

School Pages

What's the buzz at Butler Elementary
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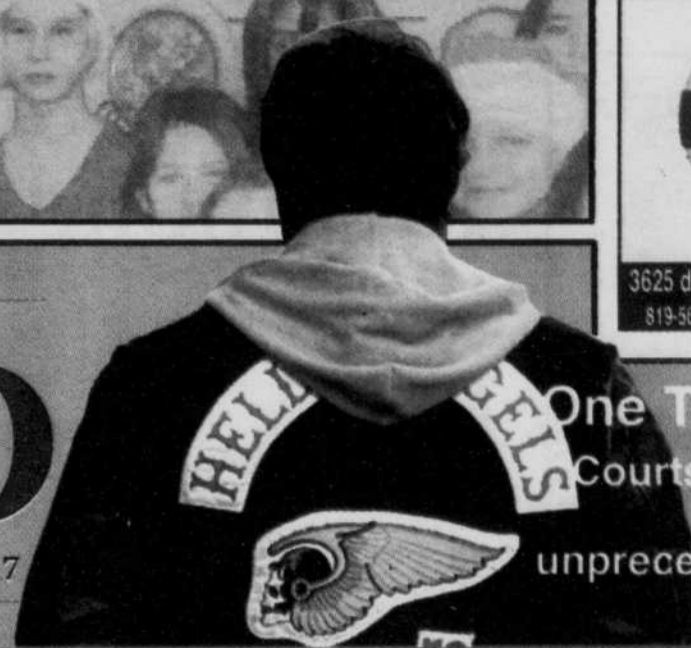


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THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2010

CITY BRIEFS

Sherbrooke ranked 21st on list of most attractive cities for immigrants

By Doug McCooye

In a recent Conference Board of Canada study that measures the attractiveness of Canada's biggest cities to immigrants, Sherbrooke ranks 21st.

In its publication City Magnets II: Benchmarking the Attractiveness of 50 Canadian Cities, the Conference Board analyzes the features that make cities enticing in 41 indicators grouped across seven distinct categories (Society, Health, Economy, Environment, Education, Innovation, and Housing). On top of being ranked for overall attractiveness, the cities were also ranked in each indicator and category.

Sherbrooke performed well in the Health (third), Housing (fifth), and Environment (ninth) categories, but poorly in the Economy (39) and Innovation (48) categories.

For Mario Lefebvre, Director at the Centre for Municipal Studies, the results from the study are very important. "Cities that fail to attract new people will struggle to stay prosperous and vibrant," he said.

The Conference Board shared that it was difficult to accurately determine the overall attractiveness because different people want different things. In an attempt to address this, the study weighted the categories differently based on whether or not the immigrants had a university education.

"The study shows (however) that a city that is attractive to a certain type of migrant ends up being attractive to all," noted Lefebvre, "(S)o policy makers must be cautious in crafting policies aimed at attracting university graduates only."

Calgary, Waterloo, Ottawa, Vancouver, St. John's and Richmond Hill all received an A grade for overall attractiveness. Sherbrooke was the third-highest ranked city in the province, behind Lévis (17) and Quebec City (19).

UdeS engineers finish first

Take home top honours at annual Jeux de Genie



COURTESY

These engineers are the pick of the litter, you might say they are well put together

By Doug McCooye
SHERBROOKE

Engineering students from the Université de Sherbrooke took home the top prize at the "Jeux de genie 2010" (2010 Engineering Games) that took place at Université Laval last week.

Sherbrooke finished first out of 12 schools in the overall placement and fared very well in a variety of disciplines.

"It is thanks to our impeccable teamwork and strong performance in the activities that we managed to do so well," said Benjamin Baillargeon-Lessard, vice-president of social activities at the university. "Right up until the final banquet, we didn't think we would finish in the top three spots. Then (when the results were read) it was just a huge surprise and an explosion of joy."

This marks the third time in four years that the U de S team has finished first at the annual event. More than 400 future engineers representing a dozen Quebec universities participated in this year's event.

"In four months, we formed a team that took great pleasure in developing and pushing limits," said competitor Jean-Francois Duval. "The competition (...) allowed us to meet other passionate students. It was an unforgettable experience."

l'Université de Sherbrooke will be hosting the 2011 edition of the event

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New Year, New Faces

Cougars add three new players to strengthen lineup as CEGEP hockey action heats up

Identity Sought



Sherbrooke police are seeking the public's assistance in identifying a person suspected of committing a hit and run in Sherbrooke.

On October 25 of last year a hit and run accident occurred in the parking lot of the Dollar Dunant store at 1569 Dunant.

The woman pictured above making purchases in the store, was driving a late 1990s or early 2000s model Dodge Durango or Dakota coloured white or beige when the incident occurred.

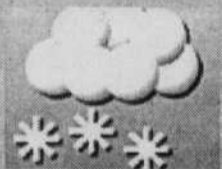
The woman is described as being white, overweight, in her early forties and French-speaking. At the time of the incident, the woman was wearing a waist-length blue or violet jacket.

Police are asking anyone with information concerning the identity of this suspect to call Det. Sgt. André Bilodeau of the SPS at 819-821-5555.

Weather



TODAY:
CLOUDY
WITH SUNNY
BREAKS
HIGH OF -4.
LOW OF -17



FRIDAY:
SCATTERED
FLURRIES
HIGH OF 0
LOW OF -5



SATURDAY:
SCATTERED
FLURRIES
HIGH OF -4.
LOW OF -6



SUNDAY:
VARIABLE
CLOUDINESS
HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -15



MONDAY:
SCATTERED
FLURRIES
HIGH OF -2
LOW OF -10

Reverend O'Donnell leaving Richmond, heading to Bedford

By Gordon Alexander

RICHMOND— Andrew "Andy" O'Donnell, pastor of St Anne's Anglican Church since 2004 announced earlier this month that he will be leaving the Richmond area after having accepted a pastoral charge in the Bedford, Phillipsburg and Farnham area as of the first of August this year.

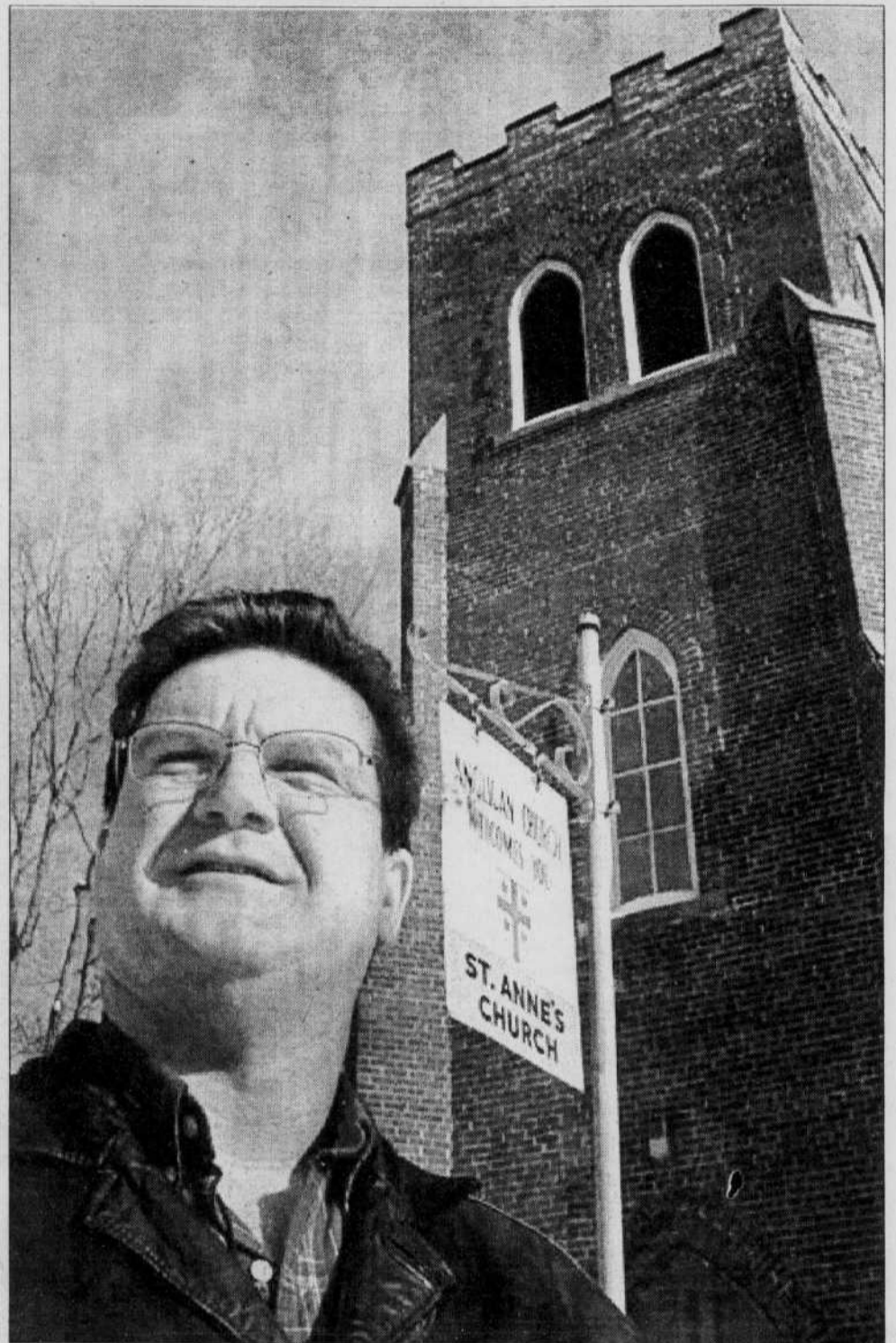
This move also effects four other churches in his charge, Dennison Mills, Danville, Kirkdale and South Durham. O'Donnell also conducted a regular Sunday church service in the parlor at the Wales Home.

This will be the first time the church will be without a pastor since it was formed in 1830 leaving St Anne's and four other churches without a pastor who will have to be looking to the services of lay preachers for Sunday services as well as leaving a vacancy for needs like, marriages, baptisms and funerals.

A spokesperson from the wardens of the Greater Parish of St Francis of Assisi, to which St Anne's Anglican church belongs, indicated that, at this time, no plans have been made to seek another pastor as a replacement for Rev. O'Donnell, but said that candidates with the proper qualifications would be considered if they applied to fill this vacancy.

When Rev. O'Donnell starts preaching in the Bedford area, he will be under the diocese of Montreal, according to former church warden Rita Noel. In addition to dividing his pastoral obligations to five area churches, Rev. O'Donnell has been a religious councilor at the prison establishment in Drummondville attending to the religious needs of the protestant population of that correctional facility. Rev. O'Donnell said that whether or not he continues this volunteer work once he relocates to the Bedford area will be up to the members of the church there.

Rev. O'Donnell was born in Boiestown, New Brunswick and received his degree in divinity at the University of Thorneo in Sudbury, Ontario. He is married to Lynn Osborne and has 3 children.



GORDON ALEXANDER

Rev. O'Donnell in front of Richmond's Anglican church

"We are all in for exciting and challenging times" Rev. O'Donnell said. "I am going to miss all my many friends here but at least I am not leaving until the end of July" he added.

Ben by Daniel Shelton



LOCAL NEWS

"The [prosecution] believes that a chat constitutes a written document. We are contesting whether an online-chat falls under that category."

IN THE COURTS

Man found guilty in child pornography case

By DOUG MCCOYE

A ruling by judge Conrad Chapdelaine in a Sherbrooke courtroom on Tuesday found that Joël Gagné, a 32-year-old East Angus man, was guilty of the production, distribution, and possession of child pornography. Judge Chapdelaine determined that the online conversations Gagné had between January and August 2008 did indeed constitute child pornography.

Gagné first appeared in court in late September 2009. At that time the accused submitted four transcripts of Internet chats he had with a cyber-crime division police officer who was posing as a 13-year-old girl. He also submitted the police report from his August 2008 arrest.

According to court reports, Gagné used a chat website known for hosting discussions about different sexual acts. The accused used this site to make initial contact with his victims before inviting them to join him on his MSN chat where the use of a web cam is possible.

Using the pseudonym "Kathleen F-13" to pose as a 13-year-old girl, a police officer had chats with Gagné on three occasions between January and August 2008.

