

Welcome to the New Year 2000!

THE GLEANER

137th YEAR

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Brief items from around the Valley

Howick man killed in single-car crash

Results of an autopsy this week are expected to show whether there was a medical reason for a single-car accident which killed a Howick-area man on New Year's Eve.

Laurent Billette, 47, died when his car went out of control and struck a Hydro pole on the Montée Bryson around 10 p.m. on December 31. Police called in the Ormstown Fire Department with the Jaws of Life to help remove the victim from the car.

(JT)

No changes to Franklin tax rate

Franklin has approved a total budget of \$1,124,095 for 2000, while holding the municipal tax rate at 96 cents per \$100 evaluation, the same as last year's.

No new capital expenditures are anticipated for 2000, secretary-treasurer Carole Boutin said following the December 15 meeting.

(VF)

Stovepipe fire reported in Elgin

A Sunday evening stovepipe fire in Elgin resulted in damages to a shed attached to the house at 1768 First Concession.

Hinchinbrooke firemen under chief Douglas Grant answered the 6:20 p.m. call from a resident of the house and alerted their colleagues in Huntingdon and Constable NY. "just in case", Grant said.

The fire began in the pipe leading from a woodstove in the shed. Firemen were back in the station just over an hour later, having prevented the blaze from damaging the house, known locally as "the beagle club", since that was its original use. The wooded property, owned by Maurice Patenaude, abuts on the US border.

(JT)

All was calm . . .



The much-heralded (or dreaded) Y2K arrived in the Valley, as elsewhere, with little fanfare, and no glitches to speak of. Marge Garceau of Hinchinbrooke was just one of the customers at Huntingdon's Caisse Populaire on Monday morning who found the automated teller working normally. At border crossings, extra personnel worked over the holiday period, but no incidents were reported, and many Valley people celebrated the New Year quietly at home with friends and family.

(Photo: VF)

Movement toward municipal fusion one of 1999's distinguishing traits

Judith Taylor
THE GLEANER

JANUARY

After yet another green Christmas, January 1999 began with the first significant accumulation of snow and ice pellets.

A tragic accident involving an all-terrain vehicle cost the life of a toddler in St-Anicet, and the historic original schoolhouse in Hemmingford faced demolition.

The impact of the 1998 ice storm was still being felt by maple producers, who were waiting for more government funding to help with the clean-up. Meanwhile, Howick's Dale Ness was celebrating a World Curling Tour victory in Scotland with his rink-mates, led by skip Guy Hemmings.

Fires struck the Faubert Garage near Ormstown and the Westville dump, just over the US border, and then the proverbial January thaw flooded some local roads and caused a break in Huntingdon's water main.

FEBRUARY

The New Frontiers School Board announced a \$700,000 budget deficit, mainly as a result of unforeseen but nec-

Continued on page 2

MRC committees appointed for New Year 2000

(Gleaner staff)

Part of preparing for the New Year in the MRC du Haut-St-Laurent was the naming of committees from among the members of the Council of Mayors.

With Paul-Maurice Patenaude of Dundee continuing in the position of **prefect**, Havelock mayor Jeannine Giroux-Lavallée will serve another term as **vice-prefect**, it was announced at the November 24 meeting.

Serving on the **MRC Administration Board** will be Albert Billette (Très-St-Sacrement), Donald Frier (Hinchinbrooke), and St-Anicet's Alain Castagner along with the prefect and vice-prefect.

Representing the MRC on the **Board of the Local Development Centre (CLD)** will be 10 mayors: Pierre Poirier (Godmanchester), Madeleine Himbeault-Greig (Ormstown), Donald Frier, Denis R. Vincent (St-Jean-Chrysostome), Pierre Barrière (Franklin), André Brunette (Huntingdon), Alain Castagner, Paul-Maurice Patenaude, Jeannine Giroux-Lavallée and Peter Dagg of Elgin.

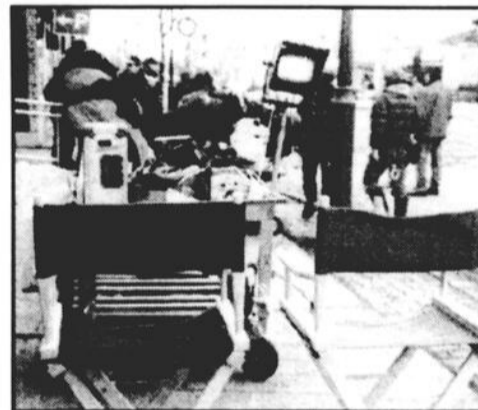
Other committee members are:

Land-planning: Denis Poitras (Ste-Barbe), Angus McKenzie (St-Chrysostome), J. Giroux-Lavallée.

Municipal Court: Peter Dagg and Robert Doré (Howick).

See MRC page 5

Hollywood South-west



Film crews set up their directors' chairs in Beauharnois just before the holidays, to work on a \$2.2 million production entitled **Pressure Point**. The Banque Nationale building was used to represent a bank in Vermont for the hostage drama starring Michael Madson, which will be released onto the US video market at a later date.

(Photo: MRC Beauharnois-Salaberry)

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This and That in Town

WE'RE BACK — after the holiday break, and ready to face what the New Year brings. As of Monday afternoon, we were looking at sunny skies, no snow and looking back at a Christmas which avoided being "green" by the narrowest of margins.

WEATHER STATISTICS — compiled by Ormstown's Peter Finlayson show December 1999 was the second-warmest December in his records, which go back over 35 years. With an average temperature of -3.0°C., it was colder than last 1998's record -1.2°, but far warmer than the normal December average of -5.7°.

AS WELL — the month was "on the dry side", Peter said, citing 40 mm (1.6 inches) of rain and 20 cm of snow, which melted down to 16 mm or .6 inches of water, bringing the precipitation total to 56 mm or 2.2 inches. The normal monthly average is about three inches.

DECEMBER 1998 — was even dryer, with a total figure of only 1.7 inches. And looking at averages for one-year periods, Peter finds that 1998 took the cake for the warmest year in the past 37 years, followed by 1999.

SO FAR — the winter seems to be following last summer's warming trend, and we're not just talking small fluctuations here. "The figures for the past

couple of years are way out of whack with the rest of the period," says the Ormstown farmer/weatherman.

