

Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2000

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Service spawned a marriage and lifelong friendships for veteran



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Bill Black and his war bride, Muriel Dow Black... 'He liked my jitterbugging,' said Muriel.

By Caroline Kehne
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
PHILIPSBURG

Don't get Bill Black started talking," warned one fellow member of Philipsburg's Royal Canadian Legion Branch #82, "or you may never get home."

Bill Black does like to tell stories about his experiences as a Montrealeur hardly out of his teens thrust into a small role in one of the decisive conflicts of the century. World War II was for Black, like many of his age group, the defining experience of his life.

Bill Black's military experience began after he enlisted in the Navy where he became an anti-aircraft gunner aboard the destroyer HMCS Qu'appelle

(H-69). He and comrades patrolled the North Atlantic, English Channel and

Bay of Biscay, keeping Allied shipping channels open and later, limiting German troop and submarine movements.

"We were part of a 'striking force'," said Black, speaking after last Sunday's Remembrance Day parade in Philipsburg. "Whenever a convoy was attacked by a wolf pack, a force of destroyers headed out try to defend it." The destroyers themselves were vulnerable to aerial attacks from bombers and torpedo attacks from the submarine wolf packs.

His units' test came off the coast of Brest in July 1944.

"After D-Day, things had eased up a bit," said Black. "We had to watch for German convoys trying to move troops



COURTESY BILL BLACK

Bill Black and his comrades... For nearly 55 years, Black has carried this shipboard photo of himself, fellow gunner Claude 'Shorty' Taylor and gun loaders Jake Stewart and Bill Brew.

or submarines out. Up to that time our action had been limited to dropping depth charges. We'd had aircraft reconnaissance who had seen three German ships (destroyers) coming out of Brest," he remembers.

"None of us had ever seen surface action. As we approached the harbour of Brest, their shore station was challenging us."

In the ensuing encounter, Black remembers, shells whistling through the air and chaos. An explosion sent a burst of chipped paint from the gun shield through the air, temporarily blinding the young gunner.

SEE BLACK, PAGE 6

BMP Foundation elects new president

Paul Meunier has been elected the new president of the BMP Hospital Foundation for 2000-2002.

Meunier is well-known throughout the Brome-Missisquoi area following a long

and successful career as a pharmacist and owner of Pharmacies Paul Meunier in Cowansville and Knowlton.

A longtime supporter and director of the BMP Hospital Foundation, Meunier is also a director and former campaign chairman of the Fondation Charles Bruneau.

He has also served as chairman of the board at Groupe Uniprix.

Meunier replaces Dr. William Barakett, who had served as foundation president the past two years.

The BMP Hospital Foundation is currently in the midst of a three-year capital campaign to raise \$2.3 million to provide a CT scan and other specialized equipment and technology to the Brome-Missisquoi Perkins Hospital.



BMP

Paul Meunier.

Pierre Marziali
Pharmacist

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BROME COUNTY COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 8

Registration for **bilingual course on Windows 95/ 98 and the Internet** Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 7 pm at Sutton Township Library (next to Sutton School) 19 Highland St., Sutton, starting Wednesday Nov. 15, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for three weeks. Information, 538-5843.

November 9

The Ladies Auxiliary, The Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 77, 77 Lewis St., Waterloo **Annual Remembrance Day Luncheon**, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. \$5 adults, \$2.50 children under 10 yrs. Everyone welcome!

November 11

Spaghetti Dinner at the Loisiers Hall, Clarenceville, 5 - 8 p.m. Cost: \$7, adults, \$3, children, 6 - 12 yrs., under 5, free. Ticket info., (450) 294-2812.

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 77, 77 Lewis St., Waterloo, **Parade on Remembrance Day**, starting at 10:30 a.m. Proceeding to Cenotaph in front of the post office, where laying of wreaths will be held. Two minute silence, 11 a.m. Parade will return to Legion after ceremonies. We would like to see a good turnout of citizens to watch the parade and share in the ceremonies at the Cenotaph.

Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 82, **Annual Armistice Parade** in Bedford, and wreath-laying ceremony. Fall in 10:30 a.m. at Georges Perron Center, 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.

Royal Canadian Legion, 129 Davignon St., **Cowansville Remembrance Day Parade** at 10:15 a.m. The people of the community are invited to attend the ceremonies.

3rd Annual Christmas Food Drive sponsored by the Thirsty Boot to help Knowlton Lion's Club distribution of Christmas baskets. Music provided by Sandy Ward and Roadhouse. Admission, non-perishable food items or cash donations, all cheques should be made payable to Knowlton Lions Club. Telephone 243-0163 for more information.

November 11 & 12

Christmas Craft Show and Sale at Odd-fellows Hall, 476 Knowlton Rd. Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Come have lunch and browse with us. Tables still available. Information: 243-6778.

November 12

Knowlton Lions Club Remembrance Breakfast in honour of our Veterans at Knowlton Academy, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. All you can eat - pay what you think it's worth. The Cordes à Vent will entertain us along with Bob Quilliams and 12 musicians

who will sing and play WW2 songs throughout the breakfast. Come out and meet our veterans and show them your appreciation. We have an awful lot to be thankful for!! For more information: Maureen Johnston-Main (450) 243-6430.

Royal Canadian Legion Crib Tournament at 120 Davignon St., Cowansville, at 1 p.m. \$5 per person.

November 15

B.M.P. Artistic Exposition in the Main Entrance, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Variety of exhibits: painting, sculpture, weaving, glass art, interior decorating, clothes, food, etc. All welcome!

November 18

Three-hour **Caring for Seniors Workshop** sponsored by The Brome-Missisquoi Caregiver Support Group in collaboration with the Wellness Group for volunteers to be held at Knowlton Community Center at 9 a.m. For registration or information please call 242-2020 or 1-877-248-4236.

Massey Vanier Athletics Department will hold **Fund-Raising Auction** in the gym (enter by Adelard-Godbout St.) at 10 a.m. Articles old and new. To make a donation, please call Bob Kay or Henry Blumenfeld, 263-3772 or Ron Fava, 263-7925. Pick-up available. Show your support! Come and make a bid!

Brome County Historical Society presents **Series of lectures on Eastern Townships History** at the Old Court House Archives, 15 St. Paul, Knowlton, 1 - 3 p.m. \$2 entrance fee. Speaker: Eastern Townships History Lecturer, Jimmy Mason. Topic: A Distinct Society Within the Distinct Society: The Eastern Townships, 1792-1867.

Heroes 10th Pre-Christmas Sale, 317 South, Cowansville, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Crafts, book fair, new & used toys. Tables/info., Sharon at (450) 263-4962.

Bishop Stewart Memorial Church Chicken Pie Supper at BSM Anglican Church Hall, Garagona Rd., Frelighsburg. Door prizes. Tickets/Info: 248-2350, 298-5377, 295-2201. Watch for our Christmas Ham Dinner, mid-December.

NOVEMBER 18 & 19

Annual Christmas Crafts Bazaar at Sutton Legion Hall. Sat., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sun., 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Everyone welcome to shop amongst the great selection of popular bakers and crafters. (450) 372-2176 for more info.

November 22

ADVANCED NOTICE: Casserole Luncheon and Bake Sale sponsored by U.C.W. at Knowlton United Church from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All welcome!

November 25

2nd Annual Lost Angels Christmas Sale at Emmanuel United Church, 203 Main St., Cowansville, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Proceeds from table rental to 'Missing Children Network of Canada'. Tables/Info. Sharon (450) 263-4962.

December 2

ADVANCED NOTICE: Christmas Craft Sale at Manoir Lac Brome, 28 Mont Echo, Knowlton, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. All welcome!

