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Questions arise about treatment of leachate from Coventry, Vermont landfill

Meeting reveals that WET Test not performed at Newport wastewater treatment plant

By Ann Davidson

An alarm bell went off last month when the oversight committee for a landfill located on the edge of Black River in Coventry, Vermont found out that since 2009 the Newport wastewater treatment plant has not been conducting a Waste Extraction Test (WET) for the leachate that is being delivered from the Coventry landfill site.

A consultation with Brome-Missisquoi MP Denis Paradis, who is involved with the International Joint Commission on Trans-Border Water, resulted in learning that there could be a problem with the leachate being treated at the municipal wastewater treatment plant in Newport, Vermont. Paradis had been to Coventry to see the landfill operation there when he learned about the situation a few weeks ago. He has spoken to both senators Patrick Leahy and Bernie Sanders

about this and is hoping that investigation and necessary action will be taken. Canadian stakeholders in particular want assurance that the lake water is protected.

Further investigation on this matter resulted in information coming from the most recent meeting of the oversight committee for the landfill operation in Coventry held on February 13. According to Memphremagog Conservation Inc. (MCI) Executive Director Ariane Orjikh, members of the landfill oversight committee for New England Waste Services of Vermont Inc., a branch of Casella Waste Systems, Inc. the cross-border representation of key stakeholders found out that the wastewater treatment plant in Newport ceased conducting the WET Test in 2009. She said that all the stakeholders present at that meeting knew nothing about this situation. The biologist says that it was disclosed at the



COURTESY

New England Waste Services of Vermont Inc., a branch of Casella Waste Systems, located 200 feet away from the Black River that runs into Lake Memphremagog, delivers six to seven tanker truck loads of leachate to the Newport wastewater treatment plant on a daily basis.

meeting that from treating 7,000 gallons per day in 2009 the facility has upgraded to currently manage 15,000 gallons per day of leachate being treated in Newport. "They are alleged to have been waiting for two to three years for a permit to treat 30,000 gallons per day," Orjikh said.

Orjikh explained that leachate is a liquid that collects at the bottom of landfills after rainwater and runoff passes through the garbage collecting soluble and suspended solids. Because of the numerous contaminants leachate is generally viewed as carrying many toxins. According to Orjikh, there are so many toxins in leachate that they can't be singularly identified. In order to determine the level of general toxicity, a WET Test is meant to reveal its level of risk. "We use living samples to find out just how dangerous the leachate is," she said. "If 50 per cent of the living matter dies in the untreated leachate, we know that it is highly toxic. In Magog, we test before the leachate is treated as well as after. Our

concern is about what is being done on this front in Newport."

Paradis is concerned about the future for the lake that provides potable water for over 200,000 people and for the water table. "We know that the water at the Newport end of the lake is already not drinkable. We want to make sure that the rest of the lake does not get contaminated." He says the uncertainty of how long the liner in the landfill will last is an issue. If there would be a break in the linings the leachate would seep into the water table as well as the springs and stream that lead to the lake.

Pedro Grondin has been the main operator of the Newport wastewater treatment plant in for about a year-and-a-half but says he has worked at the facility for 13 years. He says that he knows nothing about a WET Test ever being implemented at the facility. He also said that he had never heard of the WET Test until after the February 13 meeting of the

CONT'D ON PAGE 5

Local dairy farms get boost from federal government

By Ann Davidson



ANN DAVIDSON

Denis Paradis with a young farmhand chat inside the dairy barn at Ferme Missiska in Saint-Armand.

Denis Paradis, MP for the federal riding of Brome-Missisquoi, and his team were on tour again last Friday to deliver cheques on behalf of federal Agricultural Minister Lawrence MacAulay. These grants, totalling \$121,195.53 come from the Dairy Farm Investment Program and have been allocated for each of the five recipients to support the cost of necessary upgraded equipment.

Ferme Magolait in Magog received \$27,804 for a new automatic feeding

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Brome County Community Bulletin Board

March 20

Tuesday, March 20. Kayla's women under 40 **"Meditation for Beginners with Jen"** 6 p.m. Meditate and allow your mind a moment of peace. *Free.* Avante Women's Centre, 15 rue du Pont, Bedford, 450-248-0530, avanteoutreach@outlook.com.

March 21

Wednesday, March 21, Traveling with Nancy **"Cruising to Panama"** 6 p.m. *Free!* Avante Women's Centre, 15 rue du Pont, Bedford, 450-248-0530, avantenancy@bellnet.ca.

March 22

Thursday, March 22, **"Sewing string quilt blocks"** 3-5 p.m. Learn your machine and create colorful blocks for a fundraising quilt (all levels welcome). *Free!* Avante Women's Centre, 15 rue du Pont, Bedford, 450-248-0530, avantegayl@bellnet.ca.

March 22

Local artisans featuring handmade wood signs, mosaic art, signed palette paintings, Easter craft supplies, crocheted baby gifts, spice racks, coat racks, and shelves from reclaimed barn wood, and much much more. Every Thursday and Friday afternoon and weekends, 3786 rue Principale Dunham. Facebook [@marchedesartisanatsdunham](https://www.facebook.com/marchedesartisanatsdunham). Thank you for supporting local artisans!