WINNERS — in Huntingdon's Christmas Decorations contest were drawn by mayor André Brunette and councillors Donna Griffith and Maurice Pilon before the holidays at the Town Hall. Eight local residents have received \$25 vouchers for one of four local restaurants: Le 45, Leonidas Deli, Papou and Miss Huntingdon. The winners are: Réal Sauvé, Aline and Romuald Quenneville, Michel L'Heureux, Clément Duhême, Jean-Claude Faubert, Réal Taillefer, Cyrille Riendeau, and Lise and Joffre L'Heureux.

IN ST-ANTOINE-ABBÉ — a group of local teen-agers have banded together to organize activities for young people in the community. Starting with a dance over the holidays, they are hoping to "improve the quality of life" for their peers. The committee's name is "Pacte de Rue". New ideas and opinions are welcome: if you have a contribution to make, call (450) 567-6162.

NEXT MONTH — comedian Lorne Elliott, host of CBC Radio's Madly Off in All Directions, will appear in Cornwall, at the Aultsville Theatre. Date of the performance is Saturday Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. For tickets call the Civic Complex box office at (613) 938-9400.

GRADE NINE STUDENTS — in local high schools can receive booster shots for Tetanus and Diphtheria at clinics offered in the schools by the Huntingdon CLSC during February. At CVR, the date is Tuesday Feb. 22, while nurses will visit Arthur Pigeon School on Tuesday Feb. 1, and St. Joseph's School in St-Chrysostome on Wednesday Feb. 2. For more informa-

tion call the CLSC at 264-6108, 826-3161 or 1-800-794-6108.

PRENATAL COURSES — in English, for women expecting to give birth before next June, will start at the Huntingdon CLSC at the end of January. The free sessions will run on Monday evenings from January 31 to March 27. To register call the CLSC at 264-6108 or 1-800-794-6108.

(JT)



Cleyn & Tinker: 25 years

The 52nd presentation of watches and rings to long-term service employees by Huntingdon's Cleyn & Tinker took place on December 4 at the Ruins Pub in Godmanchester. Seventeen people were welcomed into the 25-year club and received rings from the company. Seated in the front row are Diane Hart, Sylvie Dérépentigny, Françoise T. Legault, Solange Forget, Claudette Ricard, Suzanne Châtigny, Francine Leboeuf. Standing are Pierre Renaud, Mgr. Fabric Manufacturing Division; Denis Raymond, Plant No. 5 superintendent; Ernest Lucu, Fernand Gariépy, Jean-Guy Hurteau; Jonathan Hurstfield-Meyer, president; Réal Morin, Sr. V.-P. Manufacturing; Pierre Lacasse, Mgr. Dyeing & Finishing; Michel Poirier, Jacques Bélanger; Philippe Galipeau, Plant No. 1 superintendent; Mario Dandurand. In the third row are Jim Longlade, Sr. V.-P. Sales; Réal Desgroseilliers, Mgr. Yarn Manufacturing; Robert Perrier, Sr., V.-P. Finance; Luc Ricard. Absent from photo: Micheline Hart, Irène Lefebvre, Gilbert Dancause.

(Photo VF)

1999 in review... from page 1

essary building repairs, and the Westville dump was closed for an undetermined period as an underground fire continued to smolder.

Residents of Havelock's Projet Laplante development were complaining about the dire state of their roads, and statistics showed the Haut-St-Laurent lagging behind the rest of the region in attracting tourists.

Huntingdon was the site of a massive police raid on a hydroponic marijuana-growing operation, and the MRC's Industrial Motel project seemed to have lost impetus.

Huntingdon was calling for a second set of bids for repair work on the historic Walker Bridge, and the maple syrup season was off to an erratic start.

MARCH

As local schoolchildren enjoyed their March break, the Titus Mountain ski resort just over the border suffered a serious fire.

In Valleyfield, the Expro company announced a major export contract, and scam artists were at work in the Valley soliciting cash door-to-door.

Two local weight-lifters won Canada Games gold medals in Newfoundland, and Howick Village was hoping for government aid to build a waste-water plant as an incentive to amalgamate with Trés-St-Sacrement.

In mid-month, Hemmingford launched a whole year of special celebrations to mark its 200th anniversary, while St-Chrysostome Village and Parish agreed to amalgamate, the first Valley municipalities to do so.

Good news of a major expansion for Valleyfield's Goodyear plant ultimately proved premature, and a St-Stanislas resident survived being immersed up to his neck in freezing water after his van overturned.

The issue of what to do with the old railbeds continued to resurface at intervals all year long.

APRIL

A short-lived tire-recycling plant in Beauharnois was closed when its owners disappeared, and Hemmingford Township residents were debating who should pay

for watercourse maintenance work.

Advocates and opponents of commercial water-bottling in Franklin spoke at public hearings, and a plan was launched to revitalize Athelstan's historic butter factory as a co-op museum.

Ormstown and St-Malachie agreed in principle that amalgamation would be the way of the future, and organizers of the annual Cyclopomme bicycle tour were already hard at work on plans for the August event.

Water bombers were brought in to fight a huge brush fire near Ormstown and a local veteran was honored with the Cross of Europe.

MAY

There was good news for Huntingdon taxpayers as the 1998 municipal financial statement showed an operating surplus of over \$300,000 for the past year.

The new Local Development Centre finally consented to allow a representative of the region's environmental groups to sit on its Board, and controversy on agricultural drainage continued to escalate in Hemmingford Township.

St-Malachie agreed to consult its residents via referendum on the question of amalgamation with Ormstown Village, and one obstacle to the projected Industrial Motel in St-Jean-Chrysostome was removed with the approval of a zoning change.

Hinchinbrooke marked its 200th birthday with a weekend of special activities, and massive repairs to the St-Louis Bridge were announced by the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority.

JUNE

Howick's Stanley Peddie joined the ranks of Valley centenarians, and everyone in Hemmingford was invited to join in a community group-photo session as part of the Bicentennial.

As over 200 CVR students celebrated their graduation from high school, the 85th Ormstown Exhibition prepared to open its gates.

A committee report recommending conversion of disused railbeds into a linear park once again roused the ire of neighboring farmers, and pupils at Huntingdon Academy were thrilled to learn the school had won a \$4,000 provincial award for its anti-violence program.

