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RICHMOND FAIR? No this is not the Richmond you're thinking of. There are a number of Richmond Fairs around the world, including this one in Richmond, England, which has been around for many centuries. There are also Richmond fairs in Nova Scotia, Ontario, New York State and Texas, among many others. To find out about the Richmond Fair nearest you – in Richmond, Quebec – please turn to Pages 14 - 20.

Life in Barnston West

How to repair a leaking pond

By Jerome Krause

My pond has a leak. Not a little seepage, but an honest-to-goodness leak with a volume equal to a gushing garden hose. You can't excuse the drop in the pond's level by saying there hasn't been enough rain recently. If only that were the problem I could try to chalk it up to evaporation, but no, the pond is dropping far faster than that.

On the one hand there is a lucky part to it, and that is that the water leaks out in one focused spot about ten inches wide. The unlucky part is that this occurs at the absolutely thickest part of the dam. There is at least of 30 to 40 feet of clay from the leak's exit to the body of the pond. Since the leak emerges at one place it must enter the clay dam at one place – it is highly unlikely that multiple flaws coalesce to one point, but of course the question is:

where is the flaw? The water exits at a point maybe 10 feet below the pond's surface level, and so the leak could be anywhere down to that depth. Naturally, I devised a plan.

At this stage of the summer (I'm writing this in the last half of July) the water remains nice and clear with no algae bloom or whatever, so there is good visibility through the water. Not perfect visibility, but still good. The water is the color of mild tea. Actually it is tea. A person makes a cup of tea by pouring water over dried leaves. Well, the creek that supplies my pond drains 300 acres of forest and that means water over dried leaves; different flavour, that's all. This is legitimate tea in my view. Bring your own cup.

A lot of people put milk in their tea. Here is my plan: I'll don the snorkel and diving mask, the flippers, maybe a wetsuit (it stays cold down in the depths) and jump in with one of those plastic squeeze bottles with a nozzle that you drink from, and I'll have that bottle filled with milk. Extra dense milk. I'll make it myself from dried milk powder so that it will be really opaque.

So, here's the vitally important part of the plan: I'll swim down opposite the leak's exit point and squirt a cloud of milk into the water. If the milk begins to migrate to the wall of the pond and gets sucked into a flaw in the wall, then that's the location of the leak. If the milk does nothing but sit there, then I'll move along a bit and try again. Milk, because you can

see it easily in tea, and also because it's organic and harmless. Red dye, or similar, wouldn't be very visible anyhow and who would want to swim in that?

That's the plan, and I tried it.

Suitably rigged up, even including a long-sleeved tee shirt to avoid sun burn – I figured I'd need bright sun to see anything – in I went. The wetsuit made me too buoyant.

Spot number one. Squirt. Held my breath, held my breath. I started to drift into the milk cloud and couldn't see anything but white. How to swim backward out of the milk cloud without stirring it up? Big swim fins are useless for going backward.

Flailing my arms about stirred up the milk and dispersed it. What I did manage to see was milk stubbornly staying away from the wall of the pond. Failure. I put the leftover milk in the fridge.

I need two things – a means of staying out of the milk cloud so I can see what it is doing, and also a means of getting deeper without a lot of flapping about that would stir up the water too much. Some weight would help counteract my natural tendency to resemble a cork. Neutral buoyancy would be the perfect ticket, because I could then go up and down at

will and effortlessly, thereby minimizing turbulence. Now the question is, how many rocks should I stuff into my shorts to achieve the correctly balanced flotation neutrality?

I also thought about a concrete block tied around my neck to aim me down toward the work at hand, but Sora, my better half, objected to this. She failed, however, to explain the reasons for her veto so I'll keep the concept in mind for future reference. I know what you are thinking, but I did have a scheme to tie a rope to a tree up on shore so that I could haul myself up if necessary. But finally I dismissed this entire scenario as being unworkable; I estimated that it would be too clumsy to drag a cement block along underwater with one hand, hang on to a rope with the other hand, and squirt clouds of milk with my free hand, all while holding my breath, all without stirring up the water.

So, experiment with rocks in the shorts, that's the best idea. If I err and load my shorts with too many rocks, which I will learn as I dive in and hit bottom, I'll just jump out of the shorts and do my cork imitation, more or less.

Lung capacity comes into question with this whole operation.

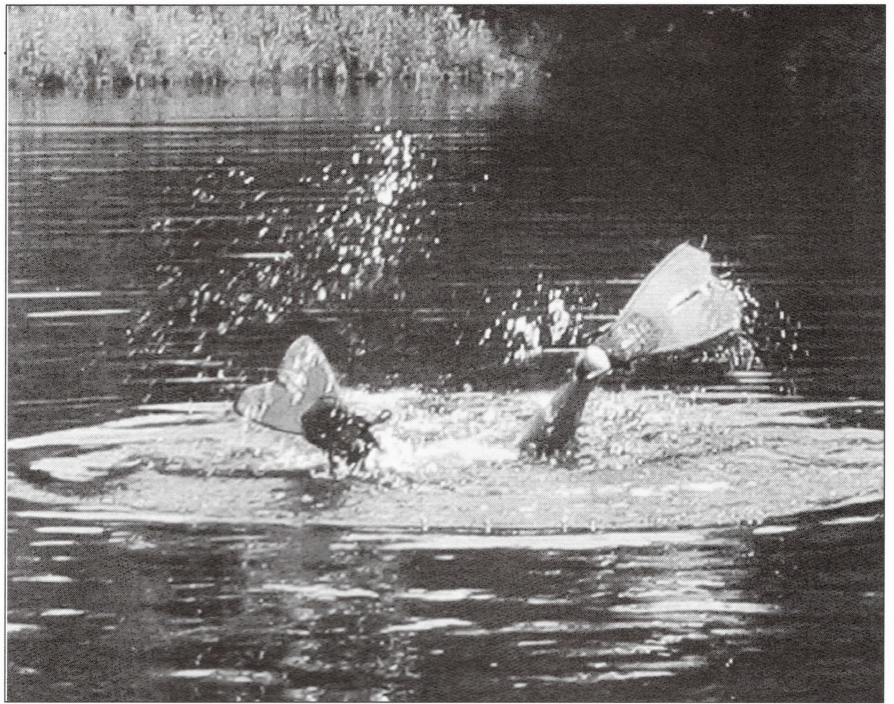
*The question is,
how many rocks
should I stuff into
my shorts?*

A nurse once told me that I should not have held my breath for over four minutes that one time, because this could have caused cardiac arrest, but it didn't. Shorter bursts of vigorous work ought to be possible though; I'll keep it to three-minute sessions. It helps, I discovered, to hyperventilate for a while before jumping into the pond. By pumping up your oxygen you can comfortably hold your breath longer. Nevertheless, if my watch truly is waterproof I'll take note of it and try to keep the leak-seeking sessions under three or four minutes. I'm not in great shape at this point, so it likely won't be a big problem. Maybe hyperventilating before diving into deep water with your shorts full of rocks is normal in any event.

The issue persists, though, of avoiding drifting into the milk cloud and not being able to appropriately swim backward and all of that.

Sora volunteered to stand on the shore with a really long stick in her hands. She said that when I would start to drift into the milk cloud she would give me a shove with the stick to keep me away from the pond's edge. I was at a loss to understand why getting poked in the eye with a stick would be helpful for quietly avoiding my milk cloud, but then I remembered that I'd be wearing a diving mask so the proposition might have merit. I have a 12 foot 2x2 on hand; that could be good. Already I made an important discovery as an offshoot of all of this. There is much more plant life down there than I expected. Hopefully it is not plant life that will take over the pond, but it does look as though it's time to reintroduce small fish into the pond. I was waiting for proper flora to be re-established (after recent dredging) before I did that and now I discovered that there is plenty and so soon the pond will be teeming with new little creatures. They need a nice verdant habitat after all. There is still the leak. I really think my milk-in-the-tea idea will work (when I solve a few details) to discover the fault in the pond's north wall, but I have been struck with this notion: What to do when I find the miserable leak?

I can't exactly go down there with a caulking gun and squirt some goo into a vague broad leak in clay. That would be too much of a challenge for caulking compound people... There is a substance called Bentonite clay that is used to deal with problems like this. It swells up when you add water to the dry powdered material, but using it when already under water, holding your breath, with rocks in your shorts and while getting poked in the eye is maybe not a realistic idea.