ARTS CALENDAR

November 16 to December 3

Guys & Dolls, a musical fable of Broadway, with music & lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling & Abe Burrows, will hit the **Knowlton Pub Playhouse** Nov. 16 to Dec. 3. Opening night benefit: Yamaska Literacy Council; Nov. 23 benefit: Philipsburg/St. Armand First Responders and Missisquoi Public Library. The Sunshine Theatre production is directed by Sunil Mahtani, with musical direction by Sacha Dmytruk and choreography by Joanne Watson. The show runs Thursdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$12 (\$10 if prepaid by Nov. 16); children 12 and under \$5. To make reservations, call 539-3604.

November 17, 24, December 1 & 8

Creative Writing Workshop with author Judith Avinger at Bishop's Knowlton Centre. This new session begins on Friday, November 17 at 2 p.m. To register, please call, Louise Jamet at 242-1518.

Through to November 24

Farfelu Gallery: Call for artists. The Farfelu Gallery is looking for artists who would like to exhibit their work. Please submit a curriculum vitae and 10 photos or slides with a stamped self-addressed envelope (so the documents can be returned) to: FARFELU, 12 Main Street North, Sutton, P.Q. JOE 2KO. Info. (450) 538-5959 / 0605.

CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH OF BROME

St. Aidan, Sutton Junction, 3rd Sunday at 2:30 p.m.; Ascension, West Brome, all services at 9:30 a.m.; Holy Trinity, Iron Hill 2nd Sunday at 7:30 p.m., 3rd & 4th at 11 a.m.; St. John Evangelist, Brome Village 2nd & 3rd Sundays at 11 a.m., and 4th at 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

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come you!

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Creek United, Foster, 9:30 a.m.

Knowlton United, Knowlton, 11 a.m.

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GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH SUTTON: Warmly welcomes you to join us in Worship of the Lord. Service, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. at 52 Principale Sud. The Rev. Canon Tim Smart, Rector.

COWANSVILLE AREA PASTORAL CHARGE - UNITED CHURCH: Worship and Sunday School at Emmanuel United Church, 10:30 a.m. Senior Choir practice, 9 a.m. Junior Choir, 10 a.m.

TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, COWANSVILLE invites you to worship and fellowship Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., 409 South St. This active little church has a nursery and Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Drop in or call 263-2662. May God Bless You. The Rev. Richard Randall.

BAPTIST CHURCHES - Sunday Services: Mansonville Baptist, 9:30 a.m.; Olivet Baptist, Sutton, 11 a.m. All welcome.

BEDFORD PASTORAL CHARGE invites you to come and worship with us. Minister: Rev. Malcolm Cogswell. Stanbridge East, 9:30 a.m., Wesley Church, Bedford, 11 a.m., Mystic, 12:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Do you wish you could read better? Need help with basic math? Call the **Yamaska Literacy Council**. Work one-on-one with a tutor and learn at your own pace. Lessons are FREE, private and confidential. Learning can be fun so why not do something for yourself today? Call Wendy at 263-7503.

Are you self-employed, with or without a store? Part-time or full-time? For \$45 per year you can list in the **Self-Employment Directory**. It is run by volunteers to keep your cost down. Call Toni Bos 243-5222.

The Brome County Historical Society Volunteer Day, scheduled to take place November 19th, has been postponed to later in the new year. Watch the Brome County News for further details.

Knowlton United Church is already at work planning their next very successful Consignment Sale of antique & Quality items. This sale is planned to be held at the church on July 20 and 21, 2001. Start now to get your items ready. If you require storage space or information, call 243-5980.

Brome County
NEWS



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TEL: (450) 242-1188 / 242-6892 FAX: (450) 243-5155

Published weekly by

1195 Galt E., Sherbrooke,

QUEBEC, J1G 1Y7

FAX: (819) 569-3945 E-MAIL:

newsroom@sherbrooke-record.com

website: www.sherbrooke-record.com

THE
RECORD

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CIRCULATION

Distributed to all Record subscribers every Wednesday as an insert, and to all households and businesses in Abercorn, Bedford, Brigham, Brome, Bromont, Cowansville, East Farnham, Foster, Fulford, Knowlton (Brome Lake), Sutton, Bolton Centre, West Brome.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

		GST	PST	TOTAL
CANADA: 1 YEAR	114.40	8.01	9.18	\$131.59
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3 MONTHS	30.00	2.10	2.41	\$34.51

Out of Quebec residents do not include PST. Rates for other services available on request.
The Record is published daily Monday to Friday. Back copies of The Record are available.

The Record was founded on February 7, 1897, and acquired the Sherbrooke Examiner (est. 1879) in 1905 and the Sherbrooke Gazette (est. 1837) in 1908. The Record is published by UniMedia Company, a subsidiary of Hollinger Canadian Newspapers L.P.

Canadian Publications Mail Service Product Agreement No. 0479675.

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Philipsburg, St-Armand remember sacrifice



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

The honour guard takes the lead in Philipsburg's Remembrance Day Parade.

Members of the Philipsburg Royal Canadian Legion celebrated an early Remembrance Day with its annual Remembrance Day banquet Saturday night followed by its parade and wreath-laying ceremony on Sunday.

Dr. Marcel Lamothe gave the keynote address on health issues for the aging at the Saturday night beef and pork dinner.

The evening was attended by MP Denis Paradis and by local mayors Marcel Béchard of Bedford, Brent Chamberlain of St-Armand/Philipsburg and, Stanbridge East councilman Raymond Wescott, filling in for mayor Greg Vaughn. The dinner was followed by the legion's annual service awards ceremony.

St-Armand veteran Jacques Nadeau, the branch's most senior member, received a pin for 60 years of legion membership.

Sunday's parade took place on schedule, despite forecasts of cold rain or snow. The weather remained clear long enough for the annual parade with the Montreal's Karnak Shriners,

veterans and local scouts, cubs and beavers.

Following a multi-denominational service delivered by Rev. Roderick Withnall, Father André Vincent and Rev. Malcom Cogswell, representative of government, civic groups and families laid of wreaths at the Cenotaph in honour of the dead.

The branch's next activities will take place in Bedford next Saturday Nov. 11 for that municipality's annual Remembrance Day parade and wreath-laying ceremony.

The parade will start at 10:30 a.m. and finish up at 11 a.m. at the cenotaph for the wreath laying.

After the ceremony, the public is invited to Georges Perron Centre where the town provides refreshments and later, back to Philipsburg where the legion will be open and providing refreshments.

For information, contact branch president Audrey Paige at (450) 248-2407.

Caroline Kehne
Record Correspondent

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MASSEY-VANIER HIGH SCHOOL Eastern Townships School Board PARENTS' NIGHT

Parents of students at Massey-Vanier High School will receive their children's report cards for Term 1 on Monday, November 13, 2000.

Parents are cordially invited to meet with teachers at Massey-Vanier Parents' Night on Wednesday, November 15, 2000.

4:00 - 5:30 and 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

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Getting ready for the tribulations of winter driving

It's early November now, so it's time to start thinking about how you're going to drive once the snow begins to fall. While you might not like doing that, it's better than trying to remember your winter driving skills when you're suddenly confronted with several inches of the white stuff. That's usually what happens to most motorists when we get hit with the first snowfall. With this in mind, here's primer to get you ready for the driving you'll have to face in the next five years - err- months.

First off, if your car needs a tuneup, get it done now before the cold weather arrives. The snow tires I talked about a couple of weeks ago won't be much good if your car leaves you stranded.

A winter checkup should include a verification of the battery and charging sys-

tem. Your battery might be fine on a warm fall day, but at -20 on a freezing December night, it might not be up to snuff.

The cooling system should be checked as well. It must put up with temperatures ranging from sub zero to well beyond the boiling point. Hoses and heater cores take a lot of abuse in all of that, and have the nasty habit of giving out if they aren't looked after.

