




Brome County News



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Wednesday, August 30, 1995

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION WEEKLY IN BROME-MISSISQUOI.

Running a farm and mail route, annual visits to the Brome Fair

The Fosters: An adventurous country life

By Claudia Villemaire

BROME — They sit quietly now, reminiscing about the years spent raising their nine children.

They remember the hard work and long hours on the family farm.

They recall their adventures on a mail route that began in 1937 and ended just a few years ago.

And there's a tenderness in their voices as they admit to 54 years of married life and proudly show off pictures of their great-grandchildren.

Eric and Bernadette Bissonnette-Foster can tell tales of their life together for days on end.

"We drove the mail with a horse and buggy those first years," Eric said.

It's not long before photos of grandfather Foster's house are passed around. The three-story wooden structure where 10 children were raised sits across a stream from where a sawmill stands in a patch of sunlight and the first road up over East Hill on the Stage Coach Road looks like a grassy trail leading nowhere.

"I remember my Dad talking about driving the horses up these hills," Eric recalled. "I never thought I'd be doing the same thing but that first contract was signed when I was 20. And then it was my turn to bull through snow drifts, buck the winter winds and be patient as my horse drew a sled or a buggy up and down the mountains."

A short time later, Eric began working for the railroad and Bernadette took over the mail route.

"I had 25 miles to cover six days a week," she said, adding that at times, not only was the road rough but the horse could play some tricks on you too.

"My horse tipped me bottom side up one morning and I had a load of eggs with me too," she said, laughing at the memory of someone racing after the horse while she tried to regain some composure among the wreckage of the load.

77 YEARS AT FAIR

The Foster's home farm is just two miles from the Brome County fairgrounds, home of the annual Brome Fair taking place this weekend.

"I'm 77 years old now and they tell me I was at the fair the year I was born. I've never missed a year since then," Eric said, laughing shyly as he admits his love of the county fair.

All the kids went to the fair as they grew up. At one time, the Fosters displayed hogs.

"But our fair was the big event of the year whether we exhibited or not," Eric said.

Eric said he never missed the fair, even when he was in a body cast from his neck down in the 1950s.

"They had me in that thing for six months. They said it was to give my body complete and absolute rest. I didn't much like it but they tell me that was what saved my life when I got some kind of blood infection," Eric remembered, eyes clouding at the memory of days of pain in a Montreal hospital while Bernadette carried on with the mail route and also managed, with the help of family and friends, to get the farm work done.

RETIRED

Eric is now retired from the railroad where he was an engineer for many years.

"I started as a fireman, shoveling coal into those old steam boilers. Many's the time I'd come into Farnham after two days without sleep and be silly enough to sign on for a trip up in the Beauce," he said, adding it was pretty stupid to work that hard on the railroad when there was as much work at home waiting.

"We milked cows by hand for quite a while after we were married. I think it was during the 50s before we finally got a milking machine," Eric said.

Today the family is grown and in homes of their own.

"Most of the kids are close by but three are out west," Eric said.

The farm is still operating but on a much smaller scale with just 12 head to look after.

Life is certainly quieter now, but Eric still misses his horses. So these days, instead of the heavy farm horses he always worked with, Eric has turned to

see FOSTERS; p. 3



Eric Foster, pictured with his wife Bernadette, has been attending the Brome County Fair annually since he was born 77 years ago.

More on the
Brome County Fair
inside

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St. Albans Drive in see page 2 Canadian \$ at par

SEPTEMBER 1-7		
Christopher Lambert Mortal Combat Daily: 2 & 7 PG-13	D. Quaid & J. Roberts Something to Talk About Daily: 9 R	Back by popular demand C. Eastwood & M. Streep The Bridges of Madison County Daily: 2 & 7 PG-13
Sandra Bullock The Net Daily: 9 p.m. PG-13	Back by popular demand Alicia Silverstone Clueless Daily: 2 & 7 PG-13	Species Daily: 7 & 9 R



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Brome County Community Billboard

Community Calendar

August 31

Benefit night An invitation to all Townshippers to support the Townshippers' Association and your local theatre by attending our annual at Theatre Lac Brome. This year's presentation will be *De Beaux Gestes and Beautiful Deeds* by Marie-Lynn Hammond and directed by Micheline Chervier. Tickets are \$15. For more information, please call Jonathan Nagle at (819) 566-5717 or Edwina Adair at (514) 263-4422.

September 2

Philipsburg Branch 82 of the Royal Canadian Legion will hold a dance in their air-conditioned hall with music by Real Boulet and Claude Rivet beginning at 9 p.m. Admission is \$3. Everyone welcome.

September 6

Registration for Sparks, Brownies and Guides will take place from 7-8 p.m. in the school cafeteria at Knowlton Academy. For information, please call (514) 243-0569.

Knowlton Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are holding their Annual General Meeting and Registration for boys and girls at 6:30 p.m. at the Knowlton Academy cafeteria. Registration fees are \$40 per child, \$100 per immediate family. Late registration will be \$60 per child and \$150 per immediate family.

For more information, please call (514) 243-0944 or (514) 539-2769.

United Church of Canada, Bedford Pastoral Charge will be holding a Hot Dog and Hamburger BBQ on the Wesley United Church lawn, river Street, Bedford from 5-8 p.m. Admission: \$4. There will be sales tables and a food sale. For tickets, contact Mr. Fred Gilman at (514) 248-3341.