The guilty party has never disputed the facts in the case. In fact, Gagné pled guilty to a luring charge laid against him. However the defense contested the other three charges on the grounds that it was debatable that internet-chats indeed qualified as child pornography.

"The issue at hand is whether a chat constitutes a written document," said Gagné's lawyer Mia Manocchio shortly after the September court appearance. "The (prosecution) believes that a chat constitutes a written document (written documents are covered under the child pornography law). We are contesting whether an online-chat falls under that category."

The two sides had a chance to make their arguments on the issue in front of Judge Chapdelaine on November 20.

Manocchio has not ruled out the possibility of appealing Tuesday's guilty verdict.

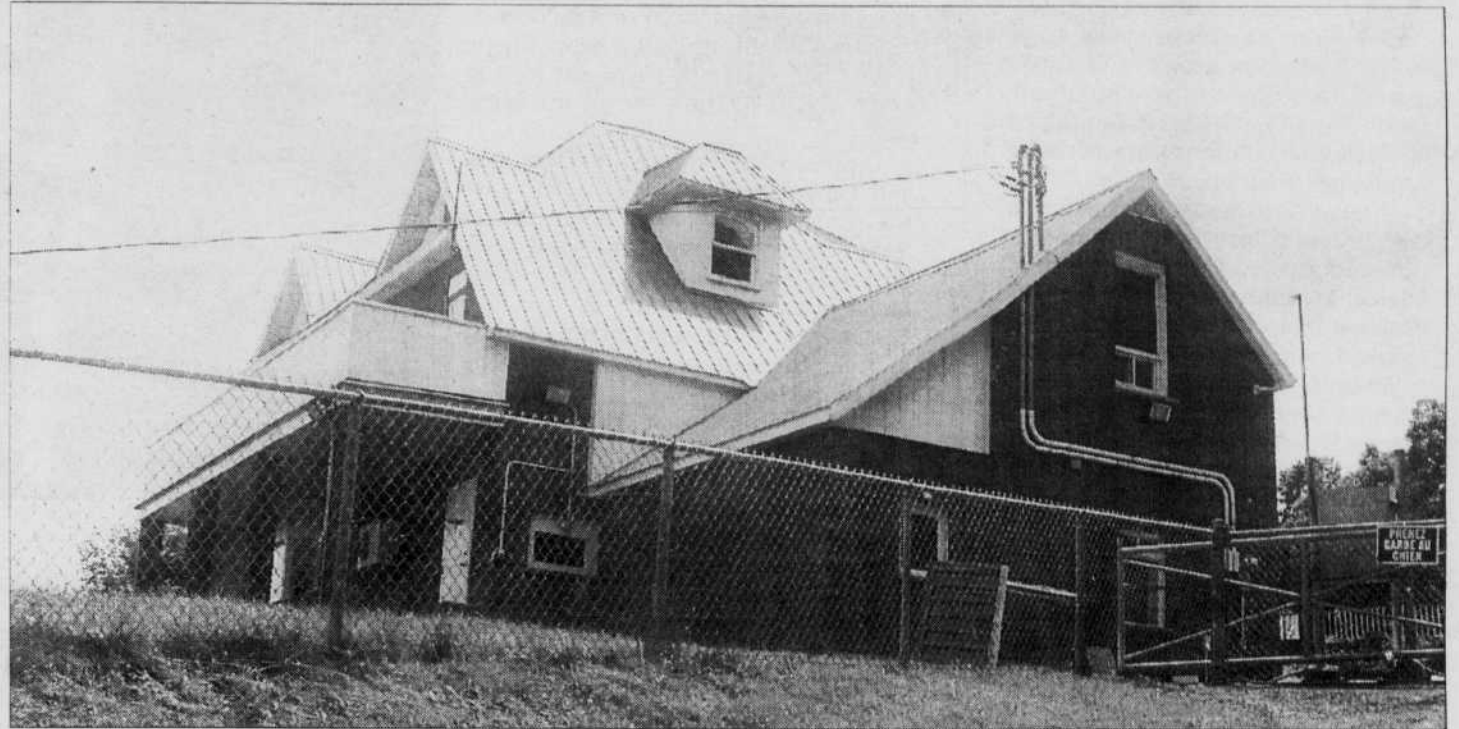
If the ruling is upheld, Chapdelaine's decision will surely expand the law's definition of what constitutes child pornography and will set a precedent for future cases.

Gagné's sentencing recommendation is scheduled for April 6.

Sentencing for possession, distribution, and production of child pornography varies greatly in Canada. Depending on the ruling, Gagné could face anywhere from a minimum of 45 days to multiple years in prison for each of the three child pornography charges.

One tricky trial

Organizing Angels court appearance posing problems for red tapers



FILE PHOTO

The notorious Hell's Angels bunker in Lennoxville

By Doug McCooeye
SHERBROOKE

It is a trial without precedent in Quebec. With well over 100 defendants accused of murder, drug trafficking and gangsterism over a two-decade period, logistical issues are plaguing the preparation of the Operation SharQc trials.

The trials are the result of the April 2009 raid of Hell's Angels bunkers across the province, New Brunswick, and abroad, that targeted some 150 people - including many "full-patch" members - and led to 133 arrests.

This week all of the accused, along with their lawyers, stood before judge André Vincent to discuss the logistical challenges that the trials present and some possible solutions. It will not be easy to solve, as multiple reports have pointed out that Operation SharQc was the largest police raid in the history of the Canadian legal system.

The Crown prosecution has suggested breaking the trials up in to three separate groupings, with the first set taking place in September of this year, the next ones in November, and the last series in January 2011.

The defense said it would be unfair to

delay the proceedings so long, considering that most of the defendants are still behind bars awaiting trial. "Every accused should not be unduly detained because we are incapable of conducting their trial," said Marc Labelle, a lawyer for the defense, in a recent Radio-Canada article. Labelle noted that not having enough judges, courtrooms, or difficulties with witnesses (i.e. simultaneous trials involving the same witness) are not sufficient excuses to delay and separate the proceedings and force the defendants to wait behind bars.

The Crown prosecution promises to submit documented proof against all of the defendants before April 23, the date of the next scheduled court appearance. At that time, each defendant will be able to choose whether their trial will be conducted before a judge or a jury of their peers. Based on these decisions, the Crown will decide how to group the accused.

As many as 65 codefendants could appear in the same grouping since that is the largest amount of defendants that can appear at once in the Gouin courtrooms in Montreal.

Some reports

have compared the complexity of the upcoming trials to the ones brought against the Hell's Angels in 2001. Most of the accused in that case pled guilty before standing trial; although the seriousness of the 2001 charges were substantially less than the ones laid in Operation SharQc.

The execution of Operation SharQc was conducted over a few days in mid-April 2009 after a three-year investigation by many levels of police, including local and provincial police as well as the RCMP.

Of the 38 gang members in the Estrie region who were targeted, 32 were arrested on charges that included murder, conspiracy to commit murder, drug trafficking and gangsterism. The alleged crimes were committed between 1992 and 2009. Among the 32 defendants are 20 "full-patch" Hell's Angels who will face first-degree murder charges in relation to 22 murders, five of which were committed in this region.

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Free service helps lower energy bill

By Corrinna Pole

With 310 Townships homes winterized for the 2010 season, Sherbrooke-based consumer protection group ACEF Estrie (Association cooperative d'économie familiale de l'Estrie), is continuing its effective energy intervention with the Éconologis program.

Offered from September to March, the program provides low-income households with free individualized advice to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and installs electronic thermostats free of charge.

Since its creation in 1999, Éconologis has evolved through the provincial Energy Efficiency Agency and the program includes two components offered in collaboration with energy distributors and non-profit organizations in Quebec.

The first component includes customized advice, minor construction such as caulking and weatherstripping, and installation of energy efficient products.

The second component includes the installation of electronic thermostats if a home meets certain conditions.

To qualify for the program, individuals must meet criteria such as renting or owning a residence within the Estrie region and receiving an energy bill for the heating.

The total income of all the occupants of the residence must fall within the eligible income threshold, which is no more than \$22,171 for one person, \$27,601 for two occupants, \$33,933 for three people and \$41,198 for four occupants.

Individuals who have benefited from the Éconologis program or a similar program, for their current residence in the last five years are excluded from participating.

Those who participate in the program will also have a chance to win one of two Energy Star refrigerators that will be drawn among all participating Townships households.

For more information visit www.econologis.ca and call 819-565-1585 to make an appointment.

Rent Rules Review

By Corrinna Pole

Many renters will soon be evaluating if they are going to move or renew their leases for another year and the Régie du logement is reminding the public of the applicable rules for residential rent increases.

Leases for dwellings are generally renewed automatically each year for the same period of time and at the same rate.

Landlords are required to advise tenants in writing if they wish to increase the rent or make any changes to the lease however the time limits and dates for modifying a lease varies depending on the leasing situation.

- One-year leases: written notice must be given three to six months before the end of the lease.

- Less than one-year leases: written notice must be given one to two months before the end of the lease.

- No fixed term lease: notice should be given one to two months before any augmentation is applied.

- Room leases: notice 10 to 20 days before the termination of the lease or the proposed changes.

Once the landlord's notice is received tenants must choose one of three options:

- Accept the increase in which case no reply is required and the lease is automatically renewed under the new rate;

- Refuse the increase in which case the lease is renewed for another year and the tenant is not required to vacate the dwelling but the new rent still must be determined;

- Not renew the lease in which case



COURTESY FREEFOTO.COM

the tenant must vacate the dwelling at the end of the lease.

If taking one of the latter two actions, tenants are obligated to notify the landlord of their decision in a written reply as soon as possible or within one month of receiving the modification notice. Tenants who do not reply are considered to have agreed to the changes.

It should be noted that tenants living in a building that is less than five years old or one that has been converted for residential rental purposes less than five years ago, are not able to refuse rent increases. If they refuse the augmentation the tenant must vacate the

dwelling at the end of the lease, however that restriction applies only if stipulated in the lease.

If a tenant refuses the increase, the landlord can submit an application to the Régie du logement to fixing the price of the rent within the month following receipt of the refusal. If landlords do not submit an application to the Régie, the lease is renewed at the same rent and conditions.

More information and form templates can be found through the Régie du logement website at www.rdl.gouv.qc.ca

Inuit sue European Union over seal ban

CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

OTTAWA - Members of Canada's Inuit community have launched legal action against the European Union for banning the importation of seal products.

The lawsuit, filed in the European General Court Wednesday, seeks an "annulment" against the Sept. 16 decision, according to a news release by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami - which promotes the

interest of Canada's Inuit.

"Inuit have been hunting seals and sustaining themselves for food, clothing, and trade for many generations," said Mary Simon, the group's president. "It is bitterly ironic that the EU, which seems entirely at home with promoting massive levels of agri-business and the raising and slaughtering of animals in highly industrialized conditions, seeks to preach some kind of selective elevated morality to Inuit."

In July, the majority of the EU's 27 member states gave final approval to a ban on importing seal products.

The proposed law, which comes into effect this spring, essentially eliminates all trade of seal product imports.

It's estimated the prohibition will result in a \$2.4-million loss for the Canadian industry.

Canada is fighting the decision, arguing that it is in direct violation of World Trade Organization guidelines.

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Columnist

Nothing personal, but you do fit the profile: shifty eyes, awkward body language, inability to answer a straight question.

B.C. foster care worker charged with sex assault

BY DAVID AKIN
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

RICHMOND, B.C. - A man working at a foster home in the Vancouver suburb of Richmond has been charged with sexual assault, RCMP said Wednesday.

Richmond RCMP officials said they received a tip that a man caring for several children was engaging in "inappropriate behaviour" with them.

The first victim is a 17-year-old boy who lives in a foster-care home where the accused worked as a night relief worker.

The second victim, a 16-year-old boy, has known the accused for several years.

On Dec. 21, Kevin Fanning was arrested for sexual exploitation and sexual assault. Fanning, 50, was released the next day on strict bail conditions.

Investigators are trying to determine if there are any more victims, and are interviewing many children and youth who were in Fanning's care.

He is set to appear in court on Jan. 19.

Suspect wanted carnage, trial told

BY MEGAN O'TOOLE
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

TORONTO - Accused "Toronto 18" member Shareef Abdelhaleem wanted to create a "weapon of mass destruction" aimed at destroying several city blocks of Toronto by packing two tonnes of ammonium nitrate into a single bomb, a judge heard Wednesday.

