

VARIABLE SKY
STEVEN TREMBLAY
SHERBROOKE ELEMENTARY

Weather, page 2

Sherbrooke
Thursday, December 22, 1988
40 cents

Births, deaths 8
Classified10
Comics11
Editorial 4
Farm & Business7
Living 6
Sports13
Townships 3

Anglo Libs don't toe the party line in language vote

Ben Wicks



"And their record for the long jump is about 30 feet!"

QUEBEC (CP) — Five anglophone Liberals broke party ranks Wednesday to vote against language legislation that will ban bilingual signs outside stores.

Clifford Lincoln, Richard French and Herbert Marx — who quit their cabinet jobs Tuesday saying they could not support a bill that overrides the right to freedom of expression — voted against the bill on second reading, which represents adoption-in-principle of the controversial amendments to the provincial language law.

The trio — who represent ridings in the Montreal area — were joined by two backbench colleagues, Joan Dougherty and Harold Thuringer, in opposing the bill which follows the Supreme Court of Canada judgment

last week striking down Quebec's French-only sign law.

"A point has been made about basic rights," said Thuringer after second reading of the bill that will maintain the French-only rule for public signs outside but allow bilingual signs inside stores "as long as French predominates."

In order to forestall any legal challenges, Bourassa used override clauses in the federal and provincial charters of rights to give his new law precedence over guarantees of freedom of expression in the charters.

Disciplining the renegades "is not my priority," said Bourassa, after the vote. He said he was pleased they did not quit the party and appeared anxious to mend bridges with Quebec's

580,000-member English minority.

"We'll see in the future," replied Bourassa when asked by if he would take the three back into his cabinet. His attitude contrasted sharply with his stand in 1974 during his first stint in power when he expelled caucus members who voted against legislation making French the province's official language.

GLOOM REIGNED

An atmosphere of gloom reigned in the corridors of the legislature after the vote as cabinet members embraced the dissidents. "It's not a vote that we took with any joy in our hearts," said Immigration Minister Louise Robic.

Energy Minister John Ciaccia, the lone anglophone representa-

tive who decided to remain in cabinet because "someone has to take the first step toward ending this language war" was so overcome with emotion he found it hard to speak.

Parti Quebecois Leader Jacques Parizeau called the resignations "strategic," and predicted the rebels would be back in cabinet some day. Some observers have suggested the resignations will strengthen Bourassa's standing in nationalist circles as a defender of the French language.

In Toronto, meanwhile, Ontario Premier David Peterson supported Manitoba's call for a first ministers' conference in the New Year to rescue the Meech Lake constitutional accord and dis-

cuss protection of minority language rights.

Peterson said he regrets Quebec's decision to override the federal and provincial charters of rights to pass the legislation.

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon said minority language rights in the accord would have to be strengthened before he would present it to the legislature. Filmon announced Monday he was withdrawing his support for the accord because of Quebec's decision to outlaw bilingual signs.

Bourassa has rejected any reopening of the Meech Lake agreement, and said he is ready to explain to English Canada "over and over again" why he felt it necessary to preserve Quebec's French face.

Happy 40th, Au Bon!



Morty Vineberg, Eastern Townships' most prosperous English merchant and owner of Au Bon Marché, with two of his children, Ari and Adele, proudly celebrate the 40th anniversary of the family business. See page 5.

'Doesn't meet tests of Supreme Court' PM against 'notwithstanding'

By Dan Leger

OTTAWA (CP) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has voiced his strongest disapproval so far at a new Quebec language law banning use of English on storefront signs.

Mulroney told Opposition leader John Turner in the Commons that the new sign law does not meet the requirements of the Supreme Court of Canada decision last week that struck down parts of Quebec's Bill 101 relating to the exclusive use of French on commercial signs.

Premier Robert Bourassa has introduced a bill in the Quebec legislature which would enforce a French-only rule on exterior signs, but would allow the use of other languages on signs inside stores as long as they aren't visible from outside.

Mulroney said Wednesday that he doesn't believe that the Quebec bill, which provoked three Anglophone ministers to quit the Bourassa cabinet Tuesday, meets the requirements of the Supreme Court of Canada decision. For that reason, he doesn't approve of it.

"I neither approve of it, nor do I believe that it meets the tests that the Supreme Court set," Mulroney told Turner.

Turner pressed Mulroney to condemn Quebec's planned use of the notwithstanding clause of

the Constitution, which allows provinces to override guarantees in the Charter of Rights.

AGAINST CLAUSE

"If I am against this clause, then I am of course against its application as well, if the application goes against the basic rights which are enshrined in the Quebec Charter of Rights," the prime minister said.

But the prime minister said if anyone should be blamed it is the former Liberal government and then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau, not Bourassa, because the 1982 Constitution contains the notwithstanding clause for any province to use as it sees fit.

Mulroney's opposition to use of the override clause contrasts with the views of several of his MPs from Quebec.

One, Louis Plamondon, said he believes that a majority of Conservative MPs from Quebec favor use of the clause.

Mulroney said there is no doubt that the new sign law contravenes freedoms in the Quebec Charter of Rights.

"The Quebec bill, in my judgment, clearly does not meet the tests set out by the Supreme Court of Canada," he said.

"Clearly, if it fails to do that, one of the tests being respect for the (Quebec) charter, clearly in the absence of that, it offends against the charter.

"Anything that offends against the charter is something that I find unsatisfactory, both as a legislator and as a Canadian."

Later, a haggard-looking Mulroney snapped at Winnipeg Liberal MP Lloyd Axworthy for linking the current language crisis in Quebec and the fate of the Meech Lake constitutional accord, a link Mulroney has consistently denied.

SEEKS REPLY

Axworthy wanted to know whether Mulroney was prepared to call an immediate first ministers' conference on the Meech Lake accord, which appears threatened by its withdrawal from further consideration in the Manitoba legislature.

The Meech Lake accord, if ratified by all provinces, would bring Quebec into the constitutional fold, recognize the province as a distinct society, grant new powers to all provinces and set up a way to reform the Senate.

Premier Gary Filmon withdrew the accord on Monday, saying that Quebec's use of the notwithstanding clause in the new language bill made further debate on Meech Lake pointless.

"I made no such linkage," Mulroney thundered across the Commons.

"There is no link."

Feds join in acid rain court case

By Dennis Bueckert

OTTAWA (CP) — Ontario may be joined by the federal government and 17 Canadian citizens' groups in a U.S. lawsuit intended to force new acid-rain controls.

An official at the Department of External Affairs confirmed Wednesday the department this week filed papers with the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals seeking permission to submit evidence supporting Ontario's position.

"This is really an unprecedented action," Philip Jessup, of the environmental group Energy Probe, said in an interview.

"It's a full-court press now, and there's simply no way the U.S. court can say Canadian interests are not being represented. Things are coming to a head."

The purpose of the lawsuit, initiated by Ontario in November, is to force the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to order new acid-rain controls in the Midwest.

Acid rain is formed when sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxides from industrial smokestacks and cars combine with moisture in the atmosphere. It damages lakes, forests, buildings and human health.

The coalition of Canadian groups seeking to intervene in

the case includes the Assembly of First Nations, the International Maple Syrup Producers, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, and numerous environmental groups.

"The new weight behind this lawsuit should send a strong message to the Bush administration that Canadians have waited

long enough and expect action..." said Kai Millyard, of Friends of the Earth.

She was referring to president-elect George Bush, who will take office in January.

Jessup said briefs in the case will be filed early next year. A decision should come next year, and he expects it will influence pending U.S. legislation.

GE plant says no to Slowpoke

MONTREAL (CP) — Atomic Energy of Canada is having a difficult time finding a Canadian home for an experimental nuclear reactor that it hopes to market around the world.

On Tuesday, the Sherbrooke University Hospital buckled under public opposition and backed out of a deal under which the Crown corporation would have built a demonstrator model for free.

And despite earlier reports that a General Electric plant in Peterborough, Ont. might install a reactor, company spokesman Bob Beavers said the deal is off there too.

"I wouldn't say we're having trouble (finding a location) but we have had a lot of discussions ... and haven't got anything concrete," said Atomic Energy of Canada spokesman Michel Hébert.

The refusals are the latest in a series of setbacks for the small-scale Slowpoke reactor which Atomic Energy of Canada has been working on for 10 years and hopes will turn around the company's sagging fortunes.

The reactor, which has a 10-megawatt capacity, is designed to heat large institutions such as factories, hospitals or

universities and win a market that the larger Candu reactor failed to hold.

Countries including Hungary, South Korea and China have expressed interest in the Slowpoke — the name is a loose acronym for Safe Low-Power Critical Experiment — but are reluctant to enter into a binding arrangement before a prototype is operating in Canada.

SITE ELUSIVE

But finding a site on which to build a demonstrator reactor has proven difficult even though the agency has offered attractive incentives and spent two years promoting it.

No survivors after Pan Am 747 crashes in Scotland

LONDON (CP) — A Pan Am Boeing 747 jumbo jet carrying Christmas travellers to New York crashed Wednesday night over the small Scottish town of Lockerbie, killing at least 258 persons and touching off a series of fires that roared into the early morning.

Derek Ross, a Pan Am spokesman in London, confirmed today in an interview with The Canadian Press that 258 persons aboard the airplane — including three infants and 16 crew members — are dead.

There were conflicting reports over whether there were also

tatalities among people on the ground.

Bill Robson, chief ambulance officer in Glasgow, said at least 11 persons were injured in or near the town, three of them critically.

Bodies and debris were scattered over a seven-kilometre

swath described by witnesses as "mayhem" and "horrendous."

IN FLAMES

Witnesses said the plane came down in flames, hitting a row of 40 houses, sending a 100-metre fireball into the night sky, and setting cars and houses ablaze.



Rancourt loses herd in Ascot barn fire

A barn fire in Huntingville late Tuesday killed more than 60 cows belonging to former MNA Réal Rancourt. The popular dairy farmer was slightly injured trying to convince a bull to leave the barn. Turn the page for more.

Ex-MNA hurt in barn blaze as firemen hampered by lack of water

When Réal Rancourt last saw his herd of 125 cows Tuesday at 10 p.m. everything was alright. But only one hour later, a telephone call came in from a neighbor: Rancourt's barn was on fire.

Ascot-Lennoxville fire department was notified at 11:22 p.m., but by the time the firemen arrived at 2305 Mitchell Road in Huntingville, the barn's roof had already collapsed.

Rancourt, a popular former Parti Québécois MNA for St-François who was deputy Speaker of the provincial house, tried to save his herd from the fire but succeeded in saving less than half the 120 cattle he owned, and hurt himself slightly in the process.

'My bull wouldn't leave his stall,' Rancourt recalled afterwards, 'so I gave him a punch in the head.'

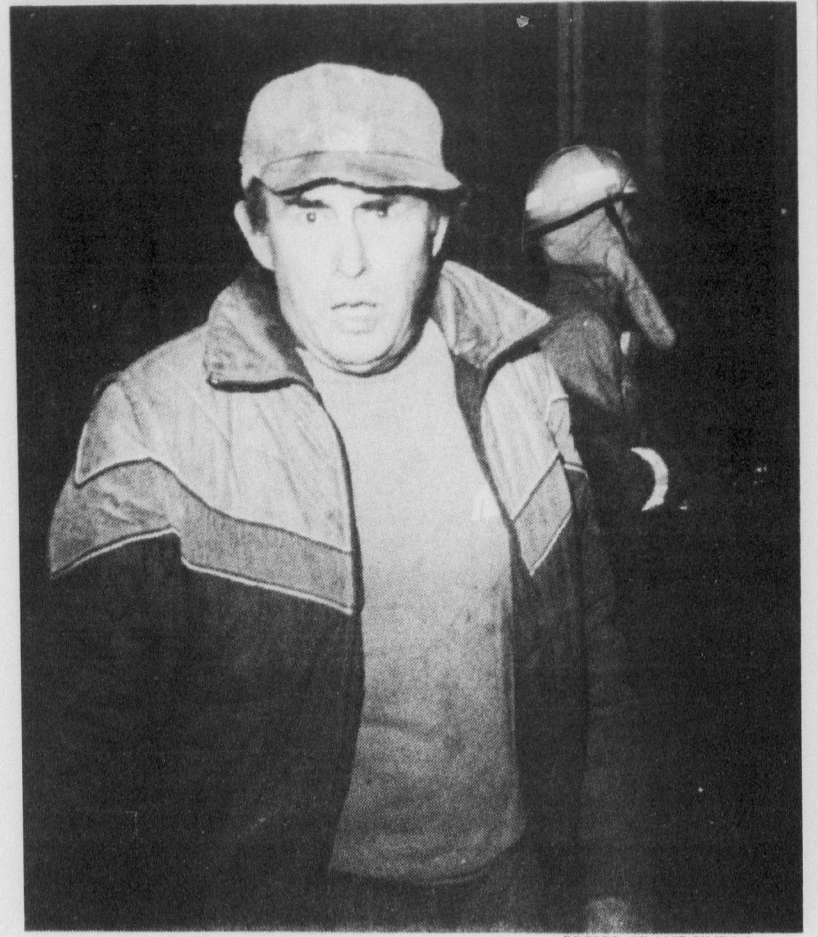
The blow failed to move the beast, and Rancourt fractured a bone in his hand.

The cause of the fire is still to be determined. It took until 5 a.m. to extinguish.