Water was restored to the St-Timothée basin after a Hydro strike had left the public beach high and dry.

The result of St-Malachie's fusion referendum was so close that officials decreed it would have no impact on the decision to go ahead with amalgamation.

To be continued



January 1999 brought flooding to parts of the Valley, such as Elgin's Fourth Concession.

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Nursery School seeks help as it moves into third decade

Valerie Furcall
THE GLEANER

Ormstown Nursery School is reviewing with pride its past 20 years of educating preschoolers, while looking ahead anxiously at an uncertain future.

Lower enrolments due to subsidized daycare, and lifestyle and financial constraints for many families have cut into the cooperative program that now costs \$58 a month for three mornings sessions weekly.

"We have had to combine the two classes of three- and four-year-olds into one, which hurts the development at each level, and to fundraise just to pay our overhead costs. There's no surplus for supplies, games or new developmental materials," explained Heidi Rankin, a parent on the school's executive committee. The Nursery School costs about \$3,500 per year to run, and the parents are hoping to raise \$1,500.

On an encouraging note, however, the group is still strong and parents anticipate a wonderful year in their new location at the St. James Anglican Church Hall, having left behind their former Church St. facilities. The current enrolment is nine four-year-olds and three three-year-olds in the

bilingual class.

"Our community's families, businesses and local clubs have supported us throughout the past 20 years, and we hope they will continue to encourage our excellent program. Because we feel it does take a community to raise all of our children, we are asking once again in this very special anniversary year for a small financial contribution," Rankin continued.

Throughout the years, the co-op has been there for children to learn, have fun and make friends. When co-founders Nadia Geujkian and Jocelyne Brissette started the group, there was no preschool program in the Ormstown area. (For several years, 1993-97, a grant funded a four-year-old program at Ormstown Elementary School. This program ended when the funding did.)

Former members will shortly receive an invitation to support the co-op, having realized first-hand the benefits their children received from being part of the school, according to a newsletter issued by the Ormstown Nursery School executive committee.

Call Heidi Rankin at 829-3039 or Natalie Bergeron at 829-3713 for more information about joining or supporting the group.



A fall field trip to a local apple orchard was just one of the activities planned for children attending the Ormstown Nursery School.

(Photo: courtesy Ormstown Nursery School)

H'ford Legion presents awards for best Remembrance entries

On December 20, a party of Legionnaires led by Karl Kramell, president of Branch 244, visited Hemmingford Elementary School to present prizes to winners of the annual Legion Remembrance Poster, Poetry and Essay Contest.

At a school assembly convened by principal James Jordan, proud parents saw cash prizes awarded to winners in each grade.

Winners

Posters:

- Kindergarten: Alex Houle.
- Level 1: 1. Dana Dulude, 2. Riley Wallace, 3. Sonya Hill.
- Level 2: 1. Alexander Sample, 2. Marc-Andre Delagrave, 3. James Giroux.
- Level 3: 1. Michelle Fallier, 2. Kevin Heaven-Rougeau, 3. Claudia Turcotte.
- Level 4: 1. Melinda Ellerton, 2. Cassandra Healey, 3. Christina Cameira.
- Level 5: 1. Braden Simpson, 2. Maxime Hubbard, 3. Katherine Hill.
- Level 6: 1. Nicky Gaese, 2. Heidi Patterson, 3. Tracy Martin.

Poetry:

- Level 5: 1. Kristen Fallier, 2. Martin Chambers, 3. Katherine Hill.
- Level 6: 1. Ashley Sealey, 2. Elliot Lyn, 3. Mitchell Ellerton.

Essay:

- Level 2: Pamela Giroux, 2. James Giroux, 3. Brandon Mason.
- Level 4: Julia Kastelberger, 2. Tyffany Marie Hadley, 3. Christine Cameira.
- Level 5: 1. Ryan Hawkins, 2. Braden Simpson, 3. Shane Lutz.
- Level 6: 1. Ashley Sealey, 2. Samantha Menke.

The contest theme was "Remembrance" and entries must not show weapons or the military in action, as it is focused on the cause of peace and remembering those who gave their lives so that we may enjoy the freedom we have today in Canada.

The Hemmingford Legion Branch formed three panels of judges under Robert Bazzana, convener for the contest which is part of the Remembrance and Poppy Campaign headed by Mark Macpherson, 2nd vice-president.

The judges had a difficult time choosing among the 54 posters, 21 essays and 16

poems submitted by students.

Remembrance activities

The Hemmingford Legion, like many other branches in the Valley, is very active in promoting and observing Remembrance Services on and around November 11 each year.

In 1999, several Legionnaires convened by Gordon Hill worked hard selling poppies in Hemmingford during Remembrance week. Others, headed by Sharon Whyte, organized the wreath-laying at the Cenotaph on November 7 and 11. This year, more Legionnaires participated in the parade and community church service, organized by Karl Kramell, than in previous years, with many affiliate members marching with the veterans for the first time.

The Branch had selected and trained a color party commanded by Gordon Hill, Sergeant-at-Arms, to carry the Canadian Flag and the Branch color on parade and at the service in St. Romain's Church. The Quebec Flag along with a Regimental Flag was carried by a color party from the Royal Canadian Hussars who participated in the parade along with members of the RCMP, the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, and civic officials led by Township mayor Donald Hadley and Village mayor Claude Mailloux. The improved appearance of the parade was in no small part due to the fine military band provided for the occasion by the Canadian Armed Forces.

Planning for the year 2000 Remembrance observances is already underway at the Hemmingford Legion and promised to be better than ever next November.

M. Macpherson/vf



First-place winners, Hemmingford Legion Remembrance Contest 1999: (l-r, front row) Melinda Ellerton, Julia Kastelberger; (middle row) Nicky Gaese, Ashley Sealey, Kristen Fallier, Ryan Hawkins, Braden Simpson; (back row) Legion members Mark Macpherson, Jean Norman, Sharon Whyte, Mac English, Bob Bazzana, Karl Kramell. (Photo: courtesy Hemmingford Legion)

Ormstown

Jean McEwen - 829-2704

Happy New Year! January 1, 2000, has come and gone and everything seems to be working as it should!

Church service

On Sunday morning, Jan. 2, Rev. John McPhadden conducted a Millennium Service at the Ormstown Presbyterian Church.