"He said if they were going to charge him, they better charge him with something big," testified Shaher Elsohemy, a police agent and key Crown witness at Abdelhaleem's trial on charges of participating in a terrorist group that plotted to blow up several targets in southern Ontario in late 2006.

"He said there would be blood, glass and debris everywhere," Elsohemy testified.

Elsohemy told the court that during a series of meetings leading to a wave of arrests that ultimately foiled the plot, Abdelhaleem repeatedly upped the quantity of ammonium nitrate the group would use in its bombs, eventually requesting four tonnes.

The idea, Elsohemy testified, was to produce three bombs, two each using one tonne of the chemical and a third "weapon of mass destruction" that Abdelhaleem wanted to detonate at the Toronto Stock Exchange.

The two smaller bombs would target a military base and a Canadian Security Intelligence Service site, the court heard.

The trial continues.

Guess who's coming to dinner?



ROSS MURRAY

[Tok! Tok! Tok!]

Oh! There's the door. It must be him. I'll get it!

Prime Minister Harper, hello! How are you? It's great to see you. So good of you to take time out of your non-Parliamentary activities to join us for dinner. But then, I guess everything's a non-Parliamentary activity these days, eh? Heh-heh...

Come on in. Oops, but wait. If you don't mind, before you step inside, if you wouldn't mind just passing through this full body scan, please. Standard procedure. You can never be too sure, right? Nothing personal, but you do fit the profile: shifty eyes, awkward body language, inability to answer a straight question.

There we go. Hardly intrusive at all. The wife is monitoring in the next room so I don't gaze upon Your Right Honourable nudeness. Let me just check with her... Honey? How do things look?... Oh, really!... Yes, I'm sure his mother must be proud.

There we go, Prime Minister. Now one last procedure: if you'd just let old Shep here check you over. Whoa! Easy with the nose, Shep! No, nothing to do with security. Just a bit of a treat for him.

So, wow! Can't believe you're here. We're honoured. Actually, the original invitation was for our local Conservative MP to join us but her office told us that only the Prime Minister could answer questions on policy, respond to media enquiries, kiss babies and eat strangers' pot roasts. So here you are! Who needs representative government anyway?

Here's the kitchen. Have a seat. Look at this spread the wife has prepared for you. You've got your baloney topped with American cheese, you've got your chicken wings (don't worry, they're all right wings), and you've got a liberal helping - oops, sorry - a "generous" helping of traditional Ukrainian proroquies. And after the main course, we'll go outside to the back benches for a bunch of fruitcakes. Dig in!

What's that, Prime Minister? You find it hot in here? First of all, Prime Minister, with all due respect, you're wrong. It's not hot in here. And even if it were hot in here, it would merely be a temporary thermostat fluctuation. Sure, I could turn down the heat but that would reduce my domestic oil consumption, and I get my oil from brother-in-law who gives me a good deal and shovels my driveway for free. Quick, let's talk about something else. Hey, isn't youth crime terrible? How about that

gun registry, eh?


I know, I know, I hear it too. That's our neighbour's dog, Akbark. He's a bad dog. Earlier this week, the wife spotted him digging in our compost pile. Not the first time. Luckily, this time she caught him. You should have heard her: "Why do you do that! Who sent you here! Are there others like you!" But she got nothing out of him.

Later on, we turned him back over to our neighbour. He's kept Akbark on that three-foot rope in his back yard ever since. Barks all day. Pardon? You can see our neighbour now? He's beating the dog? Oh, yeah, he does that all the time... I mean, wait, I take that back. I had no idea. I'm shocked! Then again, how do you know he's beating the dog? Are you qualified to recognize a dog-beating? Perhaps it's just aggressive play. Either way, I don't know anything.

You know what? This dinner is over. No, no, it's not you. It's the wife. She needs to recalibrate the dinner rolls and address serious concerns about the coleslaw. Barking? I don't hear any barking...

Here's your coat. Thanks for stopping by, Prime Minister. Don't worry, we'll have you back, probably around election time. That's when you'll get your just desserts.

*Starting this month, my radio column goes weekly on CBC's "Breakaway." You can catch me in living audio at 91.7 FM each Tuesday at around 4:50. It's like reading with your ears!



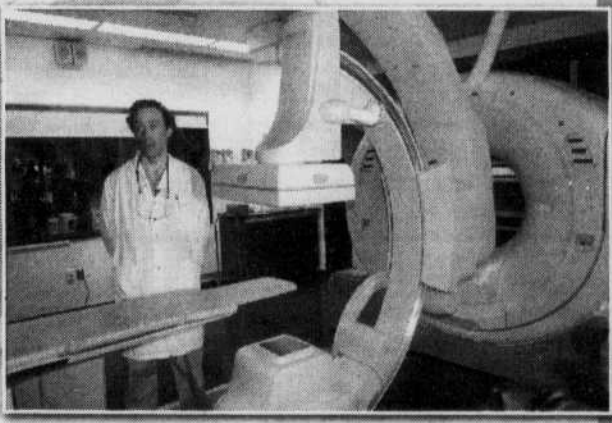
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EDITORIAL

The Beaver has experienced considerable teasing with regard to its name and, given the double entendre, this has led to some embarrassment



Mike McDevitt

A sweeter smelling Beaver

"That which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet," some playwright once wrote and a noble Canadian institution is about to discover whether the Bard knew whereof he spoke.

The Beaver, Canada's pre-eminent popular history publication has just announced that come April, the 90-year old magazine will be known as Canada's History, a more accurate, but less fun monicker.

Modern times have caught up with The Beaver, which began in 1920 as the in-house magazine for the Hudson's Bay Company in celebration of its 250th anniversary. The Bay continued to publish the magazine until it was transferred to the National History Society in 1994, and it is Canada's second-oldest continuously published magazine, surpassed only by Maclean's.

Now as can be imagined, a magazine published by the country's foremost historical society, rooted in the Hudson's Bay Company and the fur trade, would be loathe to change much concerning such a 'historic' institution, but time and changing sensibilities, not to mention vocabulary, have combined to make the change not only beneficial but necessary. Nobody wears pelts anymore.

As can be expected, The Beaver has experienced considerable teasing with regard to its name and, given the double entendre, this has led to some embarrassment. Recently, however, the embarrassment has turned into something more alarming.

A market study revealed that a significant proportion of Canadians would not purchase a magazine named after our national rodent, a figure that was considerably higher among women. Much more importantly for the magazine, however, was the fact that its attempts to use modern communications methods was being blocked. Because e-mail programs aren't paid to think, they use keywords to try to identify items that the user has defined as inappropriate. "Beaver" just happens to be one of those keywords and so many subscribers and others were unable to receive either the magazine's newsletters or other communication via e-mail. Nor could many access the website. Obviously, something had to be done.

This is just another example of how words and their meanings can change over a relatively brief period of time. Words like 'beaver' and 'gay' no longer mean what they did only a generation ago and while these may somewhat salaciously harmless examples, others spring to mind as being less neutral.

The fuzzification of language and the constantly shifting meaning of words is not in and of itself a bad thing, but in our increasingly complex lives, facing increasingly complex issues, linguistic clarity is becoming more and more essential if citizens are to perform their basic civic duties as "informed citizens." It's bad enough that too many of us rely on television and other video news sources for our information. Since we don't read anymore, thoughtful background explanatory news stories no longer supply us with the context, history and alternative viewpoints concerning major issues. Without a solid background in the meaning of words like "liberal" or "terrorist," the extreme right has succeeded in confusing the two for far too many people. Given our own current Prime Minister's clumsy attempts at following suit (he hasn't got the outrage down quite yet), Canadians need to be aware that it is our responsibility to keep ourselves informed, because the people we pay to lie to us can do that with or without a parliament.



Commissioner drops Ethics probe

By David Akin
Canwest News Service

mounted over the last few years by the Conservative Party of Canada.

OTTAWA - Parliament's ethics commissioner has dropped an investigation into allegations by a Liberal MP that the federal government used taxpayer dollars for advertising programs that were thinly disguised attempts to promote the Conservative party.

The complaint, filed by Hall Findlay on Oct. 27, "outlines government use of photos, colours, images and slogans in taxpayer-funded advertising that are identical to those used by the Conservative party in order to confer a benefit promoting their electoral prospects. The self-congratulatory advertisements do not provide information needed by the Canadian public, but rather extol the virtues of the Government of Canada as a Conservative party look-alike through unsubstantiated, false and exaggerated claims of accomplishment."

Canwest News Service has learned that Ethics Commissioner Mary Dawson has concluded that she does not have the authority to investigate the complaint made by Liberal MP Martha Hall Findlay. Dawson's "discontinuance report" was expected to be released later Wednesday.

After examining Hall Findlay's complaint, the ethics commissioner "discontinued her examination," Canwest News Service has learned, concluding that the main thrust of Hall Findlay's complaint does not fall under the federal Conflict of Interest Act.

Hall Findlay had complained that a \$60 million advertising campaign, ostensibly designed by the federal government to tell Canadians about its economic action plan, bore a too-similar design in terms of its presentation to advertising campaigns

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The Border Report

Confusion reigns at Granite Expo, with uncertainty over the future of the non-profit Stanstead Granite Museum.

Stanstead: Year in review

By Matthew Farfan

JANUARY

—Arsonists strike CAB Rediker's Dufferin Street location. Extensive damage to the interior, destruction of all of the stock at the family counter, and theft of petty cash. The building will be closed for months.

—Fluet's (Rona) acquires Martin's (BMR) in Stanstead, ending competition in the local hardware sector.

FEBRUARY

—Town of Stanstead announces plans to cite 12 local buildings, including six churches or former churches, as historic monuments.

—Local musician Mike Goudreau releases his tenth album.

—After 105 years, Haskell Free Library abolishes its 2-cent per day overdue book fine. Fines will now be based on a voluntary donation basis.

—Annual "Plaisirs sur Glace" winter carnival at the Beebe Park. Event is a success.

MARCH

—Derby-Line Stanstead Joint Municipal Committee on Border Issues agrees to the installation of gates on the unguarded Lee and Ball street border crossings, on the condition that Church Street remains open.

APRIL

—Haskell Opera House begins its 105th season.

—Newly created Stanstead Cultural and Recreational Centre hires a coordinator.

—Stanstead has a new monthly (or so) newspaper: Le Rythme de Stanstead / Stanstead Beat.

MAY

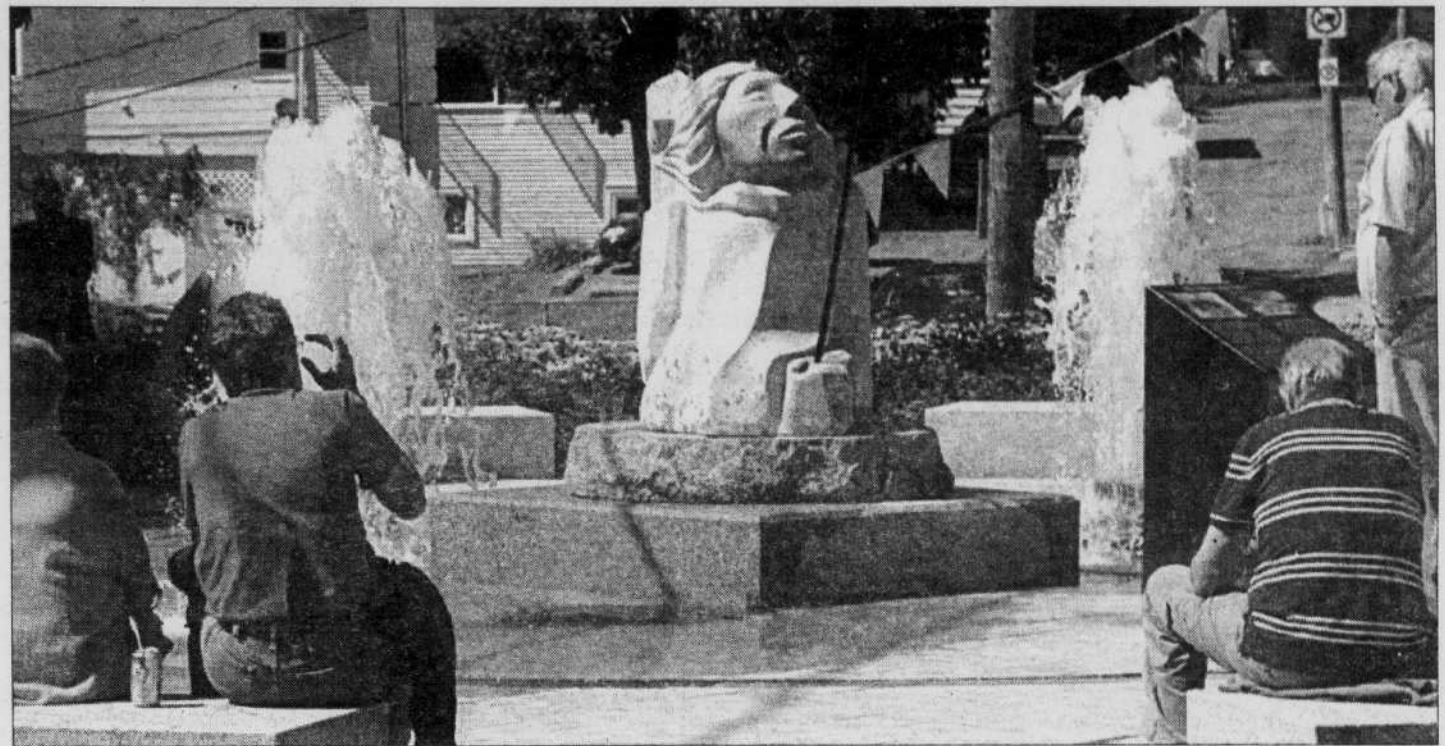
—Checkpoint Charlie's Bar opens in the old Eastern Townships Bank (CIBC) building in downtown Stanstead. The bar specializes in live jazz and blues music.