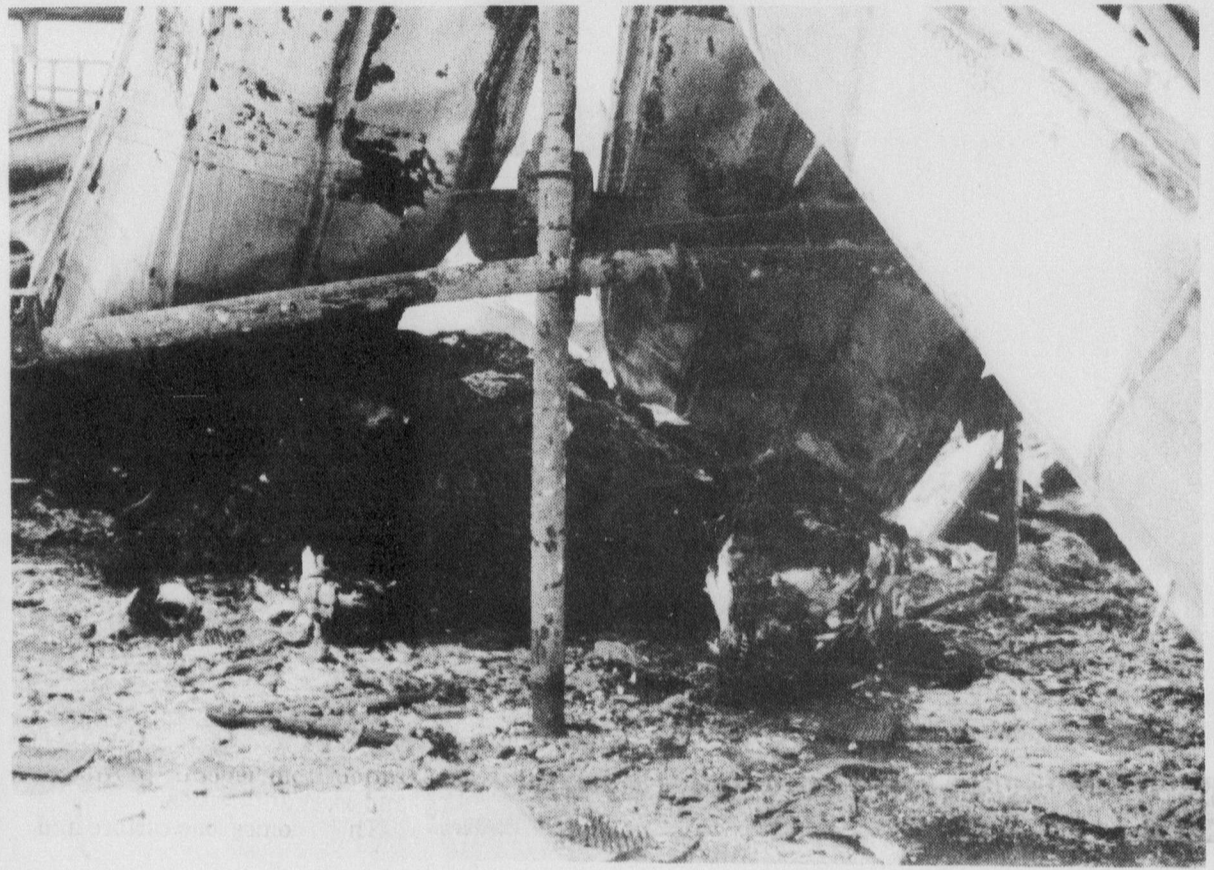
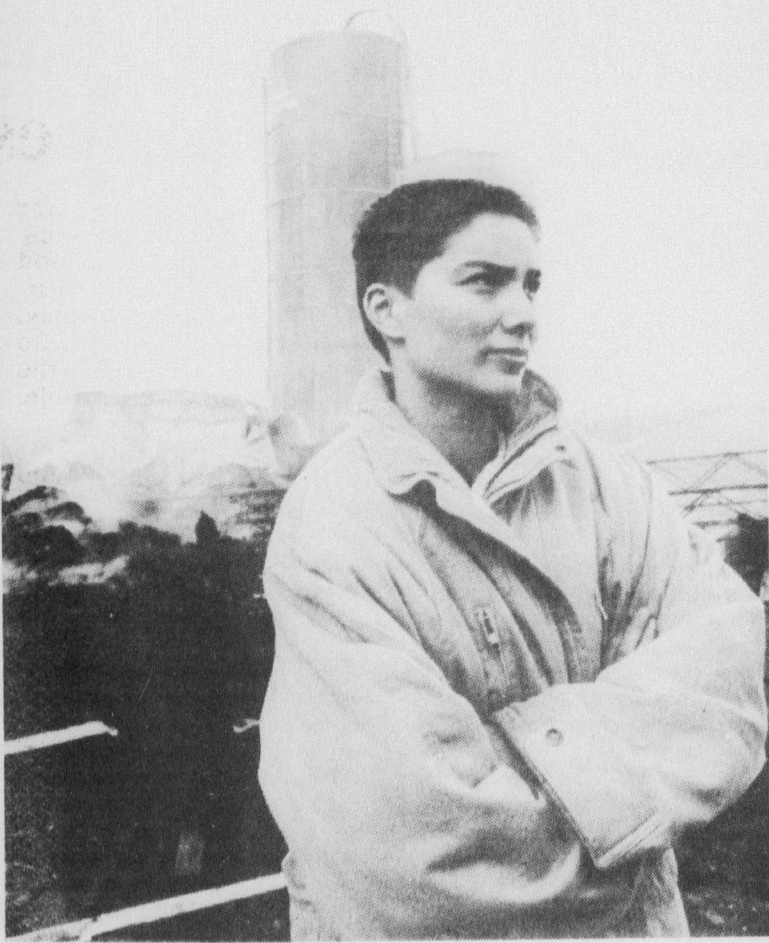
Firemen said it was difficult to bring under control because of the distance they had to travel to refill the water reservoirs in their trucks.

Wednesday afternoon Rancourt's daughter, Fabienne, home from college in Montreal for the holidays, surveyed the damage while her father was checking on the surviving cows.

She said that while the barn was insured, her father has to meet milk quotas and that will be difficult until the herd is replaced and a new barn is built.



RECORD/GRANT SIMEON



But Blais clan won't use UPA money for this round

'A cow is a cow'? Double-pool milk quota battle goes to higher court

By Rita Legault

ROCK FOREST — A Superior Court judgment handed down this week has failed to resolve differences among Sherbrooke-area dairy farmers.

Six area farmers lost their court battle against the two-pool milk-sale formula, which gives higher prices to farmers who produce fluid milk packaged for drinking than those who produce industrial milk which is transformed into secondary dairy products such as yogurt, cheese and ice cream.

One day after receiving the judgment by Mr. Justice Jean-Louis Pélouin the six farmers announced they will appeal the decision once again. They are suing their own association, *Le Syndicat des producteurs de lait de l'Estrie* to have the two-pool system ruled unconstitutional because it discriminates against them as 'industrial' producers.

The judge ruled that there was no discrimination in the affair because the charter of rights does not protect people from economic discrimination as it does from discrimination based on fundamental rights such as language, ethnic origin, religion or social status.

The farmers say peace among the 16,000 dairy farmers in Estrie — the Sherbrooke region — will only come when all farmers are paid the same price for their products. The ideal and only solution is a single marketing pool and quota system, they told reporters at a press conference yesterday.

FARMERS WILL PAY

This time around the group, which in a bizarre twist is led by local *Union des Producteurs Agricoles* president Jacques Blais, will not use union money to pay for the appeal. Angry controversy erupted in the dairy

industry when the six used UPA funds, authorized by the executive Blais controls, to finance the initial lawsuit.

"Justice costs money," Blais said. "We do not have the right to allow such an unbalanced system to continue. Something has to break it soon."

Blais added that the means to solve the problem are at hand but not the will. He said it is the UPA's job to defend equality for farmers but he said the executive is more interested in protecting its positions.

TO PROTECT

He said the present system was put in place to protect farmers with large quotas. And he said the provincial presidents of the UPA and the Quebec federation of milk producers are protecting large producers to stay in power.

"The system is illogical," said Blais. "It's like something out of the 1940s. But they choose to remain in power rather than work towards a fairer system."

About 30 per cent of milk is sold as fresh or fluid milk and

the rest is sold through the industrial pool.

"Thirty per cent is not a majority but through underhanded dealing they manage to stay in power," Blais said.

Blais denied that fluid milk producers have higher costs because they have to meet higher sanitation and quality standards.

"A cow is a cow," said Blais. "and when you see two producers who feed the same cows the same food and there is a difference of \$15,000 to 20,000 in their profits, that's what I call unfair."

"It's the same milk produced by the same cow and transported by the same trucks," he said.

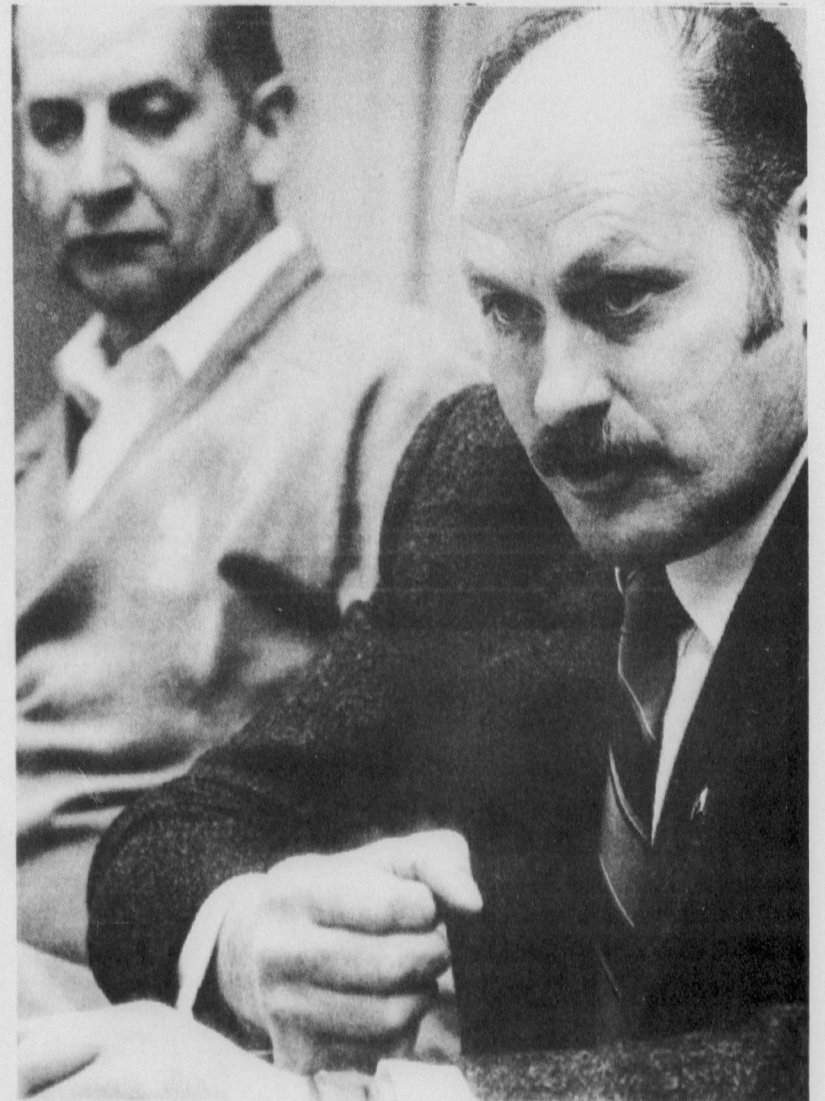
For the appeal lawyer Richard St-Cyr lists 11 points where the farmers say Judge Pélouin was mistaken in the judgment.

"I don't believe he understood the dossier," Blais said.

Lawyer St-Cyr said Pélouin's detailed 46-page judgement will help the farmers appeal.

"He did us a big favor," said Richer. "Although he could have done us a bigger favor."

Richer attended yesterday's press conference along with Blais and the five other disgruntled farmers. He said he expects the appeal to be heard sometime before the end of next year.



Jacques Blais... 'A cow is a cow.'

RECORD/GRANT SIMEON

Light sentence for triple abuse

COWANSVILLE (JM) — A 31 year old Missisquoi county resident was shown the clemency of the court recently. He had earlier pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a 13-year-old babysitter three times within a 24 hour period on Sept. 21, 1987. The pre-sentence report indicated there were no threats or

violence.

Quebec Court Judge Bernard Légare handed the man 60 days to be served on weekends, ordered him to perform 60 hours of community work, and placed him on two years probation.

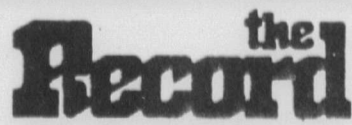
The probation order includes a condition forbidding him from hiring any female babysitters.

Weather Doonesbury

There is a chance of light snow early this morning with moderate winds. Later today sunny with cloudy periods and a high of -7.



BY GARRY TRUDEAU



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The Townships

'Why would tourists want to come to the region?'

Tourist industry fears death from acid rain along with trees and lakes

By Eric Sibling

SHERBROOKE — As acid rain continues to wreak havoc on the environment, it is unlikely that tourism in the Eastern Townships will be spared.

Calling acid rain a scourge bringing irreparable harm on the province's environment and architecture, the Quebec Association of Regional Tourism (ATRAQ) has urged the provincial government to speed up action on the issue.

Stating that the fundamental base of the tourist industry rests on environmental protection, ATRAQ president Cécile Dupont-Chamard called on the government to take whatever steps necessary to eliminate acid rain.

"There's a direct relationship between the quality of the environment and tourism," said Alain Larouche, general manager of *l'Association Touristiques de l'Estrie*. "It's obvious that the deterioration of the environment through the acidification of lakes and woodland destroys the potential for tourism."

WHY WOULD THEY?

"If our lakes don't have any fish or if our trees die because of acidification, why would tourists want to come to the region?"

Tourism brings more than \$100 million a year to the Sherbrooke area, noted Larouche, and draws between 1½ and two million visitors. And the number of tourists in the region has risen

12 to 14 per cent over the past two years.

Larouche said the acid rain problem is not yet serious enough to frighten tourists from the area. But he said other forms of pollution have already taken their toll. He cited the closing last summer of Lake Memphremagog beaches due to high levels of fecal bacteria.

"It confirmed that if the environment visibly deteriorates, for example by acid rain, leaving trees without leaves, we're surely not going to get have many tourists in the area."

Robert Dubé, spokesman for the *Comité de l'Hygiène et l'Aménagement des Rivières Magog et St. François* (CHAR-

MES), gave local rivers a clean bill of health yesterday, but warned that their "acceptable" pH levels are subject to change.

60% VICTIMS

Michael Herman of Brome Lake has witnessed devastating change. Herman had hoped to one day develop his 35 acres of maple bush to a sugaring-off grounds. But that was before 60 per cent of his maple trees fell victim to acid rain. Now the only kind of tourism his maple forest can provide is by showing school-children the deadly effects of acid rain.

"I'm seriously worried," said Herman, an environmental activist whose family owns Turkey Hill maple syrup company. "I see

it happening all over the Townships."

Acid rain may well threaten the esthetic foundation of tourism in the region. Forest engineer Justin Manasc, a consultant in Knowlton, said he's certain the countryside won't look as beautiful ten years down the road as it does today.

EARLY COLORS

One of the signs of tree stress is the premature turning of leaves, rendering the colors of autumn less than blazing, he said. As for springtime, Manasc doesn't foresee too many sugaring-off parties in ten years' time.