March 24

Caregivers' Café: Getting Enough Sleep? The speaker at this meeting, kinesiologist Catherine St-Pierre, who is also a life coach and personal trainer, will be focusing on the importance of sleep for caregivers and suggesting ways to improve it. 10 a.m. to noon at St. Paul's Church, 24 St. Paul's Road, Knowlton. All are welcome. Caregivers' Café provides an opportunity to come together monthly to exchange resources and learn from each other. For further information go to [facebook.com/caregiverscafeknowlton](https://www.facebook.com/caregiverscafeknowlton) or e-mail mycaregiverscafe@gmail.com.

March 24

Brome County Museum's special exhibit **"Stitches in Time"** featuring our quilt collection. Opens in the Centennial Building (130 Lakeside, Knowlton) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. *Free.* 450-243-6782 or bromemuseum.com.

March 24

Benefit concert for La Maison Au Diapason. Saturday March 24 at 7:30 p.m. Auberge Lakeview, 50 Victoria, Knowlton. Musical guests Sarah Biggs, Deja Two, Daniel Hache of Soul Wood, and Kitchen Jam. Door prizes! Tickets \$20 per person. Tickets available at Belles Choses and Brome Lake Books. For information: 450-531-9186.

March 24

Country dance with variety at Trinity Anglican Church, 409 South St., Cowansville. Saturday March 24 from 7 to 11 p.m. Music by Jimmy Edwards Country Folks Band. Door Prizes, 50-50 drawing. Support the church and food bank. Donation: \$8. Canteen on premises.

March 24

The Sutton winter market opens every weekend (Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) offering food (mostly locally produced), antiques, handcrafts, etc. 35 Principale South, Sutton. For info 450-538-1594 or hersan1904@gmail.com.

March 24

Legion 99 Cowansville 120, Blvd. Davignon, **cribbage tournament**, Saturday, March 24. \$6 registration begins at 12:30, to start at 1:15 p.m. 450-263-3543. Everyone welcome!

March 25

Legion 99 Cowansville 120, Blvd. Davignon, **breakfast**, March 25, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$8 per person

March 26

Monday, March 26, Kayla's women under 40 **"Women are Awesome Quiz"** 12:30-2:30 p.m. A jeopardy-style game about women in history. *Free!* Brome Lac Community centre, 270, rue Victoria, Knowlton. avanteoutreach@outlook.com

March 27

Tuesday, March 27, Kayla's women under 40 **"The Great Debate"** 6 p.m. Debating a fun topic while learning to get your points across! *Free!* Brome Lac Community Centre, 270 rue Victoria, Knowlton. avanteoutreach@outlook.com

April 7

Township Toddlers annual benefit celebrating 25 years! Saturday, April 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. Roast beef and pork BBQ. \$15/person, \$8 for 7-12 yrs. and 6 yrs. and under free. Auction to follow. Dance with Smokin Country and friends, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$5/person. Salle des Chevaliers de Colomb 224, rue Christophe Colomb, Cowansville. All profits go to purchase equipment at the Montreal Childrens and Community. Reservations (Ross) 450-266-1716 or (Hall) 450-263-5080.

April 8

Twelfth annual Parish of Brome **sugar on snow outreach fundraiser** Sunday, April 8. Holy Trinity Church hall, Iron Hill. Admission \$7 for adults, \$4 for kids 10 and under. Admission includes taffy, sleigh rides, petting zoo, and coffee and doughnuts. From noon to 3 p.m. Canteen on site. Music with Ralph Steiner. Information Judy: 450-263-3025; Doug 450-263-2579; Val 450-204-7285.

April 26

Sunshine House Mansonville invites you to our **annual general meeting**, Thursday April 26 at 6 p.m. at the Mansonville Baptist Church, 84 West Hill, corner Rte. 243 in Mansonville (Potton). Refreshments will be served at the end of the evening. Please RSVP to Lucette Field at 450-292-5058.

CHURCH BULLETINS

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH – DUNHAM

Sunday services at 10 a.m. – all welcome! The Reverend Sinpoh Han. Information: 450-295-2045.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME

Services are at 9 a.m. First Sunday of the month – Holy Trinity, Iron Hill; second Sunday of the month – St. John the Evangelist, Brome; third Sunday of the month – Church of the Ascension, West Brome; fourth Sunday of the month – St. Aidan, Sutton Junction. Canon Tim Smart, rector. Information: 450-538-8108.

BEDFORD PASTORAL CHARGE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

You are warmly welcomed to join us each Sunday for an uplifting spiritual experience. We welcome you and your ideas as we provide a safe place where individually we seek out a greater purpose for our lives. Every Sunday at 10 a.m. join our community in either Bedford, Stanbridge East, or Mystic. Services in Bedford and Stanbridge East are followed by coffee and snacks. The address for each church can be found on our website: bedfordpastoral.org. For more information please contact Wendy Near at the church office on Thursday and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m. by phone 450-248-3044 or call 450-248-2739, or by email at Bedford.pastoral@yahoo.ca.