—Gabriel Safdie becomes part-owner of the building housing both Granite Expo and the Granite Museum.

—Renovations to several downtown buildings, including La Vieille Douane Restaurant.

JUNE

—Colby-Curtis Museum re-opens after months of interior and exterior restoration work. Carrollcroft, which houses the museum, celebrates its 150th anniversary.



MATTHEW FARFAN

Stanstead's new square and fountain

JULY

—10th annual Border Fest, the yearly celebration of life on the border, takes place under sunny skies.

—Excessive speeds force municipality to install a speed bump on Park Street.

AUGUST

—Tibetan monks descend on Stanstead. The monks create a mandala out of coloured sand in the old SAQ building.

—Confusion reigns at Granite Expo, with uncertainty over the future of the non-profit Stanstead Granite Museum. Robert Sheldon and other volunteers at the museum say the show must go on!

—Restoration work begins on historic Golden Rule Masonic Lodge. The lodge celebrates its 206th birthday.

—Haskell Free Library announces that it is operating with a deficit and that it needs the financial support of the public in order to continue serving the local population as it has done for the past century.

—CAB Rediker's Dufferin Street building is re-opened after months of renovations and a complete re-stocking of the family counter. The centre was closed following an arsonist's attack in January.

—Outdoor produce market authorized in downtown municipal parking lot.

SEPTEMBER

—4th annual Granite Symposium goes ahead as planned, despite uncertainty at the Granite Museum. Attendance at the free outdoor event is down.

—Inauguration of a new town square in Rock Island. Place Henry Seth Taylor, as the square is called, includes paving stones of local granite, a fountain, and an interpretive plaque. The square is named in honour of the Stanstead man who built the first car in Canada.

—A Stone Circle, built entirely of Stanstead grey granite, is erected in a field on Notre-Dame Boulevard. The town has provided the land free of charge for three years, with the understanding that the area will be designated a permanent green space.

—Over one kilometre of sidewalk is rebuilt on Dufferin Street.

—Restoration work is completed on Stanstead South United Church.

—Annual Family Day in Beebe Park. Celebrations include the Town of Stanstead's welcome ceremony for new residents and newborns.

—Town reaches an agreement with Stanstead College to pursue federal and provincial funding for a new municipal arena. Facility would be owned by the town, but paid for and managed by the college.

OCTOBER

—Town of Stanstead announces tax credits for Lignati, a manufacturer of

log homes, which will set up shop in the former Dominion Granite factory in Beebe.

—Town postpones decision to purchase a new fire truck until after the election.

NOVEMBER

—Town election brings changes to town hall, including the election of a new mayor, Philippe Dutil. The new council promises free coffee.

—Imperial Granite set to close in January 2010.

—Manoir Stanstead, the seniors' residence planned for the former Ursuline Convent, announces the project has been stalled - again.

—H1N1 vaccinations begin in Stanstead.

—The long-awaited gates are finally installed on Lee and Ball streets.

—Roadwork is completed on Bigelow, Western, Junction and Daly streets.

DECEMBER

—La Vieille Douane Restaurant re-opens under new management.

—5th annual Stanstead Community Dinner. Over 550 meals are served. Mr. and Mrs. Claus in town for the occasion.

—Galerie and Café Rock Island open downtown.

—Groundbreaking ceremony for the Habitation Place Stanstead seniors' apartment complex on Colbycroft Street.

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MIL rate stable: service taxes up in Stanstead

By Matthew Farfan

At a special meeting on Monday, January 11, Stanstead town council unveiled its 2010 budget. Revenues and expenses remain comparable to 2009 levels, with slight variations depending on the department. Mayor Philippe Dutil explained that the mil rate, which is the basic rate at which property is taxed, and which provides the bulk of municipal taxation revenue, will remain at the 2009 level of 94.12 cents per \$100 evaluation.

Responding to questions from taxpayers, Dutil said that the 1.5 cent per \$100 evaluation surtax that had been collected for the past two years for the downtown revitalization project would remain in place, despite the completion of the town square, though the amounts collected will now be put towards industrial, commercial and tourism development, and possibly towards the hiring of a development agent. The water rate will remain at 2009 levels, or \$140 per household. Taxes for sewage, garbage, recycling and compost pick-up, however, will all increase this year.

Following the meeting, Mayor Dutil said he was "very satisfied with the budget - it's a good budget." He added that all of the councillors around the table, including those who had campaigned in the last election on lower taxes, were "happy."

Hockeyville: Send in those stories

"Rocket" RICHARD NIGHT

sponsored by BORDER ARENA ROCK ISLAND, P.Q.



The January 18 deadline for people to send in their hockey stories to the Kraft Hockeyville competition is fast approaching. Stanstead has been nominated for the coveted title, which includes a grand prize of \$100,000 and a chance to host a pre-season NHL game. Stanstead, as most people know, has an illustrious hockey tradition. Seen here is a program, autographed by the great Maurice Richard and several of his Montreal Canadiens teammates, from "Maurice Richard Night," held on March 2, 1954, at the newly constructed Border Arena in Rock Island. On that night, the "Rocket" himself and his NHL colleagues took on the local talent in a friendly match at the new rink. For those who would like to share their own hockey stories, and help Stanstead win the Kraft Hockeyville title, visit the Hockeyville website at:

<http://www.cbc.ca/sports/hockey/hockeyville/home/en/index.shtml>.

Galerie Rock Island opens

By Matthew Farfan

Galerie Rock Island, in the former Dupont Hardware, opened its doors just before Christmas. The gallery is home to a variety of fine art, crafts and other local products. "It's nice to see life in this part of town," passers-by have been saying as they look from the street at the bright, colourful plate-glass windows. "What a change for the better!"

Indeed the building had been largely vacant and rather gloomy for quite some time before current owner David Gow purchased it last year and completely renovated it. Next door to Galerie Rock Island (and in the same building) is Café Rock Island, operated by Jane (Standish) McIntyre. Quite an improvement, people are saying, over the seedy tattoo parlour that occupied the premises for a short time.

A doorway links Café Rock Island to the art gallery next door. "So whenever the café is open, so is the art gallery," explained David Gow as he showed the Record around the new establishment recently.

Polished hardwood floors and an eclectic assortment of arts and crafts characterize the space Gow has converted from a dingy former hardware store into something that genuinely adds life to downtown Stanstead.

In one corner is a display of jewellery, hand-crafted of copper and beads. In the windows, one finds the shimmering glasswork of Martine Gow-Cooper. In another corner is an array of photographs by Susan McIntyre, while a few feet away are crafts by Mimi



MATTHEW FARFAN

Weaver Mimi Galvin shows off some of her woven work to gallery owner David Gow.

Galvin. Galvin, who has been showing her woven work and other handicrafts at craft shows for years, is well known in the Stanstead area.

At Galerie Rock Island, one can find everything from oil paintings by local self-taught artist Gordon Harding to woodwork by Peter and Martine Drysdale, and everything in between.

Galerie Rock Island is located at 289 Dufferin, in downtown Stanstead. Hours are synchronized with those of Café Rock Island, next door. In other words, Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and possibly at other times as well. For more information, call (819) 876-7776.

'Mobile igloos' serious winter driving hazard.

By Misty Harris
Canwest News Service

Of all the hazards on winter roads, one of the most dangerous is also one of the least publicized: driver laziness.

A new international survey finds a third of people fail to properly clear the windshield before setting out, with most claiming to be "in too much of a rush" to endure the defrosting process. Similarly, the Canadian Automobile Association reports that drivers who don't bother clearing the "igloo" of snow and ice from atop their vehicles are "one of our most significant" winter road perils.

"It's a very serious issue," says Jeff Walker, vice-president of public affairs for the CAA. "If a car gets parked for a number of days, you get snow-ice-snow-like layers in a cake - and it can end up going through somebody's windshield."

In a severe example, an Illinois driver last week required reconstructive facial surgery after one such projectile torpedoed through his windshield, smashing his nose, shattering the

lower portion of his eye socket and tearing his iris.

There's no national database on accidents linked to mobile igloos but Walker says the CAA, in co-operation with Transport Canada, believes they're one of the most pervasive winter driving problems.

"Most people are pretty focused on themselves, making sure that they can see out their window. But they forget about the igloo, which is what impacts other people," says Walker.

In a recent survey of some 4,000 European drivers, Continental Tyres found one in three don't fully clear their windshield before driving off. Of those peephole drivers, more than half believe such neglect is wrong but nonetheless continue the behaviour.

"Men appear to be worse offenders than women, and are a staggering 129 per cent more likely... to have had a near-miss on the roads in the winter because they set off before clearing their windscreen properly," says Tim Bailey, head of safety at Continental.

"(Men) admit to driving off with more than 40 per cent of the windscreen still frozen. Women fare better,

with an average 70 per cent visibility - although even that is not enough."

According to a report by Today's Trucking, accumulated ice on a trailer can weigh as much as two tonnes. But in surveying U.S. and Canadian fleets, the American Transportation Research Institute found more than half of respondents "rarely or never" remove accrued snow and ice from their rigs.

Ottawa's Scott Paterson, whose windshield was recently struck by a "flying chunk of crusty snow," is incensed by such negligence, among drivers of every stripe.

"There are those who do nothing more than use their arm or wipers to clean off the windshield... Then there are those who also clear a small hole on the rear window. And there are those who clear all but the roof," says Paterson. "They're lazy morons who need to be fined - heavily."

Laws around snow removal from vehicles vary from province to province. For those unsure of their region's regulations, the CAA's Walker says the answer is simple: remove it all.