Make sure your lights are all in working order, and that your windshield washer fluid is topped up. If you haven't changed your windshield wipers for awhile, this is a good time to do so.

In the trunk you should have a few essentials in case disaster strikes. A good ice and snow scraper is essential, while metal snow treads can get you out of a jam if you

get stuck, and a shovel is also handy. Jumper cables suddenly become vital if your battery gives out. A flashlight can also be worth its weight in gold in an emergency.

If you do get stranded, a blanket

can help warm things up a bit. Bring along a candle for a little extra warmth. If you're one of those silly people who try to deny winter by not dressing for it, pack some warm clothes for use when winter just can't be ignored. Warm boots, gloves and a toque can make a big difference.

A non-automotive observation: The people who complain most about winter are often the ones who don't have enough sense to dress for it. If you dress for the weather instead of for fashion, winter can be a lot less nasty. It can even be fun.

The first rule when the weather gets bad is, if you can avoid driving, do so. There's not much in this world worth risking your life for, and that's just what you'll be doing trying to drive in a blizzard.

If you have to go out, make sure your car is snow free. That includes lights, windows and even that big cake of snow that's built up on the roof. Snow blowing off of your car could blind another driver, causing an accident.

Once you're on the road you have to adopt habits that you haven't made use of since last March. First off, slow down, and pay attention to road conditions. Particularly in November, when temperatures

tend to hover around the freezing point, changing things quickly.

At this time of year, deer can also wreak havoc with your nerves. Slow down and scan the ditches, especially at dawn and dusk. The chances of you getting into an accident with another car can also be reduced by simply keeping your distance and slowing down. That way if someone else screws up, it won't become your problem; and if you screw up, it won't ruin someone else's day too.

If you do go into a skid, ignore the urge to jam on the brakes. Instead, ease off on the gas and steer against the skid. The basic rule of thumb is to try to keep the front wheels pointed in the direction you want to be going. On front wheel drive cars you can even press on the gas once things start to get under control again, to pull the car out of a skid.

Be gentle on the pedals. The one I heard years ago was to pretend there's a raw egg on the pedal, and you don't want to squish it. Jamming on the brake or the gas is a good recipe for an accident.

So be careful out there, and exercise a little caution when the temperature starts to drop. Winter is coming, and it would be nice for all of us to be here to see next spring arrive.

Brome County News salutes

BARRY ELLSON MEMORIAL CAR RALLY September 30, 2000

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to the merchants and businesses of Knowlton and area, who once again generously gave door prizes and/or donations to benefit St. Edouard School and Knowlton Academy's breakfast program. We had a host of wonderful volunteers on the day of the rally. A great big thank you also!

The warm sunshine and beautiful fall foliage made for a perfect day. We had 96 participants young and old in the rally. A good time was reported to have been had by all. A grand total of \$1,336.00 was raised throughout the day. Each school receives \$668.00 each.

Without your support this event would not have been such a success. Again, Thank you!

Sincerely,
Susan & Lindsay White
Thirsty Boot

Atelier Mike Payne
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

All generations and congregations helped

DEAR EDITOR,

Thank you for publishing our church worship services and special events we hold during the year.

On Oct. 27, we held a most successful 'soup & dessert luncheon/bazaar', at Emmanuel United Church, Cowansville. Thank you to Caroline Kehne for giving us 'after-the-event' pub-

licity. Caroline mentioned that I was the organizer, but I am only one of the many people involved in organizing this event. We have a Luncheon/Bazaar Committee and we work as a team, with everyone having a job to do. We must not forget the many volunteers who work behind the scenes: those who donate soup, dessert, food for the bake table, articles for the handicraft and attic treasures tables, and our young people from the

Sunday School who not only had a table of goodies, but helped wherever needed. Men, women, youth and children, all worked together to make this a most successful event.

Thank you to everyone of our four congregations who gave their time and talent.

Sincerely,

NORMA SHERRER
SECRETARY

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Veteran remembers life as prisoner of war

By Caroline Kehne
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
PHILIPSBURG/ST-ARMAND

Last Sunday, after Philipsburg's annual Remembrance Day parade and wreath-laying ceremonies, local veterans gathered inside the legion to reminisce about old times. At a small table near the bar sat veterans Jacques Nadeau and Garnet Steel, veterans of the battle of Dieppe, both smartly attired in dark jackets adorned with rows of service pins and medals. Steel, who served as signalman, never reached the beach at Dieppe because the landing craft designated to transport his unit to shore never arrived, presumably one of the casualties of the chaotic battle. Nadeau, an infantryman, faced a far different outcome: captured by German troops, he spent 33 months as a prisoner of war, surviving barbaric conditions as a forced labourer before his final escape into the arms of approaching Russian forces in 1945.

Nadeau, a small, soft-spoken Montreal native, recalled how he enlisted in the Fusiliers Mont Royale, a decision that would ultimately place him in the ill-fated invasion forces at Dieppe on Aug. 19, 1942. When Allied forces were overwhelmed and forced to retreat, he and thousands of other Canadian soldiers found themselves isolated and taken prisoner.

"For 53 consecutive days we had our hands tied," said Nadeau, who pulled a piece of coarse baling twine from his pocket and displays it in his palm.

"This is what they tied us with." He remembers how his German captors separated officers from enlisted men, forcing the latter to work in forced labour supporting the German war effort. For the nearly three years, he and his comrades moved from project to project, underfed, under-clothed and overworked, looking for opportunities to escape.

"It was all pretty difficult," said Nadeau, who has rarely talked publicly about his experiences as a POW in Germany and Poland. "I worked at a flour mill carrying 100 kilogram sacks of flour," he said. "Do you know how heavy that is? At the time, I only weighed 120 pounds (55 kilograms)."



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Jacques Nadeau and Garnet Steel are veterans of the battle of Dieppe. Steel, a signalman, never made it to shore while Nadeau, an infantryman, was captured by German troops and spent the next 33 months of the war as a P.O.W.

He and fellow POWs were moved to other projects, working as farm labourers and on the construction of an oil refinery in Poland.

"We carried railroad ties, telephone poles, dug trenches in winter, without winter clothing and with boots that were worn. Our boots and socks would get wet and we slept in barracks that had hardly any heat. When we woke up, our socks would still be cold and wet because there was no heat."

The vet points out a slight crook in his nose, a deformity that one might easily overlook as a hockey injury. "I had my nose broken after my first attempt to escape," he said. Escape attempts resulted in savage beatings

and pistol whipping from his German captors. His final escape attempt, an escape from a farm where he worked with 59 other Canadian POWs, came in January 1945 and succeeded. Its success he attributes to a simple factor: "I headed east instead of west."

Walking through snow, he

and his comrades met up with an incoming wave of Russian armoured regiments. "The first bunch were pretty decent," he said of the first wave of Allied liberators. The second group (Russian infantry) stole all of our possessions. They roughed us up pretty bad."

Eventually, after transport across the Ukraine in trains and sometimes, in freezing, open flatcars he arrived in Odessa, where he boarded the Duchess of Bedford, a CP steamship. He described the long trip to safe waters, traversing the Black Sea, through the Dardanelles, into the Mediterranean with stops in Malta and Algiers before finally joining a convoy bound for England. There would be a final ordeal before returning to safety when an outbreak of smallpox resulted in a shipboard quarantine.

After the war, Nadeau joined the Canadian Air Force, where he would serve for 21 years before working for Canada Customs. His wartime ordeal is over but never forgotten, as alive as the memories of comrades who did not survive.



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Greatest lesson came from working with fellow Canadians – Black

Black:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"My friend Shorty (fellow gunner Claude Taylor) had me in his lap saying, 'Blackie, Blackie, speak to me'." Black's vision returned within a few minutes and his ship, under heavy bombardment from both land and sea, the damaged destroyer limped back to Plymouth with four crew dead, 18 wounded and over 100 holes in the hull. Shortly after, the destroyer was pulled from service for repairs.