September 9

Annual Ham Supper at Creek United Church from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Admission: \$8 adults, \$3 under 10. Take out available. For information, (514) 297-2797.

September 11, 18

Square Dancing — two free "fun nights" with Brome Squares from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the United Church Hall, 203 Main Street, Cowansville. It's fun! It's friendly! It's physical! For information, please call (514) 538-2782.

at Theatre Lac Brome run from Wednesday through to Saturday at 8 p.m. with a matinee on Thursday at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$18. For more information, please contact the box office at (514) 242-2270.

Bedford Municipal Library has just completed a rotation of books. Lots of new books are available, such as Margaret Drabble's *The Radiant Way*; Margaret Atwood's *Good Bones*; Catherine Cookson's *The Maltese Angel*; Jude Deveraux's *Remembrance* as well as others; Ken Follet's *A Dangerous Fortune* and *The Pillars of the Earth*; Emma Tennant's *Pride and Prejudice*; 20 Years Later; Jack Higgins' *On Dangerous Ground*; John Le Carre's *The Night Manager*; Edith Wharton's *The Buccaneers*; L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Avonlea*; Betty Mahmoody's *For the Love of a Child*; and *The Oxford Dictionary of Computing*. We also have many volumes in large print. The library has been open all summer and lots of people have visited us. We didn't call you for late returns during vacation time but will do so again after September 5. If you move, please let us know your new address and bring back your books before you move out of Bedford. They cost from \$15 to \$30 to replace and the cost is to your community.

Do you have some proud old barns or outbuildings?



I would like to photograph them for a book I am working on. I'd like to capture these beautiful old buildings before they disappear from the landscape. Please write me at: Box 417, Mansonville, Que. J0E 1X0 and/or visit my slide show of *Farmscapes* at the United Church on *Townshippers' Day* Sept. 16.

Jane Hamilton

Arts Calendar

Theatre Lac Brome presents *De Beaux Gestes et Beautiful Deeds*, a musical play by Marie-Lynn Hammond, through September 9. All shows

Photo art show in Sutton

ARTPHOTO/SUTTON 95 will open September 2. This much-anticipated exhibition of photo art will run for five weeks, through October 9 at the Arts Sutton gallery.

During its run, visitors will have a chance to see the photographic works of three international artists: John Max, Serge Tousignant and Doreen Lindsay. As well, 10 emerging photo artists,

all 35 years old or less, will display new styles they are developing.

ARTPHOTO/SUTTON 95 will also include two exhibitions of historic interest, one showing photographs of old Sutton and the surrounding region, the second displaying early photo equipment reflecting the nature of photography before the convenience of modern equipment.

The vernissage takes place on Saturday, September 2, from 2 to 5 p.m.

DRIVE-INS ARE FUN!	ST. ALBANS DRIVE-IN exit 20, I-89, St. Albans, Vt. 802-524-2468 Canadian \$ at par	Adults \$5 Kids under 12 \$2.00
3	Big Summer Movies Friday, Saturday, Sunday ONLY	3
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Dunn teaches people how to use their PCs effectively

Computer consultant makes house calls

By Sharon McCully

KNOWLTON — You've finally traded in the old Underwood for a PC power pack with all the options. Now what?

You might want to scribble down the name of Christopher Dunn.

The former Massey-Vanier High school graduate who spent most of his working life tinkering with computers at Clairol and Bristol Myers is carving a niche for himself as a computer consultant who makes house calls.

Dunn, who describes himself as a 'borderline techie', sells the Falcon line of computers assembled in Montreal and has developed a new software-based electronic form to facilitate invoicing in businesses and eliminate the paperwork.

But whether or not you buy his computers, the service is the same.

"In the past few years, a number of people have told me they have a computer, but they still aren't using it to capacity," Dunn said. "I'll go to their house or business, deliver and install a new computer and any software programs the person would need."

Dunn said many individuals and businesses are unaware of the many time- and money-saving functions a computer can perform.

"When I visit a client, the first thing I try to identify is their needs — what they want the computer to do for them," Dunn said.

MULTI-PURPOSE

He said most computers will be multi-purpose.

"A home computer today is probably going to be used for business, household accounts, and games for the kids."

Dunn said computer technology is changing so rapidly even people who are familiar with their computers are often surprised to learn there are new programs on the market they can use to simplify their work.

"For example, I'll install accounting services on the computer and train the user," he said. "I'm also available if there are any glitches."

Working out of a rented room in a private home in Knowlton allows Dunn to keep his work and his family life separate.

"It can get a little hectic with three children, so this arrangement allows me to have a work space with very little overhead," he said.

Staying abreast of new technology is an on-going process for computer consultants.

"I read the trade magazines all the time," he said. "I'm constantly upgrading my knowledge so I can pass it on."

Dunn believes his success can be attributed to his ability to instruct those unfamiliar with computer baffle-gab.

He said he stays away from highly technical terms that serve only to inti-

midate and confuse the first-time user.

"I keep it simple," he said. "I pride myself on plain-speak."

Dunn also helps computer owners get connected to the Internet, and is tossing around the idea of offering basic computer courses to small groups.

"I'm just glad I'm able to live and work in my own area. The Townships has a lot to offer and I'm close enough to Montreal to expand my services," he said.

"Plus, there are rewards to installing a program, then seeing it work."



Author speaks on racism...

The Canadian Club of the Yamaska Valley welcomes author Margaret Cannon, who will discuss her latest book *The Invisible Empire: Racism in Canada*, on September 11 at 2 p.m. at Le Chateau Bromont, 90 Stanstead in Bromont.