Leak detective: Our intrepid columnist hard at work.

Okay, what about a good sized sheet of tough plastic? When I find the leak, wouldn't a sheet of plastic be held in place by water pressure when spread out over the hole? I'd have to nail the sheet in place, or otherwise fasten it to the clay wall of the pond basin – with Bentonite smeared all over the place. Sounds iffy, especially while turning blue ten feet under water.

Yes, I could drain the pond, but it was drained a couple of years ago. It was already leaking at that time, but when the pond was empty there was no obvious site visible that looked like a leak, so I don't know why this approach would reveal the nasty spot now. A professional pond builder would drain the whole thing, line the entire side of the pond with Bentonite, wreck the place, and charge me a few thousand bucks. That would probably work. No thank you – where would be the romance and satisfaction of solving my own leaky problems as the result of doing something truly clever?

Recently there was an exceptionally heavy rain while I was off getting my blood pressure raised in Montreal and what do you suppose happened? The pond refilled and is back to normal. What leak? Therefore, I pretended that the pond was fine and accepted the notion that dealing with the persistent leak could be put off for a little while, so I floated around the pond enjoying summer. There I was, inserted in an inner tube, holding a colourful drink with a little umbrella in it, with a squirt-bottle of milk in my other hand.

The missing middle: Forging a life in the Townships

Cookshire's master bladesmith Christoph Deringer

By *Brenda Hartwell*

The summer has not been particularly kind to outdoor festivals, and unfortunately the third edition of Shazaam Fest was not able to escape nasty weather. The idyllic riverside site near Way's Mills, the enthusiasm of the organizers, the great food, the eclectic mix of music and entertainment provided everything a festival should need to flourish, but unfortunately bad weather kept many people away.

The few damp souls who braved the weather armed with ponchos and umbrellas were not disappointed with the offerings or with the interesting people on site. Shazaam Fest attracts a variety of colourful characters, and many of them fall into that 'missing middle' demographic of 25 to 45 year olds. It is the perfect place to find a story worth telling.

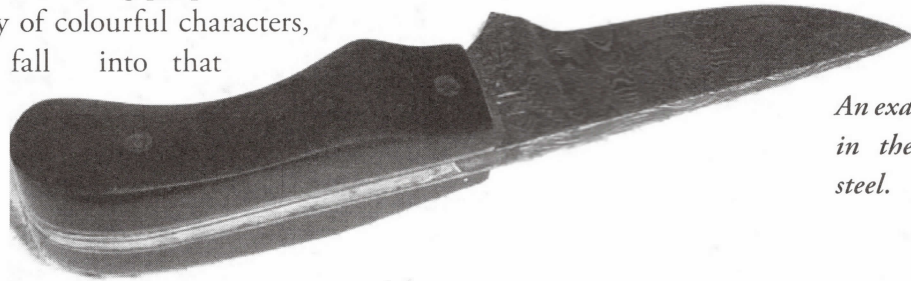
Underneath a canopy of trees beside the dirt road leading down into the bowl of the natural amphitheatre, a forge was smoking away. A low table adorned with beautiful objects hunkered nearby. A strong arm rose and fell rhythmically, and the sound of a hammer striking hot metal rang through the forest. I approached, mesmerized. It is not everyday that one can witness the ancient art of blacksmithing.

Master Bladesmith Christoph Deringer, age 41, is a sinewy, healthy looking fellow with bright eyes and a keen interest in the history and mechanics of his art. He was raised in Pike River (near Bedford) and began his adventures in blacksmithing straight out of Champlain College, where he studied creative arts.

Initially self-taught, Deringer learned the basics of blacksmithing through books, experiments, and experience. Looking to expand his knowledge, he attended a school in Texarkana, Arkansas, where he specialized in bladesmithing – hand-crafting knives.

Deringer's knives are works of art. He says, "I do everything by hand and each piece that I make is unique. I have no set patterns. I design for purpose. People tell me what they want their knife to do and I design it."

His pieces, sitting on the table under the trees, are things of beauty. The lines are clean and pleasing; the blades are strong and sure. Deringer shows his work all over the world. The biggest annual show that he attends is held in Atlanta during the month of June, but he also shows in Toronto, Reno, Napa, and hopes to attend a show in Paris this September.

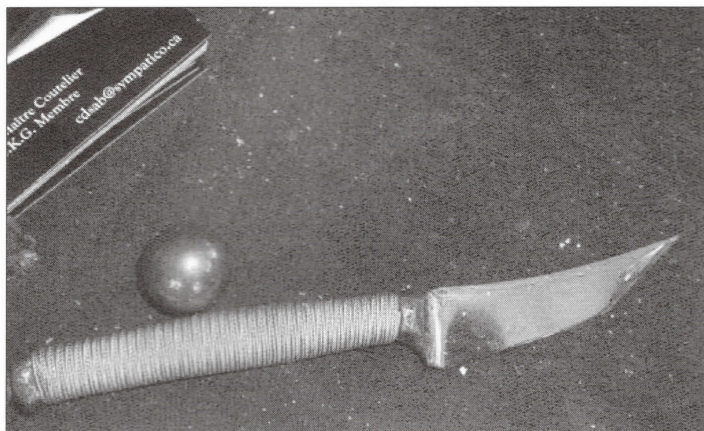


An example of Deringer's work in the patterned Damascus steel.

I ask Deringer if he has ever sold work to anyone famous at one of these shows, and he tells me that well-known folk singer Bruce Cockburn is a knife collector who owns two of his pieces. "When he comes to a show, everybody says: 'Isn't that Bruce Cockburn?' And then he sees me, waves, and says 'Hi Christoph' and everybody says, 'How do you know him?' He's a really nice guy."

Examining the work on the table, it is easy to see why Deringer's work is in demand. He picks up a knife, and because the handle is not yet attached permanently, he can take it apart to show curious onlookers how it is put together. His fingers point out several pins that are set at a slight angle; these will fit snugly into holes in the knife's wooden handle, and unlike most knives, they will be totally concealed, and will not show on the outside of the knife's handle. The wooden handle is smooth, the surface unbroken by fastenings. Creating pieces that do not show pins on the handle is one of his specialties.

Some of Deringer's knives have intricate patterns on the blades and he tells me that this is Damascus steel, a kind of steel that was traded during the Crusades in Damascus.



A knife blade fashioned out of a recycled ball bearing.

He patiently explains the steps involved in this process. "You take two or more types of steel and put them into stacks or layers, repeat it, then fold it to multiply the layers. Then you heat it in the forge to a high heat until the layers sweat together. Then you can twist it, or cut into it, or you can hammer it. After you have hammered your blade, you finish with an acid treatment to reveal the pattern."

The result is gorgeous. It is difficult to wrap your mind around the concept that something so strong can be so malleable, but Deringer says that forging metal is like working with clay. "You can shape it any way you want. Forging the shape is unlimited."

A curious child asks why there are silver balls sitting next to some of his knives. Deringer tells her that these are ball bearings and the larger ones can be hammered into large blades and the smaller ones can be hammered into small blades. It seems incredible that objects of such beauty

can be fashioned from material that was destined for the scrap yard. When onlookers exclaim about the ingenuity involved in this transformation, Deringer's manner is humble and he says that he grew up on a farm so he was accustomed to using recycled materials to fashion the things he needed.

As Christoph Deringer explains his art to several young people who have gathered to admire his creations, the forge smokes nearby. David MacDonald is heating a blade and hammering away on the anvil. MacDonald,



Each bladesmith has his own unique style. Here are samples of David MacDonald's work.