Black, then 21-years-old, returned home for a 42-day leave and went to Cornwallis N.S. to complete his second class anti-aircraft training. In February 1945, at a dance in the base drill shed,

across the room, he someone caught his eye.

"I saw this cute little wren and asked her to dance," he said. "Men outnumbered women about a thousand to one and she said 'the next 10 are taken'. I said 'how about Saturday night?'"

Black and 19-year-old Muriel Dow, who had joined the Navy to be a writer only to be assigned work in the laundry, hit it off.

"He liked my jitterbugging," said Muriel. After a whirlwind courtship, the couple, were engaged in March and married in June.

Looking back, Bill Black considers the greatest lesson from his wartime experience came from the opportunity to meet and work closely with fellow Canadians, both francophone and anglophone.

The veteran pulls from his wallet now creased and dog-eared photos. For nearly 55 years he has carried with him a small picture of his then 19-year-old young wife and another shipboard photo of Black, fellow gunner Claude "Shorty" Taylor and gun loaders Jake Stewart and Bill Brew. From this bitter-sweet experience came a marriage of 55 years, as well as many lifelong friendships, including fellow gunner 'Shorty' Taylor whom they still visit in New Brunswick.

The Blacks are also members of the "White Ensign Club" comprised of ex-Navy vets. The annual reunion, held across Canada, took place, by coincidence, last year in Digby, N.S. There, after the reunion, the Blacks renewed their wedding vows in the chapel where they were married over a half-century before.



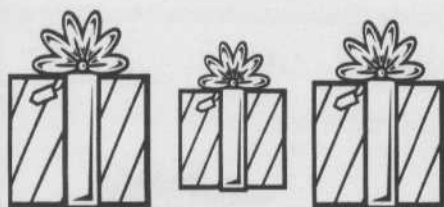
COURTESY BILL BLACK

Another photo Bill Black carries with him is one of his then 19-year-old wife Muriel.

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Something To Remember

The Bedford Scouts, Cubs and Beavers took part in Philipsburg Royal Canadian Legion's annual Remembrance Day parade and ceremonies on Sunday. Here, a young Beaver awaits her turn to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph in honour of those who served in service to their country.



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Bedford-Philipsburg Legion

Royal Canadian Legion Br. 82 will be having their annual Armistice Parade in Bedford and wreath laying ceremony. Fall in at 10:30 a.m. at Georges Perron Center. Everyone welcome!

Waterloo luncheon

The Ladies' Auxiliary, The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 77, 77 Lewis St., Waterloo, will hold their annual Remembrance Day Luncheon on Thursday, November 9, 2000 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The price will be \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 10. Everyone welcome!

Waterloo parade

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 77, 77 Lewis St., Waterloo, will hold a parade on Remembrance Day, Saturday, November 11, 2000 starting at 10:30 a.m. proceeding to the Cenotaph in front of the Post Office, where the laying of wreaths will be held. The 2 minute silence will take place at 11 a.m. The parade will return to the Legion after the ceremonies. We would like to see a good turnout of citizens to watch the parade and share in the ceremonies at the Cenotaph.

Cowansville parade

Remembrance Day parade on Saturday, November 11 at 10:15 a.m. The people of the community are invited to attend the ceremony. Royal Canadian Legion, 120 Davignon, Cowansville.

Knowlton Lions Club Remembrance Breakfast

In honor of our veterans at Knowlton Academy Sunday, November 12, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., all you can eat; pay what you think it's worth. The Cordes à Vent will entertain us. Come out and meet our Veterans and show them your appreciation. We have an awful lot to be thankful for. For more information call Maureen Johnston-Main at 243-6430.



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Remembrance Day

November 11

How we Remember

*They shall grow not old
as we that are left...*

We will remember them...

SATURDAY

November 11th, 1999

Fall in:

10:15 p.m.

Laying of wreaths:

11:00 a.m.

*Light lunch served at
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**Brome Branch 23
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• On Remembrance Day - November 11- at 11:00 a.m., we pause for "2 Minutes of Silence" to honour the men and women who served our country for the cause of freedom.

• We wear the poppy, which was adopted for symbolic purposes after the First World War, as a reminder of those who died fighting for peace.

• The Peacekeeping Monument

in Ottawa recognizes the service of Canadian Forces. It is the first monument of its kind in the world.

• The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial in Ottawa is a Government of Canada millennium initiative and represents our country's commitment to peace and freedom in the past, in the present and in the future.

guests-veterans.

• Plan a candlelight tribute to mark a special anniversary of a regiment, air force group or naval association in your community.

• Visit a veterans' or seniors' residence to talk to senior citizens about their lives and experiences during times of war.

• Hold a series of readings during the Week on books by or about veterans and the wars.

• Consult Veterans Affairs Canada's Web site regularly for news and information on Veterans' Week activities.

From the Government of Canada

BE PART OF THE ACTION

• Attend ceremonies at your local cenotaph or watch the national Remembrance Day services on television.

• Invite to your club, society or school - as speakers or as

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REMEMBRANCE DAY

WOMEN ROLL UP THEIR SLEEVES

• More than 3,000 women served as nursing sisters in the First World War. They were known as the "bluebirds" by the soldiers for whom they cared because of their blue cotton dresses and white veils. Women who worked with lumberjacks and loggers during the Second World War were called "lumberjills".

• In 1942, the ferry Caribou was torpedoed by a U-Boat in Cabot Strait killing the only female member of the Newfoundland Merchant Navy, Bride Fitzpatrick, and the only Canadian Nursing Sister, Agnes Wilkie, to die due to direct enemy action during the

Second World War.

SOME EXTRAORDINARY FAMILIES

• Mrs. Wood watched as eleven of her twelve sons left to serve in the First World War. Only two sons came back without any injuries. Known as Winnipeg's War Mother, Mrs. Wood received King George V's Silver Jubilee Medal (1935).

• Aboriginal veteran John McLeod served overseas in the First World War. Six of his sons and one of his daughters enlisted in the Second World War. Two sons gave their lives in battle and two others were wounded. John's wife, Mary, became the first Aboriginal woman to be named Canada's Silver Cross Mother.

CANADIAN HEROES

• Flying ace Billy Bishop was awarded the Victoria Cross and several other decorations for his daring exploits during the First World War. He is credited with shooting down 72 enemy planes.

• During the Second World War, Tommy Prince served in what was nicknamed by the enemy "the Devil's Brigade". In the 1950s, he served in Korea. In all, he received 11 medals and became one of the most decorated veterans of our time.

From the Government of Canada

My Grandpa Went to War

My Grandpa went to war.
He says it was hell on earth.
He was afraid
And he says he hopes and prays
there is an end to all wars.
My Grandpa hugs me tight.
My Grandpa came home.
Not all Grandpas did.

My Grandpa fought for democracy.
He saw his friends die for it
and he says peace is precious
and he says freedom is a joy to share.
My Grandpa loves me.
My Grandpa came home.
Not all Grandpas did.

*by Blanche Budd
Ingersoll, Ontario*

*From the
Government of Canada*

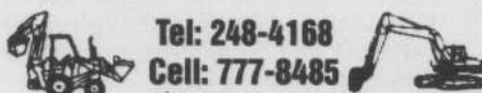
Did you know that.....?

• Winnie the Pooh dates back to the First World War when a young soldier from Winnipeg adopted a black bear cub that travelled with him overseas and was later left in the care of the London Zoo. It was at the zoo that A.A. Milne's son, Christopher Robin, befriended Winnie who inspired the popular children's books.