Both Herman and Manasc suggested that acid rain is only one ingredient in a "pollution

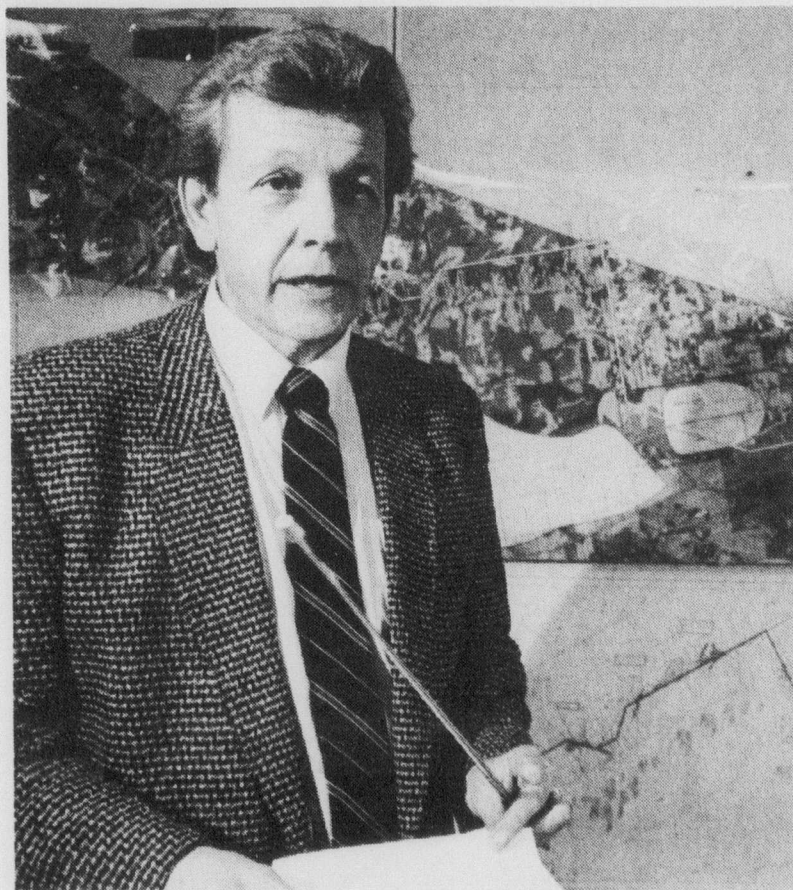
soup" filling the air. Other byproducts of fossil fuel combustion, such as heavy metals and low-level ozone are also contributing to environmental decay. Heavy metals find their way into the food chain and may affect the health of animals and plant life, Manasc said.

Herman described the domino effect of acid rain on the environment: "When a tree dies it falls over and exposes its roots. The topsoil gets into a stream and washes into a lake. Then the organic material chokes the lake and as it decomposes, it uses up oxygen which in turn kills the fish."

Then it starts to kill the tourist industry.

Gentler methods bring smoother settlements the second time around

Des Cantons II route final: Hydro won't use chemicals under export line



Jean-Pierre Kunz... No chemical spraying under Des Cantons II.

By Rita Legault

SHERBROOKE — Hydro Quebec has announced the final route its Des Cantons II power export line will take as it cuts through the Eastern Townships to connect James Bay with Maine.

This was in sharp contrast to the line chosen for the Des Cantons I power line, when vandalism, protests and demonstrations marked the way as the huge provincial utility railroaded its way through in the early 1980s.

Hydro Quebec has changed its approach and has just finished its final public consultations on Des Cantons II, meeting with more than 180 homeowners, other citizens, groups and municipalities affected by the line.

The next step, beginning in January will be to seek authorization from federal, provincial and local authorities.

Three homes, one cottage and two hunting camps will be moved to make way for the line but Hydro spokesman André Martin said Wednesday the utility has come to understandings with all the property owners,

who preferred to move rather than be too close to the new line.

FARMERS UNHAPPY

The only landowners unhappy with the line is a group of farmers from La Patrie, said Hydro negotiator Jacques Guertin.

The farmers, supported by the local *Union des producteurs agricoles* (UPA) originally agreed that the line cross their properties but later changed their minds, Guertin said. He added that a compromise was reached after lengthy negotiations with the property owners and Domtar, which also owns large tracts in the La Patrie area.

The line will end up crossing lands owned by the forestry company, however Domtar insisted that the line follow the boundary line of the property. Guertin said the farmers are angry because they will still be able to see the 450-kilovolt direct current line.

"We went through the kitchen when they wanted us to go through the living room," Guertin said. "We aren't far, but we are no longer on their properties."

Hydro engineer André Vallée and Jean-Claude Kunz, a consultant in charge of environmental

impact studies for the Des Cantons-Maine interconnection, said Hydro will take special measures to counteract the negative impact of the line on the environment.

IMPACT OF LINE

Vallée said the major preoccupations Hydro faced were possible effects of the line on residents' health, agriculture and forests, scenic views and radio reception. They were also worried about what the line would do to their property values and how much money they would get from Hydro as compensation, he said.

Hydro hopes to reduce the environmental impact of the new line by not using chemicals to control vegetation beneath it. This was requested by several owners and groups to protect animal and plant life in the area, Vallée said.

Kunz said that in areas where municipalities take their drinking water Hydro will use no chemicals and also keep ground-cover intact to avoid soil erosion. In earlier negotiations the town of Bury was not satisfied with the route because it went near its water supply.

Kunz also said Hydro will use more expensive but less visible steel pylons in tourist and resort areas where they cannot be hidden. These crossings at highways 112 and 212, the Lake Road near Stoke's Rural Route 5, and across the St. Francis River.

Martin said these measures along with extra compensation for the UPA and the Wood Producers Federation will cost Hydro "a few million dollars." He said Hydro will compensate woodlot owners for trees destroyed and for loss of future production.

Aside from the La Patrie adjustments, only minor modifications were made to the route chosen in August. It leaves the Des Cantons power substation in Windsor, passes through Ascot Corner, Stoke Township, Dudsell, Bury, Ditton and Charlevoix before crossing the border to enter Maine near Notre Dame du Bois.

The power connection is expected to cost \$276 million for lines and stations and should be in operation by 1992. It will supply 1000 megawatts of power to the Central Maine Power Authority to fill a 29-year contract signed in 1987.

'It's one more step toward independence'

PQ-Sherbrooke: Line-up for memberships in wake of Liberal compromise

By Rossana Coriandoli

SHERBROOKE — The local branch of the Parti Québécois expects its membership to go up thanks to Premier Robert Bourassa's decision to amend Bill 101 and allow bilingual signs inside stores.

"Our young people are realizing what's going on," said Henri Bourassa, president of the PQ in Sherbrooke riding. "A few months ago young Quebecers weren't really aware of the language issue. Even those who didn't consider themselves to be *independentistes* or even *Péquistes* are seeing the language issue as important."

Bourassa said Quebec's francophones are not happy with the premier's solution to the language problem, and their unhappiness will affect the political situation in the long term.

INSIDE-OUTSIDE

The premier announced this

weekend he would table new legislation to amend Bill 101 using the "inside-outside" solution to the sign language problem and resort to the notwithstanding clause to avoid future legal battles. The legislation passed Wednesday.

"Some things you don't forget," he said. "This situation is awakening the nationalism which was dormant in the hearts of a lot of Quebecers."

Bourassa said the Sherbrooke PQ expected this resurgence in nationalist feeling among local francophones and placed a recruiting advertisement in local French-language newspapers.

"Here we don't have a recruiting system in place yet," he said, adding that the party's membership campaign officially begins only in the spring.

"But since Bourassa's announcement, people have been

coming to our offices offering their services." He said people are afraid Quebec will go back to the 1970s, before Bill 101 was implemented.

PLAN OF ACTION

"Already, when I went to the office today I saw about 25 or 30 envelopes with those ads cut out from the papers," he said.

"The ad is a plan of action. We knew Bourassa would come down with one foot on either side of the fence (*couper la poire en deux*), not go to either side and pull the blanket both to the francophone side and the anglophone side of the bed, so we reserved the space (for the ads)."

Public opinion polls will show an increase in support for the Parti Québécois as a majority of francophones turn away from the Liberal party after the Liberals decided to take a step back in rather than forward in the

protection of the French language, Bourassa said.

"It's one more step toward Quebec independence," he added. "As a province we'll never be able to make laws as long as the Supreme Court is there — particularly regarding language and culture."

THE PARTY TO DO IT

Bourassa said people are realizing the importance of protecting the language of the majority in Quebec, and that the PQ is the party to do it.

He said the crowd at Paul Sauvé arena in Montreal was eager to hear PQ leader Jacques Parizeau. "He was the one that got the most applause. They really wanted to see him," he said.

Bourassa said he is anxious to see poll results showing an increase in support. "It feels good," he said. "They will be very positive."



Henri Bourassa... 'People have been coming to our offices.'

Spending waste blamed on earlier regimes

Is the minister too sensitive? Auditor's charges anger Yvon Picotte



Yvon Picotte... Won't take blame for mistakes.

By Eric Sibling

SHERBROOKE — Quebec's auditor general said yesterday that the Hunting and Fishing Ministry inadequately followed up on past expenditures including a \$500,000 bridge leading nowhere and a \$600,000 parking lot languishing in a forest.

But Minister Yvon Picotte refused to take any responsibility for what he termed the blunders of previous administrations.

Regarding a bridge built in 1984-85 in Jacques-Cartier park north of Quebec City, Picotte said a \$10 million connecting road would be needed to make it useful.

"Even the previous government, after constructing the bridge, decided not to continue the project," he said. "Before putting \$10 million which we don't have into the road, we decided to concentrate on increasing access to those parts of the park which are already developed."

PARKING LOT

In the case of a useless parking lot sitting in Parc du Bic near Rimouski, Picotte called it a ridiculous remnant of a 1984 plan to build a nature interpretation centre. Claiming that the costs of such a centre are so prohibitive that even the Parti Québécois government abandoned the project, he said he has initiated minor development of the area along the lines of nature appreciation.

"It's worse than the bridge, because at least with the bridge we can have some hope in the future of connecting it to a road."

"I have nothing to do with whether it was Liberal or Péquiste," said provincial auditor general Rhéal Chatelain. "That's not my business. Public administration is a continuing administration. You don't leave projects hanging in the air, however unproductive the initial investment."

BASIC PROBLEMS

Chatelain considers the ill-fated bridge and parking lot as symptomatic of basic problems plaguing the Hunting and Fishing Ministry. In his 300-page annual report tabled in the National Assembly December 8, the auditor general rebuked the department for inadequate planning and "general inconsistencies". Among the report's findings:

— The construction in 1986-87 of a \$600,000 boat ramp to the sea in the Bic park which cannot be used at low tide and is located fifteen kilometers from the local marina.

— The building of two camp grounds costing nearly \$2 million (one in 1982, the other in 1987) which have never seen more than 10 per cent occupancy.

— Almost one-quarter of game wardens on staff are physically unable to perform some of the tasks required for outdoor duties.

TAKES ISSUE

But Picotte takes issue with several of the auditor general's allegations, and claims the media have made no distinction between his own ministry and previous ones dating back as far as 1968. Among the minister's responses:

— The cost of rectifying problems associated with the Parc du Bic bridge would amount to half the department's current budget, "not possible and not conceivable in the present context."

— It is "absolutely false" that 24 per cent of provincial game wardens are incompetent: It is true that a certain number, due to their age, are incapable of fulfilling some tasks such as patrolling on skidoo, but the depart-

ment is hardly willing to throw these employees out the door. Eighty new wardens have been hired, reducing the average staff age from 49 years to 39.

— Regarding the department's inventory, Picotte says that soon after assuming power in 1985, he began assembling the information but because previous administrations totally neglected the matter between 1968 and 1985, the process is taking time.

NO 'DOGFIGHT'

The auditor general declined comment on some of the minister's objections to avoid "getting into a dogfight with him."

"It's not my job to do that anyway," Chatelain said. He praised the Hunting and Fishing Ministry, for being the "most cooperative of all departments" throughout the audit and for promptly implementing remedial action in several areas.

Chatelain added that it was "unfortunate" the department was singled out in reports

Double standard is at work

With linguistic rights for minorities, it has become increasingly clear that the playing field has to be levelled. Our prime minister is more than willing to censure provinces like Saskatchewan for refusing to translate its laws into French. But not so in Quebec.

You will remember that Mulroney came out with some strong statements when Saskatchewan decided on that course of action. On other occasions when French language rights have been threatened or infringed upon the prime minister has spoken out, and rightly so.

As the leader of the country, Mulroney's role is to defend minority francophones across the country, as is that of Secretary of State Lucien Bouchard.

But where were these vocal protectors last year when the official languages commissioner came out with a report saying that anglophone Quebecers were being "humiliated"? Over the years when the same commissioner with the same report called for help for francophone minorities across the country, we all accepted it, and so we should have.

But why was it taboo to recognize D'Iberville Fortier's comments last year? Why? Because he spoke about rights for anglophones Quebecers, and that is an infringement on this province's power to run its own affairs.

You will remember that the National Assembly — including the anglophone cabinet ministers who have since resigned — passed a motion condemning Fortier's comments. But when Saskatchewan made its decision, the roar was deafening. To comment then was somehow not seen as an infringement on Saskatchewan's rights.

The so-called "inside-outside" solution should come as no surprise in light of Premier Robert Bourassa's recent overtures. However what continues to be a surprise is that Mulroney can continue to play only one side of minority rights in this country.

This latest round of linguistic tensions has highlighted the paradox of minority rights in this country. It has shown that anglophone Quebecers, for all intensive purposes, do not exist.

Some will argue that English is not the language in danger here and that anglophones have their institutions. This is true. However, no one ever mentions that francophones in New Brunswick — a minority in Canada's only officially bilingual province — also have their institutions.

Those cases are not argued because it does not fit the mold.

Canada is a country that was founded on minorities, and although our record is not always that great we have managed to keep francophones in New Brunswick, Ontario, Manitoba and elsewhere. Their rights have been neglected and even superseded at times, but we are learning as a nation.

By and large anglophone Quebecers have had it good, but let's not forget there have always been more English Quebecers than francophones in other provinces outside of Quebec.

This province once could boast of how well it treated its minorities. Quebec used to lead the country in this department, that is no longer the case.

It is becoming increasingly evident that Quebec will only accept being a unilingual province, while the rest of the country moves — slowly mind you — towards bilingualism.

One gets the impression that a fundamental double standard is at work here. Anglophone Quebecers will not die with this "inside—outside" solution, nor would we have had Bourassa decide on keeping the status quo. But like the "French Face" of Quebec idea, having bilingual signs is also a symbol to English Quebecers that it has minority rights. The rights to be welcome. The rights to be proud of their heritage. And most of all, the rights that all Canadians have.

Mr. Mulroney, if you are a prime minister for all of Canada, then it is your duty to finally recognize that anglophones in Quebec exist. Saying they are an "integral part" of a distinct society is not sufficient. Stop pandering to your close ally, Bourassa, and take the same stand for Quebec's minority that you did for Saskatchewan's.

Quid pro quo.

JACK BRANSWELL

Letters Ancestors gave so much of themselves

Dear Sir,

Yesterday, with so much discussion of language in Quebec, following the Supreme Court's decision on Bill 101, I felt compelled to write something. I am enclosing what came out.

If you feel it has some little merit, has something to say, is worth publishing, please use it.