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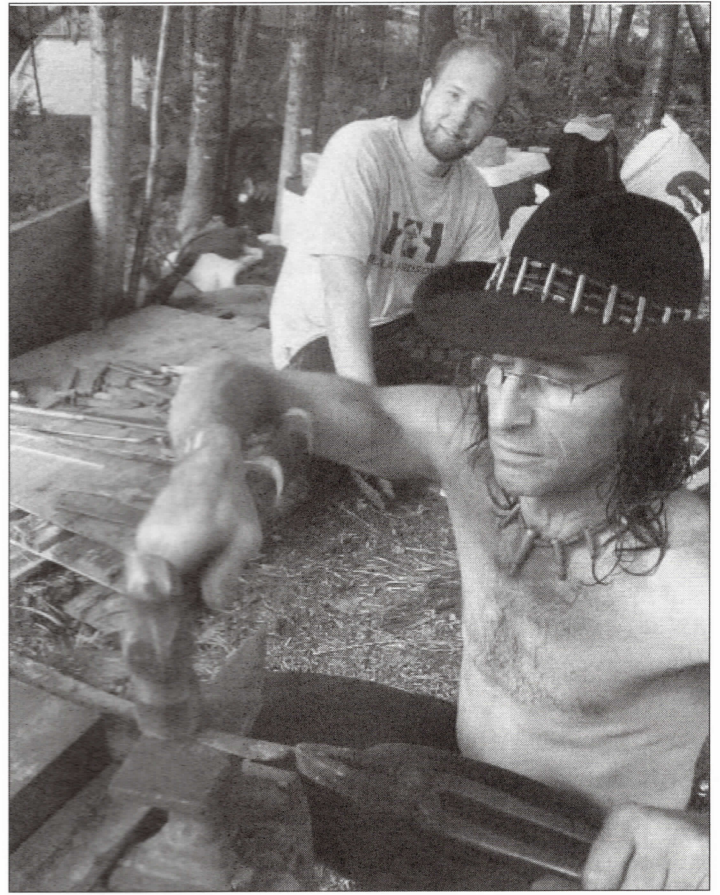
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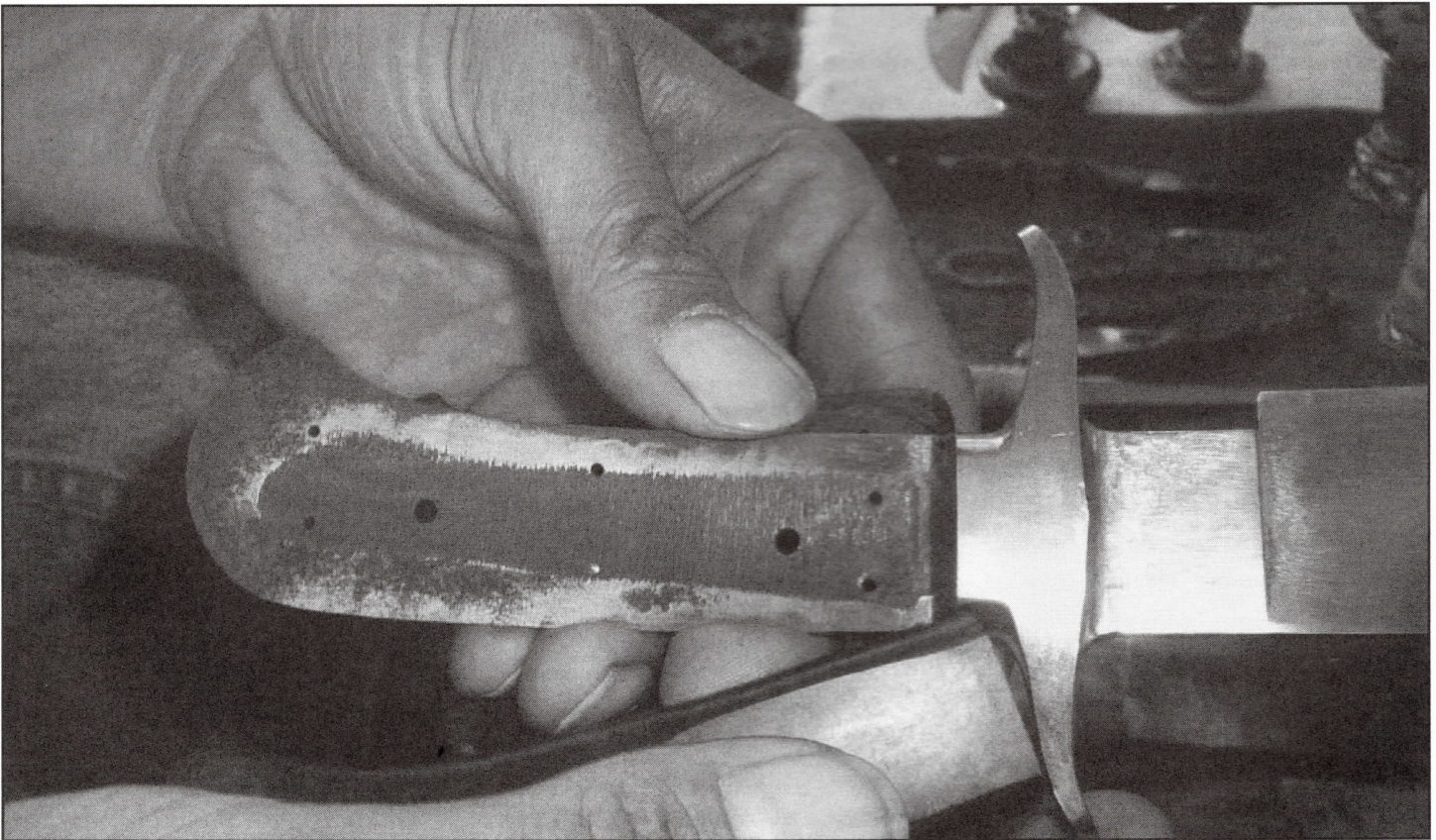
Canada 



Christoph Deringer explains his art at Shazaam Fest.



David MacDonald hammers a blade on the anvil.



A peek inside a knife handle. Concealing the pins is one of Christoph Deringer's specialties.

who lives on Keeler Road in Hatley, has learned the art of blacksmithing from Deringer and he now works as a custom knife maker. Some of the objects on the table are his handiwork, and he too hammers out interesting, unique pieces. Each of the two blacksmiths has his own particular style.

Every so often the hammering is interrupted and MacDonald pumps air into the fire. Special coal is used in the forge, and Deringer says, "A little aspiration is needed to keep the fire going. That's why Persia was so instrumental in the history of blacksmithing. The combination of the desert climate and the mountain formations with their sharp crags made for excellent furnaces with natural chimneys."

Passionate and skilled, Deringer is also eloquent and patient in his explanations, and he seemed very willing to share his knowledge. When I left, he was fielding a barrage of questions from a physics student enrolled at the University of Sherbrooke, and they were raptly discussing various materials and how they could be manipulated and transformed.

But Deringer says it is not easy to make a living as a blacksmith in the modern world, and so he also sharpens tools to supplement his income between shows. His wife, Stephanie Brown, teaches English at Alexander Galt High School and their beautiful blonde four-year-old daughter seemed very happy to be part of this interesting family unit, camping under the trees during the damp Shazaam music and folk. Under the canopy provided by living trees, with the forge smoking and the interesting exchange of ideas and knowledge, the rain was nearly forgotten – a pleasant background noise to accompany the main event, the timeless warmth of human contact.

If you are interested in the process of bladesmithing, are thinking about purchasing one of his special pieces, or would like to have some knives sharpened, you are welcome to visit Christoph Deringer's studio in Cookshire (625 Lower Road). Please note that Christoph is not always available so please call 819-345-4260 to make an appointment before dropping by.

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University women share stage with Roméo Dallaire

Townships group wins national awards

A group of Eastern Townships women were three times honoured recently at the annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). They won one award for the book they published and another for an innovative project, and they shared the stage with a true Canadian hero, Senator Roméo Dallaire.

This year the CFUW held its annual general meeting in Montreal. More than 200 delegates from across Canada attended the weekend event, which consisted of business meetings, workshops, guest speakers, and social events.

"Our members are considered to be stable, progressive, and leaders," said Federation executive director Susan Russell. "They are active in their communities and they are women with clout. When they present briefs on issues such as childcare, education, and violence against women, their input is taken seriously."

The Eastern Townships was well represented with 11 delegates from the Sherbrooke & District chapter in attendance. President Heather Bowman accepted two awards on behalf of the Townships contingent. One award was given in recognition of the initiative, research, and preservation of women's history involved in the publication of *Days to Remember: One-room Schoolhouses in the Eastern Townships*. The other award went to the club's Grandmothers to Grandmothers group, which raises funds and awareness for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The national body was so impressed with the Sherbrooke & District book project that they asked our local group to host a Saturday afternoon workshop on the topic Preserving Canadian Women's Educational History.