• John McCrae served as a brigade surgeon during the First World War. He took with him his horse, Bonfire, and sent his young nieces and nephews letters supposedly written by Bonfire and signed with a hoof print.

• When the HMCS Charlottetown fell victim to a U-Boat attack during the Battle of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, seaman John Garland went below to save the ship's mascot Screech - a dog to which he was devoted - and perished in the attempt.

From the Government of Canada

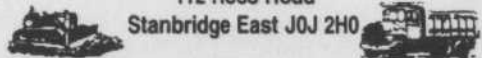


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Horror and humour for the stage

**Mandragore
founder
publishes
three plays
for teens**

By Caroline Kehne
RECORD CORRESPONDENT
SUTTON

Quebec drama teachers now have one more local work to add to their toolkit: Patrick David Campbell, founder of Sutton's Théâtre Mandragore, has published a collection of three original plays entitled "Grandir avec le théâtre" (ISBN 2-922488-15-2). The collection, published this year by JoLanne Press of Granby, provides teachers with the script, stage design and prop list necessary to bring the three plays to life.

For the 38-year-old Campbell, it is one more step in an unorthodox career in theatre.

Born in Bedford, Campbell started at a young age writing plays, penning his first work at age 11. After studies in theatre production at CEGEP in St-Hyacinthe, he pursued studies in screenwriting and radio-tele-



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Jack Skeleton and the denizens of Halloween Town plot to take over Christmas Town in Mandragore Theatre's stage adaptation of Tim Burton's *Nightmare Before Christmas*. Patrick Campbell's scenery is true to the dark, surreal imagery of Burton's film.

vision writing. In 1981, he won the Prix littéraire Marie-Claire Dauveluy and in 1981, formed Productions Mandragore.

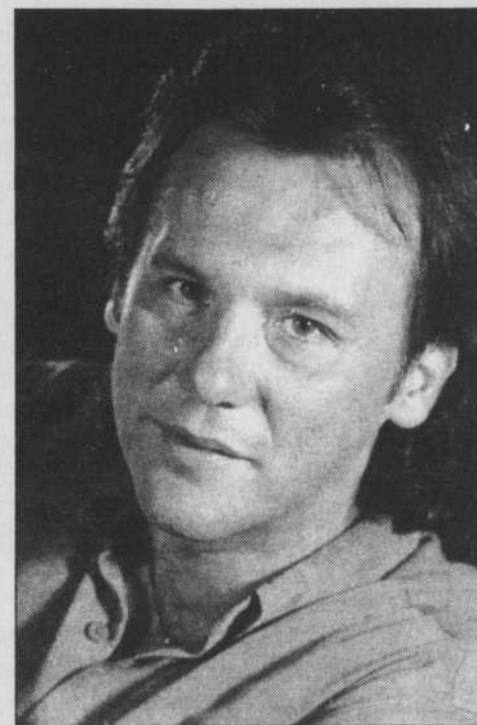
Over the last two decades he has worked as actor, producer, director and playwright, with 70 plays to his credit. His own company, Théâtre Mandragore, which moved from Brigham to its current location in Sutton, offers a prodigious menu of offerings throughout the year and incorporates local talent in all phases of production.

Still, that was not enough for the young impresario.

"It's hard to be taken seriously in theatre if you haven't published a play," he said speaking after a three-hour rehearsal of Mandragore's current production, *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. "Two years ago Johanne Lacroix came to my summer theater (then in Brigham). She approached me after a play and said 'I'd like to publish you'."

The attractive, softbound collection is designed for classes of students aged 12 and up. The purpose of the volume is, as Campbell writes in his foreword, "to give teachers, animators or teens the opportunity to work with a dramatic text with the participation of an entire group or class and to permit each student to interpret an interesting role which suits him."

The collection contains three plays: *Dracula*, *Beauté fatale* and *Ménage à*



COURTESY MANDRAGORE

Sutton playwright Patrick David Campbell, whose works are featured in "Grandir avec le théâtre," penned his first work at age 11.

trois. The first is Campbell's own retelling of the Bram Stoker classic.

The second, *Beauté fatale*, tells the story of eight beauty contest finalists who, in their final test, must live together in an ancient manor in England. As contestants begin to die, one by one, the audience must decide who is responsible in this tale of competition, fear and humour. The third story, *Ménage à trois*, tells of two CEGEP students, Josée and Michel, who decide to share an apartment. When Josée's mother appears, the couple decide to hide Michel, a decision that gives rise to surprises and complications in their attempts to hide the truth.

Now officially a published playwright, Campbell finds himself engaged in the marketing and promotion of his work in book shows across Quebec. He recently took part in the Salon du livre de l'Estrie at the University of Sherbrooke and will soon take part in its Montreal counterpart. Last weekend, he attended a conference of school boards where he peddled both his book and theatre workshops. Campbell added that a subsidiary of Groupe Quebecor, Québec-Livres, will soon be distributing his book to bookstores and libraries throughout the province.

"It's not easy for a (drama) coach to find a play to suit his class," said Campbell. His next project, he says, is to work on a book for primary school children.

.....

Remaining performances of *Nightmare Before Christmas* take place at Théâtre Mandragore on Fridays at 7 p.m. (Nov. 10 and 17), Saturdays at 7 p.m. (Nov. 11, 18) and Sunday at 2 p.m. (Nov. 12, and 19). For ticket information and reservations, call 538-0572.



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Jack Skeleton (Bill Jarand), the King of Halloween Town, is at last reunited with Sally the rag doll (Marie-Josée Samson).

Brome Lake resident remembers brutality of war

By Philip Godin
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

As part of this year's Remembrance Day events I recently had the undisputed honour of meeting with two WW II veterans, Frank Sixt and his wife Irene, Canadian snowbirds who spend their summer months in a modest house along the shores of Brome Lake.

Frank, a communications officer with the Second Canadian Corps Signals (telecommunications), witnessed the war from the European theatre, and helped repel the German invasion forces at Normandy. Irene was a nurse stationed at Canadian naval bases in Canada as part of the massive Allied medical initiative whose goal was to save as many lives as possible of those thousands of wounded soldiers that were being shipped back from Europe during the war years.

In 1929, Frank, a 9-year-old native of Saskatchewan, moved with his siblings to Montreal to meet up with his father who had been forced to leave the Prairies because of the poor economy. In 1940, a chance meeting with a major ended with him enlisting in the army at a pay rate of \$1 per day and, soon after, volunteering to join the Allied Forces in England.

"I was working for Imperial Oil at the time but they had told their employees that anyone serving overseas would be guaranteed a job upon return, so off I went," said Sixt.

Throughout the interview, Sixt sat quietly, visibly reviewing scenes from that period of time when man's inhumanity to man dominated the world's attention.

Sixt went from teaching signals to active duty on D-Day. No one who participated in the massive landing at Normandy could have escaped witnessing the sheer brutality of war first hand. But for Sixt, the invasion started one day early.

On the night before the invasion from the shores of England, Sixt's orders were for he and his men to send up an uninterrupted barrage of Morse code messages that the enemy would capture and attempt to decode. But the messages that he and his men were to send were to be nonsense, sentences with little or no real meaning, that would confuse and preoccupy the German interceptors.

"Dieppe had already happened by then and we learned that the Germans knew about all of our attack plans because they had been secretly intercepting our communications." In fact, the Germans had been expecting the invasion and lay waiting for the Allies who suffered tremendous casualties. This time, things would be different.

"We were at it all day and all night. We stayed up for 24 straight hours transmitting anything that we could come up with. Anything at all." But mixed into the melee were the real communications, secretly coded messages that the



PHILIP A. GODIN/CORRESPONDENT
Frank Sixt of the Second Canadian Corps Signals wearing the medals he earned in WW II.