All my ancestors gave so much of themselves to get these townships started, but many others have carried on their work and helped develop this area. I felt it should be said.

Sincerely yours,
(Mrs.) R. Jean Heath Miller
Knowlton

OUR EASTERN TOWNSHIPS

This land belongs to those
Who work and toil and make it theirs,
To those who make it thrive,
To those who care about its future life.

For centuries our townships stood, empty and alone,
Except for casual trips of Indian bands.
The trees grew up, leaved forth each spring,
Unseen by very few of human kind.

And then the white man came.
And many trees came crashing down.
Homes to provide for stalwart souls
Determined farms and homes to mold.

They suffered much and nearly starved
Through long bleak winter days and nights;
But finally success was theirs,
A homeland for their families they'd found.

The land cared not which tongue they spoke;
It only asked for caring hands and hearts.
The English came and then the French,
Together they have built a land of which we're proud.

And later still the Dutch and Poles
Have added of their skills and toil,
And Germans, Scots, Italians, Jews
Have given of their best.

What does it count which tongue we speak,
As long as we all love and care.
For these beloved hills and dales,
This land God gave to us to share?

R. Jean Heath Miller
Knowlton

"In memory of two of my great, great grandfathers: Levi Baldwin, who settled in Barnston in 1799, Captain John Heath, who settled in Barnston in 1805 and of a very special great grandfather, Pardon Wilcox, who lived in Barnston and Stanstead."

Statement "not in our backyards" did not originate with us

Dear Sir,

Now that sufficient time has elapsed since the presentations of the proposed Lennoxville bypass plan (Dec. 6 & Dec. 8) to allow people to consider their views I would like to make the following observations.

As one of those who expressed reservations about the location of the bypass I think it is unfortunate that we have been characterised as a small obstructionist minority concerned solely with our own self-interest.

The statement "not in our backyards" did not originate with us but came from Mr. Robert Downey himself in his summing up of the straw poll taken at the end of the first meeting. It is a neat catch phrase but over-simplifies our views.

In principle very few would argue with the idea of removing the heavy traffic from Lennoxville itself. However, the concerns of the citizens of Lennoxville apply equally to those who live in the outlying communities through which it is proposed to pass this route.

Most of us choose deliberately to suffer the inconvenience of living in a rural region to avoid exactly this form of noise, pollution and danger.

I am well aware of the argument that many people live adjacent to or within the proximity of major

highways, but there is a considerable difference between choosing to do so knowing the already existing conditions and having them imposed upon us without any say. Those

who will have to live within a half mile of the proposed road have every right to voice their objections.

My major concern is that in establishing the route the only considerations appear to have been geographic and cost. Surely one other factor would have been included, namely to minimize the impact on those who live in its path.

Perhaps the plan could be revised with the criteria that it not run within one mile of any community of, say, 50 people or more nor directly affect existing landmarks such as Bishop's University, the experimental farm or the MacDonald Farm. In this way the needs of the population of both Lennoxville and outlying Ascot could be met. A proposal such as that of Mr. Matheson in his letter to the *Record* (Dec. 12) is one attempt to accomplish this.

Yes, this would cost more money but large sums will have to be spent on the highway, to improve the lives of the citizens of Lennoxville.

Some could at least be put towards retaining the environment of those of us who would be directly affected.

Sincerely,
Peter Cunningham
Lennoxville



Acid rain has gone past the point of being a problem

A few weeks ago, while wandering through my neighbour's hardwood bush, I found something interesting. It had taken me most of the morning to walk about a mile from my home. I was in no hurry and was quite enjoying myself. I was slowly moving between the maples, with my .308 under my arm, looking for the world's record Whitetail (who stayed at home that morning) when I saw it.

Just ahead of me, between two small spruce trees, was something out of harmony with the surroundings. When you're walking in the woods you quickly get attuned to green leaves, brown trees and grey shadows. Anything the wrong shape or the wrong colour stands out like a pig-farmer on the subway.

It was bright purple and caught my eye immediately. I walked over to investigate and discovered a deflated purple balloon, a long purple ribbon and a printed note.

The note was on plastic coated paper and read: E.J. and Kelli, October 8, 1988, Unionville Presbyterian Church, Unionville, PA.

"Hey!" I thought "This is pretty neat stuff! Somebody called E.J. and Kelli got married in Pennsylvania and they must have sent up a bunch of balloons to celebrate the event. Gee willikers, one of them came all the way from Pennsylvania and ended up in the bush near Owl's Head."

I stuffed the balloon and the note into my pocket. When I got home later that afternoon I whipped off a

Where the pavement ends

JIM LAWRENCE

note to the church so I could get E.J. and Kelli's address. It would be nice to write them and tell them how far their purple balloon had gone.

That evening my neighbour and his wife came for dinner. In the course of the conversation I got the balloon and the note and described how I'd found them.

"Humph!" said Robbie Barry "It just shows you where the acid rain is coming from."

I was deflated (like the balloon) because I'd never thought of that angle. Of course! Robbie was right!

I got out the atlas and looked up Unionville Pennsylvania. It's just south of Pittsburg, near the West Virginia border. That's coal country! Pittsburg is known world wide for its tall chimneys belching out clouds of black coal smoke, 24 hours a day. The city is almost constantly covered in a thin layer of coal ash from the many massive fires that produce electric power and aid the production of steel.

Those black clouds of smoke are full of dangerous chemicals long blamed for acid rain.

The smoke floats high into the atmosphere to be blown away by the prevailing winds. The moisture in these warm clouds condenses in the cold and the acid is absorbed by the drops. When the drops become too heavy to remain airborne they fall to earth as rain, and in this case chemical laden rain, or acid rain.

Acid rain, falling from the sky onto our lakes and forests, is responsible for the rapid demise of most of Eastern Canada's maple stands and fish supporting waterways. Here in the Townships we can see the effects of this chemical rain by simply walking into any sugar bush. Looking up into the branches of the maples you'll see bare wood, showing where healthy bark should be. That's only symptomatic of the destruction going on beneath the bark.

Once healthy stands of maple that produced gallons of sweet syrup are rapidly becoming only useful for firewood.

Lakes and rivers that supported hundreds of thousands of game fish are noticeably lacking in population as the high acidity of the water is reducing the ability of the fish to breed and reproduce.

Acid rain has gone past the point of being a problem. It's a major disaster and its effects may already be irreversible. It's a situation that has to be stopped, and stopped quickly.

Unfortunately neither our federal government nor the government of the USA (our free-trading partner) have made much effort to stop

acid rain.

I can imagine the cheery thoughts of the newly weds and their guests as they released a number of purple balloons, each with its purple ribbon and note. They were all wondering how far the balloons would drift with the wind before they fell back to earth.

The balloons drifted high into the smoke filled air above Pennsylvania and were carried north-east by the winds. About eight hundred miles later the cold air deflated the balloons and perhaps in a rain storm, one floated down to come to rest on the forest floor, near Mansenville, in the eastern townships.

Just 21 days after the happy wedding party set it adrift, a tall, overweight, much-maligned, balding man with bifocals picks it up and carries it home.

If we wondered where the winds that flow over the eastern townships come from we now know. My purple balloon, its purple ribbon and note, are proof that anything released into the air above Pennsylvania arrives here.

I'm going to send my balloon, the ribbon, note and a copy of this column to John Turner in Ottawa. Perhaps he will be able to make use of it in some constructive manner. Since our government seems reluctant to do anything about chemical fall-out, perhaps this proof may make a difference.

Perhaps a little purple balloon will provide evidence that E.J. and Kelli, and their countrymen, are sending us more than their love.

The Townships

the
Record

After 40 years: Tradition is the key to Au Bon Marché's success

By Craig Pearson

SHERBROOKE — The trick is in the buying, which might best be described as shrewd searching.

That's what produces longevity.

The successful retailer is as adept a hunter as Davy Crockett, as financially-astute as Donald Trump and as constantly-prepared as Lord Baden Powell himself.

Or at least that's the idea behind the Eastern Township's most prosperous English merchant, Morty Vineberg, 68, the grey-haired master of the deal, the hand which pulls the strings of the perennially-popular, family-run Au Bon Marché.

This year, Au Bon Marché is celebrating its 40th birthday, a milestone as far as the moon for most major English businesses in Sherbrooke.

And it's thanks to the crafty art of buying.

LOOKING FOR DEALS

"This is the type of business, because of the merchandise we offer, where you have to be constantly looking for deals in any way, shape or form they come," said Vineberg from his cramped office, amid the pipes, mounds of papers and computers that look out of place in a dishevelled loft overlooking the department store. "It takes lots of legwork."

"The store was very successful from the beginning because there was no store like that," Vineberg said with a friendly smile. "This is the way we built this business."

"It's an exciting business because you never know from

one week to the next what merchandise you're going to find."

Exciting, of course, is not synonymous with ease or even glamor.

As Vineberg said: "You have to work very hard, negotiate deals. You're under a lot of pressure."

And, a fact any entrepreneur will attest to, no magic deal-closing formula exists. Some transactions take a paltry five minutes while others stretch over a torturous three weeks or more, Vineberg confided.

AUSPICIOUS START

Sherbrooke's Au Bon Marché — started years before the home-improvement outlet in Montreal which has nothing to do with the Vineberg operation — got its auspicious start after Vineberg returned from World War II where he was a navigator with the Royal Canadian Air Force and then a prisoner of war in Germany.

Along with his father Sam, a 15-year manager of Faser Bros., Vineberg kicked off the family's entrepreneurial career with a 1200-sq. foot store on Wellington Street. A year and a half later, the now-landmark building on King Street West just below Wellington became home.

Au Bon Marché's three floors of merchandise ranging from guns to suits to soap to toys now spread over 25,000 feet, not including the sale-filled, 14,000-foot warehouse on Dépot Street.

Throw in the stores in Sudbury, Ont., Three Rivers and Verdun and you understand why Vineberg admits the firm's profits are "20 times" higher than when he first started.

Still taped to the wall of his office, a photocopy of the store's first print ad in *The Record* Nov. 13, 1947 which offers (among other items) all-wool sleeveless sweaters for \$1, reminding Vineberg of his historic beginning.

Interestingly, Au Bon Marché ads, always in abundance in the yuppified '80s, look much like they did in the Fabulous '40s.

But tradition is a cornerstone of the Au Bon Marché foundation. Vineberg is the patriarch of the business, but his family as well as customers' families keep the store going.

"We're three generations in the business and we're dealing with the same people my father dealt with years ago," Vineberg said.

Along with Morty is wife Sally and their four children, all active cogs in the Au Bon machine. There's David, 31, in charge of Three Rivers and Sudbury; June, 29, manager of the Verdun outlet; Adele, 22, in charge of buying children's and young ladies' lines in Verdun; and finally Ari, 27 — the last and latest of the offspring to come aboard full time — takes care of buying for Au Bon's fashion boutique Pan-H, as well as the sporting goods department among other duties.

YOUR OWN BOSS

"I was never really interested in the business at all," Ari confided. "But the security's good. Plus there's the fact that you're your own boss."

More than that, a brief conversation with Ari, previously pursuing a career in journalism (which started as a summer job at *The Record*), reveals a love for



The Vineberg children are all involved in the family business.

the business.

"You can have an effect on the organization," Ari said about the all-hands-help-out approach to family business. "I'm someone who likes to get things done."

Ari, like his parents, is now mostly in the Sherbrooke store only on Thursdays, commuting from Montreal where ominous heaps of office work await. Ari's duties also includes buying in mass from retail bankruptcy sales — so highway life is common.

But life in the store is where it's at... sometimes.

"It's interesting," Ari explained. "You don't always like the people you're dealing with but then again you often do."

One lady from outside Magog has been visiting the store on Thursdays for years. Ari said employees feel she is a friend.

WHERE BARGAINS ARE

And though the Vineberg clan is leading the pack when it comes to English merchants in Sherbrooke, Ari doesn't think the clientele reflects any certain group.

"I'd like to think most customers are intelligent enough to go where the bargains are," he said, dressed in chic clothing which might easily have come from the Pan-H boutique.

So no English loyalty, then? "I think maybe the anglophone community — because we've served it for such a long time — does keep coming back," he allowed. "We keep seeing the same faces year after year."

Being one of the few Jewish families native to the region, there are certain religious needs the Vinebergs lack, especially after the closure of Sherbrooke's only synagogue four years ago (the Jewish cemetery still stands). Nevertheless, the Townships hold a special feeling of home that nowhere else can provide.

"One of the advantages of growing up in a mixed community

like Sherbrooke is that you're comfortable with everyone," the bilingual retailer said. "The only thing we miss is services on holidays, but we go to Montreal for their services."

HEADS TO BIG CITY

But no matter how often Vineberg heads to the big city, a return to the tranquil, rolling hills of the Townships is

imminent.

As he said: "We love it here. This is our home."

Following in the footsteps of his workaholic father who toiled until two weeks before his death, Vineberg said matter-of-factly: "I'll never retire."

And as long as Vineberg is around, Au Bon Marché will likely be too.



The Au Bon clientele doesn't really reflect any particular group. They're just people looking for bargains, said Ari.



With his father Sam, a 15-year manager of Faser Bros., Vineberg kicked off the family's entrepreneurial career 40 years ago with a 1200-sq. foot store on Wellington Street. Vineberg says he will never retire.



The Vineberg clans keeps seeing the same customers coming back for more, and consider some of them their friends.

Politicians spoiling Christmas

Down the Pike

By Ashley Sheltus

There are two ways to look at this week. On one hand, nothing is happening except the usual round of pre-Christmas parties and increasingly frenzied shopping trips to get something for Aunt Martha who is unexpectedly coming; on the other hand, there is too much happening thanks to the Supreme Court and Premier Bourassa. All in all, politicians are trying to put a damper on the most important birthday of the year. Fortunately, they can't spoil it for us because close only counts in horseshoes.

First of all, I want to wish all indefatigable readers of Down the Pike (hi Mom) and you others too, a very merry and wonderful Christmas. Well, Christmas is by definition wonderful, but too many people do not share equally in the feeling.

For people living around Cowansville, may I suggest a bit of extra shopping? For the first time, the shelter for battered women will be open all through the festive season because the season is not festive for everybody. In addition to the women at the newly expanded shelter, there are children. If you can, and if you want to share part of the Christmas spirit, I would ask you to buy a toy and take it to the shelter on James Street. The children will be delighted on Christmas day that Santa could find their new home, and since many children who are the victims of violence when they are young, grow up to be violent or

accept violence, you can do a little to prevent that from happening.

Please. In many respects, these children have led second-class lives. Give them new and first-class presents so as not to reinforce that second class image.