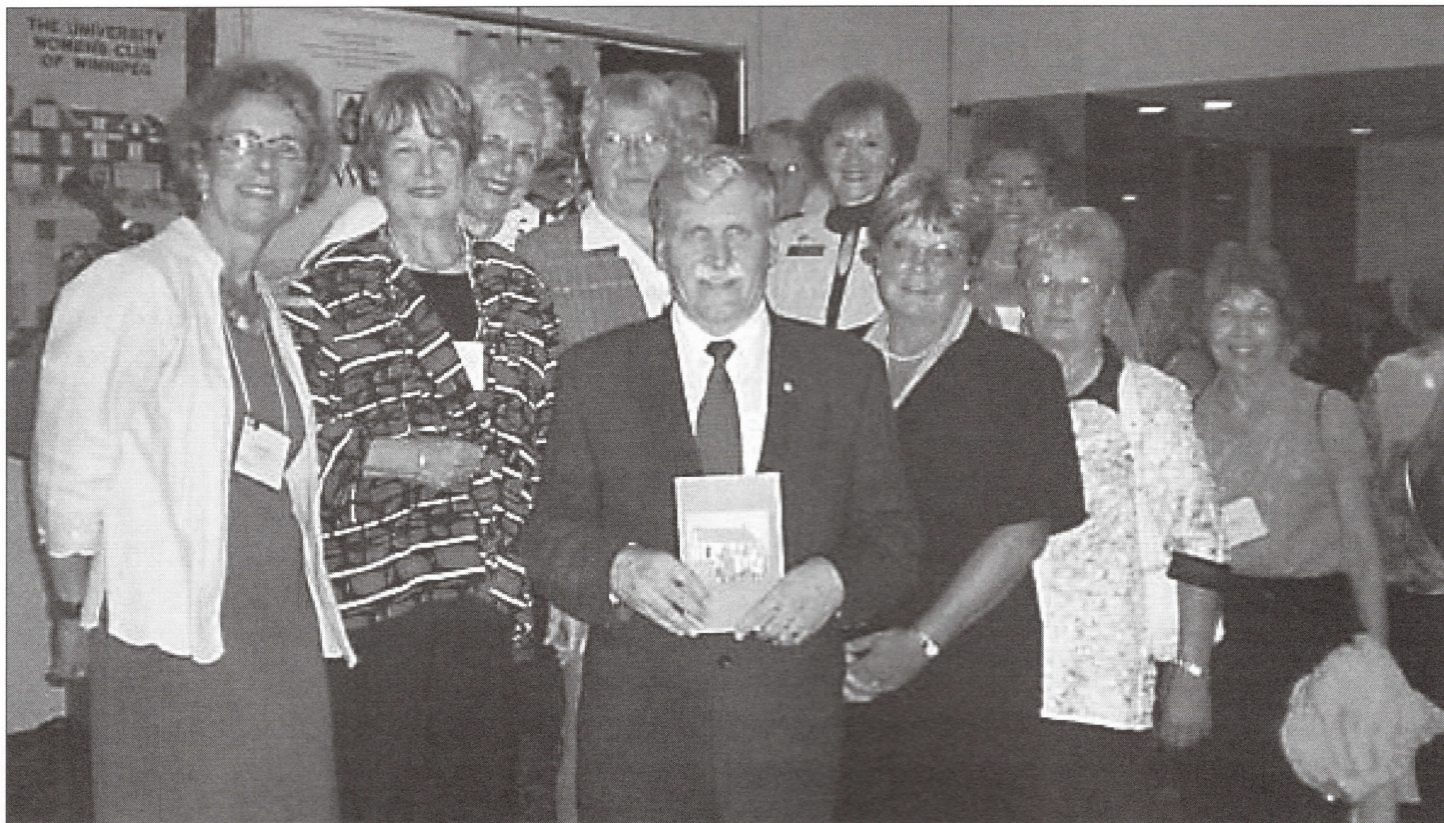
Bev Smith, Carol Mooney, and Carol McKinley review their notes before presenting a workshop on Preserving Canadian Women's Educational History.

The hard-working Townshippers not only put together a slideshow for the presentation, they also produced a booklet for anyone interested in attempting a similar project. Judging by the topics included, this would be a helpful tool for any group undertaking the task of producing a book based on oral histories. Members of the Sherbrooke & District book committee have obviously learned many lessons on their journey and offer up tips on the interview process, publicity, securing grants, writing and

editing, presentation of information, organizing a book launch, and promotion.

According to Bev Smith, one of the prime movers and shakers behind the book project, the workshop, presented by Carol McKinley, Carol Mooney and Bev Smith was well attended and well received. In fact she shared a few of the comments written by participants on their evaluation forms. An example came from Pati Wigelsworth of Alberta. "So well organized and presented. Thank you for sharing your passions, your spirits, and showing the world what women of long ago offered to children and communities."

A special feature of the Saturday evening banquet was the prestigious guest speaker, Lieutenant-General the Honourable Roméo Dallaire, Senator. General Dallaire



Local CFUW delegates present a copy of their book to Senator Romeo Dallaire.

commanded the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in 1994 and his book on those experiences, *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*, was awarded the Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction in 2004, and has since become a must-see motion picture.

Senator Dallaire is currently researching and writing a book on the subject of child soldiers, and this was the topic of the speech to the university women. Bev Smith told me she was moved by what he said. "His experiences remind us just how privileged we are to live in a country like Canada and how privileged our children are."

Carol Mooney, a first-time AGM attendee, said that she was totally riveted during Senator Dallaire's speech. "One message resonates through my mind. He described the grisly scene as his troops arrived at a rape camp. Most of the women have died; some are barely clinging to life. Blood is everywhere. The spectre of AIDS is everywhere. When he gives the command to his multi-nation troops to save as many as possible, the soldiers of some nations refuse to go in. Canadians stand out, as always willing to jump in. He gave the example in the context of values held by citizens from different countries. It certainly made me look at values held by different nations when immediate action is required. When soldiers do not have the luxury

of a two-day conference to ponder the right action, their learned instincts often take over. He also underlined the lack of rules that exist in conflicts today in our age of extremism. Aid agencies no longer have any neutrality. Engaging more and more child soldiers fits in naturally with the no-rules trend."

The Sherbrooke & District CFUW delegates had the opportunity to meet Senator Dallaire and present him with a copy of their book in appreciation for all the work that he has done to raise awareness around the world..

Both Carol and Bev agreed that the Federation had organized an enriching, invigorating weekend where advocacy was clearly part of the agenda. Resolutions were passed on relieving student debt, aboriginal rights, hospital infection control, elimination of cluster bombs, and psychological harassment in the workplace.

Carol Mooney summed up her overall impression. "I felt I was in a group of positive women – women who want to make a difference for Canada, the world, and younger women. Tolerance of others stood out."

Story by Brenda Hartwell. Photos courtesy of Eva Scheib. To obtain a copy of Days to Remember: One-room Schoolhouses in the Eastern Townships visit www.cfuwsherbrooke.org or call 1-800-566-5717.

Island community pulls together after flood

Lots of action on Lennoxville's Ile Marie campground

Text and photos by Al Barber

Last month many of the trailers on the Ile Marie campsite had to be removed as the unseasonal rains had swollen the river and many areas were under water. Most of the trailers were moved to the parking lot of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Hut on the other side of Saint Francis Street at the request of the Sherbrooke police department. The owners aided by members of the A.N.A.V.E.T.s unit 318 soon had most of the trailers on solid ground. The trailers were removed a few days later, some back to the Ile Marie campsite and some to pastures new. Summer this year is thought to be one of the wettest on record.



Some of the lower areas close to the river became submerged under several inches of water.



The river can be seen very close to some of the facilities.



Campers take refuge on the parking lot of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Hut.



Play area for ducks maybe.



No mail today?

When vegetables aren't enough

'Won't you come into the garden? I would like my roses to see you.' ~ Richard B Sheridan, 1751-1816

Despite the wet weather this summer the gardens at La Rose des Champs are in full second blossom. The big rose gardens first opened to the public last summer for a trial run, greeting about 2000 visitors. Located halfway between Magog and Ayer's Cliff on Benoit Road, La Rose des Champs features three gardens planted on about four acres of the Benoit family farm. They represent four years of planning, planting and care by owner-gardeners Claire Mercier and Norman Benoit.