FOSTERS:

Continued from page one

the racing industry.


"Now I'm a proud owner of a standardbred. She's a pacer and she'll be racing at Brome fair this year. Her name is Glencoe Laurie and I love her dearly," he said. "You'll have to drop by the paddock and meet her."



Foster was in the paddock at the Ayer's Cliff fair on race day.

"I still love the horses although trac-

tors sure made the work easier on the farm. So, now I can have the best of both worlds, live here in the house where my wife and I have been for over 50 years, enjoy a bit of three or four-wheeling, climb on the old Massey Ferguson and putter around or take a ride to the stable and enjoy this new horse."

And that's where you'll find the Fosters this year, making their 77th trip to their county fair proudly introducing Glencoe Laurie to one and all.

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Antiques just as confusing as modern-day inventions

Everything in the circa-1870 building we were touring was at least 100 years old, qualifying the items as antiques and guaranteeing that none of us had ever used any of them before.

"So, what d'ya suppose a person would do with this," we asked one another, carefully examining the grooves and projections of one item.

We decided the answer lay somewhere between a post-hole digger and an apple cider maker.

Wandering around the storage shed brought back the mysterious smells and sights of my grandfather's workshop where I spent a fair bit of time pointing to hunks of rusted steel with sharp protrusions and asking "What's this for, Papa?"

Now that I'm older and presumably wiser, I'm convinced he made half of it up. There's no way that odd-shaped contraption with all the appendages sharpened skates and squeezed lemons too.

When my grandfather was particularly busy — or had just hammered his thumb — he'd become mildly annoyed with my persistent questions and say, "Don't they teach you anything in school these days?"

Which was patently unfair of course since there was really no need to have a wooden washing machine that rocks back and forth like a baby basket in a classroom.

Context is half the challenge in determining the uses for a gizmo from

Out of the Brome Closet

By Sharon McCully

another era. And who's to say stuff used hundreds of years ago is any more mysterious or ingenious than ours.

I'm sure if my grandfather were to return today, he'd spend hours in his workshop pressing buttons on the remote control, trying to get it to work without a TV.

He'd probably put the new Elton John CD in his circular saw and complain "these new-fangled things" don't cut.

My grandfather thought he had the ultimate all-in-one tool with his Swiss army knife, but it would be no match for my Braun beater, bread-maker, meat-grinder, juicer and vegetable chopper.

And I've got a thing in my cupboard that looks like a flashlight without a bulb that even I haven't figured out how to use. I think it sharpens skates and squeezes lemons.

It's true I didn't know all the intricacies of spinning flax, but he'd probably tie a hook and a juicy worm to the end of dental floss.

And he'd try to fashion a trap for the mouse that keeps running around the rubber mat making the screen go bleep, bleep, bleep.

We've got our stuff too, you know.

Pourquoi la glace flotte-t-elle?

La glace a une certaine propriété que les scientifiques ne peuvent expliquer: elle flotte. Les marins et les barmen le savent très bien mais ne peuvent non plus expliquer pourquoi elle flotte.

L'eau qu'elle contient se dilate de 9% en gelant et devient remplie d'air dont le poids est inférieur à celui de l'eau qu'il déplace. Donc la glace flotte.

Le côté mystérieux de cela est que l'eau est la seule substance qui se dilate ainsi en gelant. Toutes les autres substances rétrécissent en gelant.

Si l'eau rétrécissait en gelant comme toutes les autres substances, les icebergs couleraient au fond de l'océan et les glaces couvrant le dessus des lacs tomberaient au fond. Là, à l'abri de la chaleur du soleil les glaces dureraient

Entre Nous

Par Thérèse Bernard

plus longtemps et rendraient l'eau plus froide, ce qui nuirait à la vie aquatique.

Dans les régions les plus froides, les eaux gèleraient complètement à cause des glaces accumulées sous l'eau. Mais puisque la glace flotte, elle reste sur le dessus de l'eau où elle cause le moins de dommage possible à la vie sous l'eau. Et l'existence même des glaces est diminuée par l'effet du soleil.

Et pourtant personne ne sait pourquoi elle agit ainsi!

Still time to register your child for Sutton pre-school

For over 20 years, the Sutton play-school has been opening its doors to pre-schoolers aged 3-5 for activities and fun.

The Jardin d'enfants de Sutton is a non-profit corporation directed by participating and non-participating parents. The school's two teachers, Ursula Horton and Liette Nadeau, guide the children through activities, games and excursions based on weekly

themes.

The children are taught, in a bilingual group atmosphere, about sharing, learning and having fun. A craft period encourages creativity and enhances hand-eye coordination. This year, classes start September 18 and there is still time for you to register your child.

For more information, call Ursula at (514) 538-3516 or Liette at (514) 538-3591.

Smooth sailing for Townshippers' Day

There's just a little over two weeks to go until the 16th annual Townshippers' Day.

This year, it will be held in Mansonville on September 16, and the organizing committee has the utmost confi-

dence that all will be satisfied with the results of their hard work.

Townshippers' Day will offer an unbeatable variety of entertainment, cloggers, square dancers, and music for most tastes, from contemporary to classical.

All entertainment will be held in the town park Place Manson, except for the Battle of the Bands — an event big enough to have earned its own baseball field.

Entertainment in the park will start immediately following the opening ceremonies and end at 4 p.m., while the Battle of the Bands will not begin until 2 p.m. and will last until 7 p.m.