The Legion in Philipsburg will again play host to a monumental New Year's Eve bash, complete with live orchestra (I'm waiting for the first robotic one — although some modern rock groups come close), the usual alcoholic and innocent libations, funny hats and the usual things adults need to put them into the proper frame of mind to face the new year. Quite apart from the augmented police patrols prowling the streets and back alleys looking for erratic drivers, I suggest moderation on the evening. The way 1989 is shaping up, starting it off with a raging hangover does not strike me as the most auspicious beginning. You are going to need all your strength, start saving it early. Remember, no matter how plastered you get on New Year's Eve, the memory blank is merely temporary and when memory returns,

the situation will look worse than it really is — and if that doesn't shake you, nothing will.

I would also like to report on a past event. Last Sunday night at the Bedford Anglican Church, there was a Carol service, as usual. What was not usual was the nativity play staged by the Sunday School that was one of the memorable delights of 1988. The whole thing was the brain child of Audrey Craighead, who also putters around at raising funds for the Museum and running F.W. Jones and Son, Ltd. and helping the Curling Club — the list tends to go on and on. She was assisted by a veritable horde of willing volunteers and by some of the most angelic looking angels and shepherds I have ever seen. There was one who firmly believed the wings on her back were real and kept launching herself off steps to test them out. The Wise Men, after parking their transport in the church camel corral, were suitably magisterial and solemn, as were Mary and Joseph in their parts. When the play ended, the church filled with tiny hurtling angels, shepherds and others, searching for parents and friends. It also filled with a great deal of cheerful noise and Christmas spirit. Next year, if you hear of the Bedford Christmas Carol Service in time, make an effort to come. You'll love it.

Let us all at this Christmas time also remember that the holiday is supposed to signal the end of injustice in the world.

Tickling is well-disguised torture

Ann Landers

Tickling is NOT, repeat NOT, harmless fun. It is a subtle form of sadism. Children have been known to go into convulsions after being tickled for a long time. Parents should be alert to the dangers of tickling, and it should not be tolerated.

Dear Ann Landers: Please print this letter a few weeks before Christmas when large numbers of people will be travelling. Warn them about getting ripped off in airports — and I don't mean \$3 for a hot dog. There's a much bigger problem. It is pickpockets and thieves.

Here's the way I got taken: I walked over to a bank of telephones and put my bag down while I made a call. I turned my back for no longer than one minute. When I looked around my bag was gone. I saw no one near me and have no idea how it happened so fast.

When I reported the loss to a security person he said, "It happens all the time. Thefts in airports are a big business. A clever thief can make \$300,000 a year."

He also told me to be wary of people in airports who ask questions. Often a third party is picking your pocket while you are distracted.

ted. Another warning: When you take your wallet out to get a credit card, be careful when you put it back. A sharp observer with a light touch could lift it within seconds. —Lesson Learned at O'Hare.

Dear O'Hare: Your letter is sure to save some travelers a lot of grief. I am happy you wrote — and millions of others will be, too. (P.S. Note to all airport managers: Please beef up your security personnel!)

Dear Ann Landers: I am writing about newspaper smut and I don't mean pornography: I am talking about the black stuff that gets all over everything because of the ink.

When I pick up our newspaper it's the same as picking up a handful of charcoal. It blackens clothing, upholstery, carpets, you name it. Every time I put a newspaper down, I must wash my hands before I touch anything.

Some people won't allow a newspaper in their home for that reason. Will you please tell the publishers to clean up their act? —Southern Cal Complaint.

Dear S.C.: According to Gene Bell, vice president of operations at the Chicago Tribune, the ink problem is one of the biggest headaches in the industry.

"Low-rub" ink is expensive. The Chicago Tribune uses it. Other major papers are considering switching to it. If the paper you are reading right now is leaving marks on your hands, let your publisher know how you feel about it. But, bear in mind, you might have to pay more for the improvement.

Xmas is tough on alcoholics and their families

By Scott David Harrison
By Rita Feul
Edmonton Sun

EDMONTON (CP) — For people living with alcohol's addictive effects, Christmas "spirit" means something different than joy and good tidings — it means alcohol.

During the holiday season, that translates into temptation for those trying to recover from alcoholism; oblivion for those not trying; and chaos, frustration and anger for close family and friends of alcoholics.

Whether it's spiked eggnog, rum punch, champagne, wine, after-dinner liqueurs or hot toddies, liquor is offered freely during the holiday season, says Bill Waitt, counselling supervisor with the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission.

The emotional pressures around Christmas make it especially hard for alcoholics to say no, says Bill Beach, educational consultant with the commission.

Some people have unrealistic expectations of what Christmas should be like. They'd like a personal version of the Waltons tele-

vision show, a perfect family gathering.

"Because of these expectations being set up and then not being met," says Beach, "my experience is that there's a fair number of people around who experience loneliness, depression and pain."

"In the midst of that, alcohol becomes a kind of magic elixir."

URNS TO BOOZE
People also turn to alcohol when they feel they can't fulfill the expectations of others, Beach adds.

"There's a sales job done on us on what we should be giving and, for a fair number of people, they can't afford the kind of expectations that are there," he says.

Some turn to alcohol because that's all they know. They drank last year and the year before, and why should this year be different?

"If you've got memories connected with drinking, that's a high-risk association itself," says Waitt.

There are ways for recovering alcoholics to deal with the situation.

Waitt says they should make a

plan about what they'll do if they go to a party or a bar to celebrate the holidays with friends.

"You should anticipate every feature of the situation and determine what the risks are," he says. "Have three different tones to say that you would be comfortable with and practise saying them."

Waitt says alcoholics can help keep sober by serving as the designated — non-drinking — driver. If it's necessary to make up an acceptable story, they can tell friends they're on a diet or medication that the alcohol would interfere with.

People who feel self-conscious without a drink should sip on a glass of ginger ale, Waitt adds. If they begin to feel uncomfortable, they should leave.

OTHERS CAN HELP

Party givers can help as well. "If we're giving a party, we should give people a choice," says Beach.

Offer interesting non-alcoholic beverages, and serve food with the drinks. Stop serving alcohol an hour before people leave and make sure people

don't drive if they've had too much to drink.

Family members, especially spouses, of recovering alcoholics have a tricky role to play.

"It's important for all family members to realize they're not responsible for the drinking," says Waitt. "It's not up to them to patrol somebody's drinking or even to monitor it."

At the same time, they may recognize the warning signs of someone about to fall off the wagon, and can warn the alcoholic without preaching.

Some hallowed traditions may also have to be changed.

If the family dinner has always been at the home of the alcoholic, complete with all the stresses that can lead to drinking, it's time to delegate responsibility.

Get everyone to bring a dish or suggest someone else have the dinner this year.

If the alcoholic is still drinking and the family is trying to salvage the holidays, "plan to have a good time for yourself, even if it means going on your own," says Waitt.

Santa should go on a diet and quit smoking the pipe

HOUSTON (Reuter) — Santa Claus should go on a diet, take up aerobics and quit smoking, says Dr. David Pate of Houston.

If you really love the merry old man, leave him raw vegetables instead of cookies on Christmas Eve, says Pate, a specialist in internal medicine at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

"Santa has some of the risk factors that would make him susceptible to cardiovascular

disease," Pate said in a press release. "The literature tells us that he's a white, elderly, overweight man who smokes a pipe."

If he wants to continue his annual toy deliveries, he'd better modify some of his habits, the doctor says.

"He must be fairly spry in order to climb up and down all those chimneys. But, as far as we know, Santa spends most of the

year resting up for his all-night round-the-world sleigh ride, so I think he likely needs a regular aerobic exercise regimen."

Pate suggests Santa and Mrs. Claus take walks around the toy factory with Rudolph.

"Then, after they have built up some endurance, they could try some low-impact aerobics or cycling. I often recommend swimming to my patients, but I doubt that there are many heated pools at the North Pole."

Pate speculates Santa has a diet heavy on fish, like his Inuit neighbors, which probably cuts down his blood cholesterol levels.

But once a year he's known to eat lots of high-cholesterol cookies and cakes left for him by grateful children — very bad for the cardiovascular system.

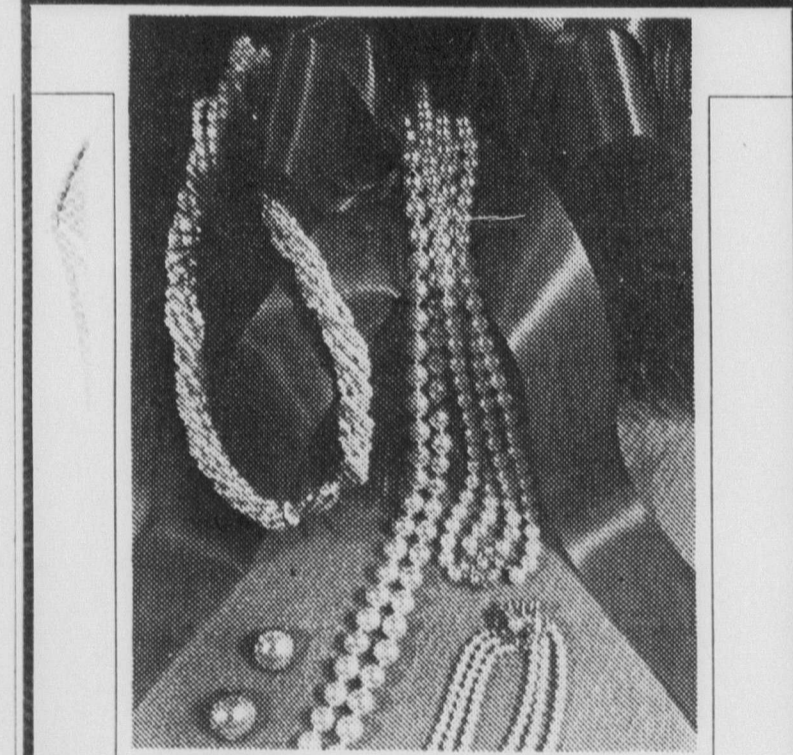
As a favor to Santa, Pate recommends kids put out apples or carrot sticks and yogurt dip, with mineral water instead of brandied eggnog on the side.

Santa's pipe-smoking habit puts him at greater risk for oral cancer, Pate says. Also, the bearded elf inhales a lot of chimney dust, which could contribute to development of lung cancer or emphysema.

"He should make a chest X-ray part of his yearly physical exam, just to be on the safe side," Pate says.

Santa, Mrs. Claus and the elves should also be aware of the risk of contracting skin cancer because they're exposed to six months of unrelenting sunshine each year at the North Pole, the doctor adds.

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Number now available is bewildering

Too many equity funds make it tough to decide

Investors eager to participate in the stock market over the past few years have flocked to equity mutual funds. But many find it difficult to choose the right equity funds. The sheer number now available—over 300—is bewildering. Moreover, the terminology used to describe them may be confusing. What's the difference, for instance, between a growth fund and an aggressive growth fund? Or between an international fund and a global fund?

For example, if you don't blanch at the risk of losing some of your capital and want to go all out for growth, you might look to put some of your capital in aggressive growth equity funds. The managers of such funds often invest heavily in young, small, innovative companies they expect to increase substantially in value. Aggressive funds often do better than average in bull markets and worse than average in bear markets.

If you're more conservative but still want to emphasize growth, limit your search to

Investment Interest

Daniel Watier is an investment executive at ScotiaMcLeod.

regular growth or capital appreciation funds. These funds typically invest in larger and less speculative companies likely to produce a steady, long-term rise in earnings.

An important subcategory of growth funds is the group that invests in the stocks of foreign companies. You should be aware of the different funds available. An international fund invests primarily in foreign stocks, while a global fund may invest in a mixture of Canadian and/or foreign issues. You can determine which type it is by checking its investments philosophy as explained in the prospectus. Finally, there are some funds that invest in a single region "e.g., the Pacific Basin". These are less diversified, and therefore might entail more risk, how-

ever they are a practical way for an individual to invest internationally.

Another subcategory of growth funds is sector funds which invest heavily in single industries. Although these funds are more prevalent in the United States than in Canada to date, there are some Canadian Sector mutual funds such as energy funds, technology funds or gold funds which enable you to zero in on a particular industry you expect to prosper. Sector funds, too, are somewhat risky because they lack broad diversification.

For investors who need current income, but would like some capital growth as well, dividend funds may be an appropriate choice. They normally set a dividend payout target that they meet by investing in large, blue-chip companies that pay dividends consistently. They also have some long-term growth potential.

A relatively new fund category in Canada is funds which invest in companies according to their social, political or environmental policies. Such funds are known

as ethical funds. To date there are only a few such funds in Canada, but they will likely be of interest to socially-conscious investors and their performance has been creditable as well.

Once you know which category of fund is best for you, check the five-and ten-year performance records of all the funds in that category. This measures consistency of performance and tells you how each fund did in both up and down markets. You can find rankings periodically in the Financial Times, and your Investment Executive can provide additional guidance.

Daniel Watier is an investment executive at ScotiaMcLeod.



Daniel Watier is an Investment Executive with ScotiaMcLeod Inc.

Grade 8 dropout may see his empire crumble

TORONTO (CP) — No one doubts Robert Campeau's ability to swing a deal.

But investors are increasingly worried that the huge retailing and real-estate empire built by the Grade 8 dropout from Sudbury, Ont., could crumble under its debt burden.

Investors have driven Campeau Corp. stock down about 45 per cent from its high of \$25.50. The shares hit a 52-week low of \$14.13 Monday, but regained some ground by Wednesday, closing at \$15.13 in Toronto.

Campeau's fall from grace has outpaced stock-price declines among other major American retailers, "and to us that means financing problems," says Janet Mangano, retail analyst at New York-based Josephthal and Co.

Investors have scrambled to sell Campeau shares despite praise from some Toronto real estate analysts who confidently predict the company's chairman will prove his detractors wrong. **DEEPER IN DEBT**

What investors and most New York-based analysts find most unnerving is the massive amount Campeau borrowed to buy Allied Stores in 1986 and Federated Department Stores last spring.

They fear a slower economy and rising interest rates could

knock the free-wheeling tycoon off his financial tightrope.

"The perception in the United States is that since the takeover of Federated, he has run into difficulties," said one New York-based analyst, who asked not to be named because his investment firm is one of many advising Campeau. "His cash flow is very poor and he has a lot of debt to pay."

Campeau paid a total of \$10.3 billion US for Allied and Federated. Estimates of what he will owe at the end of 1988 range between \$8.8 billion and \$9.5 billion.

"His initial problem was he paid too much," the New York analyst said. "And that problem doesn't go away."

INTEREST MOUNTS
Interest alone will total \$740 million in 1988 and \$840 million in 1989, estimates Don Tigert, a real estate analyst at Burns Fry in Toronto.

But Tigert and other Toronto analysts believe Campeau will generate enough cash flow to meet its debt payments comfortably.

Tigert argues that Campeau's aggressive cost-cutting, saving \$350 million a year, will offset any shortfall. But New York retail analysts say the cost-cutting may have gone too far.