The first garden, built on a circular path under columns, showcases the history of the flower, which goes back many centuries to the Bronze Age. Colonists in the 16th century brought the rose to North America, making it the longest-cultivated European plant in this country.

The second garden, which includes paths and benches surrounding a giant fountain acquired at an estate sale, includes hundreds of popular varieties available today. Among the most beautiful and fragrant are the Queen Elizabeth, a regal cluster rose producing rounded, double pink flowers with a lasting perfume; the Peace Rose, a hybrid tea rose with very large flowers and a light yellow to cream colour is the most famous and successful garden rose of all time; and the Explorer series, varieties specially



developed in Canada to survive the rigours of a Canadian winter. The rose garden also includes the Céline Dion Rose, a continuous bloomer of distinctively brilliant orange-red, semi-double blooms that was dubbed in honour of Quebec's diva.

Finally, there is the fragrant production garden which is used to gather rose petals and hips to make jams, vinegar, rose water, jellies, soaps and candles that are sold at the boutique. All in all, the rose gardens include 1700 rose bushes and some 650 different varieties of roses.

La Rose des Champs also features five water gardens with water lilies and aquatic plants.

The idea of creating a rose garden grew out of Mercier's love for the fragrant flower and Benoit's desire to find an alternative, profitable production for his fourth generation family farm. 'The rose garden provides an alternative crop that is more profitable than raising beef and dairy cattle,' said Benoit, who grew up on the farm.

'It started four years ago as a vegetable garden just to feed the family,' he said in an interview. 'Then one day Claire came home with a car full of roses.'

Because the rose petals go into food products only 100 per

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cent natural fertilizers and pest control are used, Benoit said. Although rose water is often made by steeping like tea, at La Rose Des Champs it is distilled like liquor. La Rose des Champs also produces its own electricity with solar panels.

La Rose Des Champs is an idyllic place to spend some time in the country with family and friends. Located on a hill, the property provides a breathtaking view of the region. 'I like to say we have four acres of gardens and a million acres of scenery,' Benoit said.

After strolling through the fragrant rose garden you can refresh with a glass of rose-flavoured lemonade, enjoy the picnic grounds beside the pond or visit the boutique with its unique and fragrant gifts.

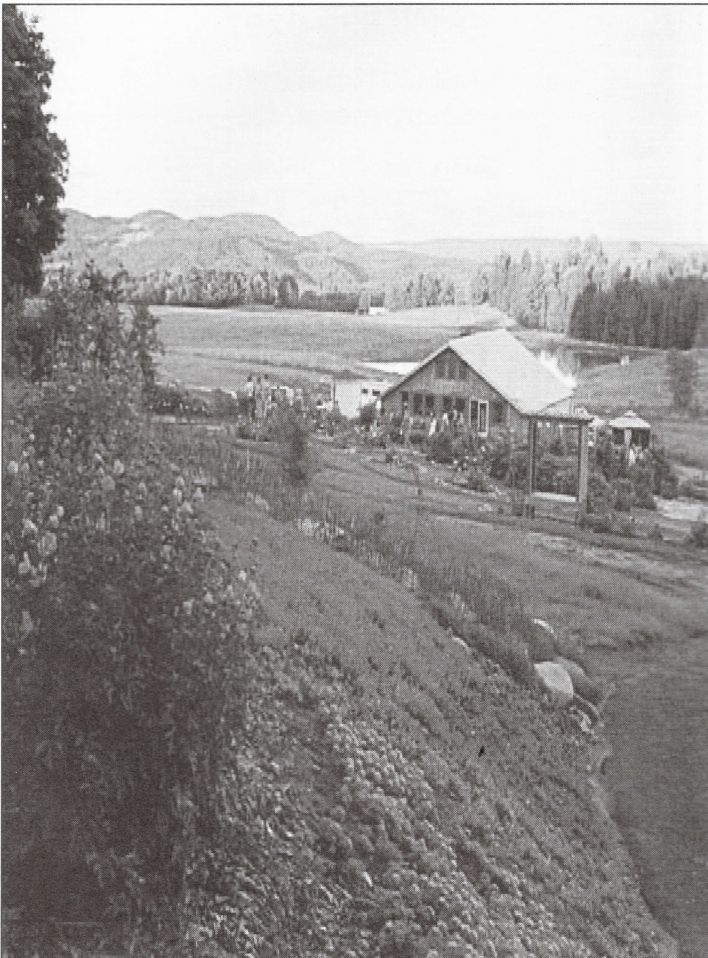
Much to their surprise, as well as selling rose-based food and cosmetic products Mercier and Benoit have branched out into selling the rosebushes themselves. 'We thought we would leave the plants to the nurseries,' Benoit said, 'but people were asking about varieties the nurseries don't sell. For example there's a terrific rose that you can plant and forget. Plant it almost anywhere and it will grow. But it is called Pavement, and with a name like that the nurseries won't carry it. So we will. And that's not the only one that's hard to find.'



Although roses have been blooming all summer, Benoit said 'September is fantastic. Many varieties are at their best at this time of year.'

La Rose des Champs is located at 2424 Benoit Road just a few minutes south of Magog. The gardens are open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until September 28. (In case of rain, call first.) Admission is \$5. Children under 12 visit for free. For more information call 819-345-4243 or visit www.rosedeschamps.com.

Photos by Le Reflet du Lac, La Tribune (Jean-François Gagnon) and André Ruel (Société d'horticulture et d'écologie de Sherbrooke).



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Thursday September 4

- 5 p.m. Gates open
7 p.m. Amateur dog competition

Friday September 5

- 9 a.m. Draft horse halter classes
9:30 a.m. Youth Fair judging
10 a.m. Beef cattle judging
Judging of honey and maple products, horticulture, handicrafts, Ladies department
1 p.m. Sheep judging
7 p.m. Horse show
NEW: Street truck pull
9 p.m. Country band Slightly Haggard

Saturday September 6

- 9:30 a.m. Dairy cattle judging
10 a.m. Rabbit and poultry judging
Pro-Hill pony show
11 a.m. Decorative makeup for children
1 p.m. Irish dancers
2 p.m. Decorative makeup for children

- 2 – 6 p.m. Line dancing with Nicole and the Country Club Les Perdus
2 – 6:30 p.m. Transport and ten-wheeler truck pull
3 p.m. Magician
4 p.m. Music with Southern Comfort
6 p.m. Shepherd and shepherdess lead class
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6:30 p.m. Horse show
9:30 p.m. Rock & Roll music with Four-Eyes Garry

Sunday September 7

- 8:30 a.m. Light horse and pony open halter classes
9 a.m. 4-H – Jeunes Ruraux interclub competition
11:30 a.m. Pet show
Tractor pull
1 p.m. Cloggers dancing
Music – Reunited with Ed and Donna
2 p.m. Horse show
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(Communiqué) On the lookout for young adults looking for a career in farming or the agriculture service industry, recruiters from Macdonald College are attending two Eastern Townships county fairs this summer – they were at Brome Fair August 29 to September 1 and will be at Richmond Fair September 6.

The Farm Management and Technology Program is a three-year academic and practical program offered on the Macdonald Campus and taught by the staff of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of McGill University. The program is funded by the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec and authorized by



the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport du Québec. Six academic terms are spent on the Macdonald Campus studying a sequence of courses in soil and plant sciences, animal science, engineering, economics and management.

The first summer of the program includes a 13-week internship on an agricultural enterprise other than the home farm or an agricultural business where the student learns the many skills and encounters the many problems related to modern commercial agriculture. Students prepare for their Enterprise internship during both academic semesters of Year 1 through two Farm Practice courses. During the second summer, students

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are registered to Entrepreneurship 1 which involves agricultural enterprises. The students will be responsible for data collection to be used in their Farm Project and Nutrient Management Plan 2 when they return on Campus for the Fall semester.

The internships and practicums ('stages', or work terms) will enable the students to relate their academic work to the reality of farming and the agri-food sector. Finally, courses in English, French, Humanities, Physical Education and two complementary courses taken during the program will entitle the student to receive a Diplôme d'études collégiales (D.E.C.) from the Quebec Ministry of Education. Students will also receive certification from Macdonald Campus stating that they have successfully completed the requirements of the Farm Management and Technology Program.



The educational goals of the program are:

- To make our graduates competent in the exercise of their profession;
- To help the student's integration into professional life;
- To foster professional mobility;
- To foster a need for continual development of professional knowledge.

