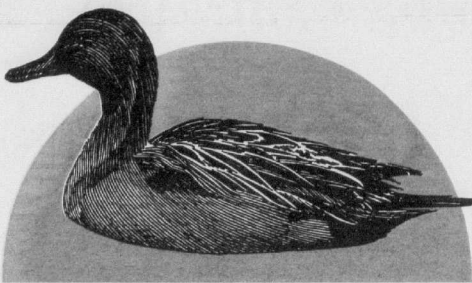


Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2003

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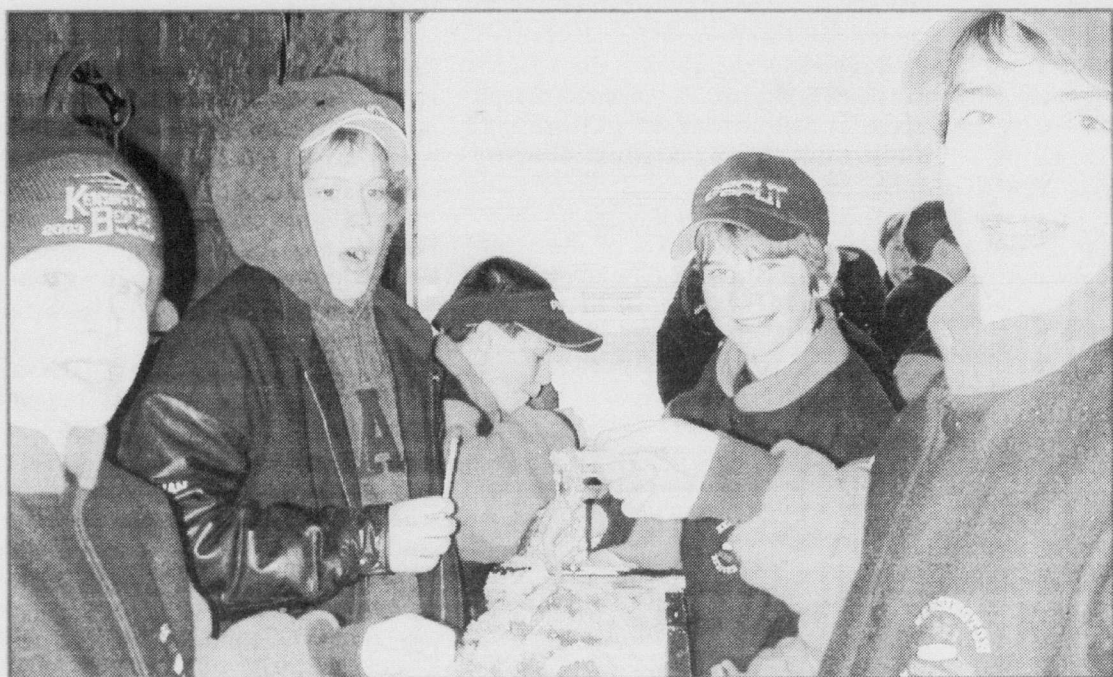
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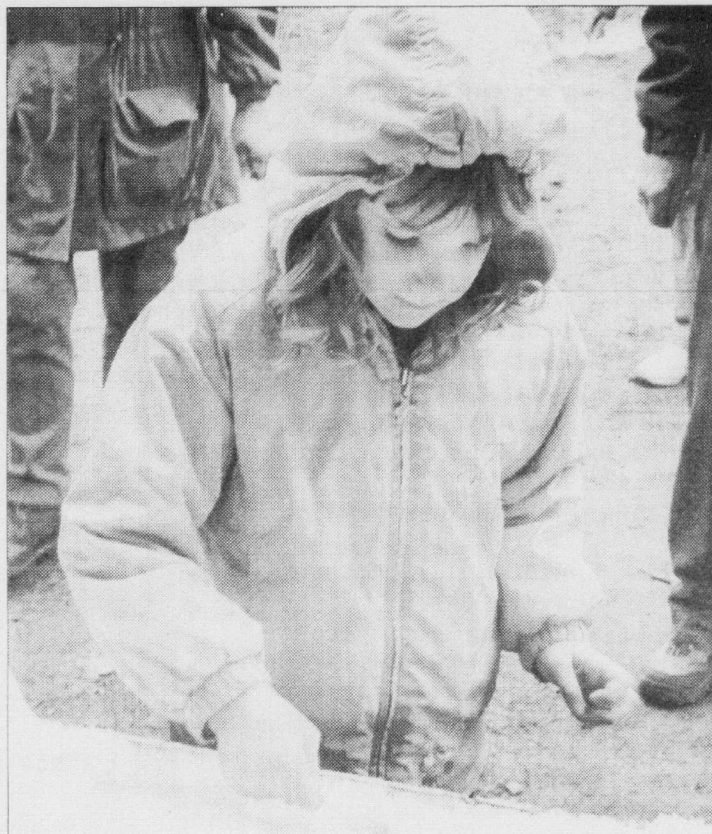
Another Year, Another Successful Exchange



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

The home leg of the 2003 Bedford Kensington Hockey Exchange concluded when 27 tired pee-wee players and their chaperones climbed aboard a bus for the 15-hour journey home. Thus concluded the 35th edition of one of Canada's longest continuously operating cultural hockey exchange. Included in the weekend's activities were a trip to the Bell Centre, sugar-on-snow in Stanbridge East and of course some action on the ice.