School Pages: Butler Elementary

The inside scoop on Butler Elementary

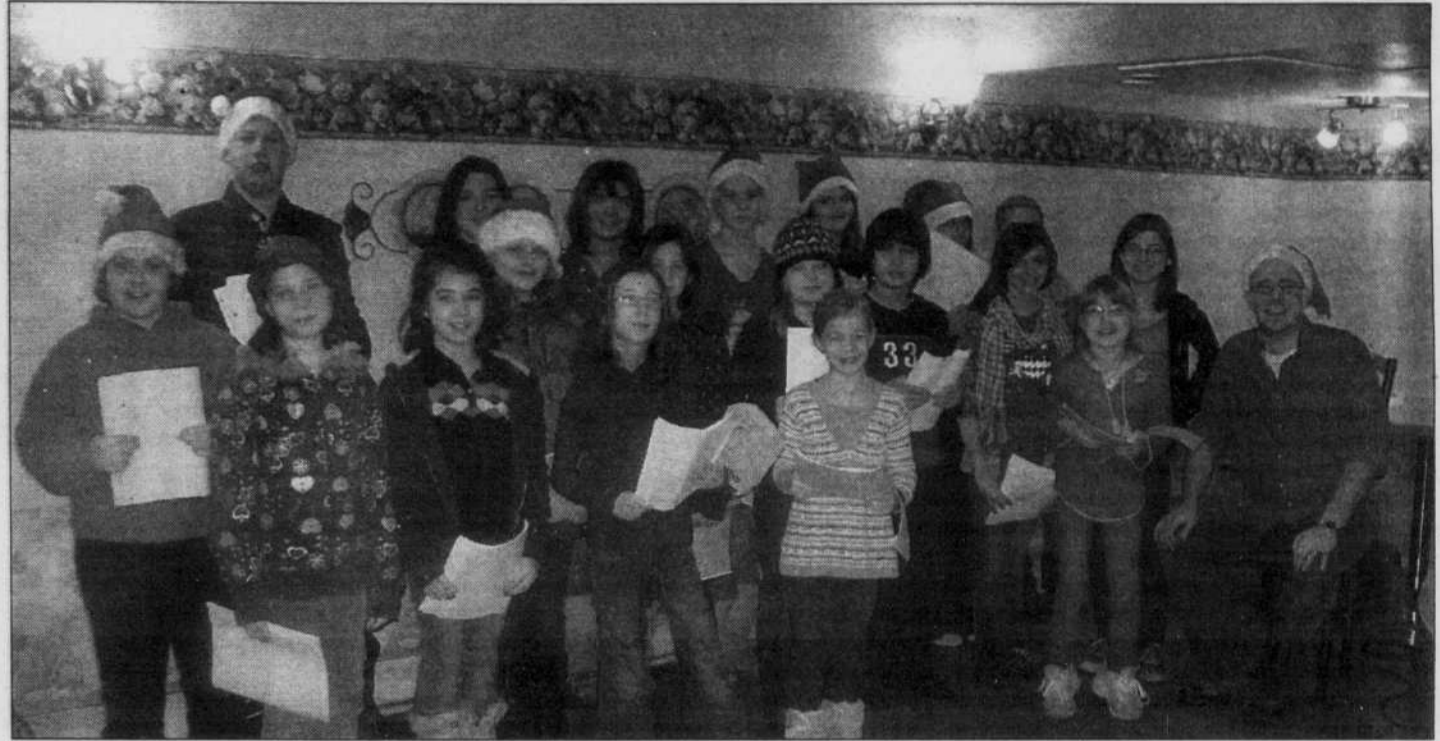
Happy New Year! School is back in session and the students are anxious to get back to their classroom routines. There have been many interesting events at Butler Elementary...so here is the inside scoop!

On Friday December 4th, the Grade 5 students organized a special treat for the school! With a lot of hard work and dedication, they opened "Butler Café" for a one day only presentation! The menu consisted of "amuse-bouche," Caesar salad, garlic bread, spaghetti and meatballs, dessert, juice or milk. All for only \$4.00! There was a lot of work put into organizing such a project, such as preparing lists of all jobs, going to the Metro to purchase ingredients, advertising, decorating the café, and playing the various roles, such as servers, chef, bus boy, hostess, etc. All of their hard work paid off - as they raised approximately \$400.00! All of the proceeds will go towards their end of year trip. Congratulations grade 5 students for a job well done and a delicious meal made! Starting in January, the grade 5 students will be working on a photography project that will carry on throughout the year. If anyone has old digital cameras not in use... they accept donations!

The 2nd Annual Brunch fundraiser was held on Saturday December 12th, organized by the P.A.T.S. committee. Over \$4000.00 was raised and this money helps pay for student activities, buses, etc. A big thank you goes out to all who volunteered and helped make the event so successful! There was a bake sale and craft sale, as well as beautiful poinsettias for sale. All those who attended had a great time!

On Monday December 14th, a school assembly was held for the purpose of handing out awards for academic achievements and for the "Character Bound" program that began in November. Congratulations to all the students from K-Sec. 1 who received awards!

Pancakes and sausages oh my! The students were treated to a scrumptious



COURTESY

The Christmas Concert was a remarkable success

pancake brunch on Friday December 18th, organized by the staff. The cafeteria was buzzing with excitement as the students enjoyed their meal (and I think they liked being served by the staff)!

There was a White Elephant sale, organized by the grade 6 students as a fundraiser. It was a 3-day sale and they raised \$250.00! All of the proceeds will go towards their end of the year trip. Good job!

The Christmas Card Club made \$62.25 for the BMP hospital. The students involved in the Card Club works hard every Tuesday and had made Christmas cards to sell. The cards cost 0.25 cents each and all monies are for the hospital. At the moment, the Card Club is working hard on Valentine's Day cards. Great work and keep it up!

On December 16th, kindergarten through grade 4 went skating at the

arena in Bedford, and grade 5 through 7 went on the 21st. Both were wonderful afternoons filled with smiles and laughter. The students enjoyed a warm cup of hot chocolate and cookies upon their return to school. What a treat! A big thanks to Josée Gagnon for organizing this special outing for the students!

On December 21st, 19 students from Butler went to Résidence Lambert, the CLSC and to the Residence Dutch to sing Christmas carols and to hand out Christmas cards. We were well received with cookies, drinks, candies and little gifts. A special thank you to the kids for their hard work, dedication and effort. They were amazing. Thank you to the PATS committee who paid for our transportation. It was nice to see the smiles on all the friendly faces!

On the last day before the holidays, the students participated in a Christmas

Concert, held on December 22nd. After lunch, the gym was filled with parents and friends, there to see what the students had prepared. All of the grades worked hard on their presentation. It was a perfect way to get everybody into the spirit of the holidays! The concert ended with a few songs sung by the school choir. It was a wonderful show!

Butler is now part of a ski program in Mont-Sutton. Several students from grades 3 through 7 will be participating in 5 visits to the mountain, starting on the 21st of January. What an exciting new activity for the students at Butler Elementary!

Until next time readers, keep a smile on your face and a bounce in your step!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
MISS SANBORN

Cold can be good for you: researcher

By Tom Spears
CANWESTNEWS SERVICE

OTTAWA- The healthiest place you can be today may be at a windswept bus stop, with wet feet and no hat, cursing because the bus is late.

A little winter suffering may protect you from diabetes, cancer and heart disease, says Pascal Imbeault, who studies the effects of cold on the human body. Not too much cold; just enough to make most people shiver.

A University of Ottawa professor in the department of human kinetics, Imbeault dresses up volunteers in a special suit that chills them by running cold

water (a nippy 4 C) around them, and keeps them cold for two hours.

They get \$50 and the satisfaction of helping research. Better still, he says, they get a free blood test. Glucose, oxygen consumption, funny proteins, lots of neat stuff. The tests would cost plenty if the volunteers had to pay for them.

The point of the blood test is to measure how chilling our bodies stimulates the production of a useful hormone called adiponectin.

Adiponectin comes from fat cells all over the body. And for some reason, thin people produce it more efficiently than obese people.

Your body produces this chemical anyway, but being cold for 25 to 30 min-

utes produces far more of it - 30 to 70 per cent more than usual, depending on the person. Once secreted, the hormone goes through your blood to your heart, brain, liver, and muscles, doing good things all the way.

Drug companies produce drugs to trigger this hormone, Imbeault notes, but drugs take a while to work and don't boost hormone production nearly as much as being cold.

The doctor of cold warns there's no gain without pain.

"You have to shiver for a bit," he says. "We start to see an interesting increase (of the hormone) after 25 to 30 minutes for some individuals. That's not pleasant, as you know."

He knows. He did the cold test himself, and was shivering early - after the first 10 minutes.

Imbeault's work shows that adiponectin levels rise in the cold, but he hasn't shown long-term health effects on people, something he's curious about.

Sometimes his research takes him to native communities in northern Ontario, where he turns up in full winter gear and the local kids are running around in jackets. It makes him want to take their blood and analyze it.

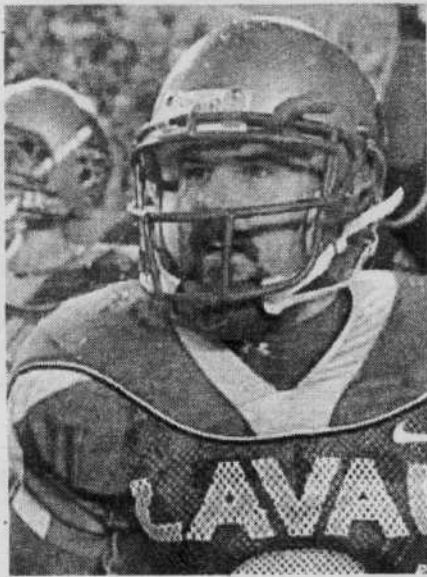
His next step?
"We're going to do heat exposure."

OTTAWA CITIZEN

Local Sports

The Titans poured on the offence in the third, out shooting the Cougars 17-5 in the final 20-minutes

Gaiters add Groulx to coaching staff



By Zachary-Cy Vanasse

The Bishop's Gaiters football team have added a champion to their team. Former Laval Rouge et Or quarterback and 2008 Hec Crighton Award winner Benoit Groulx will be joining head coach Leroy Blugh's coaching staff for the 2010 season.

Groulx joins the Gaiters as the team's new offensive coordinator. According to reports, Bishop's offered Groulx a five-year contract. Both Laval and the University of Sherbrooke were rumoured to be interested in acquiring Groulx in a coaching capacity.

For the time being Groulx will be living on campus in Lennoxville until he, his wife and their daughter find a permanent home in Sherbrooke.

Groulx was awarded the Jeff Russell Trophy, given to the QUFL's most valuable player, just a few weeks ago. It was the third time he'd been given the league's top honour. He played five seasons with the Rouge et Or, winning the Vanier Cup in 2006 and 2008 before finishing his university career at the end of the 2009 season.

New faces in Cougars lineup

By Zachary-Cy Vanasse

The LHJAAAQ trade deadline has come and gone and with it the Champlain Cougars have added three new players to their line-up. Former Halifax Mooseheads goalie Joël Grondin joins the Cougars fold. The 17-year-old Port-Cartier native was 0-9-0 with a .822 save percentage in the Quebec Major Junior League this season.

Former Rimouski defenceman Alexandre Tardif also joins the Cougars. Tardif, who turns 18-years-old today, played just one game for the Oceanic this season and was +1 in that contest, he was -2 with two penalty minutes in 13 games with Victoriaville prior to his arrival in Rimouski. Benjamin Martin rounds out the list of Champlain's deadline acquisitions. Martin played in 20 games for the Quebec Remparts this season, scoring one goal and adding an assist.

Meanwhile, the Cougars have returned to on-ice action as well following the holiday break. Champlain picked up a 6-4 win against the Valleyfield Braves on Thursday night, adding a 5-4 overtime win against Laval on Friday before dropping a contest by a 4-3 count to the division leading Princeville Titan in a shootout on Sunday.

Champlain and Valleyfield exchanged goals through the first 20-minutes on Thursday. Jean-François Caron gave the visiting Braves the early 1-0 lead before Charles-Alexandre Drolet tied the game with his 15th of the season less than a minute later. Gabriel St-Pierre beat Cougar netminder Jacob Gervais-Chouinard 14:57 through the second to put Valleyfield ahead once more but the two teams would hit the first break tied at 2-2 thanks to Charles-Olivier Levasseur's 22nd goal of the season.

The back-and-forth goal scoring continued in the second. Marc-Étienne Giguère gave the Braves their third lead of the game 4:03 into the middle stanza. Much like Valleyfield's first two one-goal advantages, this one was short lived. Just over three-minutes after Valleyfield took a 3-2 lead, Yann Poulin erased the one-goal deficit on his seventh marker of the season.

The see-saw battle ended at that point. Pascal Larivière's second of the season saw Champlain take their first lead of the game with less than five minutes remaining in the second stanza.

A power-play goal from Jérôme Ancil (22) midway through the third gave



COURTESY

the Cougars a much needed two goal cushion. Giguère's second of the game, this one on the power-play, made things interesting but Andy Buntic (5) added an empty-netter in the game's final minute and Champlain held on for the win.