Tax rates to fall, but valuations to rise

Santa goes to West Bolton, Scrooge not far behind

By Gil Smith

Santa and his reindeer flew over the chimney tops of West Bolton this Christmas week, bringing news of tax reductions to the municipality's grateful citizens.

But Scrooge was close behind, saying "humbug" to the tax-reducing concept.

Santa, speaking through his official West Bolton representative, Mayor Fred Lahue, advised ratepayers that their next tax bills would reflect a drop in the official mill rate.

"The rate will drop to \$0.36 cents per thousand dollars of valuation from \$0.38 cents, and thereby effect a tax reduction," said Mayor spokesman Lahue. "In that way we'll be helping ratepayers offset increases in their property valuations, which may be reflected in future tax bills."

It's in the sensitive area of property valuation increases that Scrooge gets in his licks. And raises Mayor Lahue's hackles in "Property valuations for West Bolton are not handled by the municipality," he pointed out. "They're a Provincial Government department matter. And, what those people do is take the going real estate value of a property and base their tax assessment figures on that. As those values seem to be always rising — on paper, that is — the taxes that ratepayers are liable for keep going up."

Before the changed property valuation rules were put into effect, in fiscal 1982, real estate in this municipality was assessed at only 35% of its real value. Since the new valuation system has been adopted, the increase in property values for taxation has been formidable. In a one-year period alone, values in West Bolton for tax purposes skyrocketed to \$39,000,000 from \$31,000,000.

"I am totally against the idea of basing all real estate values in this municipality on the going real estate price," declared Mayor Lahue. "The fact is that many properties, for any number of reasons, could not be sold for the going valuation figure. So, the people who own those properties should not be forced to pay a tax rate based on an unrealistic valuation."

The mayor's views will get a resounding "Yea" from West Bolton ratepayers, no doubt, despite the fact that taxes here are little more than a Santa-like "Ho-Ho" compared to neighboring Knowlton. The mill rate there, despite

a recent \$0.04 cent reduction, is still a stiff \$1.08 per \$1,000 of valuation; or triple the West Bolton rate.

Sources close to this municipality suggested, however, and Mayor Lahue subsequently confirmed that the reduced mill rate was inspired by more than a simple Christmas spirit of giving.

"The fact is," said a source who preferred anonymity, "the town council had to reduce taxes to cut down on a surplus that was endangering the annual road subsidy, paid by the Provincial Government. The Government told West Bolton that further subsidies would be endangered by the posting of an ongoing yearly surplus."

The surplus has been estimated at some \$65,000.

"The council had the option of reducing the mill rate by as much as \$0.08 cents a mill in one shot, or spreading it out over four years by reducing it \$0.02 cents a year," the source revealed. "They chose the second option to protect against and unexpected expenses that'd make a mill rate reduction impractical in any given future year. In other words, they provi-

ded themselves with a buffer for emergencies."

Mayor Lahue confirmed the thinking behind the gradual four-year reduction. But he added that the council also had plans to spend some of the surplus on improvements to the antiquated town hall and other

projects.

The hall where the council meets in West Bolton is without lavatory facilities, and is so old that it's officially regarded as an historical building. It was once known as Duboyce School No. 2, where some of the town's earliest residents attended classes.

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Card parties in the townships

HATLEY (DS) — A card party was held in St. James Church Hall on November 19 when cards were played at seven tables. Scores were added up and ladies high went to Juliette Keet and low to Mary Kimpton. Gents high, Bert Mosher, low, Rupert Huckins. Skunk prize, Jack Kimpton, Floating prize, Bert Mosher, 9 no trump, Rupert Huckins. Door prizes: Irene Shelden, Bar-

bara Wing, Vivian Moulton, William Wharry and Merrill Mosher. Drawing of a grocery box claimed by Stanley Keet. ***
HATLEY (DS) — A card party was held in St. James Church Hall on December 3. Cards were played at nine tables. After several games scores were added up, ladies high prize, Lorraine Harrison, low, Mildred Stan-

dish, Gents high, Albino Marancin, low, Stan Keet. Floating prize, Mildred Stan-dish, Skunk, Stan Keet, 9 no trump, Lena Young. Door prizes: G. Boisvert, Irene Shelden, Audrey Nelson, Hilda Nelson, Paul Maheux and Bert Mosher. A drawing took place with G. Boisvert the lucky winner. ***

WATERVILLE — St. John's Anglican Church Women held their Christmas card party in St. John's Anglican Church Hall on December 9 and cards were played at eleven tables. It's nice to see a few more new faces. First prize, Beth Cullen; Second, Mary Majury; third, Ethel Gilbert; fourth Ernie Ross; consolation, Vivian Moulton. Prizes for nine no trump without the joker went to Beth Cullen and Gertrude Watson. Skunk prizes, Vivian Moulton and Byron Labonté. Raffle, ten dollars, claimed by Archie Moulton. Door prizes: Gertrude Watson, Isabel Nelson, Mary Hartwell, Byron Labonté, Alison Watson, Don Cullen, Gerald Fowler, Bob Sage, Albino Marancin and Evelyn Pettigrew. This is our last card party until the spring. We wish to thank everyone who has helped in any way to make our card parties successful. To all who have donated food, money, prizes, etc., your help is very much appreciated. ***

There were ten tables in play. Winners: First, Irene Morley; second, Mary Emmett; consolation, Friedel Jagusch. Gents: First, Oral McGovern; second, Lawrence Page; consolation, Bruce McPherson. Bingo: Hazel McGovern; Mac Jones. Fourth hand high score: Mary Horne and Carol Page. Door prizes: Ray Tinkler, Hazel McGovern, Preston Crittenden, Irene Smith, Freda Neil, Eva Page. Raffle: Ray Tinkler, Eva Page, Lois Pow, Anita Hanna, Friedel Jagusch, Hazel McGovern, Bruce McPherson, Herbie Riti, George Wilson, Margaret Neil. ***

Deaths
MacDOUGAL, Doris Margaret — At the Berlin Convalescent Center, Montpelier, Vt., on Tuesday, December 20, 1988, after a prolonged illness. Beloved wife of Allan Bruce McDougal, and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Harvey McIntyre of Sherbrooke. She is survived by a sister Eunice McIntyre and a brother-in-law Percy Gray. She was predeceased by a sister Muriel (Mrs. Percy Gray). Interment will take place in the spring at Plainmont, Vt.

RIDDELL, Rufus — At Sarcee Auxilliary and Nursing Home, Calgary, Alta., on Tuesday, December 20, 1988. Rufus Henry Riddell, in his 96th year. Beloved husband of the late Evelyn Swail. Dear father of James (Helen) of Calgary, Alta., and Laura (Harry Stoddard) of Vulcan, Alta. Loving grandfather of four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Also survived by nephew Norman Winslow and niece Mayolta Taylor. Resting at L.O. Cass and Son Funeral Home, 55 Cookshire St., Sawyerville, where friends may call on Wednesday, Dec. 28 from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Funeral service will be held in Sawyerville United Church on Thursday at 2 p.m.

In Memoriam
McCORMICK — In memory of W.J. McCormick who passed away December 22, 1970. The depths of sorrow we cannot tell, Of the loss of one we loved so well. And while he sleeps a peaceful sleep, His memory we shall always keep. RITA & GILBERT

WALKER, Herbert W. — In loving memory of a dear husband and father who passed away December 22, 1953. In a quiet country grave yard Where the gentle breezes blow, Lies the one who left us years ago. We do not need a special day To bring him to our mind, For the days we do not think of him Are very hard to find. Lovingly remembered by ETHEL (wife) MARION, PHYLLIS, FLOYD & HELEN (children)

PLEASE NOTE
All — Births, Card of Thanks, In Memoriams, Brieflets, and items for the Townships Crier should be sent in typewritten or printed in block letters.

All of the following must be sent to The Record with payment, typewritten or neatly printed. They will not be accepted by phone. Please include a telephone number where you can be reached during the day.

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DEATH NOTICES:
Cost: 16¢ per word.
DEADLINE:

For death notices to appear in Monday editions:
Death notices may be called in to the Record between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. Sunday.

For death notices to appear in Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday editions:
Death notices may be called in to the Record between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. the day previous to the day the notice is to appear.

To place a death notice in the paper, call (819) 569-4856. If any other Record number is called, The Record cannot guarantee publication the next day.

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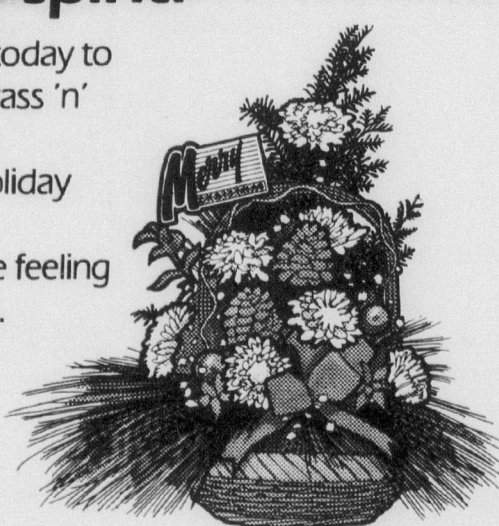
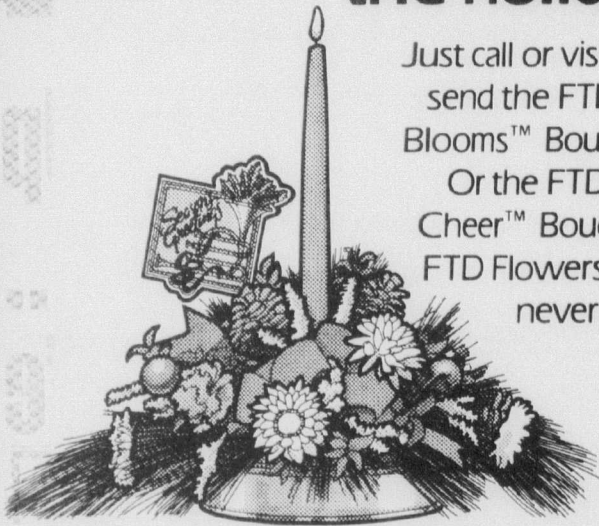
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BULWER
Christmas Eve Service in Bulwer United Church at 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Come and bring your friends.

SHERBROOKE
St. Peter's A.C.W. Thrift Shop, located at 200 Montreal Street, Sherbrooke, will be closed for the Christmas season and will reopen on Wednesday, January 11, 1989, and every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Household items, books and clothing are offered for sale, all in good condition, nearly new.

SHERBROOKE
The Word of Grace Broadcast, K900 Dial 90, will have a special program featuring the Christmas concert of the Estrie Young Singers and other seasonal music on Christmas morning from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

This column accepts items free or charge announcing events organized by churches, service clubs and recognized charitable institutions. Requests should be mailed, well in advance, to THE RECORD, P.O. Box 1200, Sherbrooke, Que. J1H 5L6, be signed and include telephone number of person forwarding the notice. Telephone requests cannot be accepted. Admission charges and trade names will be deleted. No dances.

SUTTON — On Friday, December 2nd a 500 card party sponsored by the ACW of Grace Anglican Church was held in the Parish Hall at 8 p.m. with cards played at seven tables and three members over.

Winners: Ladies, Miss Beatrice Houle, Mrs. Arthur Jauniaux and Mrs. Jeanne D'Arc Elie; Gents: Herbie Riti, George Wilson and James Robertson.

Door prizes: Mac Jones, Eunice Thomas, Shirley Beaulac, Lawrence Page, Carl Thomas, Arthur Jauniaux, Allen Chute, Real Beaulac, Robert Sharman and Dorothy Chute.