What a hoot!



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

This will be the 10th year for Owl Hoot Farm's Sugaring Off Benefit, which offers activities for people of all ages.

Optimists salute local youth

By Caroline Kehne
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
COWANSVILLE

Members of Yamaska Valley Optimists Club (YVOC) joined staff and residents of Maison Yvonne G. Contat and community supporters for a dinner to salute area youth last week. The event, a special evening for the nine residents of the area's only group home for troubled anglophone youths, underscored the need for connections between institutions serving youth and mainstream community organizations. Each group home teen received a personalized certificate from the club recognizing each individual's outstanding qualities.

Milda Weiss attended the dinner on behalf of Federal Deputy Denis Paradis. The dinner recog-

nized Massey-Vanier student Simone Bourke, winner of the club's 2003 essay contest.

The dinner is the result of a YVOC Christmas Angel project begun last December. Working jointly with members of the group home, Optimist members asked the community to help bring Christmas to teens at the group home, ages 14 to 18, who otherwise faced a bleak Christmas. YVOC president and chapter founder Ilze Epnors, who serves as marketing manager for the ETSB's Distance Learning Program, called the response "beyond our wildest dreams."

The success of the initial appeal encouraged the Optimists (an organization which emphasizes youth projects) to establish a longer-term relationship with the group home.

SEE OPTIMISTS, PAGE 5

By Caroline Kehne
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
STANBRIDGE EAST

The sap is rising and the Owl Hoot Farm is getting ready for its 10th annual Sugaring Off Benefit for the BMP Hospital Foundation April 12 from 1 to 4 p.m.

John and Dianne Rhicard have been organizing this outdoor spring fundraiser at their farm for the last decade. In total, it has raised nearly \$13,000 for BMP Foundation.

Organizers suggest participants dress warmly for the outdoor event, which includes in the price of admission horse-drawn wagon rides around the farm, all the taffy-on-snow and sour pickles you can eat, traditional French-Canadian fiddling, a blacksmithing demonstration and more.

Owl Hoot Farm's 2003 syrup and maple products, homemade baked goods and food will also be on sale.

The Owl Hoot Farm is located at 85 Ross Rd., Stanbridge East. Admission is by donation: \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for children four to 10. For more information, call 450-248-3616, or e-mail theowlhooters@sympatico.ca.

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BROME COUNTY COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 26, April 2 & 9

ECUMENICAL LENTEN LUNCHEAS at Grace Anglican Church, 52 Principale S, **Sutton**, every Wednesday at noon. All proceeds towards World Relief and Development. Sponsored by Anglican, Baptist, Roman Catholic and United Churches of Sutton.

March 28

Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 82, **CRIBBAGE**, 8 p.m. at **Philipsburg** Legion. Admission: \$5.

SUTTON SOCCER LEAGUE REGISTRATION for kids between five and 18 (born after Jan. 1, 1986 and before 1998) at Sutton School, 6 p.m. Also sale/exchange of soccer equipment. Please bring articles between 5 to 6 p.m. Registration fee: \$35 per child, starting last week of May and ending early August. Volunteers needed (no knowledge of rules required).

March 29

CRIB TOURNAMENT at Odd Fellows Hall, **Knowlton**. Registration, 1 p.m. Start time, 1:30 p.m. \$10 per team. Cash prizes and door prizes. Info: 450-243-6903.

Brome County Historical Society **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, 130 Lakeside, **Knowlton**, 10 a.m. Meeting subject: Volunteer awards. Refreshments will be served.

COFFEE HOUSE AND SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER for **Waterloo** Elementary School. Preview of auction items, 6:30 p.m. Variety of entertainment beginning at 7 p.m. Come and enjoy some blues, jazz, folk, clog-

ging, line dancing and more. Admission: Adults \$3, students \$2, under 5 yrs., free. Cantine on premises.

March 30

Royal Canadian Legion, Br 158, **WESTERN BREAKFAST**, All You Can Eat, 2 Curley St., **Sutton**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission: \$6 adults, \$3 children under 10.

Royal Canadian Legion **BREAKFAST** at 120 Davignon, **Cowansville**, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: 450-263-3543.