The service was held in the Church Hall, which was nicely decorated. The tables had colored "2000" balloons and lighted candles.

After the service, folks were asked to tell a memory or happening from their past; these proved both interesting and entertaining.

A number of new hymn books were dedicated to the Glory of God and will be used in future services.

Nancy Cullen and Randy Campbell had prepared large pots of delicious beef stew, served along with rolls and super desserts provided by the Session members. Kathy and Bob Campbell helped with the serving and the dishes.

It was a nice way to start the new year and it was suggested that something similar could be held again. Are there any volunteers? /vf



January thaw

The New Year and a January thaw arrived almost simultaneously, melting down the hard but fun snowman-making work over the holiday break put in by Kaitlin and Kenneth Bourgon of Pilon St. in Huntingdon. On Monday, the pair were out repairing their "ice-man" which had fallen victim to prevailing warm temperatures that shot up to 50°F. more than once during the early part of the week.

(Photo: VF)

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Editorial

ONWARD AND UPWARD

Did the earth move for you? The entry into what many consider the third millennium took place, not with a bang but a whimper, as the calendar page turned over on January 1, 2000.

And a good thing too. The funny thing is, in the aftermath of all the dire predictions which came to nought, some people seem almost disappointed that there was no cataclysm.

Well before the big day came, there was enough disagreement on the metaphysical front as to whether or not this really was the millennium (some hardy souls are still expecting it next year) to dilute any real expectations of cosmological or religious import.

The focus remained on technology,

and the possible mess we might have made in our wild pursuit of automated everything. Some prophesied the ultimate example of "garbage in, garbage out", with the sins of computer designers exacting a terrible toll on us passive consumers of electronic short-cuts.

Now, we can expect self-satisfied smirks from those who made pots of money fixing snarl-ups which they themselves, or others of their ilk, built into the clumps of circuitry which we depend on for just about everything these days. The rest of us will go on much as before.

Henceforth, however, we will attach a whole new meaning to the concept of computer dating.

(JT)

FROM GLEANER ARCHIVES . . .

100 years ago

Editor's note: The turn of a century a hundred years ago apparently did not elicit much attention. Of some 16 local hamlets and towns in the district covered by The Canadian Gleaner in its Jan. 4, 1900 edition, only a few small mentions, almost afterthoughts, were recorded acknowledging that 1899 had clicked over into 1900. A report from a Chateaugay correspondent summed up the prevailing sentiment in the following four words: "New Year's passed quietly." However, a St. Stanislas contributor declared that "New year was a bitter cold day and the sleighing none too good, but that did not prevent it from being celebrated as usual to its utmost capacity."

January 4, 1900

OITAWA — J. Tyrell, who has accepted a commission from the government to explore a large portion of "unknown Canada" ... to penetrate a country where in the foot of the white man has never trod, and expects to be away nearly a year. He will cross Great Slave Lake, and proceed easterly toward Hudson's Bay through a district the value of which is not yet known to the world. The especial object of the trip is to report on the nature of the country, and to ascertain if it has any value in minerals or otherwise.

ROCKBURN — The home of Henry Rennie was invaded by a numerous company of neighbors and friends who presented Mr. and Mrs. Rennie with two beautiful rattan chairs, as a "slight token of our appreciation of your kindness and consideration distributing our mail, and also of the kind and pleasant manner in which it was done. Hoping you may be spared many years to enjoy this our gift." Then began an enjoyable evening of games, vocal and instrumental music, and refreshments, which was another instance of thoughtfulness of the company shown by their well-filled baskets.

LAGUERRE — A party of six, returning from a Sabbath school entertainment, were, owing to the horses going too quickly down Caza's hill and turning north too abruptly, causing a hind wheel to give way, thrown into the ditch. Beyond getting a soaking in the mud and icy waters no injuries were suffered.

ST LOUIS DE GONZAGUE — Through carelessness on the part of those who handle the mail-bags the Gleaners for St. Louis were destroyed. At St. Timothy the bag is thrown from the passing train. On the evening of the 22nd, it was so pitched that it fell underneath the train, when the wheels cut it to ribbons.

BEECHRIDGE — Thursday night's pleasant entertainment in the church, under the auspices of the Sunday school, gave the opportunity of knowing that in addition to an earnest Gospel teacher, the congregation has a minister possessed of those fine social qualities,

which go so far in strengthening the bond of union between pastor and people. ... Candies and fruit were passed to the adult as well as juvenile portion of the audience. Neither admission fee nor collection marred the consciousness of congregating for friendly intercourse.

HEMMINGFORD — After an existence of five years the Hemmingford Farmers' club has died a natural death. The club never received the support from the people of this township to which it was entitled.

Messrs. Keddy & Kennedy propose opening a cash store here in the near future. There should be a good opening here for such an enterprise.

HUNTINGDON — There is a great deal of sickness among children. Diphtheria is more or less prevalent all over the district, and there are sporadic cases of scarlet fever, of a mild type. Mumps are epidemic.

ORMSTOWN — The only important business of the village council was accepting the tender of John Hastie to put up a building for council room and enginehouse for \$2455.

HOWICK — The entertainment given on Christmas evening was attended by a full house, and the program elicited much applause. ... The final exercise by seven ladies and seven gentlemen, all giving their reasons why they never married, was exceedingly well done and created quite a furor. Mr. Thompson reports that his son Thomas has invested in a lot in the Crow's Pass district, which turns out to be a rich coal bed.

TROUT RIVER — A move is being made in many sections to better the roads. Even in the French parishes, they are building macadamized roads. May I ask what are the officials of our township doing in this matter? Our roads are bad and are getting worse from year to year. Shall we make a move to better them, or will we be left still in the mud? The holidays were observed in the usual quiet way, mostly by family gatherings.

ATHELSTAN — An oyster supper was given to Bernard O'Connor, cheesemaker at Stewart's factory, by the patrons. ... An enjoyable evening was spent, and the party did not break up until the wee small hours of morning.

DEWITTVILLE — Michael Rice fell off a load of hay, backwards, and was seriously hurt.

*The Queen has announced her intention of entertaining at Windsor Castle on December 26, the wives and children of soldiers serving in South Africa, who reside in the neighborhood. Tea will be served. Her Majesty probably presiding in person, and a Christmas tree 25 feet high will hang with gifts.