For arts and crafts lovers, 70 artisans have agreed to put their work on display at Mansonville Elementary School.

The Catholic Church basement and Ecole le Baluchon will be home to information booths and the Townshippers at Work exhibit for the day. Qualified Townshippers will illustrate that the Eastern Townships is more than just beautiful countryside; it is also a favorable region for economic development, educational resources and worker employability.

Bring the kiddies along for the perfect family day. Take the young ones to the petting zoo at the old Caisse Populaire across from the park, where they can pet a highland heifer, some bunnies, two ducks named Bonnie and

Clyde, and a goat. They can also have their faces painted, listen to a story told by Bea Santori and Michelle Rousseau, and build a kite — all at the same time if they want.

For young adults, a t-shirt painting workshop, light entertainment in the United Church basement, and a bit of drama have been planned for the day. Then you can head over to the Battle of the Bands at 2 p.m.

Plenty of parking will be provided and food stands will be readily available throughout the site. Let your mouths run rampant. If you are hungry for dessert, run over to the Anglican Church hall where the Potton Municipal Library will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with a cake-cutting ceremony. And buy Louise Oliver's newly published children's book while you're at it.

The Baptist Church will house countless quilts to be photographed for the Quebec Quilt Registry.

All of this would not be possible without some very special corporate sponsors, including Midland Walwyn, Bell, Audiotec — Bell Mobility Authorized Agent, CBC Radio and Television and last, but not least, the Eastern Townships' own *The Record*. Their financial contribution and services have made it a lot easier to make Townshippers' Day a reality. They deserve a very special thanks.

Townshippers' Association

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Reading is Fundamental

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Letter to the Editor

It's important for Glen Mountain to be developed

When we settled in Knowlton to find a way to make a living, the economy of the area was based on farming, save for three months in summer when city dwellers came down to enjoy the Lake.

We bought Robb's Hardware and settled down to make a living. Then we found what the economy of the area was worth. One day in summer we sold \$1000 worth of merchandise, but one day in winter this came down to \$4 — with light and heat and a staff of two besides myself which were essential in summer and could not be fired in winter.

Something had to be done — the 100-acre Hill Farms of the area were just not enough to provide a living for the population. So we sought an area suitable for a ski hill and found this in the Bolton Glen. With the help of Glen Brown, our MP, we found someone to start it up.

The result was electric — the summer people came down all the year round, and new ones purchased money

losing farms. Before the Glen was established, a farm could be bought for \$5000. After, the prices doubled. This gave work for locals to recondition farm houses and to work on the gardens and look after horses.

Then the Green Belt — which had been established on the flat lands of the St. Lawrence Valley — was extended to the money losing Hill Farms of Brome County, and development stopped, and with it lack of jobs, and this in an area where rural zoning had insured that the beauty of the countryside was maintained and building lots were large enough to sustain well treed areas or market gardening.

The area had been developing because there was both summer (Brome Lake) and winter (Glen Mountain) enjoyment available. The Lake must be kept unpolluted and Glen Mountain, with its area, must be developed to provide continuing winter enjoyment. Without these two, the area must deteriorate.

Hank Rotherham

12th annual chamber golf tournament set for Sept. 12

The 12th Annual Brome Lake Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will take place Tuesday, September 12, at the Knowlton Golf Club, 264 Knowlton Road, with dinner following in the club house dining room at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$80 (GST incl.) per person for chamber members (\$100 for non-members) for green fees, dinner with wine and the chance to win many great prizes and trophies.

For members who wish to golf only, the cost is \$40; for the dinner only, the cost is also \$40.

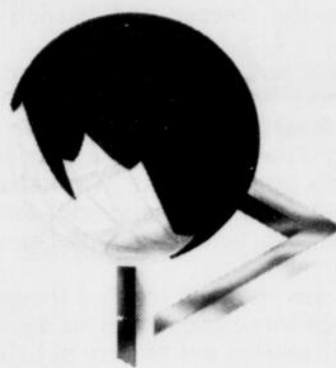
For non-members, the respective costs are \$50.

To reserve, please register by mail to the Chamber of Commerce, Box 723, Knowlton, JOE 1V0. Please note that you must have your tickets before departure.

Please reserve your starting time (between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.) with Steve Corbiere at the Pro Shop by calling (514) 243-6633.

Our honorary president Derek Severs and Signey Stephenson, president of the Chamber of Commerce, wish to welcome you to the tournament and hope that you will enjoy your day.

Brome Lake Chamber of Commerce



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Mountain biking: the second of two adventures

Still walking like Marshall Dillon of Dodge City after the first mountain bike outing, we fetched the water bot-

les from the freezer and headed to Bromont.

The heat and dust was such that it might have been mistaken for that famous desert town of the old west, especially if there'd been a couple of bad guys with guns around. (Or better, make that "troubled, misunderstood" guys with guns, before someone gets on my case).

There was so much traffic I thought maybe this was Sunday and we'd gone to the flea market out of force of habit. Cars puled in like weekend shoppers at a suburban mall. School busses rolled up to the main building to discharge fresh loads of waterbugs for the Aquaparc.

Packing coolers and lawn chairs, the faithful hiked the steps to the first pools for a day-long session with the sun god.

We lined up for lift tickets with a bunch of young, healthy athletic types. (Boy, talk about feeling out of place).

On the phone, we'd been told the price was seven dollars. At the wicket we learned that was for one ride only;

The Country Squire

By Brian Eddington



the full pass was 20 bucks, but that included the water park. After a quick huddle, we decided to go for the whole thing. Take the plunge, so to speak.