Royal Canadian Legion **Cowansville** hosts afternoon of **BINGO** fun, 2 p.m. at 120 Davignon. Info: Suzanne or Debbie, 450-263-3543.

April 5 & 7

Dunham United Church, **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **BAG DAY**, Monday, April 7, 10 a.m. to noon. **ADVANCED NOTICE: Annual Mother's Day Luncheon**, sponsored by the Dunham U.C.W., May 10, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at Dunham United Church. Info: Barbara, 450-295-2348.

April 7, 9, 12 & 16

THRIFT SALE at **Brome Hall**, Monday, 9 a.m. to noon; Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Rummage Sale, April 16, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hall porch open for donations, March 31 to April 6, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

April 12

11th Annual **SUGARING OFF PARTY** at Rhicard's Owl Hoot Maple Farm, 85 Ross Rd., **Stanbridge East**, 1 to 4 p.m. A fundraising event for Brome-Missisquoi Perkins Hospital Foundation. Donation at door: Adults \$6, children, four to 10 yrs \$3.50. Donation includes: Taffy on snow, blacksmith demonstration, wagon rides, listen or dance to music of Canadian fiddlers. Also, bake table, maple products, pies and snack bar. A wonderful afternoon for the whole family. Info: 450-248-3616.

10th Anniversary **TOWNSHIPS TODDLERS** roast beef and barbecue pork at Odd Fellows Hall, **Knowlton**, 5 to 7 p.m. Dance to follow with Silverado & Gary Darling. Tickets: \$10. To benefit Montreal Childrens' & BMP Hospitals. Info: 450-266-1716.

ARTS CALENDAR

March 20 to 30

Knowlton Players presents **OFFICE HOURS**, a comedy by Norm Foster, directed by Darleen Bell. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sunday matinees, 2 p.m. at Arts **Knowlton**. Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 children, 12 and under. Reservations: 450-263-1061.

April 8

CONCERT READING of Montreal Composer R.F. Jones' new opera, Miss Havisham's Testament at Arts **Knowlton** Theatre, 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Introduction to Opera class at Bishop's Knowlton Centre. Free admission. Info: 450-242-1518.

CHURCH SERVICES

KNOWLTON/CREEK PASTORAL CHARGE: Worship and song by members & Rev. Burn Purdon. Creek United, Foster, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school at Creek. Knowlton United, Knowlton, 11 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH: 24 St. Paul's Rd., Knowlton. We wish to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Sunday services: 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday school and nursery, 10 a.m. Rev. Ralph T. Leavitt - Pastor.

PARISH OF BROME: Anglican worship service fifth Sunday: 9 a.m. Holy Communion or Morning Prayer, Church of the Ascension, West Brome; 11 a.m. Holy Communion or Morning Prayer (Lay Readers) St. John the Evangelist, Brome Village; 11 a.m. Holy Communion or Morning Prayer,

Holy Trinity, Iron Hill; Celtic Service with Holy Communion, 2:30 p.m., St. Aidan's, Sutton Junction. Rev. Rick Garipey, 450-243-6096.

COWANSVILLE AREA PASTORAL CHARGE UNITED CHURCH: Worship and Sunday school at Emmanuel United Church, 203 Principale, Cowansville at 10:30 a.m., Rev. Mary MacPherson officiating. Babysitting provided. Choir practice, 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

WATERLOO ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, WATERLOO: Sunday services at 10 a.m., No service on March 30. New Vision Pastoral Zone Ministers, Rev. Lillian Patey, Rev. David Lambie.

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH SUTTON: Come, let Jesus know you love Him. Sunday service, 10:30 a.m. at 52 Principale S. Rev. Canon Tim Smart, Rector.

SUTTON-DUNHAM UNITED CHURCH: Sunday worship services: Dunham, 9:15 a.m.; Sutton, 11:15 a.m.

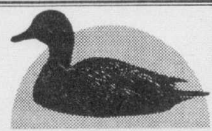
BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE: We invite you to come and worship with us. Minister, Rev. Malcolm Cogswell. Hymn sing and prayers for peace service, Sunday, April 6, 7 p.m. at Wesley United Church. Regular services: Stanbridge East, 9:30 a.m., Wesley Church in Bedford, 11 a.m. (Sunday school), Mystic, 12:30 p.m.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BEDFORD/PHILIPSBURG/FARNHAM: St. Paul's Philipsburg: 9:30 a.m., first and third Sunday, Holy Eucharist; 9:30 a.m., second and fourth Sunday, Morning Prayer; St. James the Apostle & Martyr, Farnham: 11 a.m., first Sunday, Combined Service in Bedford; 9:30 a.m., second and fourth Sunday, Holy Eucharist; 11 a.m., third Sunday, Morning Prayer; St. James, Bedford: 11 a.m.,

Holy Eucharist, Fr. Brian Evans, Rector.