Germans could not decipher. These real messages helped the Allied forces strike a winning blow the next day. Sixt himself took part in the D-Day invasion, jumping from a landing craft onto the beaches of Arromanche on July 2nd.

From time to time, Sixt would recount an anecdote, perhaps in an attempt to draw us both away from the grim reality of war.

"Once in Europe, my job was to establish and maintain communication lines along the front, so that command could coordinate troop movements. That meant having to locate and wake line-men from their sleep in the dead of night and send them off into the dark with orders to fix a line that had been severed. One can only imagine what these men encountered in their missions, knowing that the enemy had cut the lines and may be waiting in ambush for them.

"I remember one time that only the one signals officer returned from a mission, only a few minutes after leaving with his team. They had encountered fire and..."

And then there were his own close encounters. "Once we were busy setting up a line very near the front when we received a message that a line of German tanks were headed our way. The Germans had gotten wind that there was a British general in the area and they decided to try and capture him. There were only a

few of us, and we could hear the great rumbling from ahead, then we could hear the artillery firing in our direction. A few moments later, as we hid, a line of Panzers tanks went clanging by, just 200 meters from us, followed by German infantrymen. But they never saw us."

Like so other many soldiers, Sixt crossed through France, Holland, Belgium and Germany while pushing the enemy back. On good days, most of the travelling was on foot; on other days it was on hands and knees, virtually crawling.

Sixt had to endure the bombing of the city of Caen, the war's largest air strike in Europe. Later, he found himself in the small Dutch town of Wijchen a few days before Christmas. Sixt and his men were billeted in the house of the local landlord. The Canadian soldiers, some of the first to arrive in the area, were in the process of opening the parcels sent by relatives and friends back home when the Dutchman approached them with a request.

"He explained that ever since the Germans had invaded their country years before, they had been left with virtually nothing, and with Christmas just a few days away, he wondered if the soldiers could spare a few treats for the village children."

"Well, right away we got together and pooled our parcels which often included cookies, chocolates and the like, and put together a Christmas feast for all of the kids. You should have seen their faces! Oh my, were they ever excited!"

Sixt suddenly stood up from the table and reached for a small wooden hand-carved Dutch clog and a colourfully painted tile depicting the countryside of the town his troupe had been staying in.

"These," he said quietly, "are gifts that the townsfolk quickly made by hand, just in time for Christmas, and gave to us soldiers as the only thank-you that they could afford."

Sixt will be one of several veterans who will be participating in the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Knowlton Academy Cenotaph 11:00 a.m. next Saturday. Canadians of all ages are invited to join them in remembering and appreciating the contributions they made to securing the freedom we now all enjoy.

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Canadian Club enjoys fall tour to Megantic area

To be obliged to choose the date for a foliage trip three months in advance is no easy matter but the Canadian Club of the Yamaska Valley hit it right this year as they started out on October 4th when the leaves were truly showing off their most beautiful colours.

The group of enthusiastic travelers left from the usual places in Cowansville and Knowlton and headed off down the road out of Knowlton, past Sally's Pond, with the glorious reds and golds mirrored in the glassy water, and on through Bolton Pass, aflame with colour.

Phyllis Hamilton, the commentator, told us of how an early settler, Lester Ball, discovered this way through the Bolton Hills while he was setting a trap line in the year 1840. Soon after, a corduroy road was built through the pass and settlers could travel more easily if not more comfortably, on their way to Montreal or Stanstead. As we neared the village of Eastman we heard about its first settler, by the name of Darius Dingman, who brought his family to the area in the early 1820s and the settlement that grew was called Dingman's Flats. However, when the post office was opened here in 1865, a controversy over the name developed and Judge Samuel Foster suggested the village be called Eastman for a settler, Ezra Eastman, who was the first to clear land in the area and lived here from 1830-1857.

In the 1860s there were several copper mines operating in the area and Phyllis mentioned that many miners from Cornwall, England, were brought in to work these mines. When the mines closed in 1893, many stayed to work in the Eastman Lumber Company so their descendants still live in the region. The beautiful stained glass chancel window and the communion rails from the now demolished old Anglican church in Eastman are proudly displayed at the Brome

County museum in Knowlton. As we passed the site of one of the previous mines, Ken Hamilton explained the construction of the mine and how years ago he had been privileged to go down in this mine and view the tunnels which proceed under the road for a fair distance. The mine no longer operates but occasionally we see a greenish hue in the pavement of the highway and this due to the copper tilings in the gravel used for the road construction.

After traveling along the Eastern Townships' Autoroute, past the glorious showing of Mount Orford, we arrived at the city of Sherbrooke. As we traveled along, Phyllis recited the background history of the founding of the city of Sherbrooke. Originally referred to as Grand Forks, the settlement that started here was for a time known as Hyatt's Mills in honour of its first settler, Gilbert Hyatt, the son of a Loyalist, Abraham Hyatt, who arrived in 1793. Here a guide from the tourist bureau joined our group and expertly conducted us around the Old North Ward district, past the many beautiful old homes with their very distinctive architectural features and their background of early settlement history.

We visited the site of the Howard Gardens and marveled at the three impressive Anglo-Norman style, stone houses, built in 1920, and the beautifully designed landscaping with two large greenhouses, which had been the former home of Senator Charles Howard and given by him to the city of Sherbrooke in 1962. We stopped at the Frontenac Power Station which is where the Magog River pours through a deep gorge, tumbling over one waterfall after another for more than a kilometer before it joins with the St. Francis River flowing north to empty into the St. Lawrence at Sorel.

protestant churches, Plymouth Trinity United, the oldest church in Sherbrooke, built in 1851, and St. Peter's Anglican, with the unique wooden entry doors which depict St. Peter trying to walk across the Sea of Galilee. We continued along past the distinctive City Hall Building on our way to view the palace and site of the chapel of the archbishop of Sherbrooke, where many of the paintings by the famous Quebec artist, Osias Leduc, are displayed. Since we had only one hour for our visit to Sherbrooke, our guide, Mrs. Gail McFarlane, was able to give us only a bird's-eye view of the city but we were able to realize why it is known as 'the Queen of the Eastern Townships.'

Leaving Sherbrooke, we drove north east along the 'rue des ecosais' or 'Scotch Road', through places with names such as Lingwick, Stornoway, Nantes and on to Lake Megantic. Phyllis related the story of how the settlers, mainly from Scottish or Irish descent arrived in this territory in the early 1800s and of the terrible hardships encountered by them as they tried to carve out a life for themselves on this new frontier. We were also intrigued by the story of the Benedict Arnold Expedition of 1774, which started in Kennebunkport, Maine and struggled up the Kennebec and Arnold Rivers to Lake Megantic on their way to surprise the British forces at Quebec City. We also heard the story of Donald Morrison, known as the Megantic Outlaw and the tragic miscarriage of justice in his case. Our next stop was at a delightful restaurant called L'Aubergine in Lake Megantic. Here the group enjoyed a delicious meal and friendly service as they looked out over the beautiful lake and watched the white capped waves roll in.

The next part of the trip followed along the shore of the lake until we reached the village of La Patrie. The colours of the foliage were so vivid and the mountains to the south so spectacular that we all marvelled at the great beauty of this wonderful Canada that we so often take for granted. During the trip, Phyllis told us about the Astrolab on Mount Megantic, its construction in 1978, the choice of site, the cost, and the type of research done by it. Although, we couldn't travel up the winding road to view the site, we

learned a great deal about it so it seemed like first hand knowledge.

Cookshire, with the beautiful home of the late John Henry Pope was our next stop. It was built in 1880 on land owned by his father Col. John Pope, who had arrived in 1820 and was one of the Townships; earliest settlers in this area. John H. Pope was a member of parliament for this district from 1857-1889 and was one of the chief ministers in the Government of Sir John A. MacDonald. From here we drove by many Christmas tree farms and Phyllis explained the procedure for the care and harvesting and marketing of this crop which has become a very lucrative export for the area.