CALVARY UNITED CHURCH SUTTON

A warm welcome awaits you at our Sunday worship service in Sutton at Grace Anglican Church at 9 a.m. followed by a coffee hour at 10 a.m. in the church hall. Information: 450-538-0530.

COWANSVILLE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Cowansville Community Baptist Church meets Sundays at 10 a.m., 137 rue John, Cowansville. Everyone is welcome.

CREEK/WATERLOO PASTORAL CHARGE

Palm Sunday, March 25 – worship and music: Creek United, 278 Brill Rd., West Bolton service and Sunday school at 9 a.m.; St. Paul's United, 4929 Foster, Waterloo service at 10:30 a.m. Reverend Dave Lambie, minister. For information or to leave a message call: 450-539-2129.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Come together for a thoughtful and spiritual experience and give yourself a good start to the week. Sunday worship is at 203 rue Principale, Cowansville, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school is every third Sunday of the month. We serve the United Church communities of Brigham, East Farnham, Farnham, and Cowansville...but really anyone can find a home here. Give it a try and sample a Sunday. Wheelchair accessible. Worship leader: Virginia Wallace. Church office: 450-263-0204. Website: emmanuelcowansville.ca.

ÉGLISE CATHOLIQUE ST. ÉDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

366 Knowlton Road, Knowlton. You are invited to participate in a bilingual mass Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Christian meditation is now on Wednesday afternoons 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (side door). The group is now bilingual and has been formed to introduce meditation to newcomers. We welcome beginners and experienced meditators. Regular attendance not required. Information, call Linda Spear: 450-538-2506.

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

52 Principale sud, Sutton, welcomes everyone for Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. All welcome. Canon Tim Smart, rector. Information: 450-538-8108 or visit our website at www.gracechurchsutton.org.

GRANBY UNITED CHURCH

Where God Unites all Children. Be a part of the family. 101 rue Principale, Granby. Please call 450-372-1417 for information and to confirm time of our services. guc-eug@bellnet.ca.

KNOWLTON-MOUNTAIN VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE

Serving the regions of Knowlton, Bolton Centre, Mansonville, and Vale Perkins. Worship service at 11 a.m. at Knowlton United Church, 234 Knowlton Road (450-243-6078). A warm welcome is extended to all. Handicapped access available. Should you require the services of the minister, please contact the Rev. Steve Lawson at 450-242-1993.

LIVING HOPE CENTER

Living Hope Center, a full gospel church, meets on Sundays at 10 a.m. at 101 Albert Street, suite 1000 (under Uniprix) in Cowansville. For more information call pastor Tony Farrugia at 450-295-3573. Come and worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us.

ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH

St. James Anglican Church – please note: Palm Sunday service will be cancelled for March 25.

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

130 Principale, Granby, welcomes

Pickleball Lac Brome a growing sensation

New sport draws much attention to TBL and beyond

By Ann Davidson

It's said that pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in North America and thanks to a few enthusiastic players like Susan McGuinness, Jean-Martin Verreault, JoAnn Kay, Rena Halickman, and Janet Gibbons, it has become a popular activity for almost 50 individuals who come out to play on a weekly basis in Knowlton.

Since last August when the small group registered the club with the Quebec government and established the club's objectives and goals for the growing membership, the sport has been gaining momentum. Eight months later there is consideration that it may become associated with the Quebec Federation of pickleball.

Thanks to André Boudreau, coordinator of programs at TBL Community Ser-

vices, the group was permitted to set up three pickleball courts at the Lions' Park over the summer months last year. The challenge, however, was to find a place to play over the winter. McGuinness says that it's thanks to Benoit Ratte at Tennis Lac-Brome that they were able to secure a spot for Club de Pickleball Lac-Brome players two evenings a week.

For those wondering what this is about, it is not a pickle nor is it about a kitchen, even though players are not supposed to hit the ball if it goes in the kitchen. It is a relatively new form racket game that was created and initiated by Joel Pritchard, Barney McCallum, and Bill Bell in 1965 at Bainbridge Island near Seattle, Washington. The name "Pickle" is after Pritchard's cocker spaniel who loved to catch the



ANN DAVIDSON

CONT'D ON PAGE 8

Michel Bolduc and Beverly Quilliams were paired for a game during a round robin series at a regularly scheduled pickleball event held at Tennis Lac-Brome in Knowlton.

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ANN DAVIDSON

Susan McGuinness of Knowlton explains to members of the Pickleball Lac-Brome Club who is playing with whom during a recent round robin series held at Tennis Lac-Brome.

Church Bulletins

CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

everyone for Sunday service at 11 a.m. All welcome. Bienvenue a tous. Reverend Richard Gauthier, rector. Information: 450-372-2197.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

24 St. Paul's Road, Knowlton. St. Paul's — a dynamic, diverse community pursuing and serving Jesus in the Eastern Townships. 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services (traditional, contemporary and modern music and format). Please check out our new website: www.stpaulsknowlton.ca. Messy Church every third Wednesday of the month from 5 to 7 p.m. Everyone welcome! Tele-

phone: 450-242-2885. St. Paul's Anglican Church Easter services 2018: Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday 8 and 10 a.m.; Thursday, March 29 Maundy Thursday; 7 p.m.; Friday, March 30 Good Friday, 11 a.m.; Sunday, April 1, Easter Sunday, 8 and 10 a.m.

TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

409 South Street, Cowansville. All Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. Come and join us as we endeavor to learn and practice God's loving will. We'd love to welcome you. Reverend George Campbell. Information: 450-955-3325 (leave message).

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ABOUT TOWNSHIPERS'

Legal clinic at Townshippers' wrap-up

Townshippers' Association's annual legal information clinic is wrapping up for the season on Thursday, April 5. We'd like to extend our thanks to the Université de Sherbrooke's Law Faculty for their continued collaboration in offering this free clinic to our community members. Our clinic volunteers Laura Pronovost and Sasha Munizaga, we wish you both all the best as you prepare to take your exams!

The clinic will return in fall 2018 with the schedule posted at www.Townshippers.org/Legalinfo.

Learning about the end of life process

L'Équipe d'Accompagnement Au Diapason is once again offering a two-day seminar in English on palliative care. This seminar is intended for anyone who wants to learn more about how to accompany a loved one coping with cancer or any other terminal illness, caregivers, people going through the process of grief, or anyone who has an interest in learning about palliative care.

Five themes will be covered during the seminar: better understanding the impact of an illness, as well as the end of life process; physical, psychological, social, and spiritual needs of the patient and loved ones; palliative care philosophy; myths that surround this important stage of life; and finally, bereavement.

The seminars takes place Saturday, April 14 and April 21 from 8:30 a.m. to

4:45 p.m. at La Maison Au Diapason, 50 rue Au Diapason in Bromont. The cost for the two days is \$90. Those who have previously taken the seminar report that the cost is more than reasonable and that their lives have been enriched by the experience.

Spaces are limited so register soon by sending payment [cheques] to Équipe d'accompagnement Au Diapason, 50, du Diapason, Bromont, Qc., J2L 0G1, ATTN: Stéphanie Laforest.

For further information or registration, please contact Thérèse Savoie at tsavoie@audiapason.org, or call 450-372-4752.

Video/written essay challenge for high school seniors

High school seniors, enter this year's Excel in the Estrie challenge for a chance to be published and earn a \$500 bursary – money that could make your post-secondary studies a little easier on your bank account.

Until April 20, Make Way For YOUTH Estrie, a Townshippers' project, is accepting written essays of 500 words or video essays under three minutes. We want to hear your responses to the two parts of the challenge: (1) stories overcoming obstacles on the way to graduation (or identify an obstacle facing others and a solution) and (2) tell us how you picture your future in the region.

For full details or to enter, visit www.Townshippers.org/Essay.



TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

The legal information clinic is closing for the season, which means it's time to say good-bye to Laura Pronovost and Sasha Munizaga our hardworking volunteering law students from the Université de Sherbrooke. We wish them both all the best in their future careers. The clinic will return in autumn 2018.

Keep reading this column in the *Brome County News* for more from Townshippers' Association. Follow @Townshippers on Twitter, [Facebook.com/Townshippers](https://www.facebook.com/Townshippers) or visit www.Townshippers.org for activities and other information. Connect with Town-

shippers' in Lac-Brome at 3-584 Knowlton Rd, 450-242-4421, toll-free: 1-877-242-4421 or in Sherbrooke at 100 - 257 Queen, 819-566-5717, toll-free: 1-866-566-5717.

The Knowlton Lions support the Brome County Historical Society



At a recent meeting the members of the Knowlton Lions Club agreed to give a contribution of \$1,000 to the Brome County Historical Society (BCHS). Incorporated in 1898, the society's objectives are to preserve the past

for future generations. The board, volunteers and staff are to be commended for their excellent work.

The local Lions Club has been a regular supporter of the institution over its 60 years of service to the community.

At the cheque presentation, from left to right Beverly De Winter and April Wisdom, members of the Knowlton Lions Club, Donald Gray-Donald, president of the BCHS board, and Arlene Royea, managing director BCHS.

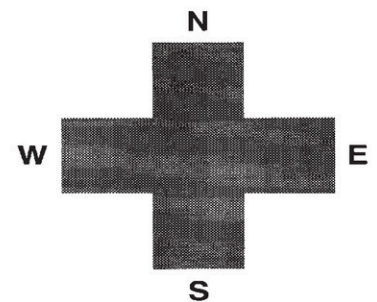
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BCN RATES & DEADLINES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Brome County News Community Calendar is reserved for non-profit organizations only. **Deadline is noon on Fridays.** Must be pre-paid. Up to 40 words: \$8, 41-70 words: \$12, 71-100 words: \$15, all prices include taxes. **Special rates:** \$2 off for 2 insertions, 1 BCN and 1 in the Friday Record "What's On" section. Please forward notices to 5-b Victoria St., Knowlton, QC J0E 1V0, email: bcnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Questions arise

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1



The Newport wastewater treatment plant sits on the Clyde River, which empties into Lake Memphremagog in Newport, Vermont and treats 15,000 gallons of leachate daily from the Vermont state landfill site at Coventry.