NO WAIT
For all the activity, there was virtually no wait for the lift. Cheerful young attendants swung the bikes onto side hooks as we slipped into the chair—an odd feeling without snow and heavy things on our feet.

At the top we checked the map and followed a group down the Brome trail, designated "easy". That was on the ski map. We should've checked the bike trail guide, though. They aren't the same. The bikes fishtailed across loose gravel, banged over broken rock, and bucked through dips and ditches. I hung on grimly, hands sweaty and cramping from near non-stop braking. Packs of kids with seemingly perfect balance whizzed by and across and around us. I didn't dare to relax my concentration long enough to call them bad names, as I would have had we been skiing.

TOO MUCH SPEED
Things got better near the bottom. Feeling braver, I let a little speed build up, a little too much speed. The pitch down the last straight stretch was steeper than it looked. I took my feet out of

the stirrups and started braking, ready for a sideways slide into the tall grass if need be. It'd be hard to say whose eyeballs were bigger, mine or those of a young deer, frozen in terror at the sight of the mad charging man-machine-thing so rudely invading her grazing space.

We both recovered, she into the safety of the trees, I to a wide flat forgiving area between the loading station and the first condos.

This wasn't what it was supposed to be. On the second trip up, we checked the right map. Sure enough, beside the Brome trail was the little black symbol for "expert". The boy at the top, his grin revealing this wasn't the first time, directed us to a popular intermediate trail called the Brome Extra Legere. Just from the name, I knew we were on the right track this time.

A serious-looking fellow, decked out in full battle dress like a Mutant Ninja Turtle, hurried ahead of us. I don't know how he managed, in his full-length rubbery armour with layers of flappy padding on shoulders, elbows, and knees. It felt close to 100 degrees; sweat stung my eyes and had long ago soaked my t-shirt.

Brome Extra Light was what it's all about. The packed earth path wound through cool hardwoods. Lower down there were long switchbacks with a good mix of rises and declines. The final section was a long flat easy peddle from the equestrian center back to the base of the ski hill. And at that point it was decision-making time, as we paused in the almost painful heat of the parking lot, a Death Valley-like stillness in the air.

The choice came easy, supported by a reasonable excuse. We agreed quickly that the older bike should really have a brake check and adjustment before another challenge on the mountain. If we'd felt holier-than-them earlier, we were happy to join the leisure set, hooting and splashing in the pools and slides.

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BROME COUNTY FAIR

September 1, 2, 3, 4

There's much to see and do this weekend

By Claudia Villemaire

BROME — There's so much to see at the Brome County Fair, where visitors might come from across the street or across the continent.

Organizers work long hours putting together the four-day event varied enough to please all comers.

Some highlights this year:
— a horse-pulling competition on Friday evening at 7:30.

— Gastoni Attractions presents trampoline artists, highwire performers and Mehdi the magician starting Saturday at 2 p.m.

— the entertainment tent, just outside the midway area, spotlights the Mountain Dew band Saturday at 4 p.m., while grandstand audiences will be entertained by Ronnie Prophet and Glory-Anne, veteran stars of the Brome Fair, at 8 p.m.

— the fleece to shawl demonstration which takes place at the same time as

the dairy goat judging, Sunday at 10 a.m. at the expo arena.

— the grand parade of cattle, horses and machinery at 1 p.m. Sunday. For the first time ever, goat exhibitors will parade their animals. Traditionally, the frolicing nannies and their kids are a crowd pleaser, so early arrival on the grandstand is recommended, as seating is always at a premium at parade time.

— the Eastern Townships Highland Pipe Band performs at 2 p.m. Sunday, and the Silverado Band provides country music in the entertainment tent at 4 p.m.

— Wayne Rostad of CBC's *On the Road Again* program, is accompanied by the Bobby Lalonde Band, well-known for their fiddle tunes, Sunday at 8 p.m. on the grandstand

— the E.T. Pipe Band leads the cattle, horse and machinery parade beginning at 10 a.m. Monday.

— square dance and clogging demonstrations take place in the entertain-

ment tent starting at 2 p.m. Monday.

— Pari-mutuel horse racing gets underway in earnest at 1:30 p.m. Monday.

Also, don't forget the displays of exotic cattle near the stable area along with the petting farm, always a favorite with the kiddies.

Commercial displays can be found all over the grounds, including the main building where every corner is filled.

The exhibition will be open to the public on Friday at 7 a.m. and will continue until 7 p.m. Monday.

No dogs are allowed on the grounds except for seeing-eye dogs.



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1:00 p.m. Beef Cattle Judging, Charolais, Shorthorn, Simmental