Our final destination was Lennoxville where we stopped at Bishop's University to visit St. Mark's Chapel. We were so pleased to have the Rev. Canon Heather Thompson escort us through the chapel and relate its interesting history to us. We were all fascinated by the extremely artistic wood carving of the interior furnishings and walls and by the wooden sculptures which grace the building. After bidding farewell with much appreciation to Heather, we slowly wound our way through the university campus and Phyllis pointed out the different buildings and the source of the name for each.

As we exited the university grounds we crossed over the Massawippi River and headed for the Eastern Townships Autoroute and home. It had been a wonderfully busy day with the scenery at its peak of colour, no rain and the weather comfortably cool. The trip ended with Evelyn Lewis extending the group's thanks to Phyllis and Ken Hamilton for a delightful foliage and historical tour and hopes for more similar adventures in the spring.

From the Pens of E.T. writers

Sometimes we are porpoises
Playing in the ocean
Loving with devotion
Riding waves of passion
Diving in the liquid of love
Sometimes we are eagles
Soaring above the madness
Flying on wings of gladness
Sailing on currents of desire
Reborn in the fire of love
Sometimes we are rabbits
Furry balls of lust
Doing what we must
Tumbling in fields of frenzy
Rolling in the bed of love.
Sometimes we are humans
Sticky slaves of need
Trying not to bleed
Wanting only to survive
Struggling in our time of love.
I want us to be children
Hearts full of trust
Souls without rust
Loving always with laughter
Growing in our lessons of love.

Sharyl Thompson

Brome County News salutes



H & R BLOCK

Linda Domingue is the new owner of H & R Block located at 350 Principale, Suite 120 in Cowansville. H & R Block is an Income Tax specialist and have been in Cowansville for 22 years. Linda has over 20 years experience in bookkeeping and is also a fully licensed Financial Advisor.

H & R Block now offers a bookkeeping service for small and mid-sized companies at reasonable rates, and can help you put together a financial plan for your future whether it be saving for a house, RRSP's for retirement or Life Insurance, Critical illness or Group Insurance as well. Linda has a dynamic team working to serve you to meet your financial objectives.

Linda has successfully completed her first year with H & R Block in Cowansville and would like to thank everyone for their patronage and looks forward to serving you in the coming season. You can reach Linda at 450-263-6405 for any questions you may have.

We passed the old Post Office, a beautiful Victorian building of stone construction, erected in 1885, which now houses the Sherbrooke Historical Society. Next door is another outstanding stone building, built in the Second Empire style with the typical Mansard roof and dormer windows. Previously serving as the first Eastern Townships' Bank, today it is the Fine Arts Building or Musée des Beaux-Arts de Sherbrooke. Further along on Dufferin Street are two interesting, old

Brome County Historical Society Fall Calvalcade

On Sunday, October 1st, The Brome County Historical Society and the Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists had a Fall Calvalcade to visit some of the monuments and buildings owned by the B.C.H.S.

Everyone met at the Centennial Building at 8:30 a.m. and set out for the first stop on our tour, The Gale Monument, located at the foot of Gale Mountain on Pierre Laporte Blvd., near West Shefford. Here, Dick Eldridge gave a brief history of Samuel Gale and his family, along with a report of the total restoration of the whole burial plot, which had fallen into total disarray over

the past years due to vandalism and weather deterioration.

From there, everyone moved on to Collins Monument at West Brome, where the scenery was totally overwhelming. Here we had to find our way through the corn field to get to the monument. Once there everyone found the view to be spectacular. Shirley Miltimore Wilson gave a brief history of Henry Collins and his connections to the Miltimores.

From here, we moved onto the Stagecoach Road Monument in Brome, which commemorates the first recorded use of this route in 1793, and went on to be-

come known as the Old Magog Road, and eventually Stagecoach Road.

Then it was onto the Tibbits Hill School House, just west of Knowlton, located at the 4 corners of Tibbits Hill Road and Center Road. This quaint little structure was built of square logs and was erected in 1827, but some records go back to 1812. The years of wear and tear have taken their toll on the old stone school house and in recent years it became evident that the building was badly in need of repair. So, surrounding residents organized a group calling themselves 'Friends of the Tibbits Hill School House' for the purpose of fund

raising. With the help of donations and volunteers, the old school house has been restored to its original state and still is the focal point at the crossroads.

After our tour was complete, we all headed back to the Centennial Building for a hearty meal of chili and hot dogs made by Dick and Suzanne Eldridge and Brian Allen, after which we feasted on delicious squares supplied by Shirley Wilson. This brought to an end a beautiful day that everyone totally enjoyed.

Lorna Rhicard
Granby

Loyalist Association enjoys interesting presentation

The Sir John Johnson Centennial Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada held their semi-annual meeting on October 15th at All Saints' Anglican Church in Dunham, Quebec.

The afternoon commenced with a chicken pie lunch served by the women of All Saints' church and attended by 40 members and friends of the Loyalist branch.

President, Richard Eldridge opened the meeting and after the presentation of the U.E.L. colours and the singing of "God Save the Queen", he welcomed visiting president of Little Forks branch, Beverly Loomis and her husband Milton, and president Robert Wilkins with his wife Moira from Heritage Branch in Montreal. A few moments of silence were then observed in memoriam for Don MacCallum, U.E. of Clarenceville and Iris Larocque, U.E. of Sutton, two members who had recently passed away and who will be sadly missed by their fellow members. The president then called on Louise Hall, U.E. to introduce the guest speaker, Kevin O'Donnell, from Tele-Quebec.

His presentation was taken from a program called Quebec Mosaic which is a series of five video programs designed to introduce pupils in the Quebec school system to geographic and economic backgrounds of different regions of Quebec. The series features the experiences of Quebec's English speaking community and aims to "bring the past alive" by basing each program on the adventures of real life historical figures. The branch members and friends were treated to viewing "The Eighth Wonder of the World: Building the Victoria Bridge".

This video told the story of the isola-

tion of Montreal in the winter months when the harbour was shut down from December to April each year. By the mid 19th century the Grand Trunk Railway provided communication between Sarnia, Ontario and Montreal on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River and from St. Lambert to Portland, Maine on the south side. However, crossing the river was the insurmountable problem.

A man by the name of John Young proposed the necessity of building a bridge across the St-Lawrence River in order to free the city from its frigid isolation, but this suggestion was rejected until 1852, when 2 engineers from Britain were finally hired to design the structure that became known as the Victoria Bridge. This monumental project was undertaken by 3,000 men who included Mohawk Indians, French Canadians, Irish immigrants and specialized iron workers from Britain. Of these men, 26 lost their lives in drowning accidents. Following unbelievable hardships and extremes of weather conditions, the bridge was finally completed and on Dec. 17, 1859, the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir George Etienne Cartier was present for the opening celebrations. Later, on August 25, 1869, the bridge was officially opened by Albert, Prince of Wales, and named in honour of his mother, Queen Victoria. At this time, the man in charge of the festivities was John Young who had first proposed the idea for crossing the mighty St. Lawrence River many years before.

The bridge has been remodelled several times since its inception but as one of the 22 bridges now crossing the river from the island of Montreal, it remains the first and most remarkable undertaking of its time. Phyllis Hamilton, U.E.

thanked the speaker for giving us a look at a fascinating bit of our history and presented him with the branch publication, "Loyalists of the Eastern Townships".