Card of Thanks
SMITH — I wish to thank the nurses and staff on third, fourth and I.C.U. unit of the Sherbrooke Hospital for the care I received as a patient. To Dr. Echenberg and staff, Dr. Marosi and Dr. Smart. For cards, calls, visits and especially my family who are always ready to help in any way. Thanks everyone.
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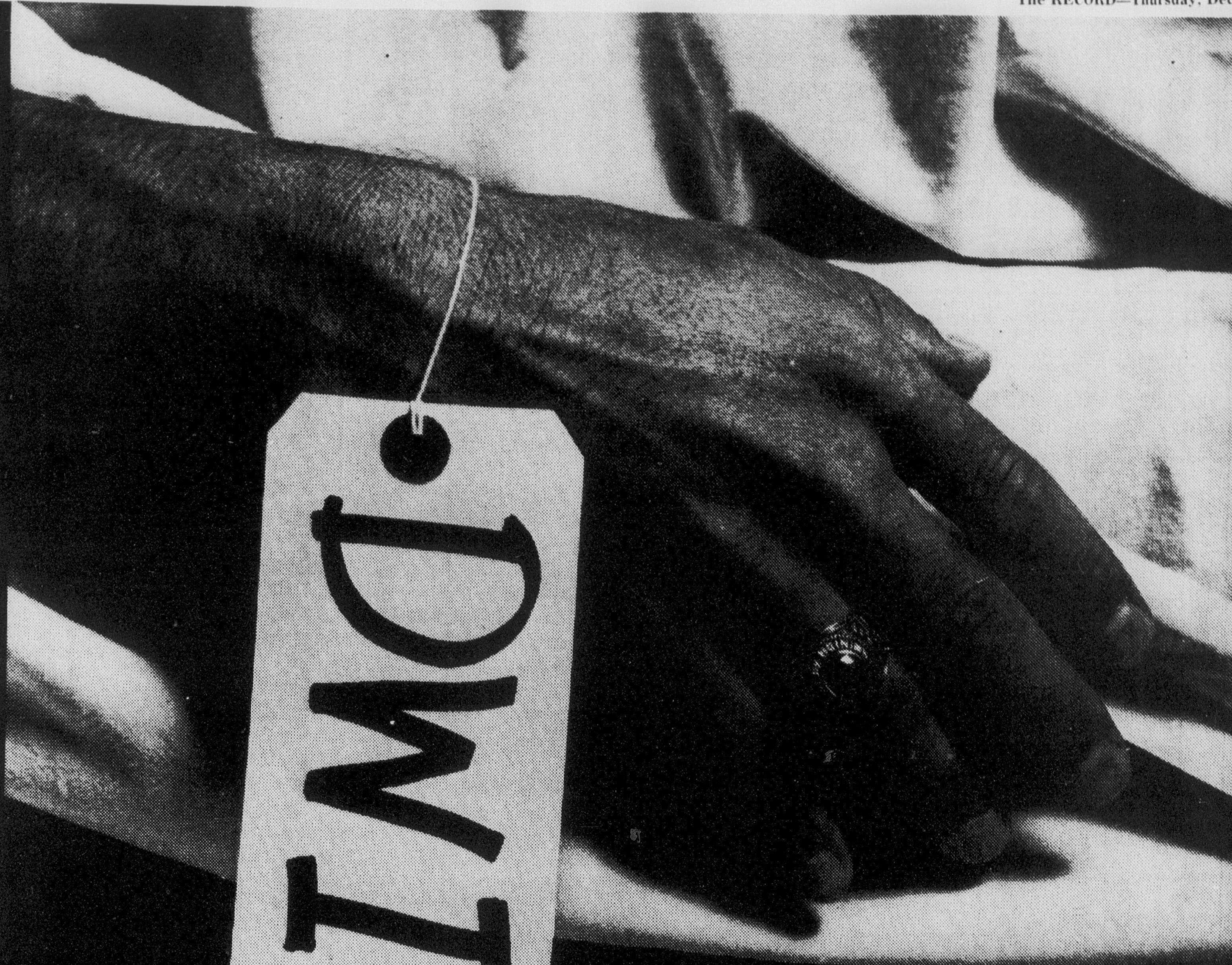
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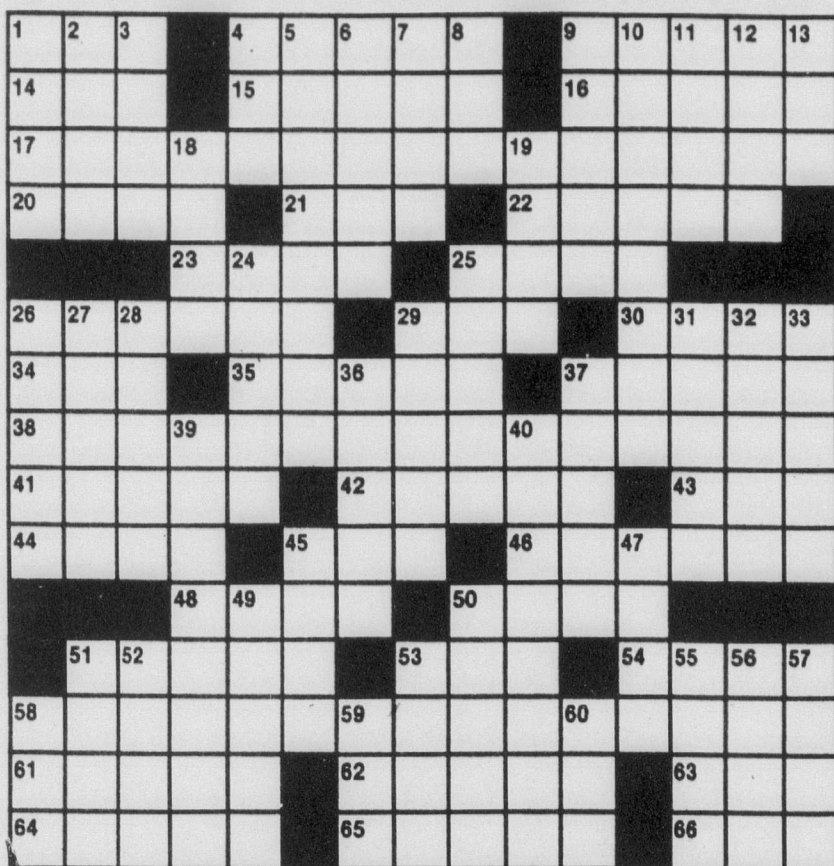
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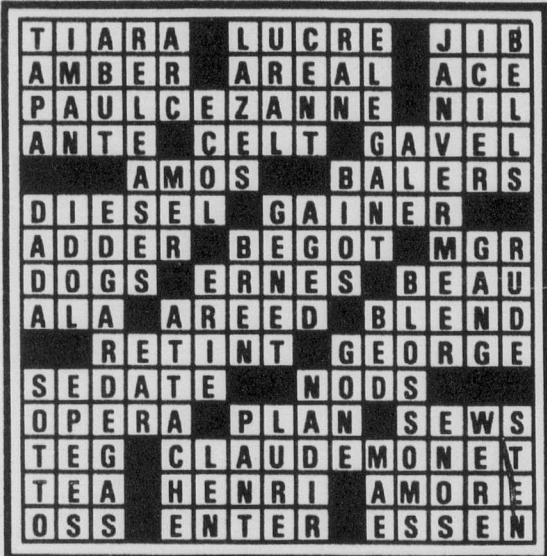
Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Bundle of moola
 4 Clocked
 9 Prayer words
 14 Burrows or Vigoda
 15 Practically assured
 16 Major— (stewards)
 17 Beatles' film
 20 Fr. city
 21 Dolt
 22 Preface for short
 23 "Grand Ole —"
 25 Study hard
 26 Emceed
 29 Money player
 30 Part of Earth
 34 Uncle: Scot.
 35 US playwright
 37 Mountain climbing spike
 38 Thomas film
 41 Moldings
 42 "— Evil" (Farrow film)
 43 Falsehood
 44 Mend
 45 Loser to DDE
 46 Make beloved
 48 Toppers
 50 TV's Kojak
 51 Garment
 53 Gold: Sp.
 54 Sibley or pup
 58 Anne Baxter film
 61 Telephone word
 62 Greet the day
 63 Kind
 64 Ger. port
 65 Pick up an option
 66 Poor grade



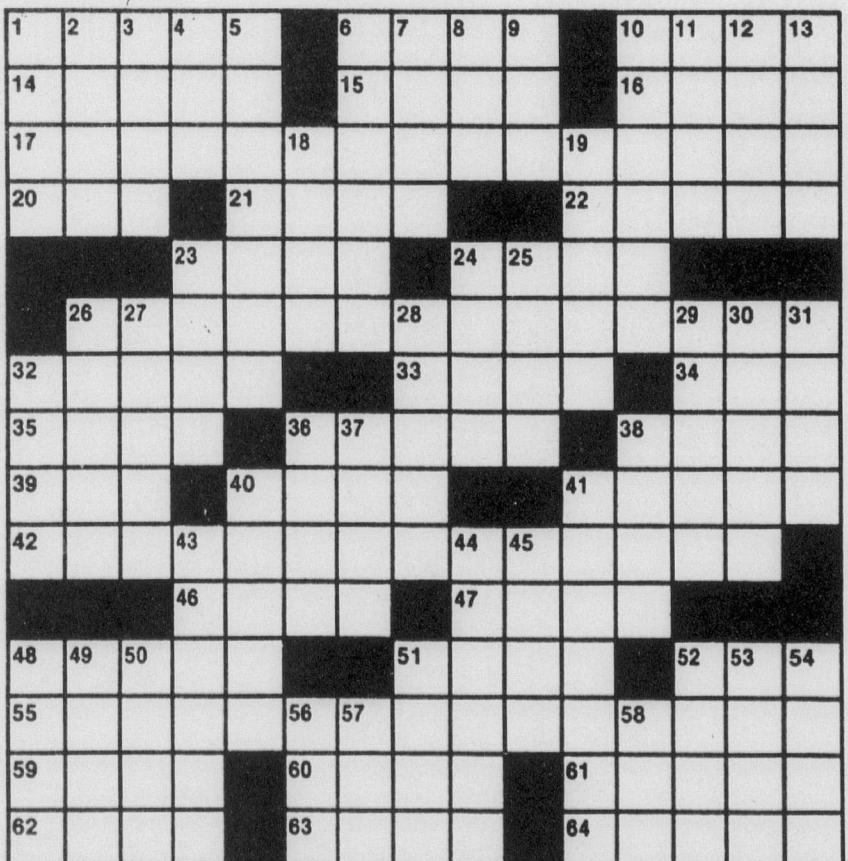
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



- DOWN**
 1 Methods
 2 Encourage
 3 Farmer's spot
 4 Also
 5 Privately
 6 Young girl
 7 Old Fr. coins
 8 Socialite for short
 9 Turk. city
 10 Perpetual holding of land
 11 Arab prince
 12 Taboo
 13 Comp. pt.
 18 Plunder
 19 Artist Joan
 24 Acmes
 25 — de menthe
 26 King of Judea
 27 The last
 28 Passover feast
 29 For — sake!
 31 Fence steps
 32 Asia Minor region
 33 Vex
 36 Foundations
 37 Liable
 39 Wise
 40 Limited
 45 Aleutian Island
 47 Be overfond
 49 Man-made fiber
 50 Practice
 51 Son of Noah
 52 Kept
 53 Beast
 55 Author
 56 Afr. river
 57 Accept
 58 Article
 59 Cup handle
 60 Moisture

- ACROSS**
 1 Steep descent
 6 Baobab
 10 Cry loudly
 14 Concerning the sun
 15 Seasoning
 16 Ancient Gr. theaters
 17 Gleason sitcom
 20 Call for help
 21 Cudgels
 22 Excavations
 23 A-one
 24 Decree
 26 Saccharine
 32 Filch
 33 Diva's song
 34 Marsh elder
 35 Ger. title
 36 Discharges
 38 Agitate
 39 Cuckoo
 40 Sonny the entertainer
 41 Place
 42 "Sugar in the gourd and —"
 46 Pointed tools
 47 Ample old style
 48 Rio de la —
 51 River boat
 52 Convent occupant
 55 Fats Waller hit
 59 Always
 60 Type of exam
 61 Black bird
 62 Soaks
 63 Expansive
 64 Garden tool



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



- DOWN**
 1 Ocean flyers
 2 Salmon type
 3 Pub quaffs
 4 Stadium sound
 5 Showplace for NFL stars
 6 Afr. fly
 7 Beams
 8 Shade tree
 9 DDE command
 10 Skipjack
 11 Arab port
 12 Existed
 13 Young woman
 18 Nucha
 19 Neb. city
 23 Autocrat
 24 Food
 25 Egypt. goddess
 26 "— clock scholar"
 27 Finch
 28 Old-time playing card
 29 Saltpeter
 30 Lake Geneva resort
 31 Playground
 32 Persian title
 36 Frustrate
 37 Stopovers
 38 Put away
 40 Obscure road
 41 April's gifts
 43 Cafe patrons
 44 Annoy the orator
 45 Chemical compound
 48 Exclamation of relief
 49 Affection
 50 Dill once
 51 Tropical fish
 52 Exploding star
 53 Second-hand
 54 Hawaiian goose
 56 Pig
 57 Swiss canton
 58 Talk



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EK & MEK® by Howie Schneider



WINTHROP® by Dick Cavalli



FRANK & ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



L'L ABNER® by Al Capp



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CARLYLE'S CHRISTMAS by Larry Wright

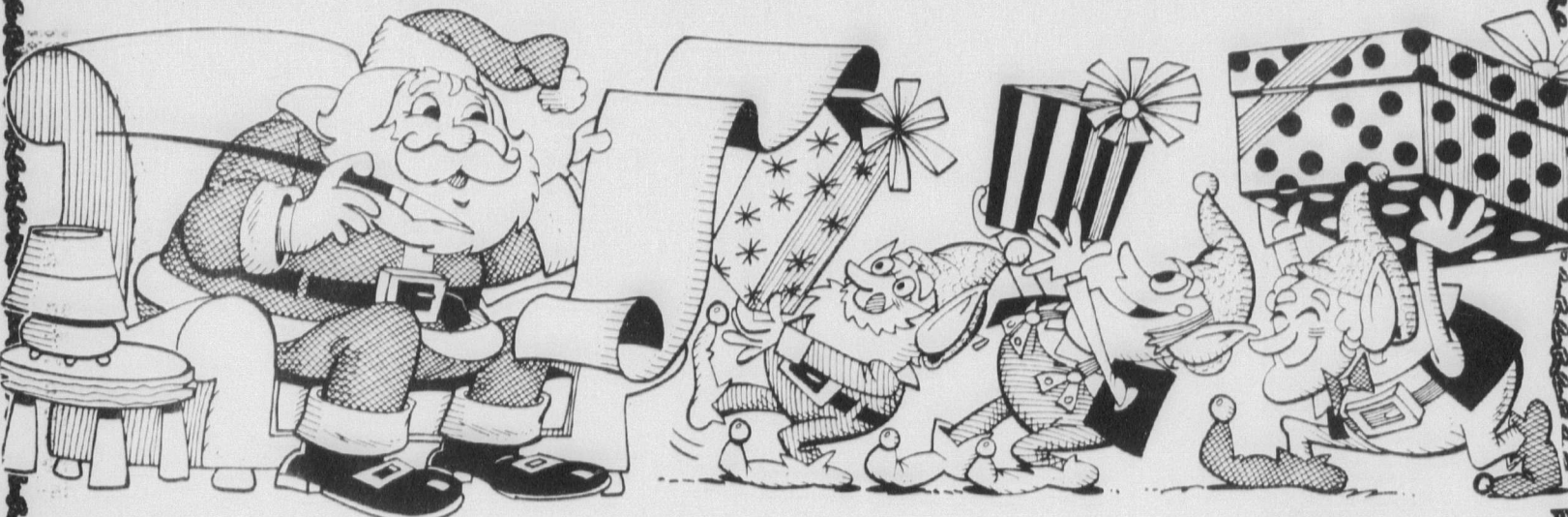


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Shopping Guide



3 Buying Days Until Christmas!

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 Best wishes go out to Ella Roy who has been a patient in the BMP Hospital, Cowansville.
 Mr. and Mrs. James Crawford, Bangor, Maine, visited Mrs. Nell Chalifoux at the Sutton Foyer recently. Mr. and Mrs. Eric Jones of North Sutton also called on Mrs. Chalifoux and others at the Foyer recently.
 Mrs. Blanche Dunn of Knowlton and Mrs. Sally Ross and granddaughter Carrie of Edmonton, Alta. were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert McElroy.
 Mrs. Margaret Goyette is a patient in the BMP Hospital, get-well wishes go out to her from her many friends.
 The food sale for the benefit of the Dixville Home, held at the Thirsty Boot in Knowlton on Nov. 26 was as usual a financial success. Many thanks to all who donated or helped in any way.
 Sympathy is extended to the Beaugard family and other relatives in the death of Mrs. Beaugard's father Albert Beattie after a long illness.
 Mrs. Annie Crawford passed away at the Sutton Foyer recently, condolences to her family.
 Word has been received from Nancy Boyce that she is back in Winnipeg after ten days in London, England. Nancy and two others who are taking an internship course at the museum of Man & Nature in Winnipeg were sent to London to observe and learn about the museums in that city as part of their studies.