2:00 p.m. Harness Racing***

5:00 p.m. Q.Y.F. Horse Show*

7:30 p.m. Horse Pull***

SATURDAY

8:30 a.m. Horse Judging***

10:00 a.m. Dairy Cattle Judging, Ayrshire, Holstein Poultry Judging

11:00 a.m. Dairy Cattle Judging, Jersey

1:00 p.m. Harness Racing***

2:00 p.m. Gastoni Attractions***

4:00 p.m. Mountain Dew

6:45 p.m. Horse Judging***

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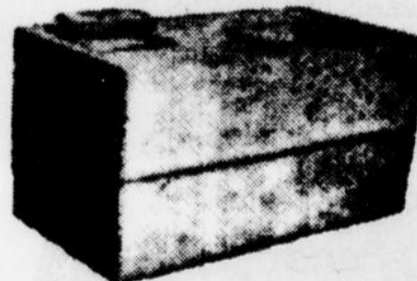
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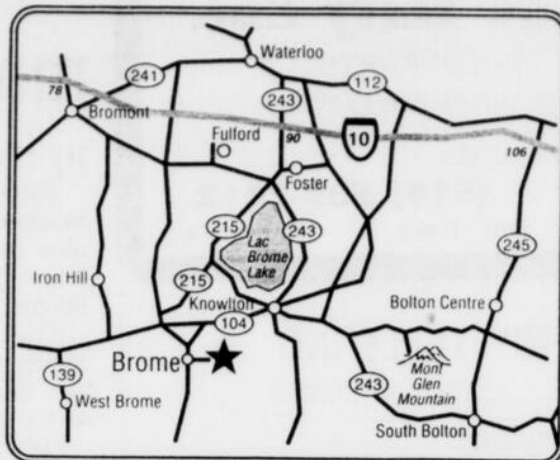
SUNDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Sheep Judging*
- Horse Judging***
- 10:00 a.m. "Fleece to Shawl" demonstration*
- Dairy Goat Judging
- 11:30 a.m. Clogging Demonstration*
- 1:00 p.m. **THE BIG PARADE*****
- Rabbit Judging
- 1:30 p.m. Q.Y.F. Judging Competitions*
- 2:00 p.m. Eastern Townships Highland Band**
- Goat Judging
- 4:00 p.m. Silverado Band**
- 8:00 p.m. **WAYNE ROSTAD & BOBBY LALONDE BAND****
- 10:00 p.m. Silverado Band*

MONDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Horse Judging***
 - Q.Y.F. Calf & Showmanship Classes*
 - 10:00 a.m. Eastern Townships Highland Band
 - 11:30 a.m. **THE BIG PARADE*****
 - 2:00 p.m. Square Dancing Demonstration**
 - Clogging demonstration**
 - 1:30 p.m. Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing***
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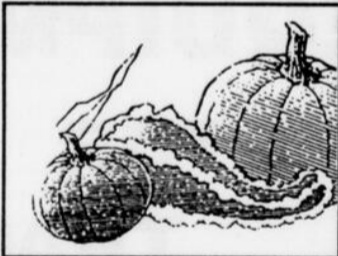
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Display of antique farm machinery new aspect of fair

By Claudia Villemaire

BROME — 'There's never a dull moment when Hugh's around' is a common refrain among people who know Hugh Salsbury, vice-president of the Brome Fair.

This year, the Salsbury dynamism comes through once more with the first-ever display of antique farm machinery at the annual fair.

"Did you see that demon machine?" Salsbury asks as he casts menacing glances in the direction of a hayloader.

We are on our way to the stable where most of the old machinery was temporarily stored. But Salsbury's 'demon machine' was too high to go in the door and was sitting somewhat forlornly at the edge of a gentle slope near the new horse barns.

"This is where it will all be lined up," he says. "Right along the bank where the old red stables used to be."

Salsbury is quick to point out the excellent collaboration of the Brome County Historical Society on the exhibit. Dick Eldridge, representing the society, is with Salsbury at the fairgrounds this day and both are studiously examining an excellent example of a racing sulky.

'PRICELESS'

"This is a priceless piece," says Eldridge, pointing out the details on shaft and evener and even a wicker seat tell a story of racing during the first years of the Brome County Fair.

"It was probably used here the first years," Eldridge explains, exclaiming at the good condition of the high wheels and shafts. "Folks will find it hard to believe that everything in that wheel is wooden, handcrafted and mitred together. This item is priceless in terms of historical value, not only for the collector of horse race equipment but for this fair too."

Galen Davis, this year's president, joins us in front of the office and in spite of blazing sun and pretty humid conditions, the conversation rambles back in time to trying to imagine what racing and the Brome Fair would have been like over a century ago.

We walk across the lot where a huge midway will soon be set up.

"How about we hang that sulky up somewhere," suggests Salsbury, worried about protecting the sulky and a racing cutter, still in nearly perfect condition. The others chuckle at the thought, but in spite of a few jokes and some cryptic comments about Salsbury's ideas, the decision to suspend the sulky from the ceiling of the main building, near the trophy display, was found a good one.

'DEMON MACHINE'

Finally, we were face to face with Salsbury's 'demon machine'.

"Boy, this rig had no mercy," he recalls, once again wiping his brow. "When you were under that in a good field of hay, there was no pity. You were forking hay for all you were worth and probably got half buried in the stuff a lot of the time."

He laughs at the memory of the hard work on a farm before tractors and all the modern equipment used today.

In one of the horse stables, Eldridge uncovers a fanning mill made entirely of wood, including wheels, gears and hand-punched screens.

"This was used to clean seed," he explains, giving the handle a couple of cranks and demonstrating the sway and chatter of vibrating screens that did a very acceptable job of cleaning and separating seed.

In another corner, a grindstone used to sharpen the sections on a mowing machine, stands ready for use. Also in good shape in its frame of wood with half the wheel disappearing into a half-moon of tin where the operator would keep a bit of water to moisten the stone.

Once again, Salsbury remembers his childhood days, early summer mornings getting ready to hitch the team to the mowing machine to put down a cut of hay that could be dried, stooked and picked up before the sunset and the dew began.