The business meeting followed and after the reading of minutes and reports from the treasurer and genealogist, Louise Hall reported that the Historical and Loyalist Appreciation Tour taken by the grade 5 students of Butler Elementary school of Bedford had stimulated great interest among the young people. These tours, sponsored by the branch will be continued in order to teach the youngsters about their loyalist heritage. Dick Eldridge explained the progress being made on the Sir John Johnson burial crypt restoration project on Mont St-Gregoire. The branch committee members continue to work with the members of the Societe de Restauration du Patrimoine Johnson in order to achieve the goal of restoring the tomb as an historical site.

Dick also reported on two very interesting calvalcades undertaken this summer by the branch members. The first one took place on July 14th with a group of members travelling to the site of the Austin monument at Gibraltar Point on Lake Memphremagog. This large engraved stone commemorates the first settlement in Bolton in 1782 by Nicholas Austin. Jean McCaw spoke about the arrival of Austin, a loyalist, who first settled the area and of the many difficulties he encountered in establishing his claim to the property. He died in 1821 and is buried on his beloved Gibraltar Point. Dick explained that the stone was moved from its original site on the point in 1993 and transported by a team of oxen hauling a wooden cart in the same manner as the

original placing of the stone. Following the visit to the Austin memorial, the group retired to the grounds of the Abbey at St-Benoit du Lac for a summer picnic.

The second calvalcade was held on October 1 and included a visit to the Gale monument, which the branch in conjunction with the Brome County Historical Society have recently restored. This grave site honours the memory of Loyalist Samuel Gale, who died in 1798. As secretary to Governor Prescott, Gale was responsible for many loyalist families being able to acquire their legal claims to land grants.

The next destination was the Collins Monument, commemorating Henry Collins, who erected the first house in Brome County in 1795. From Brome, the calvalcade continued on to Brome Corner to visit the Stagecoach Road Monument, whose inscription commemorates the first recorded use in 1793 of the Old Magog Road, or Stagecoach Road.

Finally, a stop at the Tibbitt's Hill stone school, built in 1844 on the site of an earlier schoolhouse. Here, two loyalist descendants and former school teachers, Louise Hall and Adelaide Lanktree, welcomed the visitors. All then proceeded to the museum in Knowlton where they enjoyed a hot lunch of chili and hot dogs prepared by branch members Dick Eldridge and Brian Allen.

The meeting closed with the retirement of the flag and singing of "O Canada".

The branch looks forward to another active and productive year as they promote a greater appreciation of our loyalist heritage.

Submitted by Phyllis Hamilton

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Golden Age Club news

WATERLOO

The regular meeting of the Waterloo Golden Age Club took place at the Legion Hall on Monday, October 23rd, at 1:30 p.m. It was a beautiful day, and the president welcomed a fine attendance.

Following the Lord's Prayer, a minute of silence was observed in memory of Hazel Tracey who recently passed away. Due to the absence of Rita McKerrell, no minutes of the previous meeting were read. Helen Ramsay gave the financial report. A pot luck supper at the Legion Hall was announced for Saturday evening.

Winners of the half and half drawing were Helen Ramsay and Fred Marsh. Winners of the special "Ten Diamonds" bid were Clara Boyd and Fred Marsh.

The Face in the Mirror

Dear Lord, I know I've failed you
Dear Lord, I know I've gone astray,
But I didn't know, how much sin
would show

Until I looked in the mirror to-day.

Dear Lord, it looked so bitter
Dear Lord, all love had gone away,
Lord please forgive, I don't want to live
Like the man in the mirror to-day.

Dear Lord, please forgive me
Dear Lord, from sin I'll turn away,
Lord I can't stand, to be like the man
That I saw in the mirror to-day.

Chorus

The face that I saw in the mirror
Was one, where sin still held sway,
Lord set me free, I don't want to be
Like that face in the mirror to-day.
Words and music

Russ Coates
South Bolton

Winners at 500 were as follows: Elvia Johnson, first; Doreen Gibbs, second; and Josie Curtiss, third. Winner at the games table was Barbara Bresee.

The meeting concluded with lunch being enjoyed by all.

Wilmur Davidson

Waterloo

Judy Arnott
539-2040

Approximately a dozen friends gathered with Dudley Fraser and Margaret Blake at Restaurant Les Saules in Valcourt on Sat. night, Oct. 21st. The occasion was to congratulate Dudley for having completed 33 treatments at a Montreal Hospital and to Margaret for being his chauffeur. Best wishes Dudley for a complete return to good health.

Mr. Tenny Hall of Montreal was in town for the weekend recently.

Mimi Round of New York state recently spent a couple of days in Waterloo and called on her mother, Gertrude Campbell at the Courville Home.

Birthday wishes

Happy 60th birthday Jean on November 7, 2000.

50th wedding anniversary
Open House

For Flo and Rodney Jenne

On November 11, 1 to 4 p.m. at the Town Hall, East Farnham. Best wishes only.

The Crossing

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Cut me out

Music Medley 2000 offered a lively variety



PHILIP A. GODIN/CORRESPONDENT

Lynne Hamilton offered surprising renditions of R&B hits with back-up singing provided by Brittany Albers, Lauren Baillie, Rachel Boule, Alyssa Campbell, Kristen Gauthier, Lisa Harvey, Fiona Hawthorne, Alizee Savaria and Katie Severs.

By Philip A. Godin
KNOWLTON

An evening of entertainment brought Knowlton Academy School to life last Saturday as elementary teacher Lynne Hamilton put together a lively variety of song and dance numbers for the enjoyment of young and old.

As a variation of the usual school musical theme, Music Medley 2000 was billed as a half-benefit and half-private show

that brought amateur and professional talents together on the same stage.

"It gives our kids a chance to shine onstage right beside adults. They are just so talented!" enthused organizer Hamilton.

Stage regulars included Robert Atyeo, Barry Dwyer and Joanne Watson. Hamilton also sang contemporary pop songs, accompanied by a group of nine Academy vocalists.

School staff, students, volun-

teers and the Parent's Committee joined forces to prepare the stage and gym for the event and to provide refreshments.

Secondary 5 student Erin Foster was in charge of the food table, a responsibility she took seriously: "I'm doing this because I like to organize things" she said proudly.

Hamilton is donating a portion of the proceeds to Knowlton Academy for percussion instruments for the school.

BRIEFS

Parent Drug Education Program starts today

A group designed to offer support and information to parents concerned about their adolescent's drug and alcohol use will be held at the CLSC.

It will consist of a series of six sessions that will start today at the CLSC in Cowansville.

The program objectives are:

- To meet others who may be experiencing similar difficulties in order to share knowledge, perceptions, fears and ways of handling problems.
- To identify indications of drugs abuse and look at prevention strategies.
- To discuss adolescent development.
- To improve communication skills.
- To look at personal values and habits with regard to drug use and how it affects our youth.

- To learn about legal rights and responsibilities.
- To feel more confident in our role as parent.

For registration and further information call: Isabelle from Pavillon Foster, Youth program (450) 266-2522, ext. 4415.

Jacques Jobin
CLSC Cowansville

Writer's workshop continues in Knowlton

Poet Judith Avinger, author of *The Empty Bowl*, will offer a four-week continuation of her writing workshop entitled "Illuminating the Ordinary" at Bishop's University Continuing Education Centre in Knowlton.

Back by popular demand, the winter session is again open to writers of all levels who wish to sharpen their skills in a supportive environment. No prior writing experience is necessary. The non-credit workshops will be held on four consecutive Fridays, Nov. 17 and 24 and Dec. 1 and 8 from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students are asked to come equipped with pencils, paper and a lunch.

To register, contact Louise Jamet at (450) 242-1518.

Correction

The Nov. 1 article on *L'Eveil*, the support for families and victims of mental imbalances incorrectly stated that its offices were based in Farnham.

L'Eveil's home office is located at the CLSC La Pommeraiie in Cowansville at 112 rue Sud. For information, contact them at 450-266-2522 extension 4413.

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