Coventry landfill oversight committee meeting. He explained that he does weekly tests of the water that is being released from the plant into Lake Memphremagog. Amongst the numerous tests he mentioned are the Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD), the Total Suspended Solids (TSS), temperature, PO4 tests for phosphorous toxicity, and the Ph tests to determine the levels of acidity or alkalinity. Admitting that he is not a scientist, he is not sure that results of a WET Test would have any correlation to the results of those that he conducts. He deferred that question to the State Department of Environmental Conservation to gain clarity.

On the subject of receiving more leachate from the Coventry landfill as it expands its capacity, Grondin is adamant that the Newport facility is at maximum capacity and simply could not take any more than is being delivered without a major extension of the existing facility. He is certain that this is a non-issue, adding that Montpelier and Burlington also treat the leachate that is

coming from the Coventry landfill operation. Although Orjikh said that she had heard that the city is seeking a new permit that would allow the plant to treat double the amount of leachate, Grondin is not aware of this and doubts that this is true. He suggests that the expansion of waste management is an issue of Casella.

Grondin, understanding why Canadians would have concerned about maintaining clean water, is open to showing officials around the plant. He emphasized that the city of Newport is doing everything possible to ensure the health of the water in the lake within the regulations outlined by the State Department of Environmental Conservation and that the results of all the tests that are undertaken from the facility are demonstrating safe water being released into the lake.

At time of publication neither the Vermont State Department of Environmental Conservation nor Casella have responded to our phone calls.

Local dairy farms

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

system, while Ferme Perrochon et Fils in Farnham got \$39,519 to upgrade its barn. Ferme Jean Pelletier et Fils in St. Armand was issued \$39,219 for the installation of a mixer. Another farm in Saint-Armand, Ferme Missiska 2014 got \$4,048 for equipment to comfort their

cows. Paradis and his team also visited Ferme du Grand-Clos, S.E.N.C. in St-Ignace-de-Stanbridge where they gave \$10,604 for the installation of a parasitic voltage control system that will improve the animals' environment.



ANN DAVIDSON

Denis Paradis and his team toured the riding last Friday to issue grants on behalf of Agricultural Minister Lawrence MacAulay. Left to right, Julien Lavallée (executive assistant in Ottawa), Amelie Cantin (Magog office), Guillaume Houde (communications assistant), Paradis, Nathalie Provencher (Bedford office), and Johanne Gauvin (Cowansville office).

101

Math solves problems

- You have 9 teenage boys and a few seconds to divide a pizza equally. Too late.

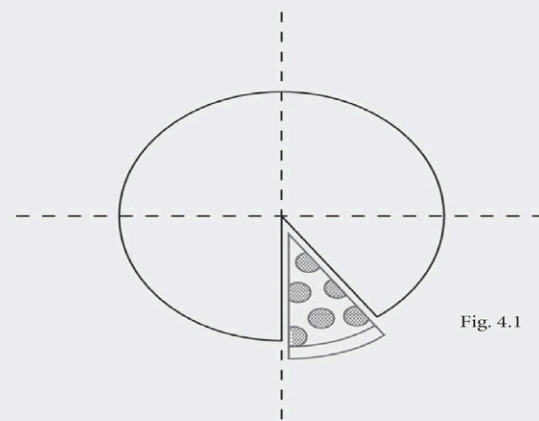


Fig. 4.1



> For millions of Canadians, easy as 1-2-3 isn't. If you need help with everyday math, visit mathliteracy.ca or call 1-800-303-1004.

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Ralf (Bushy) Bushenbaum



Pet Of The Week — Cleopatra



John Little, 7500\$, Feb 2018

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Hello! I am a 3-year-old girl who has already had a litter or two of puppies. Well, I have been all fixed up now, so no more kids to worry about, just busy trying to find a new home! My master died, so here I am! My fur is all chocolate brown and curly, curly. They say I am a Chesapeake Bay retriever — that's a long name for just a regular old dog like me! I'm nice and friendly and easy going.

Come and visit. Maybe I'm your sort of dog — I do hope to find a new home soon. Lots and lots of other dogs and cats live here with me at the SPCA Montérégie, 178, ch. du Vide, Ste-Angèle-de-Monnoir (exit 37 on autoroute 10).

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Home base karaoke stars at Massey-Vanier



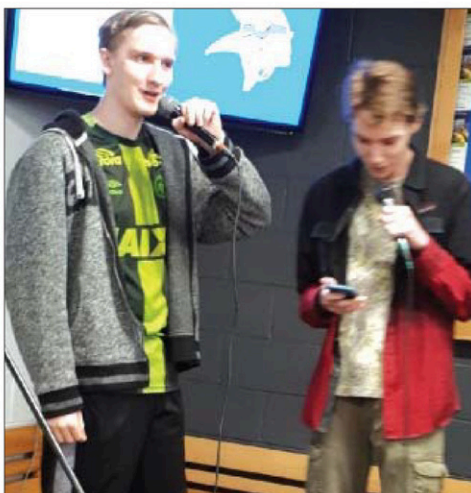
PAULINE SORNBERGER

Joseph, Harmony, and Christopher sang their hearts out last Friday at Massey-Vanier.