(VF)



Letters

Resident of Godmanchester, UK seeks history of local community

I would be interested in hearing from residents in Godmanchester, Quebec, as there are obviously historic links to Godmanchester in Huntingdonshire in the UK.

Situated on the southern banks of the River Great Ouse opposite Huntingdon, we are about 30 kms from Cambridge in East Anglia. There is much history associated with the town; our first charter was issued in 1212 and the area is rich in Roman artifacts and signs of earlier habitation — well over 2,000 years in fact!

As a member of Godmanchester Community Association, I am the editor of our annual magazine delivered to all 5,000 people in the town (small by UK standards). It would be wonderful if we could include an article on the people

who left this area and established their new homes in what is now Quebec. If anyone has information relating to the early settlers, etc., could they please contact me in the UK?

To learn more about Godmanchester, its history and the people of the town, check our the web site via <http://go.to.godmanchester> or at <http://www.webtribe.net/b/bond>

To contact me please e-mail to bond@webtribe.net or mail 64 Crowhill, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, PE18 8NR, United Kingdom.

Very best wishes for the New Year and I look forward to hearing from you.

Stuart Bond
Godmanchester
UK

Conservation groups push to save fragile forests of northern Quebec

During the past century, southern Quebec has completely lost its old-growth forests, and it's only recently that the need for reforestation has been understood. Unfortunately, this process is so far very spotty and mostly limited to coniferous trees although the southern Quebec forest includes other trees as well. The Chateaugay River Rehabilitation Committee (CRRC) has been instrumental in encouraging reforestation projects in our area.

Clear-cutting of forests, whether here or in the northern part of the province, produces only short-term profits. In northern Quebec, between the 50th and 52nd parallels, there is still an intact forest made up largely of black spruce, the species found at the edge of the boreal forest just before the treeless arctic tundra takes over. This forest is extremely fragile; a short season means very slow growth. But it offers a valuable natural wealth and a diverse habitat for plants and animals.

From an ecological point of view, this forest is of equal importance to the Amazonian rain forest. But only 0.1% of this huge area is now protected. (In all of Quebec, only 2% of forested land is protected; the U.S. figure is 12%.) AS elsewhere, the Quebec government is currently awarding contracts in these fragile areas to big companies, and we are in

danger of losing the forests altogether. There have not even been any studies on the capacity for forest regrowth in these northern regions.

Authorizing lumbering and clear-cutting will entail the destruction of this habitat with its diversity of life adapted to a rigorous climate. These are public lands belonging to the population as a whole, and the government is destroying our biological inheritance by appeasing the appetite of industry.

The Union Québécoise pour la Conservation de la Nature (UQCN) has launched a campaign to save the northern forests by setting up a coalition made up of several groups including the Quebec Wood Producers' Federation, the Grand Council of the Crees, several unions and the Assembly of Quebec Roman Catholic Bishops. The coalition is asking the government to impose a moratorium on awarding any new lumbering contracts and to create a network of protected areas in order to assure the survival of native plants and animals.

The virgin forests of the north are a heritage for future generations and our government has a duty to protect it.

Jean-Marie Latreille
St-Anicet
(trJT)

THE GLEANER

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NEWSPAPER POLICY

The Gleaner welcomes letters from readers on topics of general interest. The editor reserves the right to select letters and to edit them as necessary to fit space available or to clarify meaning. All letters must be signed and bear the name, address and phone number of the sender. (We may withhold the writer's name by request.) All letters reflect the personal views of their writers, not necessarily the position or policies of The Gleaner.

MRC names mayors to committees... from page 1

Agricultural Consultative Committee: Harold Merson (St-Malachie), J. Giroux-Lavallée, and D. R. Vincent.

Industrial Motel: P. Barrière, R. Doré, and D. Frier.

Linear parks (bicycle trails): P.

Barrière, D. R. Vincent.

Public Security: A. Brunette, D. Poitras, J. Giroux-Lavallée, P-M Patenaude.

Watercourses: J. Giroux-Lavallée, A. Billette, H. Merson, D. Poitras.

Local Investment Fund (FIL): P.

Barrière, P. Dagg, and A. Brunette.

Cultural Affairs: A. Castagner, M. Himbeault-Greig.

Woodlots: J. Giroux-Lavallée. Montérégie Regional Development (CRD): P. Poirier, A. Brunette.

Droulers Site: A. Castagner.

Suroît Tourist Bureau: P-M Patenaude.

Waste Management: M. Himbeault-Greig, A. Castagner, and A. Brunette.

(11/11)



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Local seniors can learn more about how to use medications

Anyone over 55 who takes any kind of medication, even vitamins, aspirin, laxatives or "natural" remedies, should be aware of problems which can arise from mixing or over-using drugs.

During the past year, the Montérégie regional health service (RSSS) along with a

senior's group, FADOQ (Quebec's Age d'Or Federation) has been working to publicize the dangers of over-medication.

Local seniors' groups can arrange six free sessions on the proper use of medications. Meetings will be led by local seniors and will include videos, workshops,

games, prizes and refreshments.

Basic principles

Topics to be covered include basic principles of taking medications; talking to your doctor and your pharmacist; healthy sleep; joint pain and how to deal with it; constipation and its prevention; living with stress and anxiety; how to clean out the medicine cabinet; and questions to ask.

Statistics show that 80 percent of elderly Quebecers use some kind of medication, and often they do not have all the information necessary on potential side-effects or the dangers of mixing different kinds of drugs.

Some 31,000 people province-wide are hospitalized each year for problems associated with misuse of medications. Even vitamins, herbal remedies, cough syrup and laxatives are potential trouble-makers if not consumed properly.

In the Montérégie, over 17 percent of

the population is made up of people over 55 living at home. The program, "Les médicaments: Oui...Non...Mais..." (Medication: Yes...No...But...) has already set up 74 local study groups. The only criterion for joining is to be at least 50 years old; it is not necessary to belong to the Age d'Or or any other group, although organizations may wish to organize a group for their members.

Anyone in the area wishing to register for an English group is asked to contact Fay Cartier (nurse) in St-Chrysostome at 450-826-3161, or at 1-800-794-6108. You can also call Nicole Bélanger (nurse) at the CLSC Seigneurie de Beauharnois, for the region around Valleyfield, Beauharnois and Vaudreuil-Soulanges, at 450-371-0143, local 3022. Leave your name, address and telephone number; someone will get back to you.