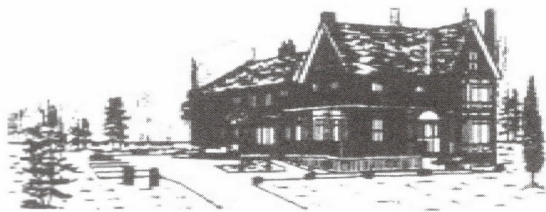
Entrance requirements

Students should have a good practical knowledge of farming under eastern Canadian conditions. One year of experience is recommended but under special conditions a four-month summer season is acceptable.

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entrance requirements for Quebec High School students into any Cegep program are the leaving certificate, including the following five courses: - Secondary IV history, Secondary IV physical sciences, Secondary V credits in language of instruction, Secondary V credits in a second language, Secondary V mathematics or a Secondary IV mathematics course determined by the minister to be of a comparable level of difficulty (course 426 or 436, NOT 416).

Here's what students say:

— About their practicum away from home (Enterprise Internship) – ‘I stayed with some great people and I learned a lot. Overall a very good experience.’ – Terry Heinzle, St-Eugene, Ont.

— ‘A great learning experience! Having never worked on a farm before, my hosts gave me the opportunity to touch all aspects of the farm.’ – Christopher Bakolias, Montreal.

— ‘My stage was done with a dairy nutrition consulting company, so I had to do a lot of training. However, I learned so much that I will be able to use in school, upcoming jobs, and throughout my future.’ – Amanda Allen, Alfred, Ont.

— ‘My stage was a great experience. If they didn't make me leave my home farm I probably never would have gotten out and seen different operations.’ – Chris Soesbergen, Dundee, Que.

— About their practicum on the home farm (Entrepreneurship 1) – ‘The stage this summer was a good experience because I came back to the farm with a new outlook. With the new tools that I acquired at school, I was able to be a bigger part of the management

team and I realised how important it is to have management skills.’ – Eric Breault, Clarenceville, Que.
 — For me this summer stage was a very good experience. I was working on the home-farm full time for the first time. It's good to know what we do at home and be able to apply what we have learned up to now. Now I can defend my opinion better with the information I got from school. I am more than just a student which is great!’ – Amélie Lemire, St-Zéphirin de Couval, Que.
 — ‘I learned more about what it takes to run the whole farm operation and not just simple jobs.’ – Dominic Iachetta-Sklivas, Rawdon, Que.

For more information visit the Macdonald College booth at Richmond fair – or visit www.mcgill.ca/fmt/.



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On-board GPS for birds

Technology reveals the secrets of migration

By Tom Moore



For centuries man has wondered about the yearly migrations of birds. How far do they fly? Where do they go? Do they stop en route? Do they feed and rest or fly non-stop? What happens in bad weather?

In ancient times people knew that some of the larger and more noticeable species moved to different areas in winter and returned the following spring, but small birds were not so obvious. One theory

was that swallows hibernated in the bottom of ponds, popping out each spring like the blackbirds baked in the pie!

Early in the last century, banding was introduced. Birds were captured in light nets and a coded metal band attached to the bird's leg. Much of the ornithologists' knowledge of bird movements has slowly been built from the scattered reports called in when banded birds were discovered. Obviously this gave some idea where the birds were, but not much else.

In the 1960s, transistor technology permitted small radio transmitters to be attached to birds. More detailed data on migratory movements began to emerge as scientists chased the flying radio signals with cars and light aircraft. The current radio transmitters are so small that even small species may be fitted. Flight duration, wind and weather effects on migration, day versus night flights, and other factors were revealed, and radio transmitters are still widely used.

In recent years, satellite tracking has come into widespread use. Tiny transmitters are either attached or surgically implanted. A tracking signal enables precise observation of the bird's movements, including starting and stopping times of flights, all gathered automatically for analysis without the stress of midnight car chases.

The photo shows a young eagle photographed in 2006 in the Thousand Islands area: the straw-like, light-coloured object on the bird's back is a tracking antenna, part of Bird Studies Canada's eagle monitoring program. (I only realized the object was an antenna several weeks after taking the picture.) If you look closely, you may also be able to see the leg bands which identify the bird as Phyllis. The movements of Phyllis and her brother Spirit since they left the nest in August 2006 may be followed on the Bird Studies Canada website under the Eagle Tracker program. Check out what modern science can do!



From the old to the new: This juvenile bald eagle has both a leg band and a tracking antenna. Photo by Tom Moore.

Bald eagle facts

- The Bald Eagle is Canada's largest bird of prey.
- The oldest known Bald Eagle lived to be almost 50 years old.
- Males and females have identical plumage. Adults have a dark brown (almost black) body that contrasts sharply with the white feathers on the head and tail, and the yellow beak, eyes, and legs. It takes a young Bald Eagle four or five years to achieve this distinctive coloration.
- To kill and handle prey, Bald Eagles have massive beaks, large talons, and oversized feet equipped with small spikes, called spicules.
- Bald Eagles can see three or four times farther than people.
- The Bald Eagle's nest is the largest of any bird in North America — on average 1.5 to 2 m across and about 1 m tall. Long-established nests can be much larger (observers recorded one that was 3 m across and 6 m tall).
- The largest nestling eats first. Dominant, it may even kill its smallest sibling. Young eagles have enormous appetites and grow very rapidly, increasing from about 90 g at hatching to an average of 4 kg (males) and 5.1 kg (females) in two months. ts do provide legal protection for eagle habitat. Reintroduction of eagles in captivity, rehabilitation of injured birds, establishment of sanctuaries (especially on wintering grounds), and the limited use of artificial nests have also been successful.

From Bird Studies Canada, bsc-eoc.org; Hinterland Who's Who, ffdp.ca/index_e.asp; The Tap Dancing Bald Eagle, tapdancingbaldeagle.com.

The Eastern Townships Adventure

Part 8

Captain Justus Sherwood & the Loyalist Secret Service

By Bernard Epps

In the autumn of 1780, Captain Justus Sherwood, who had scouted for Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne and been a Green Mountain Boy under Ethan Allen, was entrusted by Haldimand with secret negotiations for 'the recovery of Vermont to the King's obedience.' He met with Ethan Allen at Castleton and with Ethan's younger brother, Ira, at Isle aux Noix. In June, 1781, Haldimand appointed Sherwood head of a secret service on the northern frontier and the following month, Sherwood built the 'Loyal Block House' at Dutchman's Point on Long Island (now North Hero) in Lake Champlain.

'It is my humble opinion,' Sherwood wrote to Captain Mathews, 'that there is not so proper a place on the frontiers as this for the residence and departure of secret scouts.'

In February, 1782, Mathews wrote back that an invasion was expected via the Upper Connecticut. 'I am commanded by His Excellency to acquaint you [with] the indispensable necessity of proving authentic intelligence of the Enemy's preparations and motions in every quarter.'

One of Sherwood's best spies was Captain John Savage who had arrived at the blockhouse in August, 1782, and offered his services to Captain Sherwood. Savage was another of the loyalists from the Albany area and he had been plowing peaceably with his oxen in May, 1775, when he was approached by a rebel delegation and asked to command a company. When he refused, he was arrested, sent to Albany jail and charged with being a Tory and drinking King George's health.

Savage was released on a bond of 500 pounds but gathered a company of loyalists and was arrested again. His men

rescued him and twenty-four of them set out for Canada, then changed course for New York where Savage enlisted in the Loyal Rangers.

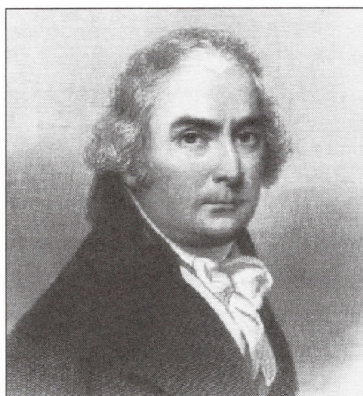
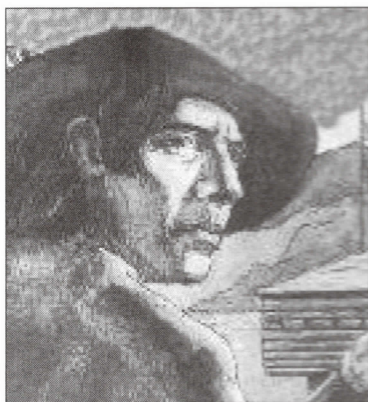
Captain Savage was a big, active, powerful and resourceful man who carried dispatches for the British through rebel territory until captured once more and carried in chains to Fishkill, New York, from there to Kingston jail in January, 1777, then Hartford where he managed to knock a sentry down and make his escape. Captured once more, Savage narrowly escaped hanging and spent in all four years in rebel jails before finally reaching the Loyal Blockhouse and joining Captain Sherwood's secret service.