By Louise Smith

On Friday, March 16, there was quite a bit of green being worn about campus for St. Patrick's Day. But that wasn't the only thing that was special about the day. At lunchtime the students from Home Base sang karaoke in the lobby area outside of the main office. Most of these students are usually quite shy, but in pairs and trios, they sang their hearts out, entertaining all those around them. There was even free popcorn to top off the entertainment.

The staff of Home Base and the administration of Massey-Vanier were impressed with the level of participation of the students and the ease with which they tackled the songs on the screen. Bravo to all of those involved!



LOUISE SMITH

Thomas and Hemryed entertained everyone in the lobby at Massey-Vanier.



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Delayed spring! Where oh where are the signs of spring?

The only green this past week was what people were wearing for St. Patrick's Day! Let's hope as "official spring" arrives this Tuesday, that spring grass is not far behind. In three months' time it will be the middle of June!



PHOTOS BY LOUISE SMITH

It seems like it will be forever before sitting outside in the sun will be an option.



The Nesbitt House in Cowansville looked like it was captured inside a giant snow globe!



The trees were heavily laden with the fallen snow.

Canadians see possible signal U.S. ready to accept NAFTA compromise

By Joan Bryden
THE CANADIAN PRESS

American trade officials are showing newfound interest in a Canadian proposal for revamping NAFTA's automotive provisions as the U.S. seeks to swiftly conclude renegotiations of the continental free trade pact.

And that's being taken in

some quarters as a sign that the U.S. may realize it will have to settle for making only modest progress on a handful of American demands if there's to be any hope of concluding a deal within the next few weeks.

At the conclusion of the last round of negotiations in Mexico earlier this month, U.S. Trade Representative Robert

Lighthizer said "time is running very short" to get a deal before "political headwinds" — Mexico's presidential election in July, American midterms in November and provincial elections in Ontario and Quebec — start to complicate matters.

For the first time, Lighthizer made public his hope of completing a NAFTA deal — including the legally required six-month congressional consul-

tation period and ratification vote — before a new Congress gets sworn in next January.

That would mean reaching a deal with Canada and Mexico during or very soon after the next round of talks, which have not yet been officially scheduled but are expected to start on April 8 in Washington and last at least 10 days.

Canadian government officials are privately skeptical that a deal can be concluded at such a breakneck pace, particularly since Mexico's presidential campaign officially kicks off at the end of this month and no candidate can afford to be perceived as conceding anything to U.S. President Donald Trump, who is political kryptonite in that country.

They believe the only way it can happen is if the U.S.

drops many of its controversial demands and accepts modest changes in just a few key areas — in particular on automobiles, which Canadian officials have believed from the outset would be the key to a successful renegotiation.

Lighthizer himself listed autos earlier this month as one of three priorities for the U.S.

Flavio Volpe, president of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association, concurs with the Canadian assessment.

"I would agree with all of that," he said in an interview.

And the fact that USTR officials finally agreed to meet with him two weeks ago leads Volpe to suspect that they may have come to the same conclusion.

"That was a good meeting. It gave me hope," he said, noting that U.S. trade officials had not

CONT'D ON PAGE 9

Pickleball Lac Brome

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

perforated ball. It requires volleying a ball between one side of a net and the other with something that looks somewhat like a ping pong paddle. It's a game that all ages can play, according to McGuinness. She has been playing the game for years and even though she is passionate about a few other sports, she swears that pickleball is her absolute favourite. She claims that she has more fun playing this game than doing anything else.

"By playing round robin we get to have lots of different partners because we are constantly switching up with each other. It's a great way to get to know everyone," she said. At this point most of the enrolled individuals are adults but she is hoping that it will catch on with the younger generation.

Ideally, the group would love to have a permanent home with its own designated courts to play on. For now, each time they play they must lay out their own specific boundary lines and lower the existing tennis nets to regulation height for pickleball. "There was a lot of brainstorming in many

meetings to figure out the required measurements for a pickleball court, which is the same size as a badminton court. We had to determine how we could put lines down in Tennis Lac Brome tennis court. We purchased the material and had the material cut into the outside lines, center line and kitchen line for the four courts," explained McGuinness, who is has been an avid player since living on the west coast of Canada. The plan for now is to continue playing at Tennis Lac-Brome until the end of March. As soon as the weather permits the group can begin again with access to outdoor pickleball courts at the Lions' Park with morning sessions Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday and evenings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Verreault has created a Facebook page in order to post information on activities and to help get word out to members and individuals interested in joining. For more information, "like" the Facebook page (Pickleball Lac Brome) and follow along, and, if you would like to be a member, email club.pickleball.lac.brome@gmail.com.





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Police divers enter river in search of missing Montreal boy

By Peter Rakobowchuk
THE CANADIAN PRESS

The search for a missing Montreal boy moved into the frigid waters of a river on Monday as divers took turns plunging in the hope of finding clues in the disappearance of 10-year-old Ariel Jeffrey Kouakou.

It was the first day divers had entered the Riviere des Prairies since the boy left home March 12 and disappeared while walking to a friend's house.

Montreal police Sgt. Manuel Couture said the divers were searching close to the shore and checking for places where a body might be stuck — but that it was a difficult task.

"There's ice and snow that's blocking the light, so the divers can see about three feet — not more — in front of them," he said in an interview.