BIRTHS & DEATHS

CARD OF THANKS, IN MEMORIAMS, ENGAGEMENTS

ENGAGED

ANTONOPOULOS-MARTIN - Mr. and Mrs. George Antonopoulos of Huntingdon are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Athanasia Lynn, to Robert E. Martin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Graham Martin, of Beaconsfield, Que. No date has been set.

MCKELL-BARRON - Heidi McKell and CSM, MWO John Barron of The Blackwatch (R.H.C.) are thrilled to announce their engagement. Heidi is the daughter of Wayne McKell and Joyce Bremner and John is the son of Kathleen (Kathy) Barron and John Barron. A June 2001 wedding is planned.

DIED

BLAIR, John - At the Centre des Haut St-Laurent, Ormstown on December 23, 1999 at the age of 52, beloved husband of Susy Rohwer; also survived by his daughter Tammy, his sisters Patricia and Linda and his brother Paul as well as many other relatives and friends. Visitation was held on Sunday, December 26 at the McGerrigle Funeral Home Inc., Ormstown followed by cremation. In lieu of flowers donations to Shangri-La, Franklin Centre would be appreciated.

BOURASSA, Raymond - Peacefully at the Barrie Memorial Hospital, Ormstown, on Sunday, January 2, 2000, at the age of 71, surrounded by family. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth (Betty) Wood. This gentle man will be lovingly remembered by his children Don (Suzanne) of Sudbury, Ontario, Joan (Duncan Kemp) of Bedford, Qc., Margaret (Norman Kerr) of Vankleek Hill, Ontario, Diane, Francine, Louise and Shirley of Vancouver, B.C. Cherished "Pépère" of Dryw, Heather, Rob, Erica, Amanda, Shawn, Natalie, Rochelle, Alice and Laine. Loving great-grandfather of William. Very special "Pairs" to Marie-Claude, Isabelle and Jason D'Aoust. He also leaves to mourn his brothers Camille and Julien and sister Aline of Trois Rivières. (Pre-deceased by his parents Alphonse Bourassa and Donia Ricard, brother Jean-Louis and sister Thérèse). Also survived by his brother-in-law Bob (Blanche) Wood of St-Chrysostome and sisters-in-law Thérèse (Bill) Wood and Lois (Arthur) Wood of Valleyfield, Qc. Will also be sadly missed by many nieces, nephews and friends. Family and friends are invited to visit at St. James Anglican Church, 2 Church St., Ormstown on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2000 from 12:30 p.m. to time of service at 2 p.m. Interment of ashes to follow service. In lieu of flowers at the request of the deceased donations to the Women's Auxiliary of the Barrie Memorial Hospital or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

'A father's love is forever and although you are gone from our physical view, this bond of love which united us can never be severed.'

Arrangements entrusted to the McGerrigle Funeral Home Inc., Ormstown.

GUERNON, Napoléon - In St-Anicet on December 25, 1999 at the age of 83 years, passed away Mr. Napoléon Guernon, husband of Mrs. Thérèse Couture. Besides his wife, he leaves to mourn his children Jean (Ninon Trépanier), Louise (Claude Raymond) and Marie, his grandchildren Yan and Joey Eric Montpetit, his sisters Ruth, Claire, Violet, his brother Rene, brothers and sisters-in-law, relatives and friends. There was visitation on Wednesday, December 29 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., as well as on Thursday, December 30, from 9:00 a.m. at Rodrigue Montpetit & Fils Inc., Funeral Home, 1580 Rte 132, St-Anicet. Funeral was held Thursday, December 30 at 11:00 a.m. in St-Anicet Parish Church. Interment, St-Anicet Cemetery. Donations to the Canadian Diabetes Society would be greatly appreciated by the family.

LÉGER, Réal - In Ste-Agnès-de-Dundee, on December 25, 1999 at the age of 65 passed away Mr. Réal Léger, husband of Mrs. Denise Latreille. Besides his spouse, he leaves to mourn his children Chantal (Jean-François Boutin), Serge and Judith (François Vinet), 2 granddaughters Eloise and Sophie, his sisters Lise (René Théoret) and Délia (Philippe Leblanc) and his brother Gilbert (Deborah Lee Duheme), as well as many relatives and friends. There was visitation on Tuesday, December 28 at Rodrigue Montpetit & Fils Inc. Funeral Home, 170 Chateauguay, Huntingdon. Funeral was held Wednesday, December 29 at 2:00 p.m. in Ste-Agnès-de-Dundee Parish Church. Interment, Ste-Angès Cemetery.

DIED

LEE, Kathleen (née Linegar) - At the Barrie Memorial Hospital in Ormstown on December 27, 1999, passed away Mrs. Kathleen Lee aged 70. She leaves to mourn her husband George L. Swan from Malone, N.Y. She was an ex-employee of the Pratt and Whitney in Longueuil. Service to be held at a later date. Arrangements entrusted to Kelly Funeral Home Inc., Huntingdon, Que.

ROTTENSTEN, Joan Evelyn - Passed away peacefully at the St-Luc Hospital, Montreal on December 25, 1999 after a lengthy and courageous battle. Beloved wife of the late Erik Rottensten. Beloved mother of Helen (Wolf), Ann-Marie, Julie (Alan), Elizabeth (Frank), Kathy, Kirsten (Vijay), also survived by 12 grandchildren. Service was held at the Presbyterian Church on December 30, 1999, officiated by Rev. Kate Jordan. In lieu of flowers donations in Joan's memory to the Canadian Diabetic Association would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to Kelly Funeral Home Inc., Huntingdon.

SAUNDERS, Allan A. - From Petitcodiac, N.B. aged 75, passed away on December 19th in N.B. He was predeceased by his daughter Heather Anne aged 6. He is survived by his wife Sylvia Eardley-Wilmot, daughters Nancy of Ormstown (René Labelle) and Lee of Petitcodiac (Ruell Sloan) and granddaughters Tracy, Allison and Meredith Saunders-Eades of Ormstown. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Allan A. Saunders Memorial, Post Graduate Dairy Scholarship Fund, N.S.A.C. (Nova Scotia Agricultural College), Box 2113, St-John, N.B., E2L 3T5 or to a charity of your choice.