BAPTIST CHURCHES: Sunday services: Mansonville Baptist, 9:30 a.m.; Olivet Baptist, Sutton, 10:30 a.m.

Brome County NEWS



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Tel.: (450) 242-1188 / Fax: (450) 243-5155

RATES & DEADLINES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Brome County News Community Calendar is reserved for non-profit organizations only. Deadline is **noon on Mondays**. A pre-paid fee of \$6 is required per publication, or **SPECIAL RATE of \$10 for 2 insertions**: 1 BCN & 1 in Friday Record "What's On" section. Please forward notices to Box 488, Knowlton, JOE 1V0, email: bcnnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

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CIRCULATION

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CANADA: 1 YEAR	114.40	8.01	9.18	\$131.59
6 MONTHS	59.00	4.13	4.73	\$67.86
3 MONTHS	30.00	2.10	2.41	\$34.51

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When worlds collide

Work and personal life clash in Knowlton Players' Office Hours

By Caroline Kehne
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
KNOWLTON

The choice of a play can often make or break a production, and Knowlton Players have chosen well in their current production of Office Hours, written by Canadian playwright Norm Foster.

The play, currently on stage at Arts Knowlton through March 30, marks the directorial debut of Darleen Bell and explores the convergence of work and private life through six, short vignettes.

The six scenes revolve tangentially around the central event of a man threatening to jump from the ledge of his psychiatrist's office. Each situation is tied to one another through one or more threads — a love relationship, a business deal, a breaking news event, threads that all seemingly converge on the psychiatrist's ledge.

Office Hours underscores the seeming insanity of modern working life. Scene one, 'The Reporter', plays to the middle-aged working man's worst fear: Being forced to report to an incompetent, much younger and much more attractive co-worker who just happens to be sleeping with the boss.

Warren Kimble (played with injured machismo by Frank Johnston-Main), an aging but salty television news reporter, prepares for a confrontation with his new boss, Pam Gerard (Lisa Dwyer), who is preparing to fire him. In a comic plot twist that spoofs The Fugitive, a murderous one-armed man (Jason Westover) arrives, determined to avenge himself against the negligent newsman who wrecked his life.

Scene two, 'The Pitch' takes aim at the film industry, as has-been alcoholic American film director Bobby Holland

(Ace MacLellan) pitches his idea for a Tarzan rip-off to two Canadian producers. Gordon Blaine (Richard Gagnon), anxious for a ticket to success, practically swoons at Holland's "genius" as fellow producer Francine Majors (Aldyne Kerrigan) tries in vain to explain to him that the plot revolving around 'Trevor and Jean' is just a plagiarized 'Tarzan and Jane' pitched by a lazy drunk.

Scene three, 'The Agent', presents Mark Young (Chris Freeman) as a slippery agent whose wife Ellie (Michaela Barnes) has photographs of her husband in flagrante delicto. Marks' explanations grow ever larger as the evidence of his promiscuity mounts, with echoes of celebrity Eddie Murphy's immortal excuse, "I was just trying to be a Good Samaritan." The couple, played ably by Barnes and Freeman, spar as Ellie obligingly hands her husband the rope with which he will verbally hang himself.

Scene four, 'The Visit' pits Rhonda Penny (Bernice Paterson), the overbearing wife and her submissive husband Lloyd (Roger de la Mare) against their son Richard (Eric Morrison), a successful lawyer. Rhonda's pandering elicits Richard's admission that he is gay. Rhonda, whose pushiness is matched by her vanity, is shocked less by her son's sexual orientation than by the unpleasant implication of her hard-held belief that gay children are the product of domineering mothers.

Paterson and de la Mare are outstanding as the mother-from-hell and her numbed spouse. Morrison gives a dignified performance as Richard who, like the son of La Cage aux Folles, appears much more grounded than his parents.

Eric Morrison returns in scene five, 'The Dismissal', as Stan Thurber, an effeminate racetrack owner whose real ambition to be "the next Sinatra" is thwarted when he inherits his father's racetrack. Thurber, an unlikely employer, must break the news to overweight

jockey Artie Barnes (Jason Westover) that his future in racing is limited.

Even Artie's most recent failure — a race in which his mount collapsed dead under the weight of the 200-pound jockey — has failed to convince Barnes that a career change is in the cards. Artie's dream — to win the Kentucky Derby — is far-fetched as Thurber's dream to be a lounge singer and stands as a testament to the tensile strength of misplaced optimism and denial.

The final scene, 'The Analyst' draws it together as the audience returns to a psychiatrist's office where Dr. Sharon Freeman (played by Joan Seys) is angrily trying to dissuade the suicidal figure skater on the ledge so that she can depart on a long-awaited romantic weekend.

Playwright Foster throws his final dart at the office world through the salesman (Richard Gagnon), who masquerades as a late patient in order to sell the impatient psychiatrist his expensive line of "week-at-a-glance" organizers imprinted with Biblical verse.