Andy Buntic (6) played the overtime hero for the Cougars on Friday in Laval. Though their powerplay opportunities were limited against the Rousseau, Champlain made them count, going 2-for-2 with the man-advantage. Champlain's first powerplay goal came 12:27 through the first when Alex Gagnon-Skoropad (3) scored to tie the game 1-1. With the score even at 3-3 after 40-minutes of play the Champlain powerplay unit were awarded their second chance of the contest and Pierre-Luc Martel made it count with his fifth of the season. Laval evened the score once more 12:05 through the third forcing overtime where Buntic broke free for the game winner.

A visit from the Princeville Titan represented a missed opportunity for the Cougars on Sunday. With two-games in hand, Champlain returned from the break just four-points back of the division leading Titan, though Princeville does have two games in-hand. Despite a 40-save performance from netminder Philippe-Fontaine Castonguay the Cougars lost in 4-3 in a shootout.

Pierre-Luc Martel (8) scored the lone first period goal giving Champlain the 1-0 lead after 20-minutes. A Princeville powerplay goal off the stick of Christophe Paquet, his 24th of the season, tied the game 1:21 into the second. Vincent Tremblay (3) put the home side in front once more 5:13 through the middle frame but Marc-André Labelle, who has had no trouble finding the back of the net this season for the Titan, potted his 30th of the season to balance the score sheet after two periods.

The Titans poured on the offence in the third, out shooting the Cougars 17-5 in the final 20-minutes of regulation. Despite the lopsided battle to put pucks on net, Fontaine-Castonguay held strong between the pipes for Champlain, who took a 3-2 lead 7:33 into the period on Buntic's seventh of the season. Pier-Karl Jolicoeur tied the game at 3-3 with 7:43 remaining in the third and overtime solved nothing leading to a shootout.

As good as he had been all game for the Cougars, Fontaine-Castonguay was beaten by the two shooters he faced, François Paguin and Marc-André Labelle, while his counterpart, Vincent Lamontagne, turned away Champlain shooters Alex Gagnon-Skoropad and Charles-Olivier Levasse for the win.



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Melbourne Ridge WI meeting

Our January meeting was held Jan. 5 at the home of Pauline Nelson.

We opened by repeating the Collect and thanking Pauline. The motto was: the best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time. The roll call was to pay dues and name two things needed to make a good W.I. member.

The min. of the last meeting were read and approved.

Correspondence was thanks from Rivage for our donations.

Our treasurer, Pauline, gave a good report.

Pennies for Friendship were collected and guesses on the amount collected last year were made and won by Joan Morrison.

Convenors' reports:

Education - Joan M. asked questions from FACS (Farm Animal Council of Sask.), such as: how many footballs are made from a cow hide? (20); how many feathers are there on an adult turkey? (3500); how many Canadians are employed in Agrifood? (1 out of 7).

Publicity - Shirley Fowler reported sending the Dec. report to The Record.

Cheer - Shirley Nelson reported taking gifts to the Wales Home and sending Christmas cards. We signed a get well card for Chris Blake.

The monthly drawing was won by Shirley F.

Josie Fowler visited our special friend at the Wales Home in Dec. and Shirley F. will visit in Jan.

New Business - we will send \$100 for the W.I. anniversary this year.

There were three perfect attendance members: Joan M., Pauline N., and Chris B.

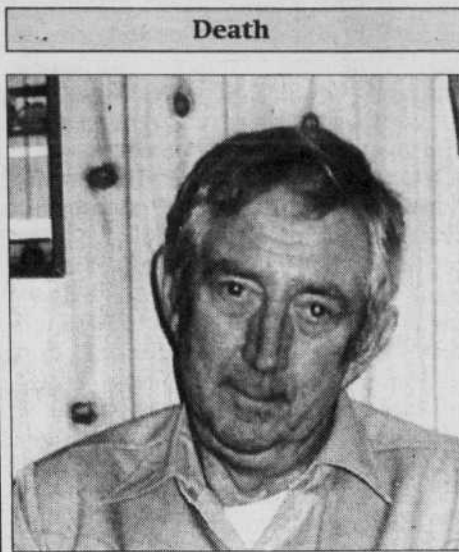
Our new slate of officers is: pres., Chris Blake; pres.-elect, Josie Fowler; first vice, Susan Mastine; sect.-treas., Pauline Nelson; agriculture, Susan Mastine; education, Joan Morrison; health & community living, Chris Blake; publicity, Shirley Fowler; cheer, Shirley Nelson.

For our Feb. meeting we will eat out and then go to Josie F. for our meeting. Each will bring one doz. cookies and make up plates for shut-ins for Valentine's Day. It will be Feb. 2 with lunch at 11:30 at Manikis.

A baking sale was held with returns going to "cheer".

The meeting closed and Pauline served a nice lunch of soup and fresh baked buns with apple pie and ice cream. Thank you, Pauline.

Shirley Fowler, Sec.



BLANCHETTE, Eric - Passed away at the CHUS Fleurimont on Monday January 11, 2010 at the age of 82 years. Eric Joseph Blanchette beloved husband of the late Marguerite Coates. Eric is survived by his sister Kay Olson (late Glen) and his nieces Wendy Olson and Nancy Olson Barkhouse (Frank) and great nephews Rocky Coates (Stephanie Wilson) and Gunner Barkhouse and also his special friend Richard Coates (Adelaide Kezar). Resting at the Cass Funeral Home, 554 Main St. Bury, QC (819)564-1750 / www.casshomes.ca where friends may call on Saturday January 16, 2010 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 pm and on Sunday January 17, 2010 at the St. Paul's Anglican Church Bury from 12:30 to 1:30 pm followed by the funeral service at 1:30 pm. Rev Dr. Patricia Peacock officiating. Spring interment in the Bury Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Eric's memory for a special project to the Pope Memorial School 523 Stokes, Bury, QC J0B 1J0 would be greatly appreciated by the family.

In Memoriam

HARPER, William - In loving memory of Bill who left us on January 14, 1997.
VERA (wife)
AND FAMILY

Card of Thanks

GOORTS - On behalf of the family of the late Peter Goorts, we would like to express our gratitude for the wonderful care he received while a patient at the CHUS Fleurimont and to the doctors and nurses (of the sixth floor). Also special thanks to Barry Evans and his staff, Father Benoit Houde, to those who sent prayers, flowers, food, cards, phone calls and kind words. Your kindness will never be forgotten.

ANNA GOORTS
AND FAMILY



BURKE, Freda Destromp - Passed away at the Wales Home on January 13, 2010 at the age of 84 years. Freda was born in Windsor, QC on July 26, 1925. She was the daughter of the late Frederick Destromp and the late Violet May Baron Destromp. She was the wife of the late James Burke. Freda is survived by her sister Virginia (Lenord D'ordine) of Belchertown, MA. USA, her brother John (Ann Moriarty) of Holyoke, MA. USA. She was the sister of the late Graydon (Lorraine Kiernan) of Granby, MA. USA. And the late Lilianne Pruneau Destromp of Windsor, QC. She leaves to mourn many nieces and nephews. Resting at the Cass Funeral Home, 3006 College St. Sherbrooke, QC (819)564-1750 / www.casshomes.ca where family and friends may call on Friday January 15, 2010 from 7 to 10 pm and on Saturday January 16, 2010 from 9 to 11 am followed by the funeral service at 11 am in the funeral home chapel. The Ven Dean Ross officiating. Interment in the Malvern Cemetery in the spring. The family would like to thank the St. Francis Manor and The Wales Home for the wonderful care given to Freda. As memorial tributes, donations to the Wales Home, 506 Rte 243 N, Cleveland, QC J0B 2H0 would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Liquor tax.....\$ 2.27
Subtotal.....\$62.67
Tip.....\$
Total.....\$
Thank you for dining with us * Merci

Fig. 16

If this feels like a math test, visit mathliteracy.ca or call 1-800-303-1004.

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GILBERT, Esther Lancaster - Passed away peacefully at the CHUS Fleurimont after a short illness on Monday January 11, 2010 in her 99th year. Esther Gilbert beloved wife of the late Roscoe Gilbert. Esther leaves to mourn her children Marjorie and Ellery (Judy), her brother William (Eileen) She was the dear grandmother of Wendy (Randy), Kathy, Randy, Shawn, Sherry, Lisa (Eric) and Robert (Tina) and she is also the great-grandmother of 11. Esther is predeceased by her children Arlie, Lorne and Lloyd and also her brothers Aleck (Myrtle), Russell, Forrest (Merle) and her sisters Lucy, (John) and Elaine and is survived by her sister-in-law Olive Lancaster and her brother-in-law Paul Bedell. She will be sadly missed by many nieces and nephews. Resting at the Cass Funeral home, 554 Main St. Bury, QC (819)564-1750 / www.casshomes.ca where friends may call on Friday January 15, 2010 from 7 to 9 pm and on Saturday January 16, 2010 at the St. Paul's Anglican Church Bury from 1 to 2 pm followed by the funeral service at 2 pm. Rev. Canon Ron West officiating. As memorial tributes, donations to the St. Paul's Rest Home, 592 Main St. Bury, QC J0B 1J0 would be gratefully acknowledged by the family.

MacRAE, Marjorie Helen (nee Macdonald) - Passed away peacefully at the age of 85, on Friday, January 8, 2010 at the Ottawa Civic Hospital after a short illness. She was predeceased by her beloved husband Murray to whom she had been married for 61 years. Dear mother of Susan Taillon (Ray), Martha Faibisoff (Burt) and Jaynie Coulterman (Don). Proud grandmother of Andrew and Kate Taillon; Daniel, Sara and Leah Faibisoff; Matthew, Adam and Michael Coulterman; and great-grandmother of Angus Hussey Taillon. She will be greatly missed by all. Friends may pay respects at the Kelly Funeral Home, 3000 Woodroffe Avenue, Ottawa, Saturday, January 16 after 1 p.m. A Service in Memory of Marjorie will follow in the Chapel at 3 p.m. Interment will take place at the Cookshire Cemetery (Quebec) at a later date. Kelly Funeral Home (613) 823-4747, www.kellyfh.ca

RATES and DEADLINES: ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

BIRTH & DEATH NOTICES, CARDS OF THANKS, IN MEMORIAMs, BRIEFLETS:
Text only: 34¢ per word. Minimum charge \$8.50 (\$9.69 taxes included)
Discounts: 2 insertions or more: 15% off
With photo: additional \$18.50. **DEADLINE:** 11 a.m., day before publication.
BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY & GET-WELL WISHES, ENGAGEMENT NOTICES:
Text only: \$7.00 (includes taxes)
With photo: \$20.00 (\$22.79 taxes included) **DEADLINE:** 3 days before publication.
WEDDING WRITE-UPS, OBITUARIES:
\$19.50 (\$22.22 taxes included) **WITH PHOTO:** \$29.50 (\$33.62 taxes included)

Please Note: All of the aforementioned (except death notices) must be submitted typewritten or neatly printed, and must include the signature and daytime telephone number of the contact person. Can be e-mailed to: classad@sherbrookerecord.com - They will not be taken by phone.
DEADLINES FOR DEATH NOTICES:
For Monday's paper, call 819-569-4856 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday.
For Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday's edition, call 819-569-4856 or fax 819-569-1187 (please call to confirm transmission) or e-mail: production@sherbrookerecord.com between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the day prior to the day of publication. The Record cannot guarantee publication if another Record number is called.

TOWNSHIPS' CRIER

LENNOXVILLE

The next support group of Mental Health Estrie for caregivers and families will be held Monday, January 18, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the office of MHE, Marguerite Knapp Building, 257 Queen, Lennoxville. For more information, call 819-565-3777 or e-mail mental-health.estrie@bellnet.ca.

BULWER

There will not be a meeting of the Bulwer Q.F.A. this month. We hope to see you in February. A happy and healthy New Year to all.

SHERBROOKE

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #10, 971 Galt East., Sherbrooke will hold their President's Supper at 6 p.m. on January 23. For reservations, call 819-563-4944. Also the general meeting will be held on January 25 at 5 p.m.

AUSTIN

MS Branch 2000 Dinner on Sunday, January 17, 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Municipal Hall, Austin. Entertainment by Stan McKelvey and the Midnight Riders. Admission charged. Urgent - musicians needed, please bring your instruments, join us for a real fun Jamming Day, contact Stan at 819-868-1837. All proceeds go directly to help people with Multiple Sclerosis now where it is needed for meds, etc.