MOWING MACHINE, SEEDER

Of course, the display includes a mowing machine and a turn-of-the-century seeder complete with wooden seed boxes and the ring chains that dragged just behind the seed funnels, covering up the seed as it flowed onto

See next page

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MACHINERY:

From last page

the prepared ground.

"Speaking of plowed ground, we also have a side-hill walking plow with a wood beam," Eldridge proudly points out.

"We just couldn't find a side-hill horse," Salsbury quips.

All kidding aside, the organisers of this display who plan to suspend the more valuable pieces in the main building and line the rest up parallel to the track have made some lucky finds.

"I think this machinery should be part and parcel of the Society's pro-

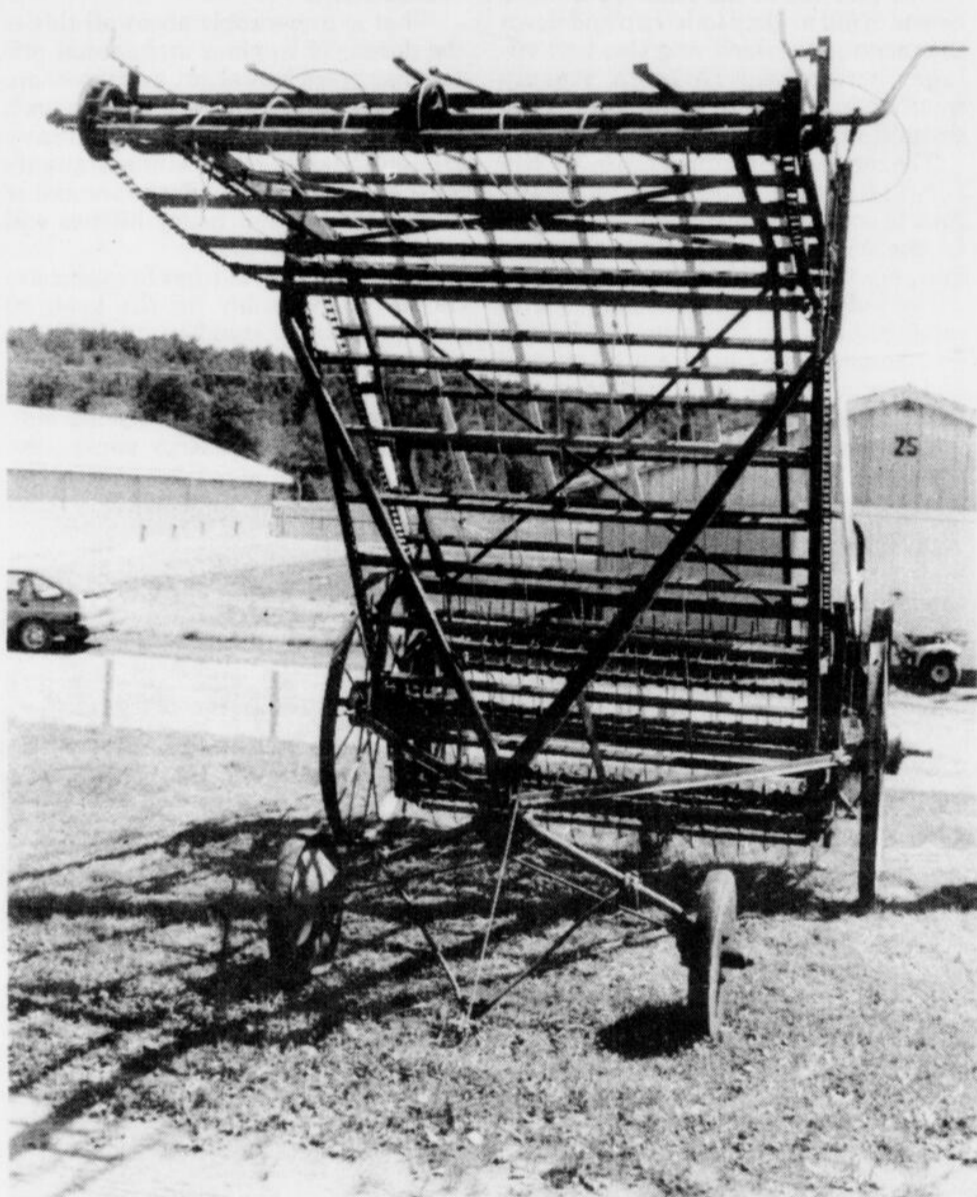
gram," Eldridge says. "A good idea would be a permanent display of such things, located right here on the grounds."

"We have wonderful cooperation from the Historical Society this year and as a matter of fact, I think this is the beginning of a great relationship in the farm machinery department. Now all we have to do is build a museum to put the stuff into," he adds, glancing quickly at the president standing quietly by as these ideas are bandied about. "After all, we'll be celebrating our 140th Anniversary next year. Got to do

something special starting right now."

It's official for this year anyway. A display of antique farm machinery will

be situated where the red horse barns were, with a couple of special items in the main building.



This antique hayloader is just one of the machines that will be on display at the Brome Fair.

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Things haven't changed much over the past 100 years. Passed down from generation to generation this fair is rich in family tradition. An event not to be missed. I look forward to seeing you there!

Johanne Coiteux Neil is an Investment Advisor with Lévesque Beaubien Geoffrion. Please mail your questions to: Johanne Coiteux Neil, Lévesque Beaubien Geoffrion, 150 St. Jacques, Suite 202, Granby, Quebec J2G 8V6 or call (514) 378-0442.