Hatley
Mrs. Wm. Cutler
 Miss Vivian Miller of the Senior Home in Sawyerville spent a few days with her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Miller recently and while here celebrated her birthday. Belated congratulations Vivian!
 Members of the United Church Women were at the Stoddard Home one afternoon for a social hour and carol singing which was much appreciated by the ladies. At the close of the program supper was served.
 Mr. and Mrs. Bert Arbery and Irvin Arbery of Sherbrooke, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin McKinley of Valcartier and Leonard Smith of Stoneham were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Roarke.
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cutler were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Lloyd Hartwell in Sherbrooke.
 Mrs. Roy McIntyre and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cunningham are frequent visitors at the Sherbrooke Hospital to see their mother Mrs. Saidie Cunningham who is hospitalized.
 Mr. and Mrs. Neil Smith of Mansonville were visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. Lester Drew recently and while here called on her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cutler, also Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Hartwell, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Stoddard and the ladies at the Stoddard home.
 Mrs. Clifford Curtis and Mrs. Ray Rediker assisted by some of the UCW ladies entertained over thirty senior citizens of the village at dinner in the Vestry on Tuesday, December 13. The tables were decorated in Christmas motif and all enjoyed a delicious dinner.
 The UCW members, husbands and friends held their Christmas supper and party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Miller on Wednesday, December 14 with 36 present. Following supper a social evening followed with games and cards being enjoyed.

Thursday, Dec. 22, 1988

NORTH 12-22-88			
◆ K 7 4			
◆ K 10 7 4			
◆ 9 8 5			
◆ K 10 7			
WEST			
◆ J 10 3			
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◆ K J 10 6 4 3 2			
◆ 6 3			
EAST			
◆ A Q 8 6 2			
◆ Q 8 5			
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SOUTH			
◆ 9 5			
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◆ A 7			
◆ A Q 4 2			
Vulnerable: North-South Dealer: West			
West 3 ♦ Pass	North Pass 4 ♥	East Pass Pass	South 3 ♥ Pass
Opening lead: ♦ J			

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Compiling evidence

By James Jacoby

The old adage "eight ever, nine never" refers to the correct percentage play when you are missing only a queen and have either eight cards or nine in the suit in the combined hands. If you follow the adage blindly, you always finesse against the queen with eight cards and never take the finesse with nine. That would be fine if the game were played in a vacuum, but we all know that bridge takes place in the free atmosphere, so declarer should consider distribution and let logic overrule the adage when appropriate.

South got to four hearts after West had opened three diamonds. The jack of spades held the first trick, and a second spade was played. East tried to cash a third spade, but declarer ruffed with the nine of hearts. He played a heart to the king and, on the basis of West holding length in diamonds, was inclined to finesse against East for the queen of trumps. But for more assurance, he first played ace of diamonds and another diamond. West won the 10 and played the king, ruffed by declarer as East shed clubs. Now South played to dummy's club king and came back with a heart, since there was now stronger evidence that the finesse was right. By this time West had shown up with three spades, one heart, seven diamonds and one club. If he were left with the heart queen, he would have a singleton club, so why didn't he lead it initially? Declarer, or should we call him Sherlock Holmes, therefore put in the jack of hearts and made the contract.

James Jacoby's books "Jacoby on Bridge" and "Jacoby on Card Games" (written with his father, the late Oswald Jacoby) are now available at bookstores. Both are published by Pharos Books. © 1988, NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

Your Birthday

Dec. 22, 1988

In the year ahead your greatest strides are likely to be made in situations that do not require partners. For best results, try to strike out on your own.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) One-to-one relationships could be extremely touchy today, even with friends of long standing. Don't permit something to develop that could jeopardize a valued alliance. Major changes are ahead for Capricorn in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions today. Mail \$1 to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 91428, Cleveland, OH 44101-3428. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Taking impulsive shortcuts in tasks that require time and patience could lead to undesirable consequences today. Don't end up at ground zero.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) If your instincts tell you to avoid a certain group or clique today, it could prove wise to follow your hunches. Being around people you dislike will make you feel very uncomfortable.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Although you'll mean well, if you're not careful today, you could create bigger complications for the people whose affairs you're attempting to manage. It's best not to interfere.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Strive to be open-minded and flexible today or else you could be resistant to the sound advice or suggestions of associates who have your interests at heart.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) It behooves you to be a bit more budget-minded at this time. If not, the cumulative effect of small debts could become an overwhelming sum you'll have to deal later.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you are too self-serving today, you might have to deal with an individual who is as single-minded as yourself. This could result in a no-gain situation where both parties are concerned.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Failing to take care of important matters today could create a critical log jam for you. Don't let negligence crowd you into a corner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is not a good day to gamble on risky ventures, even if you link up with a pal who usually fares well on flyers. Both could go down the pipe.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If you present your case in a manner today that is too arrogant or forceful, the results are likely to be just the opposite of your hopes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Your companions will not be very appreciative of your company today if you come on like a know-it-all. Give others a chance to present their points of view without attacking their statements.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Be on guard today so that you are not maneuvered into a position where you have to pay for someone else's mistake. This could be costly if money is involved.

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BRIDGE

JAMES JACOBY

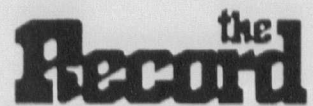
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IS FOR THE BIRDS

3 shopping days to Christmas

ASTRO-GRAPH

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sports



Mount Orford opens three new ski hills in bold expansion

By Ann McLaughlin

ORFORD — Mount Orford ski centre is celebrating its 50th birthday by opening a new side of the mountain to ski on.

Mont Giroux East, one of three of the adjoining mountains making up the Orford centre, was inaugurated Wednesday by Sherbrooke Mayor Jean-Paul Pelletier. Three new hills have been made and Pelletier cut the

ribbon at the bottom of one of the hills, appropriately named Sherbrooke, an expert-calibre slope which faces the city. The two other hills, Slalom and Passe-Montagne, are for skiers of intermediate and beginner levels.

"I am honored to have a hill at the ski centre named after the city," said Pelletier, adding that Mount Orford is a very important tourist asset for Sherbrooke and

the surrounding towns.

Both the new expert and intermediate hills are equipped with artificial snow-making machines. And a quadruple chairlift has also been installed on the east side of Giroux which brings the entire ski centre's lift capacity to 11,400 skiers per hour.

"The new side of the mountain adds a new dimension to the ski centre. It opened last Saturday and skiers couldn't stop talking about its merits," said Orford Director Fernand Magnand.

The pièce de résistance at Orford ski centre is the new condo village at the foot of Mont Giroux, built over the last two years. Out of the 87 town houses built, 75 have been sold, Magnand said. He added that the condos built so close to the east-side chairlift allow skiers a ski-in, ski-out arrangement. In other words, skiers coming from the village don't have to go around by the main parking lot to get onto other hills.

"The village was designed to be functional all year round," Magnand said.

Two tennis courts and a heated swimming pool were constructed within the forested foothills; a stream is covered by a wooden suspension bridge and belvedere look-outs hang over the stream's rapids.

It took \$25 million and four years to complete the expansion of the Orford centre, and most of

the money was put into improving the hills and renovating the chalet at the base of Mont Orford, said Magnand. As a result, Orford's clientele has gone up 200 per cent and over 1000 jobs have been created directly and indirectly.

Magnand added that Orford centre will soon be entering its second phase of expansion.

"Phase two is projected to take

up to 10 years with \$50 million of investment money. A sports centre is planned as well as a skiers centre, which would include various shops," Magnand said. "A lighting system will also be installed on Mont Giroux and midway up Mont Orford in the shorter term."

On the third adjoining mountain of the Orford centre, Mont Alfred Desrochers, slopes will be

widened, artificial snow machines will be put into place and a quadruple chairlift added.

The 1988-89 ski centre began officially last Saturday and despite the mild weather, snow-making equipment have kept a dozen of the slopes open. Though Magnand said he is hoping for a snowstorm, there will still be plenty of skiing over the Christmas holidays.



Mayor Jean-Paul Pelletier displays a replica of the Mont Orford ski centre. He said the ski hill is a very important tourist asset for Sherbrooke and the surrounding towns.



Telemarkers do their stuff atop Mont Giroux.

'The adrenalin was really flowing, since we hadn't beaten these guys all year' Skrudland scores two goals in Habs 6-4 win

By Terry Scott

MONTREAL (CP) — The approach of a new year and a rare scoring splurge Wednesday night have combined to buoy the holiday spirits of Montreal Canadiens centre Brian Skrudland.

"I'm not proud of my goal-scoring feats in the past, but who knows, the new year is coming," Skrudland declared vibrantly after he scored two goals 37 seconds apart — the first one coming only nine seconds after a score by teammate Mats Naslund — powering the Canadiens to a 6-4 NHL victory over the Quebec Nordiques.

"The adrenalin was really flowing, since we hadn't beaten these guys all year," added Skrudland, who has five goals in 35 games.

The outcome spoiled the homecoming for Jean Perron, who was fired as head coach of the Canadiens last spring but returned behind the bench of the Nordiques, who appointed him last week as the replacement for the ailing Ron Lapointe.

"It felt fine," Perron said of

his visit to the building in which he coached the Canadiens for three seasons. "The only thing missing was a win to make it perfect, but we weren't exactly playing a last-place team out there."

"They have players who play a particular role, although it was a little different for Skrudland tonight."

HAS FOUR ASSISTS

Defenceman Chris Chelios, who had a hand in both of Skrudland's goals, drew four assists in the game, which saw Montreal stretch its unbeaten string at the Forum to 14, including 12 victories. The Canadiens, who have only one loss in their last 13 games, finally solved the Nordiques, winners of the three previous meetings this season.

Mats Naslund ignited the Canadiens' rapid-fire offence, preceding Skrudland with his 15th goal at 1:47 of the middle period, ending a 2-2 tie. The second period had started with that result following goals by Montreal's Russ Courtnall and Mike McPhee and the Nordiques' Walt Poddubny, who later added his 22nd goal, and

Michel Goulet, with his 13th.

"The opposing coach doesn't mean anything to a player, although maybe he does to management," replied Naslund when asked whether Perron's presence was a motivational factor. "I thought we were in charge of the game from our first goal."

Rookie Joe Sakic, returning after a 10-game absence because of a sprained ankle, revived Quebec's hopes by scoring less than two minutes after the Skrudland goal, but 21 seconds after Iiro Jarvi was penalized for the Nordiques, Claude Lemieux tipped in Chelios's point shot, making it 6-3 at 6:01.

The go-ahead goal by Naslund came after he stripped the puck from Anton Stastny and boomed a slap shot from high in the slot.

GETS REBOUND

Skrudland almost matched his season output on one shift in the middle period, during which Montreal outshot the Nordiques 14-3. He pounced on a rebound off the boards and backhanded the puck between the legs of goaltender Bob

Mason. Then, stationed in the slot, he got his stick on a slap shot by Chelios for a goal that prompted Perron to lift Mason for Mario Gosselin.

Brian Hayward, the Montreal netminder, boosted his career record to 14-5 against Quebec, and was especially sharp early in the third period, when the Canadiens had a two-man disadvantage. Poddubny's second goal, with 6:28 to play, was the only one of 13 third-period shots to beat Hayward.

Canadiens' notes: Perron was received warmly by the fans as he crossed the ice to get to the Nordiques' bench prior to the game. He waved to acknowledge the cheers, which drowned out the boos. . . The Canadiens, after 38 games, are only one point behind their pace of last season, which produced 103 points, the second-best record overall. . . Defenceman Mike Lalor, who has missed 28 games because of a hairline fracture of his left leg, has resumed skating, but he won't return until at least Jan. 7, when the Canadiens return home after a 16-day road trip during the Christmas holidays.

Bronco's fired coach fires shots of his own

DENVER (AP) — The NFL is infiltrated by jerks and egomaniacs, says deposed Denver Broncos defensive co-ordinator Joe Collier, who has considerably narrowed his list of potential employers.

Collier, surveying his employment options after being fired on Sunday along with four other Denver defensive assistants, made it clear he has no desire to work for either the Indianapolis Colts or the San Diego Chargers — as well as other teams he said were too numerous to mention. Collier, 56, had harsh words for Indianapolis head coach Ron Meyer, who fired his defensive staff on Monday.

"What Meyer did to those six coaches shows you what a jerk he is," Collier said. "No class and no brains."

He accused Meyer of "firing six coaches to take the pressure off himself."

Also on Monday, San Diego head coach Al Saunders was fired, leaving the status of defensive co-ordinator Ron Lynn in question.

"No way would I be interested in San Diego," Collier said, "not under the present ownership (Alex Spanos) or that general manager (Steve Ortmyer)."

"The owner in San Diego is, to say the least, a jerk. The general manager is in the same category."

Collier said Wednesday he "could name quite a few others, but I don't have the time."

In an obvious reference to New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson, Collier said "a lot of the new owners are egomaniacs and want to do the boogie-woogie with the cheerleaders on the sideline."

Sport shorts

REVIVES CAREER

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The Belgian cycling team ADR gave former champion Greg Lemond of the United States a chance to revive his career on Wednesday, and also remained in the hunt for current No. 1 Sean Kelly of Ireland. Lemond, the 1986 Tour de France winner, signed a two-year contract with ADR.

NAMES WINNER

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Steve Elliott, who sent out two Breeders Cup winners in 1988, has been named winner of the Glen Garmsey Award, presented annually by the U.S. Harness Writers Association to harness racing's top trainer. Elliott, 35, won the Breeders Crown three-year-old filly pace at Hazel Park.

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Bourque and Coffey battle for fans' votes

MONTREAL (CP) — Ray Bourque of the Boston Bruins and Pittsburgh Penguin Paul Coffey continue their battle to become the top vote-getter among Wales Conference defencemen, while three Calgary Flames are fighting it out for the second blueline spot on the Campbell Conference team, all-star voting results released by the National Hockey League on Wednesday showed.

Bourque, with 168,797 votes, leads Coffey by only 871 in the closest race in the fan balloting for the Feb. 7, 1989 game to be played in Edmonton.

Meanwhile in the Campbell Conference, Kevin Lowe is the leading vote-getter among defencemen with 117,802 votes. Lowe holds a comfortable lead over Calgary's Gary Suter, Brad McCrimmon and Al MacInnis, who are all separated by less than 7,000 votes in the race for the second blueline post.

Other positional leaders in the Wales Conference are Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux at centre with 202,408, the top overall individual total; Boston's Cam Neely at right wing with 105,982 votes; Mats Naslund of the Montreal Canadiens with 77,938 at left wing and Sean Burke of the New Jersey Devils, who leads the goaltenders with 107,335 votes.

In the Campbell Conference, Wayne Gretzky of the Los Angeles Kings is the top vote-getter among centres with 157,374 votes, while teammate Luc Robitaille leads the left wingers with 165,271 votes. Jari Kurri of the Oilers heads the right wingers with 111,937 votes, with Edmonton's Grant Fuhr pacing the goaltenders with 166,966.

Fan balloting to select the starting lineup for both teams began Nov. 1 and continues until Jan. 1.

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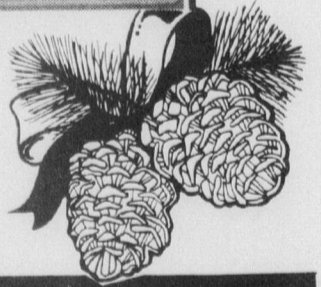
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