LENNOXVILLE

Special Deanery Service will be held on Sunday, January 17 at 10 a.m. at St.

George's Anglican Church, Lennoxville. Bishop Dennis Drainville officiating. Fellowship to follow. Everyone welcome.

MAGOG/BURY/COWANSVILLE

Townshippers' hosts a Free videoconference on Parkinson's Disease on January 20, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at Magog CLC, Princess Elizabeth Elementary School, 120 Bellevue W., Magog; Eaton Valley CLC, Pope Memorial School, 523 Stokes, Bury; Massey-Vanier High School, Room 507, 224 Mercier, Cowansville. For more: Shannon Keenan (Bury or Magog), 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717), sk@townshippers.qc.ca; Kate Murray (Cowansville), 450-242-4421 (1-877-242-4421), km@townshippers.qc.ca

BURY/GRANBY

Townshippers' Association's Coffee Mornings, January 19, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, Eaton Valley Community Learning Center (CLC), Pope Memorial School, 523 Stokes, Bury, and St. George's Anglican Church, 130 Principale, Granby. Information: Kate Murray (Granby) 450-242-4421 (1-877-242-4421), km@townshippers.qc.ca; Shannon Keenan (Bury) 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717), sk@townshippers.qc.ca.

COWANSVILLE

Townshippers' Association partners with Avante Women's Center to host Health Matters: Bone Health, on Thursday January 14 at 9 a.m. at the CLSC, 397 rue de la Rivière, Cowansville, featuring kinesiologist Jacinthe Lussier as the local expert following the DVD presentation. Information: Kate Murray, 450-242-4421 (1-877-242-4421), km@townshippers.qc.ca.

TOWNSHIPS

Family Literacy Day Contest, "Lyrical Lit-

eracy: A Community Raps". Deadline: January 22. There are two categories: 1. Write a rap about a book you love or why you love reading. 2. Sing a passage from a favourite book or magazine or sing your own original rap. You could win a Centennial Theatre Jet7 card among many other exciting prizes! Submit your written rap to info@literacyinaction.info or mail to Literacy in Action, 257 Queen St., Sherbrooke, J1M 1K7. Dial 1-866-415-2955 toll free to record your rap. For more information or to have your rap taped by us, call Literacy in Action at 819 346-7009. Winners will be announced on January 27.

SUTTON

Entertainment with County Line (Arnie Davis, Shirley Spencer, Jimmy Edwards and Barry Newman), at 8 p.m. on January 30 at the Sutton Legion, 2 Curley Street. Info: 450-538-2210.

SUTTON

Come and enjoy Brunch (all you can eat, eggs the way you like them) at the Sutton Legion, 2 Curley St., on Sunday, January 31, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: 450-538-2210.

FITCH BAY

St. Matthias Church (Canon Gustin Hall), Sunday, January 17: 11 a.m. Contemporary Service, Dan Goddard will be our guest speaker. Tanya and Heather will lead us in worship. Pot-luck lunch to follow after service. All welcome.

DANVILLE

The Danville-Asbestos Trinity United Church will hold a Military Whist on Thursday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. Everyone welcome. To reserve a table call 819-839-2552.

LENNOXVILLE

The Gang will be back at the Amedee Beaudoin Community Centre on Monday, January 18 at 1:30 p.m. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and cookie.

RICHMOND

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #15, 235 College St. North, Richmond is holding their monthly Brunch on Sunday, January 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. We welcome all to a hardy brunch consisting of eggs, ham, sausages, panfried potatoes, home made beans with real maple syrup, pancakes and other condiments. For more info: www.legion15.com

BULWER

Chicken Pie Dinner Fundraiser for Galt English History Trip at the Bulwer Community Center on January 23 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Advanced tickets only. Call Lynsey Sylvester 819-823-8761, Krista Sylvester 819-875-1894 or Roberta Sylvester 819-889-2608.

...

This column accepts items announcing events organized by churches, service clubs and recognized charitable institutions for a \$7.00 fee, \$10.00 for 2 insertions of same notice, \$13.00 for 3 publications. Maximum 35 words. If you have more than 35 words the charge will be \$10.00 per insertion. Requests should be mailed, well in advance, to The Record, P.O. Box 1200, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1H 5L6, be signed and include a telephone number and payment. Telephone requests will not be accepted. Admission charges and trade names will be deleted. No dances.

90th Birthday

CORA HAZARD

Please join us Saturday, January 16 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Grace Anglican Church Hall in Sutton for a celebration of Cora's 90th birthday.



Good wishes only. Special entertainment is planned.

I am afraid of hurting her feelings

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I am one of four sisters, all of us in our 50s. We are a close-knit family, although we no longer live in the same communities.

My niece, "Tara," gave birth to a son while she was still in high school. A wonderful couple adopted the boy, and because the adoption was open, they have stayed in contact. The baby had some health issues, which they initially attributed to the lack of prenatal care. Two years later, Tara gave birth to her second out-of-wedlock son just as her first was diagnosed with Duchenne's muscular dystrophy. There is no history of this in the family, and my niece was deemed a spontaneous carrier. Her second child has it, too.

When these two were diagnosed, the doctors explained that, barring a miracle, her sons would face an increasingly painful life and an early death. They also told her she could pass along the disease to future children. Tara didn't care. Five years ago, she met a divorced man with three boys, and they have since had three more children together. Blessedly, two of the children are girls and will not develop the disease, although they could be carriers. The third child is a boy who, astoundingly, is healthy. But she plans to have more children.

No one can get through to Tara that she is playing genetic Russian roulette with her children's lives. These are chil-

dren, by the way, whom neither she nor her partner can afford, and we have no idea how she plans to care for a child who might become disabled. How do we continue to love and support her when we are all so upset with the situation? — Heartsick in the Heartland

Dear Heartsick: You sigh deeply and say nothing. Tara is a grown woman, and these are her choices, smart or not. Be a kind and loving great-aunt to these children, and try to keep your opinions out of it. That's as supportive as you need to be.

Dear Annie: My 20-year-old daughter is fantastic. She's smart, funny, compassionate, involved and has a beautiful, warm, friendly face. Her problem is that although she works out, she is short and a little heavy. And she doesn't know how to dress to "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative."

I want to help her, but am afraid of hurting her feelings and don't know enough about the details of fashion to teach her. Also, she probably would not take my advice on this topic. Is there a book I could give her? Should I ask her mother to deliver the message? — Loving Dad

Dear Dad: Mom may already have done so and met with little success. Your libraries and bookstores are filled

with books on how to dress, but they won't help your daughter if she perceives your overtures as unwelcome criticism. If she works out, she is probably healthy, so try not to fixate on her weight. If you want her to dress differently but don't know how to do it, talk to her mother about what might be more flattering and buy her a new outfit for her next birthday.

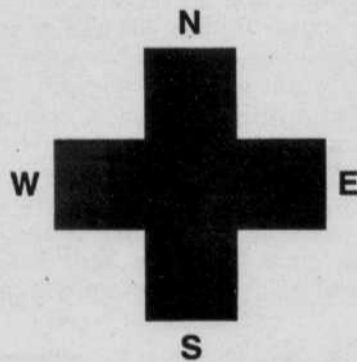
Dear Annie: This is in response to "Louisville Lass," whose children receive too many presents.

When my daughter was born, we received mountains of toys and clothes from our families. I didn't want to offend the givers, so now I suggest different types of gifts for my daughter: a year's membership to the local zoo or children's museum, or tickets to local low-cost events, such as kids' concerts, plays or book readings.

These gifts allow me to spend time with my child in an educational or cultural setting, and we send the giver pictures throughout the year of the ways she is enjoying their gift. It has worked beautifully for us. — S.W.

Dear S.W.: This is a lovely suggestion and we hope those who are looking for gift ideas will consider yours.

Annie's Mailbox is written by *Kat Mitchell and Marcy Sugar*, longtime editors of the *Ann Landers* column.



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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: V equals Y

"P MAZ DJTPGI IEAZI XAD TPZPLM
ZEG EGJY AXX J TJZ, TKZ ZEJZ'I AR
- ZEG TJZ EJY ZA MGZ AUUV IEAZI."
- AUUV AITAKDLG

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Those things are better which are perfected by nature than those which are finished by art." - Cicero

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KIT N' CARLYLE



HERMAN



"They warned us in hairdressing college this day would come."

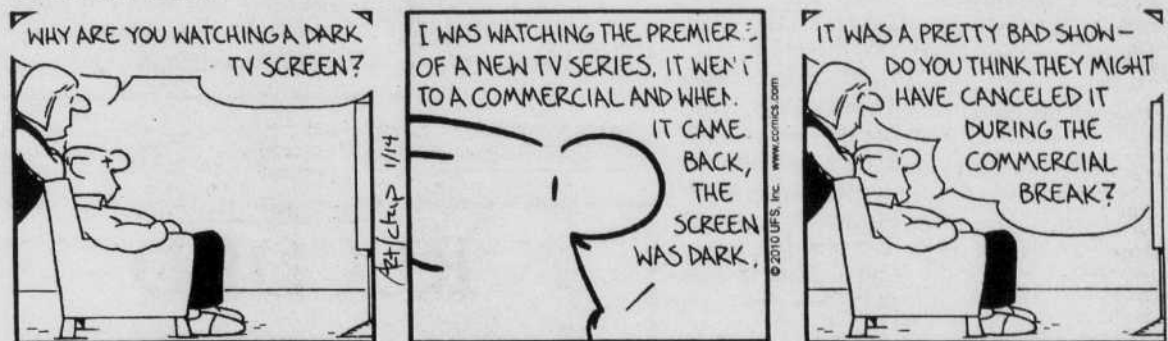
ALLEY OOP



ARLO & JANIS



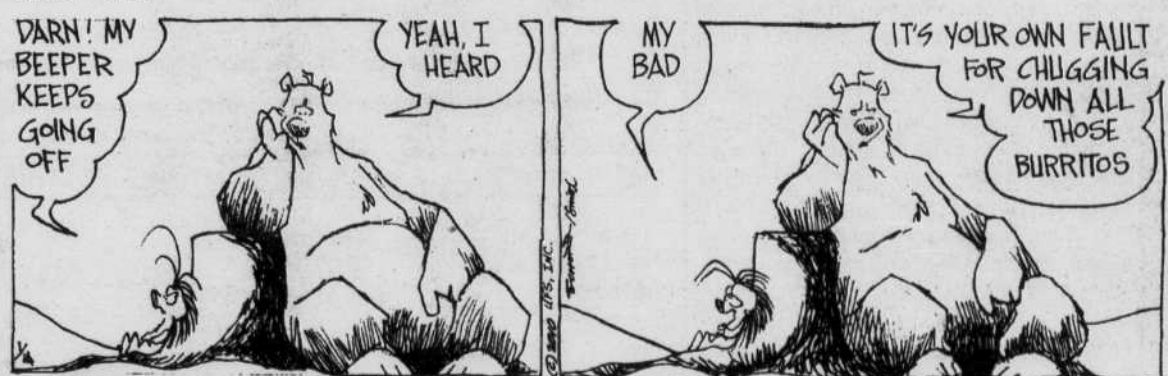
THE BORN LOSER



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AT 11 A.M.
AT THE AUCTION HALL
333 Windsor Road (Route 143), Sherbrooke
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Your Birthday

Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010

Fulfillment of a long-existing special ambition could provide enormous gratification in the year ahead and prove that you should never surrender your dreams. This accomplishment could also be a springboard for further feats.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Be prepared to stand or fall on your efforts instead of expecting surrogates to do things for you, because even though you may have little confidence, you're the only one who can get things done.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Assess situations logically, but don't discount your intuitive perceptions, either. This combination will make you a successful person.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Conditions that pan out successfully for your friends might not prove as effective for you. However, when operating in your zone, you could surpass what they accomplish two times over.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Your chances for a successful day can be increased if you know what you want and don't hesitate going after it. Fuzzy goals yield hesitation; clear-cut objectives waste no time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — New knowledge is likely to be exactly the right information you need to accomplish a special project. You'll know it the moment you see it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — To your surprise, someone you least expect will turn out to be the exact partner you need to accomplish a goal that demands at least two to handle. You might even make a new friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — When negotiating a matter of great importance, don't hesitate to set the tone by opening up with a generous offer. There's even a chance it will encourage your counterpart to top you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — What gave you fits yesterday might surprisingly go smoothly today. Although you never thought you would finish things on time, you'll end up completing everything ahead of schedule.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — This is an excellent time to reorganize an endeavor in order to make it more effective. Your peers won't be able to help you, but as it turns out, you won't need any assistance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — You'll know that a critical task won't be easy, but simply knowing that takes the pressure off and will make your job far easier than you ever thought possible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Not only will you properly analyze things; you will come up with some extremely clever ideas for handling them. Don't hesitate to follow your instincts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — An unlikely person might be instrumental in showing you where a couple of material opportunities exist. However, you will need to take advantage.