Bell has made a commendable entry into the world of stage directing. Her cast members deliver even performances in a play that is timely as working couples re-assess their working priorities and rebalance their lives in the post-"dot.bomb" era.

.....

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DAVID ANDERSON/SPECIAL

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Spring thaw is here and so are the potholes

The spring thaw period has been declared for the region's truck drivers, so you know the roads aren't going to be much fun for any of

UNDER THE HOOD

MAURICE CROSSFIELD

us in the coming weeks. In the Estrie administrative region of Transport Quebec, the thaw began last Friday (March 21), and will continue until May 10. During that time truck drivers are required to lighten their loads by an average of 15 to 20 per cent. That's because heavy trucks are by far the worst abuser of our roadways, especially when the ground (and the bed under our roadways) is first starting to soften up.

"The thaw period is one of the most important stresses on our network," said Denis L'Heureux, spokesman for Transports Quebec.

L'Heureux added that while the extreme cold of the winter did cause the ground to freeze to a deeper level than usual, it's hard to predict if the roads will be worse this spring or not. For one thing, he said 2002 saw a lot of repaving, and new pavement is better able to handle the movement caused by water and frost.

One factor to consider will be how quickly the ground thaws. L'Heureux said a slower thaw is better, allowing the roadways to slowly adapt to changing conditions.

However, it all thaws out you can rest assured the roads will be worse in the coming weeks than at any other time this year.

And don't expect compensation if you hit a hole and it hits back: Since 1992 the province and municipalities are not responsible for damage due to road conditions or failure to warn of a known danger. Mighty convenient, don't you think?

Since you're pretty much on your own, I figured I'd offer a few things to keep in mind to help lessen the damage and make your spring driving a little less brutal:

- Do not brake when you're hitting a pothole. Try to reduce your speed before, but let off the brake when it's impact time. That allows your suspension to decompress and better handle the shock. It also helps keep your undercarriage as high as possible, to lessen the risk of bottoming out.

- The most abuse is suffered on the way out of a pothole, not on the way in. That's when your suspension is forced up sharply. A shorter pothole will pro-



RECORD FILE PHOTO

The spring thaw period is upon the Eastern Townships, and with it, so too are new potholes.

vide less of an impact than a longer pothole because your vehicle will have had a longer time to lower its altitude. Exiting a pothole gives out both vertical and horizontal shock, forcing the

wheel up and backwards, a double whammy for your car.

- Obviously, if it's safe to do so, try to straddle smaller holes. But be sure you don't veer into other traffic. And don't swerve at the last second. Try to look far enough ahead to be able to plan your route.

- Check your tire pressure. An over-inflated tire is more likely to be damaged by a pothole. But an underinflated tire is more likely to result in damage to the rim. Either way, it's going to be costly. According to Uniroyal, 12 per cent of motorists have to replace tires prematurely due to road hazards.

- You may want to check things out after a particularly bad hit. Potholes can do real damage. Better to check it out on the roadside than to discover later that the suspension has been compromised, or a new leak has drained something that shouldn't be drained.

- After a particularly rough period, consider a wheel alignment. Getting all four wheels going in the same direction again will lengthen the life of your tires and save a significant amount of gas, paying for itself in the long run.



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BRIEF

Secrets of the trade

Pigeon Hill ceramists and pottery makers Michel Viala and Sara Mills will share the secrets of their trade with the public at the Biblio-Gare, located at 416 Chemin Luke in Saint Armand on Friday, April 4 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call 450-248-4402.

COCo AGM



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Community Organizations (COCo) held its 2003 Annual General Meeting in Cowansville. John Britton, Rachel Garber, Frances Ravensbergen, Peter Stastny and Michael Stephens took part in the AGM, held in Cowansville's Emmanuel United Church. COCo, a not-for-profit organization, offers free or low-cost consulting services tailored to the needs of non-profit organizations throughout Quebec. Last year, its All-A-Board program, funded by a Canadian Heritage grant, organized 11 workshops attended by 119 individuals representing 39 community organizations in the Eastern Townships, Gaspé and Saguenay-Lac St-Jean regions. Stastny, who also chairs the Eastern Townships Community Economic Development and Employability Committee, and Rachel Garber, Executive Director of Townshippers Association, will serve on COCo's 2003 Board of Directors.

My big fat Greek dinner

By Caroline Kehne
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
BEDFORD

Mary Boomhower, one of Association Avante's founders, is also a regular at the centre's International Cooking Group dinners. The monthly dinners – planned, prepared and served by members of the cooking group – have highlighted the culinary traditions of Trinidad, Spain, Romania and this Thursday, Greece.

Avante's International Cooking Group will celebrate the cuisine of Greece with a supper on Thursday, March 27 at 6 p.m. in Le R.O.C.'s Salle Richelieu. The "soup-to-nuts" meal is open to all women at a cost of \$10 per person.