TESSIER, Veronica (née Monique) - At the Ormstown Barrie Memorial Hospital on December 29, 1999 passed away Mrs. Veronica Monique Tessier aged 63 years. Beloved wife of Mr. Marcel Tessier and dear mother of Andy (Elaine Viau) and Serge (Elizabeth). Survived by her grandchildren Jennifer, Max, Kevin, Zackary, Keesha and Diane and her brother Arthur Monique (Marjorie). Predeceased by her daughter Diane (Richard Smail). Visitation were held Thursday, December 30 at Rodrigue Montpetit & Fils Inc. Funeral service was held Friday, December 31 in St-Joseph Church at 11 a.m. Burial at St-Joseph Cemetery.

IN MEMORIAM

GRAHAM, Mervyn William - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather who passed away January 11, 1997. When thoughts go back as they often do We treasure the memories we have of you This day is remembered and quietly kept No words are needed as we will never forget. Lovingly remembered by Christena, Melvin, Verna, Lea Ann (Michael), Karen and Sheri (Richard)

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express sincere appreciation to family and friends for their expressions of sympathy, donations, and many acts of kindness made in memory of Barry. Your support was of great comfort.

Kay Lavigne

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Radio Club holds dinner at Ormstown Legion Hall

Sixty-three members and guests sat down for the Covey Hill Amateur Radio Club annual Christmas Dinner on December 12 at the Ormstown Legion.

Shirley Ovans and her many helpers swung into action and delivered a fantastic meal, marked by the good fellowship which is the hallmark of all club gatherings.

At the last minute, six of Shirley's helpers fell sick and were unable to be there. Without panic, Shirley brought in her reserves and the show went on. Shirley's son and his family came down from Ottawa specially to help out.

Official Club jackets and caps were on sale and soon several members had donned the new forest-green apparel which will identify them at field activities such as the Chateauguay Valley Antique Show in the summer. This project was developed by Dr. Gordon Thompson who had just left for California and was unable to be present.

Award certificates and endorsements were issued to those who had participated in various events during the year. George Barrington, who is a member of the Ormstown Legion and had come early to help in the kitchen, received several awards he had missed. These included his radio license and the club certificate



Shirley Ovans received a token of members' appreciation from Mark MacPherson.

(Photo courtesy CHARC)

which others had received at the Spring meeting. Now he is all caught up.

The Club is thankful for all the volunteers, especially Shirley Ovans, who took on this project personally to help raise funds for club projects.

— M. McP/af



Sûreté du Québec info-prevention Ag. François Soucy

Starting November 1, the Sûreté du Québec is evaluating the urgency of incoming calls before sending a police car to the scene.

Alternative methods of dealing with non-urgent calls mean they will be handled either over the phone or through making an appointment with a police officer.

The idea is to allow police to deal more effectively with real emergencies, as well as allowing them more time to carry out crime-prevention activities and problem-solving by meeting with elected officials, educational authorities and other sectors of the community. Patrol cars will be used more efficiently, and travel costs should be cut.

Police will handle incoming calls more efficiently, and callers will have a chance to talk directly with an officer or to set up a personal appointment at an established time.

So when you call the Sûreté du Québec, you call will be handled in one of three ways:

1. Immediate intervention: If human life or safety is threatened, if a suspect is currently on the premises, or if there is a risk of losing evidence.
2. Setting up an appointment: If the incident is not currently under way, or if here is no danger after the fact, a police officer will set up an appointment for a mutually convenient time.
3. Handling matters over the phone: For minor incidents or thefts where there are

no suspects or evidence, a police officer will call back and record the complaint over the phone. This report will be handed on to investigators. Or a citizen may come to the police station in order to meet an officer.

For emergency use, the telephone number is 911 or 310-4141 (or *4141 for cell phones).

During business hours, the number to call is 829-2887.

(FS/JT)

Hemmingford

Florence Ellerton - 247-3374

In Hemmingford on Wednesday, Jan. 12, the next session of the gymnastics course will be held at the Senior Citizens' building from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for a period of 10 weeks. Adults and seniors are invited to participate.

"The exercises are easy to do and the physical exercises will help you keep fit and in shape," says Helene Mathys, who would be pleased to welcome new members. Give her a call at 247-0247 to register.

The Coeur du Jardin volunteer services office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

af

1999: The Year in Review... continued from page 2

JULY

It was becoming apparent that the Valley was in for a long hot summer as June racked up warm temperatures and a record number of heat units, boding well for the corn crop in particular.

The Huntingdon Chateau was assuming an ever-more depressing mien as earlier promises of a conversion to condo units seemed to be slipping into the realms of fantasy.

In Franklin, there was the possibility of shredding old tires rather than burning them to recycle the millions left in the local tire dumps, and elsewhere, the possibility of a railbed cycle trail just refused to go away.

AUGUST

Hemmingford geared up for an extra-special Old Home Week as part of its Bicentennial festivities, and local drivers were getting some relief from high gas prices by shopping closer to the border — or even on the other side of the line.

A gas leak shut down the Carrière cannery in Ste-Martine for several hours, and Ormstown and St-Malachie finally began work on the long-awaited water and sewer line for the Chantigny Development.

A wandering bull was finally located near Lacolle after escaping from a truck destined for a Montreal bull-fight, and a majority of the MRC mayors once again voted against using the rail line for a linear park.

The major expansion planned for Valleyfield's Goodyear plant was once again put on the back burner, and 900 cyclists turned out for the second annual Cyclopomme tour through apple country.

SEPTEMBER

The local UPA syndicate marked its 25th anniversary, and Valley schoolchildren returned to class knowing that teachers had suspended extra-curricular activities as part of their pressure tactics for contract negotiations.

The apple crop was looking great and local exhibitors placed well at the Expo-Québec agricultural fair in the provincial capital.

Huntingdon's Kaleidoscope Day Care received funding for a major expansion and re-location to the former bowling alley on Fairview Rd., and enrolments at



The abundant supply of high-quality water in the Franklin area is still being eyed by developers.



The historic Turcot bridge faces an uncertain future with the construction of a replacement span downriver.

the Chateauguay Valley Career Centre were being hurt by financial problems at Emploi-Québec.

Plans were redone for a new Turcot Bridge across the Chateauguay River between Ormstown and Howick, and 22 student protesters were suspended at Chateauguay Valley Regional High School following a demonstration against the school's "no-smoking" policy.