Couture also noted that because of the freezing waters, the divers' vital signs were constantly being checked.

"We have to be in constant communication with them in order to make sure they are all right," he added.

Couture said the divers could spend only about 35 minutes at a time in the river.

"When it's freezing water like that it's more demanding for the body so you have to breathe more often and it reduces the oxygen you have in your (air) bottle," he said.

The police spokesman said there was nothing to lead investigators to believe Kouakou may have drowned in the river, stressing "it's another part of the investigation."

He noted that officers last week went door to door, searched backyards and used horses, the canine unit, all-terrain vehicles and a helicopter to comb the Ahuntsic-Cartierville neighbourhood where the boy was last seen.

Kouakou's father has told reporters he's convinced his son was abducted.

He has also asked police to reinstate the Amber Alert which was issued last Tuesday and withdrawn later that day.

But Couture says they are not there yet.

"It's going to be all up to the investigators, he said.

"They're working 24-7, they're working real hard, looking at videotapes, they've talked to a lot of people and, right now, they're with the divers and looking at all the possibilities."

Police said they decided to lift the alert because the criteria to maintain it were no longer being met.

Meanwhile, authorities say they have received nearly 250 tips from the public since the boy disappeared.

Canadian boxer Adonis Stevenson is donating \$15,000 to the boy's family, who had already announced a \$10,000 reward to anyone who helps find their son.

Canadians see possible signal

CONT'D FROM PAGE 8

accepted an invitation to meet with him during the first six months of the negotiations.

"If you look at the fact USTR was willing to receive me in Washington for a real meeting, it is the best signal to me that we could be in a phase where we get over the hump."

In the meeting, Volpe said the Americans reiterated their opening demand — that vehicles must have 85 per cent North American content and 50 per cent American content to be eligible for duty-free movement across the three countries, up from the current NAFTA requirement of 62.5 per cent North American content — which has been rejected as a non-starter by Canada, Mexico and the industry.

But he said they were also "intellectu-

ally curious" about Canada's counter-proposal.

Canada has proposed that NAFTA's list of traceable components that go into cars and trucks be updated to include not just things like steel, aluminum and plastics but also intellectual property — like the software behind the computerized parts that are now integral to most vehicles and destined to become even more so as the industry embarks on an era of self-driving automobiles.

That would favour the U.S., Volpe said, because of the concentration of high-tech electronics clusters in that country.

When Canada first put its proposal on the NAFTA table back in late January, Lighthizer rejected it, predicting it would lead to more Asian content in vehicles — precisely the opposite of what

the U.S. was trying to achieve.

But Jerry Dias, president of Unifor, the union that represents Canadian auto workers, said his read is that the proposal "wasn't offensive to anybody" and that all three countries could live with it.

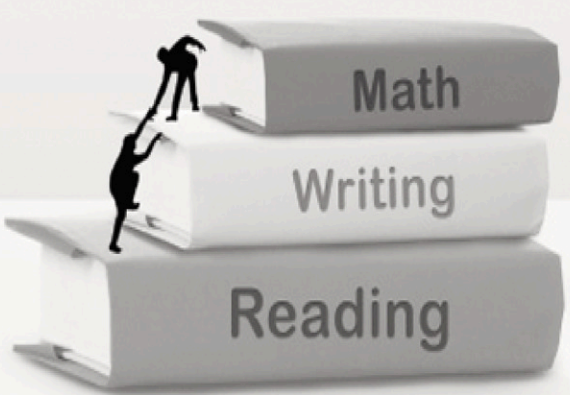
Nevertheless, he doubted that it provides sufficient basis to strike even a scaled-down deal by next month, unless Canada and Mexico both "capitulate" on other unpalatable U.S. demands. And that, he predicted, is "not going to happen," particularly not with Mexico embarking on its presidential campaign in two weeks.

"My guess is this thing isn't going anywhere," Dias said.

The U.S. has proposed a number of so-called poison pills that Canada and Mex-

ico have flatly rejected, including: elimination of NAFTA's dispute resolution mechanisms; a sunset clause that would automatically terminate NAFTA unless it was renewed by all three countries every five years; and Buy American provisions to limit the number of American public contracts that could be awarded to Canadian and Mexican companies.

The U.S. has also demanded an end to Canada's supply management system, which limits imports on milk, cheese and poultry, and sets minimum prices. Some trade experts suspect the Trudeau government may be willing to accept a small increase in U.S. dairy imports, similar to what was agreed to in the original Trans-Pacific Partnership, before Trump withdrew the U.S. from that trade deal.



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Memorial Service

THAYER, James - A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, March 24 at 2 p.m. at Knowlton United Church. Rev. Steve Lawson officiating. Family and friends welcome.



Fulford News

Matthew Willey was the surprised and happy guest at his 40th birthday celebration, secretly planned by his wife, Johanne Tardif, and attended by family and friends at Fulford Hall.

The reading group of Fulford United enjoyed "Have a Little Faith," by Mitch Albom, and will follow up with "The Time Keeper," by the same author.