The Avante Women's Centre was founded in 1997 with the goal to promote and defend women's rights, autonomy and equality. The centre, open five days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., offers weekly "coffee breaks" and workshops on a variety of subjects including self-esteem, conflict resolution, addiction, life skills and other health-related issues.

On April 8 and 15, Sandra Parkinson of Clinique Colibri will hold a two-part evening workshop entitled 'Exploring Hidden Aspects of the Self'. Both workshops begin at 6:30 p.m.

Other activities include Creative Expressions (Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to noon), Coffee Breaks (Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon) and Yoga (Monday, 6 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m.). The Avante Community Garden will begin in May.

Low cost daycare is available on site for women attending the workshops. The centre is located in the Le R.O.C. building at 52 rue Dupont, Bedford. For more information, call 450-248-0530.



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Mary Boomhower is a regular at Avante's cooking dinners.

OPTIMISTS:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

As a result, the club now provides welcome kits containing toiletry items for new arrivals at the group homes, and small gifts on special holidays such as a Valentine's Day package.

The club also works with group staff to see that each resident receives a birthday present, and plans are already underway for an Easter surprise.

"The object is to tell these teens that someone out there cares," says Eppers.

The importance of positive community support was echoed by group home staffer Marsha Mailloux, who said that small acts of support and trust often have a big impact on those growing up in troubled households.

Mailloux was joined by fellow group home staff members Howard Picken and Karen Crandall in supervising the teens on this special night out. Group home residents provided a thank you gift to the Optimist members, a videotape of their Christmas.

Several of the nine teens offered individual thanks to the club, including the youngest resident, a 14 year old who thanked staff members for their help in aiding him to deal with his anger.

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Health and social services info meeting

By Murielle Parkes
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
MANSONVILLE

Social worker Pauline Ranger and colleagues Danielle Beaulieu (social worker Clinique jeunesse) and Vicky Audet (a social work stagiaire) will animate an information and discussion meeting for youth and their parents March 27, 7 p.m. at the Mansonville Town Hall.

Using an interactive approach, the team will describe the various health and social services available from the Centre de santé Memphrémagog in Mansonville.

The evening, which promises to be entertaining as well as informative, will feature improvisational games and role playing. Presenting situations that illustrate how the CLSC can offer

help and support, the team will focus on social services offered to families, including the need for confidentiality and a non-judgmental approach, as well as outline the available medical services.

"Parents will have an opportunity to understand the stresses that their children face, and the support available to them as well as their children," noted Richard Caron, the health centre's community organizer, who helped plan the evening with Ranger and Citizen Advocacy (CA) youth director Mable Hastings.

The meeting is one of a series of community awareness information sessions organized on behalf of CA's junior and senior SADD groups. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 450-292-0307.

Local delicacies



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

The works of artist Danielle Clément are on display this month at the Maison du Livre in Stanbridge Station. Clément is painter who specializes in Québec landscapes, including many familiar backroads of Brome-Missisquoi. She is also a regular participant in the Tournée des 20, the fall art tour and open house by 20 area artists. For the exhibition, Clément has reproduced many of her favourite local landscapes, including summer and winter scenes of Frelighsburg, St-Armand and Philipsburg in reduced format for framing and as gift cards. All are on sale at the library until the exhibit ends on May 27. The Maison du livre is open Tuesdays from 1 to 7 p.m., and is located at 371 Route 202, Stanbridge Station. For more information, call 450-248-3388.

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Brome County NEWS

Mobile Millinery Museum visits C'ville

Canada's Hat Ladies are wheeling their travelling retrospective millinery fashion show into Quebec for the first time since developing their Mobile Millinery Museum, four years ago.

They will be performing in Cowansville, April 12 when the Friendly Society of Trinity Anglican Church hosts a fundraising tea. Guests will be treated to a fashion show of vintage hats, dating from the Victorian era to the present day.

The Mobile Millinery Museum is a private facility, run by Norma Shephard and Linda Francis. The two began sharing their passion for millinery history with audiences at hospitals, retirement homes, churches, schools, libraries, historical societies, women's groups, conventions, museums and country fairs in 1999.

The Hat Ladies are recognized authorities on the subject of millinery, and Shephard's articles on fashion history have

appeared in newspapers and magazines. A quarterly newsletter entitled Hat Chat is now available to museum members along with limited borrowing privileges and entry to the Mobile Millinery Museum's annual Members-Only Exhibit.

Currently, there are more than 2,000 historical hats in the Mobile Millinery Museum Archives, as well as an extensive array of costume artifacts pertaining to 19th and 20th century women's fashion. These include period costume, opera cloaks, ball gowns, debutante dresses, Christening gowns, jewellery, hand bags, shoes, hat boxes, parasols, capes, jewellery, millinery supplies, photographs and periodicals.