'Mr. Savage is wholly bent on doing Government Service,' wrote Sherwood, 'in which I think he appears to be the most sincerely zealous man I have ever met with in the Colonies.' Savage subsequently developed contacts inside Washington's army and provided Haldimand with valuable information.

Among General Jacob Bayley's people at Newbury, Sherwood had at least three agents. One of these was Colonel Asa Porter, a Harvard graduate and one of the largest landowners in the area. Another was Colonel Timothy Bedel, one of the original grantees of

Newbury and Haverhill and commander of the First New Hampshire Regiment in the 1775 invasion of Canada. He'd been posted to The Cedars, thirty miles above Montreal which Moses Hazen had ordered him to hold against the British but he'd come down with smallpox and returned to Montreal. The Cedars was surrendered and Bedel had been courtmartialled. In 1779, he'd been brought before a court of inquiry for mishandling the quartermaster and commissary departments at Haverhill and therefore had no love for his superiors.

'Porter has always been firmly loyal,' Sherwood informed Mathews. 'He is very penetrating and bold; Bedel is one



Loyalist spy Justus Sherwood (top) tried to convince brothers Ira and Ethan Allen to abandon the American cause and return Vermont to the British Empire.

of the most subtle, cunning geniuses in that part of the country ... Vermont have still the greatest confidence in him.' These two, he added, were 'the best sources of intelligence that we can find in the country.'

Sherwood's third spy in Newbury was Colonel Thomas Johnson, actually a double agent. In March, 1782, he'd been captured near Peacham by Captain Azariah Pritchard, one of Sherwood's scouts, taken to Canada, and released on condition he furnish information. Back on his own side of the lines, Johnson had informed General Washington and subsequently worked for both sides.

New plans were made to guard the frontier against American spies and General Baron Friedrich von Riedesel wrote from Sorel to Haldimand on October 19, 1781:

As any Attempt of the enemy upon this Province during the Winter, whether intended for a serious Impression or only by way of Demonstration, will probably be prefaced by their detaching Different parties to reconnoitre our advanced Posts, and sending emissaries with Letters to their Friends in Canada and to receive Intelligence from them, a General Arrangement of our Scouting Parties will I imagine be very necessary:

I have conferred with Colonel St. Leger on this Subject, and we have fixed upon two different parties to be constantly employed during the Winter if agreeable to your Excellency; one is to make a large circle to observe the Motions of the Enemy and intercept their Scouts; the other to keep up a Constant Communication between our advanced Posts, intercept any of the Enemy's emissaries who may attempt to come into or go out of the Province, and prevent desertion of our Troops. I have fixed upon three Officers and 24 Men of Frasers and Roger's Corps for this Duty.

Two Officers and sixteen Men will be posted at the Upper Block House at Yamaska, the other Officer with eight Men at the Loyalist's Block House on Long Island.

One officer with a squad of eight would patrol south from Yamaska across the Pike to the Bayley-Hazen Road, another from the Loyal Blockhouse eastward up the Missisquoi.

Those Patroles will be continued until the spring or whatever Time your Excellency will please to direct. Their orders are to observe very carefully all Tracks as well as those which go out of the Province as those which come into it, and when they find any fresh to follow them; they are not always to take the same route, but they must strike some part of Hasen's Road, and they are to make particular marks at certain Distances...

Von Riedesel next detailed a chain of patrols from Sault St. Louis and the Chateauguay River on the west to the Nicolet River in the east. One patrol would range south from Odanak 'passing near the forks of the River St. Francis' and then to the Nicolet. Another patrolled between the St. Francis and the Upper Blockhouse on the Yamaska,

another from that to St. Jean. Still another would go from Missisquoi Bay to Ile aux Noix, one between Point au Fer Blockhouse on the western shore of Lake Champlain to the falls of the Chazy River, and the last between those falls and the mouth of the Chateauguay.

By this method we have a semi circle from Chateau Guay to the River Nicolet constantly occupied by our Patroles in such a manner that I think it will be difficult for any thing to escape our knowledge.

But patrolling that extensive wilderness through a Canadian winter required heroic efforts as detailed in Vassal de Monveil's report of a scouting trip in March, 1782, with Gamelin, Joseph Louis Gill's brother-in-law, as guide and ten Canadians. They left the Upper Blockhouse at noon on Friday, March 15th, 'and on account of the poor roads we were able to go only three and a half leagues from there.' That meant 'only' snowshoeing ten miles that afternoon through rotting snow while dragging two weeks' provisions on sledges and carrying heavy muskets. *Saturday the 16th. began to place the marks that you will find included on my map: then we left and marched about three quarters of a league where we found a portage which crosses to the river Brocket (Brochet = Pike).*

After having marched half a league on this route, I was obliged by the bad road to have my men leave their sledges and cache two days provisions, and take 10 days of food on their shoulders. We went south the whole day and on account of the bad snow and heavy packs that they were obliged to carry we could only make five leagues and camped at 5 o'clock. While my men pitched the camp, I with M. Gamelin and the sergeant went scouting about a mile ahead and returned but saw no trace of enemies.

They reached the Pike River the following day by eleven a.m. where they found a camp 'all made' and remained for the rest of that day to give the men time to rest and repair their damaged snowshoes. 'We were no sooner established in our camp than the rain fell all the rest of the day and even a great part of the night.'

South they struggled again but all the creeks and streams



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General Friedrich von Riedesel was one of fifty foreign officers allowed to command British troops in the revolutionary war.

were overflowing with the spring thaw and heavy rains. One creek was crossed by falling a tree over the torrent but Gamelin said they'd never get across the Missisquoi River. Two men fell ill, snowshoes were broken, one camp

But in March, one of the Newbury agents reported that Colonel Timothy Bedel had accepted command of a brigade in this spring invasion which would lead an

was flooded out and they turned miserably back toward Yamaska. On Sunday, March 24th, de Monveil ended his report of this ordeal with; 'I arrived at the upper blockhouse and will remain here until I receive your orders.'

Captain Azariah Pritchard & General Jacob Bayley

Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown on October 19, 1781, but the rebellion was not yet over although, with two armies already swallowed up in America, King George was not willing to risk more. Early in 1782, Justus Sherwood received information that France was once again preparing to invade the St. Lawrence with six thousand troops under Admiral de Grasse, that four thousand more French soldiers were assembling at Albany where they would be joined by six thousand Americans. Another report two weeks later suggested twenty-five thousand troops were being raised for a spring offensive against Canada via the Mohawk and Connecticut valleys instead of the Richelieu. Sherwood sent his scouts to keep a close eye on the frontier but they reported no sign of the French.

army through the Bayley-Hazen Road. Bedel planned to enrol as many Tories as possible, give Haldimand plenty of notice of their approach and then surrender his entire brigade at an appointed time and place. In return, he wanted permanent rank as colonel and command of a loyalist battalion.

Sherwood was skeptical and sent for Asa Porter's opinion while Major James Rogers went to meet with Colonel Bedel at Topsham to finalize arrangements. Bedel failed to show and when Porter got the message, he believed it to be a trap set by General Jacob Bayley to expose Tory agents at Newbury. The news 'so much shocked him that he would not stay at home, but took his horse and set off down the country immediately, after sending the following message ... that

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he had never heard a hint of Bedel's plan.'

In May, the St. Francis Indians suggested yet another probe into northern Vermont to prove their loyalty and Haldimand gave permission although he was still secretly negotiating with the Allen brothers for returning Vermont 'to the King's obedience.' He instructed the Indians not to approach any dwelling or armed settlers because he 'had good reasons for abstaining from hostile acts.'

The Indians found the Bayley-Hazen Road and the 'Outer Blockhouse' thereof burned to the ground. The inner one, five miles further south, had been abandoned and they burned that, too, captured Abel Davis of Danville and brought him safely back to Odanak for questioning.

