gordie Bown on Nov. 10 and the invited guests were Jean Cavanagh and Andy Ocasna, Sr. It was a moving service for everyone.

The scholastic Book Fair enhanced the school library with \$375 worth of new books and the support

from the parents was well appreciated.

The students went to see Neva Shelton's Nutcracker Ballet at C.V.R. which they enjoyed every much; a Pantomimist was present at the annual Turkey Dinner on Dec. 15 and to mark the beginning of the Christmas holidays the students were taken to Huntingdon to enjoy a couple of hours of skating at the arena.

A pre-Kindergarten class will be taught by Diane Niven commencing on Jan. 8, 1993 and Vincent Ierfino will be hired to come in twice a week to work with the children on computers and drama after the school reopens in January.

Huntingdon skaters fourth at Mercier

Dan Rosenberg

The Huntingdon Figure Skating Club won eight medals, six of them bronze, at the seventh Mercier Invitational competition recently.

As a result, Huntingdon finished a strong fourth in the race for the Supremacy Trophy, emblematic of the team championship. Huntingdon wound up with 132 points, 55 less than first place Chateaugay. St-Timothee was second with 158 and Valleyfield third with 149.

The Huntingdon gold was won by the Intrepides team of Ashley Husko, Melissa Picard, Corey Faubert, Kelly Simon Leduc, Joanie Quinn and Patricia Perrier. Les Flye, composed of Annie Poirier, Karine Taillefer, Krystal Griffith, Nadia Vaillancourt and Megan Husko, also skated off with bronze.

Don't let your child go to sleep in the dark. Read together tonight.

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Area farmer fined \$2,000

A \$2,000 fine has been imposed on farmer Walter O'Connor of Godmanchester in Valleyfield Provincial court.

The Quebec Environment Ministry decided to take legal action against him for breaking the law on prevention of water pollution by an animal products establishment.

According to the charge filed against O'Connor, he spread manure on ground that was already covered with snow and ice on March 26, 1992, contrary to stipulations of articles 17 and 42 of the bylaw concerned.

Make bedtime story time.

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Minor Hockey

by Hank Cross
Atom A

On Dec. 13 the Huntingdon Canadiens faced the Nationals in Valleyfield. The Nationals won by a score of 4 to 1. Coach George Tannahill said it was a good game but it would have been nice if Huntingdon had won.

Huntingdon's only goal was scored by Andrew Duheme assisted by Fred Moore and David Dandurand.

Novice A Exhibition Game
The Chateaugay Sharks were the visitors on December 19 of the Huntingdon Lightning. The home team won 4 to 0. It was a very good game only 2 penalties going to the Sharks.

Huntingdon Lightning goals were scored by Bradley Duke with 2 goals and 1 assist; Wes Duheme, assisted by D. Mathieu; and J. Martin, assisted by M. Daigneault. Keep up the good work, boys!

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Out of prison, off of drugs Jay McNeilly is going Home for Christmas

Phillip Norton
THE GLEANER

New life coming from a stable is the Christmas story and it is one which holds special meaning to Chateaugay Valley resident this year.

Three-time convicted bank robber Jay McNeilly, 39, lives on a Havelock farm while on full parole from his latest prison sentence. Not long ago his life revolved around a needle, a pistol and handcuffs. Now his life has been turned around thanks to bits, harnesses, and "Eden Stable", a small barn where he cares for Peggy, Jennifer and Casey, his three mares.

City born and bred, he came from Lethbridge, Alberta to Montreal as a two year-old. But since his introduction to horses at the Ormstown rehabilitation center, Our House, the country way of life has suited him better.

A love of horses has drawn him into the Chateaugay Valley community and he has met new friends through his work, home and church. He is quick to express gratitude to Sharon and Gerry Burton who run Our House, Inc.; and Christine and Louis Chabot who befriended him in Ormstown; and John and Anne Schulman whose barn has become his stable; and Hugh Wallace of the New Erin Road who gave Jay full horse responsibilities at his farm last summer; and the Franklin Church of the Nazarene.

He says that the Valley community has taught him how to be a friend and deep bonds have formed.

"Before I had no friends," he said, "Unless you had something I wanted, I'd take it and then kiss

make some lazy money, not to hurt people. If it came to that, the gun was on the ground."

And that is exactly how he got caught the first time.

"One doesn't think before he sticks a gun in somebody's face about the repercussions," he said. "I can't go to the states to a horse show in Malone, to a tack shop, or even to buy a pack of butts."

Other repercussions of his past life include a deep, soft voice which resulted from a tracheotomy required after an overdose of the narcotic methadone. Through personal determination, he learned to talk again.

"I didn't have a choice," he said. "It was either that or weep and crawl up and die." His true determination to live showed through after he was arrested for the third time in 1988 and after his overdose. He was shackled with correction officers around him, he recalls, when he had a turning point in his life.

"It was like looking at myself from outside my body. I had come this close to death and asked myself, 'How long can you go on like this, Jay? You can't go any longer. Do you roll over and die or fight this fight?'"

He attributes his life's turnaround to perseverance, patience and honesty and he will be sharing his personal story with young people. His parole officer, Gaetane, recently asked Jay to speak at South Shore Cegeps in the New Year. Those like Jay who get out of the revolving door prison system are a small percentage of the total who are in rehabilitation. The fact that Jay has been asked to



A cowboy at heart, Alberta-born Jay McNeilly, says he has traded a bar stool for a saddle and is out of prison for the last time since he has discovered a love of horses in the Chateaugay Valley.

you goodbye." Now he is more emotional about his relationships and returning kindness this Christmas is foremost in his mind.