Condolences to the families and friends of the following: Janet Brunton, wife of Douglas Bates, who grew up in West Shefford (Bromont); Liliane Vinet, widow of Marcel Favre, mother of Cathleen (Brian Pegg); Dolores Pouliot, wife of Michel St-Jacques, formerly of Fulford Estates; Michel Bousquet, widower of Johanne Cossette, husband of Francine Verville, of Fulford.

Submitted by Margaret Fordham



PUBLIC NOTICE
 COMING INTO FORCE

By-law 349-2
 (Sittings of Council)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given of the following:

- At its regular sitting of March 5, 2018, the Town Council adopted By-law 349-2 amending By-law 349 concerning sittings of municipal Council.
- The subject of this By-law is to amend By-law 349 to provide that all sittings of Council be held at *Centre Lac-Brome*, located at 270, Victoria Street.
- This by-law comes into force in accordance with the Law.
- This by-law can be consulted at the Town Hall, 122 Lakeside, Brome Lake, during regular office hours.

Given at Brome Lake
 This March 20, 2018

Edwin John Sullivan, B. Sc., LL. B.
 Attorney
 Town Clerk



PUBLIC NOTICE

2018 SCHEDULE OF REGULAR SITTINGS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Take notice that at its December 4, 2017 regular sitting, the municipal Council set the schedule of its regular sittings for the year 2018. By-law 349-2, adopted at the regular sitting of March 5 2018, sets the location of sittings of Council at Centre Lac-Brome, located at 270 Victoria Street, Brome Lake. The 2018 Schedule of regular sittings of the municipal Council is therefore as follows:

- January 8
- February 5
- March 5
- April 3
- May 7
- June 4
- July 3
- August 6
- September 4
- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

Centre Lac-Brome, 270 Victoria Street
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 Centre Lac-Brome, 270 Victoria Street
 Centre Lac-Brome, 270 Victoria Street

The beginning of each sitting being at 7 p.m.

Given at Brome Lake
 This March 20, 2018

Edwin John Sullivan, B.Sc. LL.B.
 Attorney
 Town Clerk



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Happy Birthday Annie



Ann Northrup Fowler

March 20, 2018

Love and best wishes,
Barbara, Queenie and Deirdre

Chicken-veggie spread

KITCHEN SCOOP by Alicia Ross

Flexible recipes can be counted on for parties, potlucks and visiting friends and family.

We also need more than just cookies, cakes and candies. Today's recipe satisfies this need. With only 3 grams of fat and a healthy 7 grams of protein per two tablespoons, this is one food that won't add to our growing waistlines by the end of the year. Enjoy!

Festive Chicken-Vegetable Spread

Start to finish: 30 minutes cooking chicken;
2 hours cooling; 15 minutes preparation
Yield: makes about 2 1/2 cups

1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
1/2 cup sliced celery
1/4 cup coarsely chopped carrots
1/4 coarsely chopped onion
1/2 cup light sour cream
1/2 cup Dijon mustard
2 tablespoons water
1/2 teaspoon salt, or more to taste
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper, or more to taste
Serving suggestions: crackers, toast points,

celery sticks, carrot sticks, pepper strips, tomatoes

Place the chicken breasts in a pot large enough to hold them loosely. Cover them with water. Place over high heat and bring to a boil. Cook on high for 5 minutes. Cover the pot and remove from heat. Let stand for 15 minutes, covered. Remove to a storage container to cool, then refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or up to 24 hours.

Place the cooled chicken in the work bowl of a food processor that's fitted with the steel blade attachment. Add the celery and carrots. Pulse until everything is finely chopped and shredded.

Add the onion, sour cream, mustard, water, salt and black pepper; pulse until well combined. Scrape into a serving or storage container and serve immediately with any of the suggested foods. You can refrigerate for up to 24 hours before serving.

Approximate values per 2 tablespoons: 63 calories, 3 g fat (1 g saturated), 23 mg cholesterol, 7 g protein, 1 g carbohydrates, no dietary fiber, 228 mg sodium.

Alicia Ross is the co-author of "Desperation Dinners!" (Workman, 1997), "Desperation Entertaining!" (Workman, 2002) and "Cheap. Fast. Good!" (Workman, 2006).

Une Femme Inconnue, Mystérieuse



Une Femme d'une Certaine Age

March 12

Successful St. Patrick's lunch at Emmanuel United

By Louise Smith

On Saturday there were many competing events going on in the community. The church hoped for a turnout of about 60 people and it happened. It was not only members of the congregation who showed up, but people from Cowansville and the surrounding towns.

Phillip, a teenager from the Youth Group, joined the ranks of pancake makers for the first time. The pancakes were made from scratch, no pancake mix involved, and Alain and Renate and Norma and Angela and Margaret all helped out with the serving of the pancakes, ham, beans, and fruit salad. There was also a crew in the kitchen, in the hall, and at the craft and nearly-new tables. A lot of green was on display in the hall and everyone was in good spirits.

The financial goal of every event at the church is \$700 clear, and this time the goal was reached yet again! Money was also raised to send students to camp. This annual event has become a big success and it will be put on again next year.



Edie and June shared laughter and food. They always like to come to church events.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE SMITH

The serving crew made sure the plates were kept full.



People at Emmanuel's St. Patrick's lunch were able to indulge to their hearts' content.



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