Davis knew nothing of a planned invasion but had heard that Major Benjamin Whitcomb was planning to avenge his recent kidnapping with a raid on Odanak to burn Joseph Louis' home and the entire village, if he could. Davis offered to guide a party of Indians to capture the hated Whitcomb again but Haldimand, for reasons of his own, ordered Davis escorted back to Lake Memphremagog and released.

There had been several attempts to capture General Jacob Bayley, too, and in June 1782, Captain Azariah Pritchard received fresh orders 'to proceed to Newbury to take Gen. Bayley.'

Pritchard, one of the most active scouts along the frontier, arrived at Newbury with his men on June 14 and sent word to the Tory agents that they were to look out for their own safety because serious action was afoot. Colonel Johnson, the double agent, met Pritchard about two miles from where Bayley was plowing with his two sons and they jointly prepared plans to kidnap the general after darkness fell. Johnson, however, managed to tip off Bayley and when Pritchard's men crept up on his house that night, they burst in to find it empty.

Major Whitcomb's raid on Odanak never materialized either and, in retrospect, may have been a plant to allay suspicions that Joseph Louis had intentionally let Whitcomb escape. The major was not forgotten, however, and as late as September, 1782, General Von Riedesel wrote to Haldimand;

We requested information the moment Whitcomb leaves Cohos, the route he takes ... I have concerted measures for punishing Mr. Whitcomb should he approach too near our parts and intrude too near our frontiers.

As for Joseph Louis Gill, the White Chief of the Abenaki, he lived out his declining years in peace at Odanak, the head of a large family, honored and respected. He died on May 5, 1798, approaching his 80th birthday and lies in the rebuilt mission church.

CAPTAIN JOHN SAVAGE

Captain John Savage, Loyalist, who became the leader of associates in the Township of Shefford, spent nearly all of the years of the American Revolutionary War in one or another rebel jail. He would escape from one, only to be caught and imprisoned once more, under conditions that grew increasingly worse. At one point, he even stood with the noose around his neck, beside the rebel executioner ready to pull the rope, when, because of his wit, he made some remark that amused his captors. He was released but thrown back into jail. He must have remained in jail in either Norwich, Conn. or Poughkeepsie till around 1780 or 1781, at which time Governor Haldimand of Quebec began his campaign of raids and surprise attacks. The daring, almost story-book-hero Savage, the man for helping the scouts, who came through carrying messages, was brought to the attention of Secretary Mathews and is mentioned in the Haldimand Papers.

John Savage was born in Ireland in 1740 and came to America with two uncles while still a young man. He took up land near Spencertown, N.Y., not far from Albany. Sometime before 1769, he married Ann, daughter of Deacon Elisha Pratt of Proprietors' Meeting House. Most of this family were Whigs but John Savage declared himself for the King early on. He drank to the 'King's Health' openly and soon was arrested for the first of many times to come, but was released after paying his fine.

He was a born leader and soon was organizing groups of men, both inside and out of jail, sometimes to break out of the prison, sometimes to gather a group to join a larger Loyalist unit. In May 1782, he discovered that his property in Spencertown was being confiscated and realized that he must move his family from the area as soon as possible. In August of that year, he took a trip to St. Johns on the Richelieu River in Quebec (now Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu). He found that Colonel Henry Caldwell was happy to receive Loyalists in his seigniory, known as Caldwell Upper Manor. This settlement into which Savage came was the gathering place, and for a while the home, of a great number of families who were to



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go out ten years later and open up the Eastern Townships.

* At this time, Vermont was playing a game of diplomacy, trying to incite Congress to admit her into the Union and pretended to become a British Colony again. In 1783, Ethan Allen wrote to Sherwood (negotiator with Vermont) 'Earnestly requesting that the Loyalists in Canada might be settled in the northern part of the State (i.e. Caldwell Upper Manor). Captain John Savage and his family settled at Windmill Point, North Hero, Vermont. The land was fertile and the trading possibilities excellent. In 1791, everything changed, however, when Vermont joined the Union as the 14th State. So Captain John Savage must move again as the conditions became intolerable for him in Vermont.

In Canada, the Constitutional Act of 1791 divided the old Province of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada. The next year, the surveys were started to divide up into townships the lands to the east of Missisquoi Bay on which settlement had previously been outlawed. Loyalists and others were permitted to move into the newly surveyed forest, where they could obtain

grants of land in free tenure (i.e. without having to pay seigneurial dues). So began the settlement of the 'Eastern Townships' of Lower Canada. During the previous years, many petitions had been addressed to the government, requesting the opening of this territory to Loyalist settlers. Among the foremost of the petitioners was Captain John Savage.

The Captain was soon approved as leader of associates in the Township of Shefford. In October of 1792, he took his family to stay in St. Johns while he and a crew went back to the forests of Shefford to clear a road and build a cabin for the coming winter. Like most of the early cabins, Savage's also had an outdoor fireplace, known as a 'Dutch Back'.

The cabin was located quite near the Yamaska River and on high ground. Hemlock boughs served as beds. Animal skins served as replacements for glass in the openings, and there was an opening in the roof, when the cooking was done inside, to allow smoke to escape from the fire, built on flat stones inside the cabin. One night while

Ann Savage was alone with the children, John having gone to Quebec City for several days, a bear appeared at one of the openings and would not go away. Ann and the children took poking at the bear's nose with burning sticks, until the animal left. The family was quite alone in the wilderness for the remainder of the winter, eating the supplies which they had brought on their trip north. By 1795, more settlers arrived, to help clear the land, build mills and roads, and generally bring the wilderness to life. By the next year (1796), Savage had his own grist mill for grinding grain. He had been able to bring some sheep with him, and soon Mrs. Savage was busy spinning and

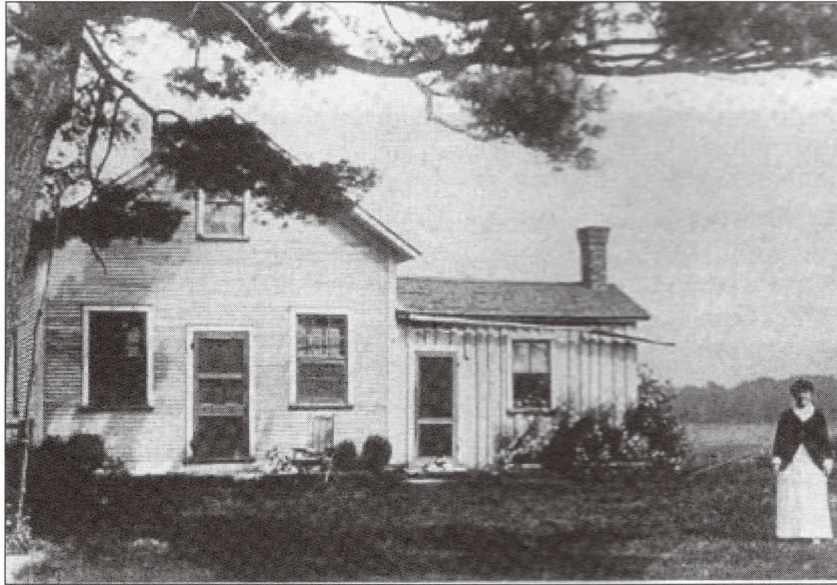
weaving cloth from the wool. The first cabin was replaced in the next year by a larger and better log house and in the early 1800's, by a frame house.

Ann Savage passed away in 1822 at age 81 and Captain John died in 1826 at age 85. John had donated the land for St. John's Anglican Church, and seen it completed in 1821. They are both buried in St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery in Bromont. Through their many years of trials and challenges,


both John and Ann Savage had served with honour and courage to found a community.

By the late Jean Darrab McCaw.

Next : the peace of Versailles and its aftermath.



The home of the nephew and namesake of Captain Robert Savage in West Shefford (now Bromont). Picture from the scrapbook of Mary Olive Vaudry.



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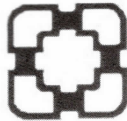
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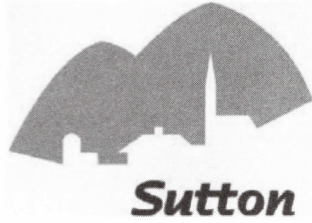
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