"I feel responsible now and have something to live for other than myself," he said. "I had reached a level and I never thought I would. I thought I'd be twisted all my life... Now I'm on another phase of my life."

"I traded a bar stool for a saddle; I traded scotch for milk; and I traded drugs for horse feed," he said. He reflects on his past as if he were talking about another person.

"As a drug addict, you're always wanting, wanting, wanting," he said. "You want it yesterday. I used to love walking into a bank and making withdrawals. I had no cheques, no bank account. I didn't have to fill out any slips. I just carried a .22."

The same man who now talks gently to ponies and kitty cats could easily write a how-to guide to armed bank robbery: "All you have to do is be theatrical; it's a psychological game. I was in it to

speaking has given him confidence and credibility, something he says he has never had before in his life.

"I'm doing it for the kids," he said.

One of the messages he hopes to leave with the students is about how he was a delinquent teenager because he had no interest in the schoolwork. Only 30 years later he has found his talent and love for horses. That is what kicks him out of bed in the morning and gives him the drive to keep going. And that's the most important thing for the three ladies he loves -- a five year-old Welsh pony, an 18 year-old quarter horse Appaloosa and a 2 year-old Shetland pony.

Jay will also take an important step this week in his family relationships. He's going home for Christmas for the first time in at least five years to see his mother and father as well as two sisters and their children who he hasn't seen in 10 years.

The McNeilly family will be together for Christmas, all because of the events which took place in a Chateaugay Valley stable.



The Hemmingford Elementary choir singing with the manger scene in the back.

Hemmingford Elementary Christmas Pageant and carols

by Florence Ellerton
Hemmingford Correspondent

The Hemmingford Elementary School Bilingual Christmas Concert was held on Dec. 15. Families of the students, relatives and friends filled the auditorium to see the children perform. The gym was decorated for Christmas with wall mural provided by all levels.

The children performed the "Nativity" with the following 38 narrators speaking in English or French; Brandon McIntyre, Randy Robert, Rémi Landry-Cheirgny, Allegra Rich, Kathryn Ransom-Hodges, Jessica Rastelberger, Noelle Retson,

Sara Kastelberger, Carrie Mosher, Anise Dodard-Friedman, Arley Whyte, Stephanie McAdam, Brittany Wallace, Nancy Kaeslin, Ashley Brochu, Melaine Enderle, Mark LeBel, Kurt Lauder, Genevieve Aboud, Gabrielle McKough, Monica Healey, Robert Fallor, Patrick Young, Melissa Patterson, Bonnie DeCaen, Brenda Brown, Pamela Marlin, Brendan Sisk, Tim Geary, Estelle Tourret, Danny Viau, Deirdre Mosley and Jonathan Gatrien.

The kindergarten children acted as sheep. Level one played the part of the angels

while level two played the townspeople. Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6 participated as shepherds and the choir. Christmas songs were sung in both English and French.

A pantomime was performed by the shepherds to "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night".

The part of the angel was played by Linda Whyte; Angie Robert and Chris Fortier acted as Mary and Joseph while Revin McKough, Devon Sisk and Guillaume acted as the Three Wise Men.

The principal, Ted Sparks thanked the staff for all their work, the students for taking part with a special thank you to the coordinator Nancylyn Cullen. In appreciation, she was presented with a basket of flowers in the colors for Christmas.

He said, "Once again Jesus was born and I hope that the spirit would be carried throughout the season". He thanked everyone for coming and wished all a blessed Christmas.

The wondrous event in Bethlehem

from Page 1

been born. This news they announced to the guests, who were taken upstairs to see the Messiah.

In the dimly-lit stage, the Nativity scene was presented for all to marvel and wonder. A children's choir sang "Mary had a Baby" and the adult choir sang "Rejoice and Sing the Good News"; the congregation joined in for "Away in a Manger".

The evening was under the direction of Harley Byke. Carole Bye provided accompaniment on the piano for various songs, ushers, servers and kitchen crew included Karol and Sandy Baranowski, Randy and Debbie Rennie, Brigitte Moore, Andrew Fawcett, Arlene Aspelund, Elizabeth Jackson, Heather Thompson and Wesley Gill. Murray McCaig sang a solo.

"The hour grows late, and what a night it has been. Thank you all, and Shalom," wished Rev. Wallace. All adjourned back downstairs to end the evening in fellowship. Harley Byke and Neil Wallace were presented gifts of appreciation.

For those who were staying on, the rules of the Inn were explained by Eli.



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Christmas Carol service at Wesley-Knox

by Darleen Sabetta
Franklin Correspondent

A Christmas Carol service was held at the Wesley-Knox United Church on Dec. 20 and the music was provided by the Franklin Ensemble.

The congregation enjoyed a musical prelude of favorite, old and new, Christmas carols and hymns.

Worship began with O Come All Ye Faithful; the lighting of the Advent candles followed with Margo and Fred Brom singing each of the prayers. The first Reading was

taken from Isaiah 9 and then from the Gospel, Luke 2. The Sunday School class, led by Lori Carroll, sang the first verse of Away In A Manger and the congregation joined in the following verses.

The Christ Candle was lit and Ross Dunn sang Happy Birthday To A King.

Following the Prayers, Joy To The World was sung to mark the end of the service. Rev. Elke Mehnert gave the Benediction and wished everyone a peaceful holiday season.

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ATTENTION On January 9 - 93

We are Moving to 1486 Route 201 Ormstown (Near ambulances Laberge)

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