The two St-Chrysostomes agreed to unite and teen-aged vandals set a fire in the derelict Huntingdon Chateau.

OCTOBER

An early October snowfall didn't hang around long, and plans to merge three Valley health institutions — the Huntingdon and Ormstown hospitals and the CLSC — were stillborn, for the present at least.

The site of the Athelstan butter factory,

destined for a co-operative museum, was found to be contaminated with mercury after a fly-by-night company recycled old thermometers there in the 1970s.

Municipal election campaigns were heating up in the those communities facing a November 7 vote, and the Women's Auxiliary of the Barrie Memorial Hospital donated \$125,000 toward a new eye-care clinic at the Ormstown hospital.

The Droulers archaeological site was discovered to provide an ideal setting for part of a new CBC-TV historical series.

NOVEMBER

A warm fall season helped a record corn harvest, while crews were working on repairs to several bridges and culverts before the cold weather set in. Municipal elections brought a new mayor to Godmanchester and many new faces in those communities where a vote was held.

The Royal Winter Fair in Toronto saw several Valley young people place well in 4-H competition, and Remembrance Day saw people everywhere stop for two minutes to pay tribute to veterans.

As the Millennium loomed, the local Operation Red Nose group announced it wouldn't have drivers on call this New

Year's Eve, and four young men from St-Chrysostome were cited for bravery in helping to rescue children from a burning house.

DECEMBER

AS the MRC and municipalities turned their minds to next year's budgets, it became apparent that belts were being tightened all round, and few mega-projects were in the offing. Municipalities did their best to hold the line on taxes or keep any increases to a minimum.

With St-Chrysostome approved as the first new amalgamated municipality in the area, Ormstown and St-Malachie awaited word that they too will be allowed to merge.

As water assumes more importance as a natural resource, over 350 people gathered in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu under the aegis of the UPA to discuss watercourse work, a topic which has given rise to strong feelings in several communities.

In Huntingdon, the year ended on a high note with a tax cut, albeit small, and planning for the Town's 175th birthday celebrations in the year 2000.

(JT)



Canoeing on the Chateauguay was introduced as a tourist attraction during the summer of 1999.

Over 100 new jobs created in St-Chrys

The one and only tenant of the Haut-St-Laurent's Industrial Motel in St-Chrysostome is up and running, with 114 new jobs bringing the total to 129 employees at M.P. Remboureur.

The company, which has rented the entire facility, says about 60 per cent of its employees come from Haut-St-Laurent communities. It manufactures recliners and wheelchairs for the US market, as well as exercise benches under contract

with a St-Jérôme company.

About 20 sub-contractors are also involved in the business.

Regional and municipal officials attended an open house at the plant in early December. The building was bought in 1988 by a board made up of 10 MRC municipalities with a view to encouraging new industries and businesses to locate in the area.

(JT)

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COURSES

CHATEAUGUAY Valley Kennel Club, basic - advanced, dog obedience classes start January 19. Tel.: Liz 377-1571. (B)

TAI Chi Courses. Registration, call Gail Elliott, 829-2396, between Jan. 10 and 21. (A)

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LITTLE STUART
ORIGINAL VERSION
FRIDAY-SUNDAY 2:30-7:00
MON-THU 7:00-8:45
LATE SHOW FRI & SAT 10:30

TOM HANKS THE GREEN MILE
FRIDAY-SUNDAY 2:30-7:00
MON-THU 7:00-8:45
LATE SHOW FRI & SAT 10:30

LES JOUETS 2
FRIDAY-SUNDAY 2:30-7:00
MON-THU 7:00-8:45
LATE SHOW FRI & SAT 10:30

AL PACINO LES HEROS DU DIMANCHE
FRIDAY-SUNDAY 1:00-9:00
MON-THU 9:00

Matt Damon L'ENIGMATIQUE MONSIEUR RIPLEY
FRIDAY-SUNDAY 12:45-3:30-6:50-9:30
MON-THU 6:50-9:30
LATE SHOW FRI & SAT 11:55

ENQUETE D'UNE GALAXIE
FRIDAY-SUNDAY 12:30-4:00-6:50
MON-THU 6:50-9:30
LATE SHOW FRI & SAT 10:30

L'HOMME BICENTENAIRE
FRIDAY-SUNDAY 12:55-3:30-6:50-9:25
MON-THU 6:50-9:25
LATE SHOW FRI & SAT 11:45

Community

Holiday flavor at meeting of Howick's WI chapter

After enjoying a December 7 Christmas luncheon, Howick WI members listened to a poem read by Evie Kerr, "A Cup of Christmas Tea." She talked about her aunt Lillian Brown who was a WI member from 1946-1990.

Table decorations were by Thyra Tolhurst and Joan Champ; Grace Brown paid a tribute to the late Jennie English McKell on behalf of the branch. A donation was made to the branch in memory of Mary McGerrigle, a long-time member of the Ormstown branch, by Shirley Carmichael.

In answer to the "show and tell" roll call, Penny Anderson presented a Christmas card, Grace Brown showed a hardanger project, Rhoda McFarlane passed around hand-made jewelry from India and Pakistan. Paintings, a doily and other crafts were shown, a story was told and Gladys Younie entertained with dancing flowers.

Contributions were made to the CVF Christmas Fund.

"The Mitten Tree," a story written and beautifully illustrated especially for the WI by Irene Moss, was presented by Thyra Tolhurst, Joan Champ, Gladys Younie and Isabel Templeton.

The 89th annual meeting was held. The officers for 2000 are: past-president, Isabel Templeton; president, Ann MacLeish; secretary, Edith Harvey; treasurer, Gladys Younie;

Conveners: Agriculture and Environment, Thyra Tolhurst; Canadian Industries, Iris Simpson; Citizenship and Legislation, Janet Elliott; Education and Cultural Activities, Grace Brown; Home Economics and Health, Joan Champ; International Affairs, Thelma Peers; Publicity, Joan Gosnell; Environment and Safety, Penny Anderson; Cards, Carol Snook.

J. Gosnell/af

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The Huntingdon Agricultural Society, Inc.
(Huntingdon Fair)
ANNUAL MEETING
on January 20, 2000
at 8:00 p.m.
at the Huntingdon Town Hall,
Everyone is welcome