Thursday, Jan. 14, 2010

If they jump, fight back

By Phillip Alder

We are looking at the problems caused by weak jump overcalls. These can occur for either side. This deal requires careful handling by everyone.

The first three calls are easy. North opens one diamond, East makes a two-heart weak jump overcall, and South passes. Now West should realize that game in hearts is extremely unlikely. Even if partner has a maximum 10 points, there are likely to be at least four losers. Also, West has a decent defensive hand should North reopen the auction. Now North is tempted to make a takeout double. But it is almost impossible for his partner to have a good enough heart-holding to pass, turning it into a penalty double. And why encourage South to bid clubs? A balancing bid of two spades is more sensible. (Note that this announces at least five diamonds.) Finally, South bids three clubs, which North passes because his partner must have at least a six-card suit and a weak hand.

What happens in three clubs? It would be normal for West to lead the heart six, high from a doubleton. Declarer can see five probable losers: one

North 01-14-10			
♠ K J 10 6			
♥ A 4			
♦ A K 6 4 3			
♣ Q 5			
West	East		
♠ A 9 3 2	♠ Q 7 4		
♥ 6 3	♥ K Q 10 9 8 7		
♦ Q J 10 9	♦ 8 5		
♣ A 4 2	♣ K 3		
South			
♠ 8 5			
♥ J 5 2			
♦ 7 2			
♣ J 10 9 8 7 6			
Dealer: North			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1 ♦	2 ♥
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♥ 6			

spade (West surely has the ace), two hearts and two clubs. South, picturing a heart ruff in the dummy, ducks the first trick. However, East wins and shifts to a trump to kill the ruff. Did you see the other winning defense? East can return a heart at trick two. And since I am out of space, the curious will have to work out how the defenders eventually get one spade, one heart, two clubs and a spade ruff in the East hand.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Italian port on the Adriatic
- 5 Los Alamos project, briefly
- 10 Newspaper family name
- 14 Yemen's main port
- 15 Roofed patio
- 16 Guinness of "Star Wars"
- 17 Hackneyed line
- 20 Love, in 1-Across
- 21 Heros
- 22 Male delivery
- 23 Frothy fountain drinks
- 26 Green soldier
- 28 Unwanted kitchen visitor
- 29 Killed, in a way
- 31 River in NW France
- 32 MA and PA
- 33 Bakery worker with a gun
- 34 Spirited equine
- 35 Chowder base

- 38 "___ moi, le déluge": Louis XV
- 41 New Rochelle, NY, college
- 42 "Pygmalion" monogram
- 45 1975 A.L. MVP and Rookie of the Year ___ Lynn
- 46 "The evil that men do lives after them" speaker
- 48 Brutally harsh
- 49 ___ stone
- 51 How architects draw
- 53 Rear admiral's rear
- 54 Crimson Tide, briefly
- 56 "Flip This House" network
- 57 Summertime cosmetic mishap
- 61 Hall of Famer Slaughter
- 62 Book from which the film "What's Love Got to Do With It" was adapted
- 63 Netman Nastase
- 64 Posted
- 65 Animal family hidden in 17-, 35- and 57-Across
- 66 Buffoonish

- 27 Portnoy creator Philip
- 30 Move in high circles?
- 34 Patronizes, as an inn
- 35 Hand over
- 36 Canine anchor
- 37 ___ occasion: never
- 38 Popular ski country homes
- 39 Talking a blue streak?
- 40 Sits atop
- 42 Hiker's snack
- 43 Longtime Steinway rival

- 44 Todd of Broadway
- 46 Classic video games
- 47 "Broadway Joe"
- 50 Not yet sched.
- 52 City near Gibraltar
- 55 Brest friend
- 58 Western Ky. clock setting
- 59 Santa Barbara-to-Vegas dir.
- 60 Slurp (up)

A	R	P		N	O	J	O	K	E		A	S	P		
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Down

- 1 Commonwealth off Florida
- 2 Uncompromising
- 3 Rises up
- 4 At a standstill
- 5 Tavern choice
- 6 Kapow cousin
- 7 Singletons
- 8 Come of age
- 9 Like many lobster eaters
- 10 Galoot
- 11 Sense of completeness
- 12 Sandra Bullock role, e.g.
- 13 Like some candles
- 18 Agricultural pests
- 19 Corner PC key
- 24 Numerical prefix
- 25 Pipe part

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Wales Home News December 2009

By: Rebecca Taylor

December was a month filled with holiday cheer. In addition to the many regular monthly activities such as bingo, carpet bowling, continuation of the comfort shawls project, hymn sing, Friday teas, exercises, card games and bible study, here are some of the highlights of this festive month.

To start spreading the Christmas cheer, the Local Legion, Branch #15 hosted the Veterans' Christmas party on the 3rd. On the 4th, community members held a fundraising craft sale for the Steven Lewis Foundation, which helps grandmothers' in Africa who are caring for their grandchildren as they have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS. In house shopping was also available on the 7th when a sale of satchels and other articles was held in the main living room. Marion Patrick and Friends held a special Christmas Tea for residents in the nursing care units on the afternoon of the 8th.

Beautiful music filled the living room as a Christmas Cantata serenaded residents on the afternoon of the 5th. The Roxton Singers' Children wowed residents on the morning of the 8th with songs and stories. On the 10th, Eddie Malboeuf, Norma Knowles and Teresa Doyle entertained residents of the nursing care units with their musical talents. A toe tapping good time was had at the Christmas Dance held on the evening of the 11th in the dining room. Donna and Sidney Mills provided the music for this event. On the 12th, a beautiful children's violin concert was held in the living room. On the 15th students from St. Francis Elementary School along with Keith Whittall presented a lovely Christmas program for residents. On the evening of the 16th Christmas Carolling in the nursing care units followed by a beautiful Candlelight Service in the main living room. Richmond Regional High School's Choir came on the morning of the 17th to sing and play carols for residents. A Christmas sing-song and happy hour was held on the evening of the 17th. A piano concert featuring some of Francine Beaubien's very talented students took place in the living room on the afternoon of the 19th. A New Year's Dance was held on the 29th in the dining room. Residents had the opportunity to kick up their heels in anticipation for the New Year or just watch as Eddie Malboeuf sang and played for them.

A new activity began this month "Reading/ Coffee Clutch." Volunteers join residents in the Shaw 1 solarium to read to them while they enjoy refreshments. The month's feature movie was the newly released Santa Buddies. These cute and helpful puppies gave residents lots of smiles. Each floor was treated to a special Christmas party complete with snacks, entertainment, and a visit from Santa to hand out a gift to each resident. It is a good thing that Mrs. Claus and the elves were able to keep everything running smoothly at the North Pole while Santa visited us. Thank you Santa! Residents and volunteers set out on the evening of the 14th for a Christmas Lights Tour. Following the tour they gathered in the living room to have some hot chocolate and other refreshments.

On behalf of everyone at The Wales Home welcome Dorothea Graham, Bessie Whitehead, Rowena Gunter and Ferne Parker. Condolences are extended to the family and friends of Elliora Foreman and Edith Coombs. Happy birthday to everyone who celebrated in December. Due to the many holiday activities, the December birthdays are celebrated in January.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make December at The Wales Home fantastic; without the help of all of you, who helped in many ways from buying Christmas gifts, visiting and providing entertainment among other things. Your dedication and assistance are much appreciated. Thank you for touching so many lives in so many ways. Pictures and other Wales Home information is available online at www.waleshome.ca. Wishing you all the best in 2010.



2010 Volkswagen Golf Wagon TDI; Impressive fuel economy.



2010 Volkswagen Golf Wagon.

By David Booth

Canwest News Service

The new Golf sort of snuck up on me. It was a fill-in when one of my normal, luxury-oriented rides fell through. It was available, the pick-up was handy and, hey, I hadn't tested a Veedub in some time so it would, at least, make for an interesting comparison with the Audis that I've gorged myself on lately.

On the other hand, I wasn't expecting much in the way of automotive excitement. After all, a diesel-powered compact wagon doesn't exactly conjure up dreams of spirited driving and luxurious accommodation.

Expectations were low, then.

Perhaps it was those low expectations, maybe I was just thrilled not to be breaking the Boothian piggy bank every time I filled up or it could have been, as Volkswagen Canada would no doubt prefer I claim, that the new Golf is truly a standout. But whatever the case, I was really taken by the little wagon.

And, indeed, it is little. Or, at least, it looks little. Virtually everyone familiar with Volkswagens commented that the '10 Golf looks smaller than its predecessor. Maybe it's the aerodynamic slope to the steeply raked roof or even the sloped grille, but the Golf Wagon looks Honda Fit-sized. The illusion is dispelled once inside the cabin, however, with plenty of room -

including headroom in the rear seats - available for four adults. Of course, VW will claim that five can fit inside - with three in the rear bench - but they'd have to be seriously well acquainted.

The roominess is not the Golf interior's main calling card, however;

that attribute would be the quality of said interior. I've always wondered how far down the economic scale VW Inc.'s miracle of luxurious interiors could translate. It's one thing for a top-of-the-line Audi S8 to have superior quality materials and almost perfect panel gaps, but it's another thing entirely for a cheap and cheerful Golf to be so endowed.

And I will be the first to admit that the dashboard and features are not as majestic as an Audi's. But the same basic goodness - the soft, tactile feel of all the surfaces, the avant-garde design, the attention to detail - is all there. The audio system, for instance, may not be the equal of the Bang & Olufsen that's so sonorous in the S8, but it neither looks nor sounds cheap. The whole time I was driving the Golf TDI, I was left wondering how Volkswagen is making money on something so inexpensive.

The same applies to VW's new "clean" diesel. More robust than their gasoline counterparts, diesels have always been more expensive than comparable gas engines. Plus, the latest Veedub versions have a new higher-pressure injection system that doesn't cost peanuts. Nor has Volkswagen Cheap Charlied the transmission, with the standard, manual item sporting six forward gears.

This last item adds to the Golf's calling card - fuel economy. Having the engine spin so slowly at highway speeds (a paltry 1,600 rpm at 100 kilometres an hour) renders the Golf even more economical; on one particularly frugal sojourn, the TDI averaged 4.2 litres per 100 clicks (the best I've ever seen in normal driving) while cruising at a steady 100 km/h.

Interestingly, that's even better than the 4.7 L/100 km Transport

Canada rates the Golf TDI. Even my worst, lead-footed profligacy couldn't get the TDI's little digital fuel economy readout much above 7.0 L/100 km. Watching the gas gauge do its ever-so-slow turtle-like creep toward "E" is quite a contrast to the plunge most luxu-mobiles wreak on our fossil fuel reserves.

Nor does the 2.0L's comportment suffer for its lack of spark plugs. There's 140 horsepower on tap from the 2.0-litre four, but, more importantly, 236 pound-feet of torque at just 1,750 rpm. There's no use in my trying to tell you that it's a barn burner, but it suffers little in comparison with most sub-2.0L four-bangers save Volkswagen's own superlative 2.0T. It's more than powerful enough, one never hears any of the diesel's characteristic clatter except on startup in cold weather and it's wonderfully smooth. Other than an occasional propensity toward stalling in first gear, perhaps because of the tall gearing, it's quite wonderful. I'd probably opt for the six-speed DSG automatic transmission that better suits the diesel (and would certainly eliminate the need for my left foot to be more sensitive).

Otherwise, I'd take the Golf turbodiesel wagon exactly as is. As an economy-sized compact wagon, it fills all the necessities. It's roomy enough, can carry a fair load of cargo, will travel seemingly eons before needing refuelling and will cost but a pittance to keep in dinosaur juice. Its handling is more than adequate and the interior is the class of this segment. And all this comes with a relatively competitive manufacturer's suggested list price of \$24,975.

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