Performances are at 2 and 4 p.m. on April 12. The Trinity Anglican Church is located at 409 South St., Cowansville. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. For more information, call 450 263-3329

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Abercorn Women's Institute

Abercorn W.I.'s annual meeting was held in January at the home of Arlene Bleser. Business included paying our dues, catching up on news from the provincial office and planing for the Brome County convention to be held April 30 at our hall.

No meeting was held in February, but two baskets of fruit given out, one to Rolland Lahue after his surgery at the BMP Hospital, and the other to Bill Rogerson after returning home following a stay at St. Albans Hospital and a nursing home in Vermont.

On March 3, a meeting was held at the home of Arlene Bleser. It was opened by President Pauline Wilkins.

Final plans for hosting the convention were made. Since our building is closed for the winter months our April will include cleaning the hall and installing an electric heater. Plans to go to Richford, Vt. for lunch were canceled.

Invitations were sent to Brome and Missisquoi branches. We are hoping everyone will help make this a success. See you there.

— Submitted by Patricia Lahue, Secretary

TBL Community Services

Strawberries, strawberries, strawberries. Thoughts of strawberries opened the March meeting of the Town of Brome Lake Community Services.

Fulford will have its Strawberry Social on June 21, and Iron Hill on June 28 — such a delight to look forward to. Our councillor, George Bris-

tol, reported that the BMP Hospital dinner served 550 dinners, with the help of 43 volunteers. The final tally will be about \$11,500 for the hospital, including a donation from Pierre Paradis.

Our director reported that 69 children registered for spring break activities. Daycare, this year, was offered for children in the program that enabled more children to participate and it was easier on parents.

The youth theatre production of 'No Fears, No Tears, Jest Teens' will premier after our Annual General Meeting at Arts Knowlton on April 3 at 7 p.m. There will be two other performances on Friday, April 4 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 5 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

The tender for flowers for the Downtown parks and public buildings was awarded to Jardins Foster. They had the lowest bid and provided beautiful flowers last year. We look forward to the selection this year.

Lion's Park will be undergoing lots of improvements this summer. Leveling will be done to accommodate a second much-needed soccer field and the committee will look into resurfacing the basketball court. In the children's section, all baby swings will be replaced.

The hiring of summer staff will start soon and lots of fun jobs are available so get your CVs in to Community Services.

The positions are lifeguards, camp monitors, parking attendants, Lion's Park attendant. The deadline is April 18.

— Submitted by Phyllis Sise, Board of Directors, Town of Brome Lake Community Services

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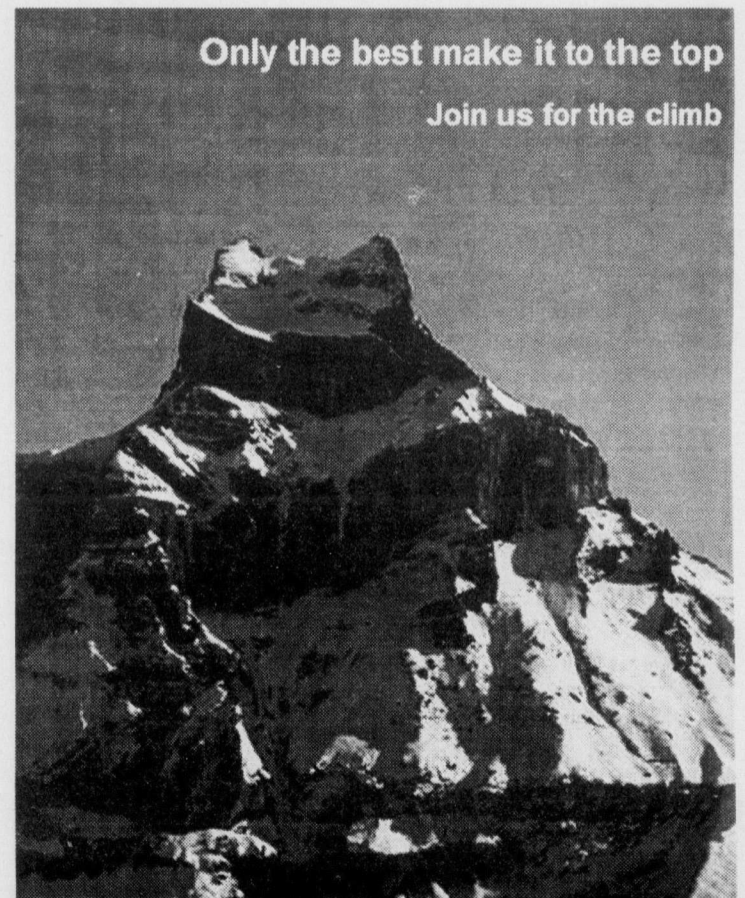
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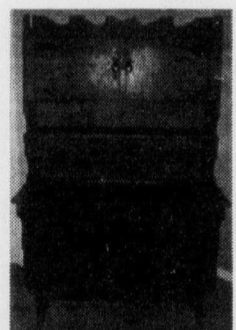
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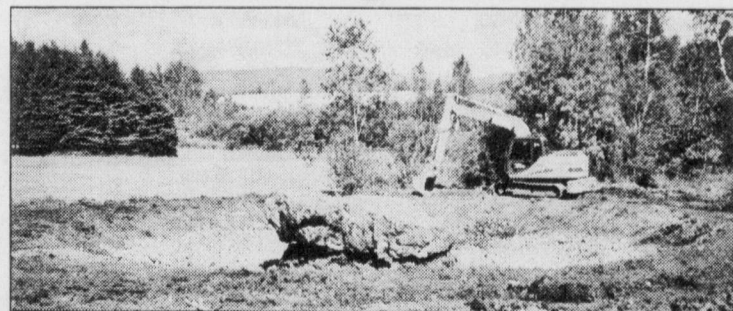
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Brieflet

SUTTON
First meeting of the Brome Missisquoi Investment Club will be held on Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m. at the John Sleeth Community Centre in Sutton. Refreshments will be served. For more information, please call Martin at (450) 538-2631.

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1st Anniversary



André Jacques and Elizabeth Nelis were united in marriage on March 30, 2002. Elizabeth is the daughter of Mathie Nelis and Lillian Nelis of Bedford. André is the son of Jean-Guy and Elizabeth Jacques of Sutton. One year has passed quickly. Happy 1st Anniversary. Best wishes, Mom & Dad

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Townshippers' Association holds annual open house

The Townshippers' Association held its annual open house at Cowansville's Emmanuel United Church Hall Friday, March 21.

Members of the Cowansville Townshippers' Day Organizing Committee, including chairman Yvan Monast and vice-chairs David Wright and Brigitte Messier, were on hand to answer questions about Townshippers' Day 2003, which will take place on Sept. 13 in Cowansville.

The committee officially launched the T-Day Raffle for gift certificates totaling \$2,750 from area merchants. Tickets for the fundraiser raffle will be on sale starting in April at both Townshippers' offices, and at events throughout the summer months.

Representatives from local and regional community groups also attended the open house, which doubled as a networking meeting. Townshippers' Executive Director Rachel Garber noted that while the Association has always encouraged outreach to local groups, it has recently taken a new orientation in providing "networking days" where community groups from throughout the Eastern Townships meet one another and exchange information.

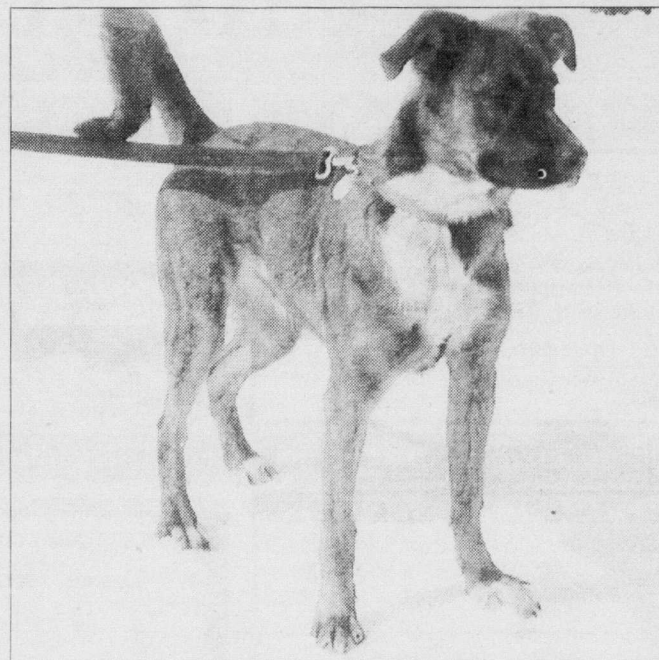
Community groups that would like to have a booth at Townshippers' Day 2003, are invited to contact Kate Wisdom at 450-263-4422 or ta2@bellnet.ca.



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Townshippers' staffer Cathy Turner and board member Alice Gunhouse manned the Townships Expressions table, featuring works by Eastern Townships writers, musicians and artists.

Pet of the week . . . Bianca



COURTESY SPCA

I'm about eight months old with lovely, silky brindle-coloured hair. I have a 'tidy' build and shouldn't weigh over 45 pounds when full grown. I'm very happy, friendly and quite civilized for my age. I hope you'll come and visit all of us here at the SPCA Montérégie, 178, ch. du Vide, Ste-Angèle-de-Monnoir (exit # 37 on autoroute # 10). For more information, call 450-460-3075/242-2892.

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