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Horseplay is an important part of Brome County Fair

By Claudia Villemaire

BROME — Winding up and down sharp hills on the byways of this picturesque corner of the Townships, it isn't hard to believe that horses are still very important to the lives of rural folk.

Even today's modern vehicles, with four-wheel drives and state-of-the-art engineering, soon slow to a crawl climbing such trails as Stage Coach Road or creeping up long hills and turns that make taking the East Hill Road a trip on the far side.

One marvels at the stamina of these beasts of old as they toiled up and down the mountains which ring this tiny village, struggling through stormy weather in winter to bring logs to the sawmill or supplies to the village.

The continuing importance of the horse is obvious when one takes the time to scan the horse judging program for the '95 edition of the Brome County Fair.

Not only are organizers prepared to comfortably house nearly 200 horses and ponies, their program of classes and special prizes are a tribute to the beast of burden which played such a major role in the development of the area.

A quick glance assures the fair-goer a broad variety of horses will be going through their paces during the four-day event. Beginning Friday, purebreds such as the heavy draught horse breeds of Percheron, Clydesdale and Belgian begin a series of competitions taking place in the holding ring as well as in front of the grandstand.

Light horse breeds such as Morgan, Quarter Horse, Standardbred and whatever other breeds show up also get started in the rings on Friday.

TROPHIES

What is remarkable about all this is the dozens of trophies and special prizes that grace just about every section. There are awards for the best in each breed, suckling colts and heavy draught. Halter class winners qualify for their share of the silverware and of course, the popular heavy hitches will get their awards too.

Some examples of what to expect are classes on Saturday for the kids, 10 years and under, tandem hitch (that's two heavy horses with one up front), 4-H classes (including pony showmanship for exhibitors under 12 years old), the high-stepping hackney ponies, the

See next page



There's lots of equine excitement at the Brome County Fair.

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HORSES:

From last page

cart class for ladies from Brome County (winner gets the Bill Blackwood Trophy) and, coming up to noon, an open flag race.

At 1 p.m., folks can whistle and yell at the roadster drivers as they tear around the oval area in front of the grandstand. This class is a cliff hanger as drivers lean out of their buggies and do power slides in the corners, driving a hot-blooded trotting horse that must not break into a gallop but trot as fast as possible while keeping its feet under it and the buggy on its four wheels. The Stewart Trophy awarded to the winner is well-deserved indeed.

Standardbred races begin on Saturday, scheduled between classes and entertaining circus acts.

Later in the afternoon, the Blackwood Trophy is up for grabs in the competition of a pair of draught horses hitched to a wagon. There's another race at 3:30 p.m. and another roadster class, called the mailman competition, nets the winner the Robert McKee Trophy.

We have mentioned just a few of the highlights during the Saturday competitions. Before nightfall there will be a musical sacks class for the kids, the sophisticated class for gentleman drivers with their grooms and an arabian costume class.

Sunday, classes begin at 9 a.m. until noon. The traditional parades begin at 1 p.m. and then the crowd-pleasing four-horse hitches make their appearances.

Around 2:30 p.m., the pacers and trotters make their bid to win some money and by 3 p.m. everyone is ready for another round in the roadster class. Another race goes on the starting gate around 3:30 p.m., followed by the unicorn hitch (that's three draft horses in a row) and the pony costume class.

Another race just after 4 p.m. and everyone is primed for the old-fashioned buggy races, open to all comers. It's a once-around-the-track

event that gives spectators some idea what being in a hurry at the turn-of-the-century could mean. This winner gets the Baxter Williams Trophy.

Monday is a special day for racing buffs as the Quebec Amateur Racing Association and Lotto Quebec bring in the betting bus and the pari mutuel opens.

But before a racing horse steps on the track, there are more regular horse classes to get through. There's western parade and pony equitation and even a pony roadster class for adult drivers. The troika hitch, an egg-and-spoon race and the open keyhole timed event rounds out the program preceding post time.

At 11:30 a.m., the grand parades of

horses, cattle and farm machinery entertain the grandstand crowd. A log-skidding competition in the holding ring begins at 1 p.m. and by 2 p.m., the 10-card horse race program gets

underway.

Organizers have been continually updated and betting windows extended almost every year since pari mutuel racing began at Brome.

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Museum display in new location at Brome Fair


KNOWLTON — During the Brome Fair, the Brome County Historical Society (BCHS) display will be located in the McMaster Building on the fair grounds. This building, formerly the ladies' lounge, is located beside the main building. The historical display provided by BCHS will be more accessible to fair visitors and it is hoped will be visited by a greater number of people now that it is on ground level.

The BCHS thanks the Brome County Agricultural Society for providing this new display area. The museum is still open seven days a week until the middle of September. If you have not visited, you still have time to drop by for a look at the Fokker DVII and war memorabilia, study fashion trends over the years as well as homes of yesterdays. The BCHS recently published

the ninth volume in its series *Yesterdays of Brome County*. The soft-cover book will be available at the Brome Fair with the hardcover version being expected within the next month. Following the format of former volumes, volume nine contains something for everyone: biographical sketches, families, heritage houses, articles on Sutton Township, roads, Potton mineral springs, Mansonville library, Colonel Asa Porter, Iron Hill Ramblings, the Austin bicentennial and much more. After Brome Fair, books will be available at the society's office at 130 Lakeside, Knowlton. For more information, please call (514) 243-6782.

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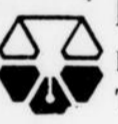
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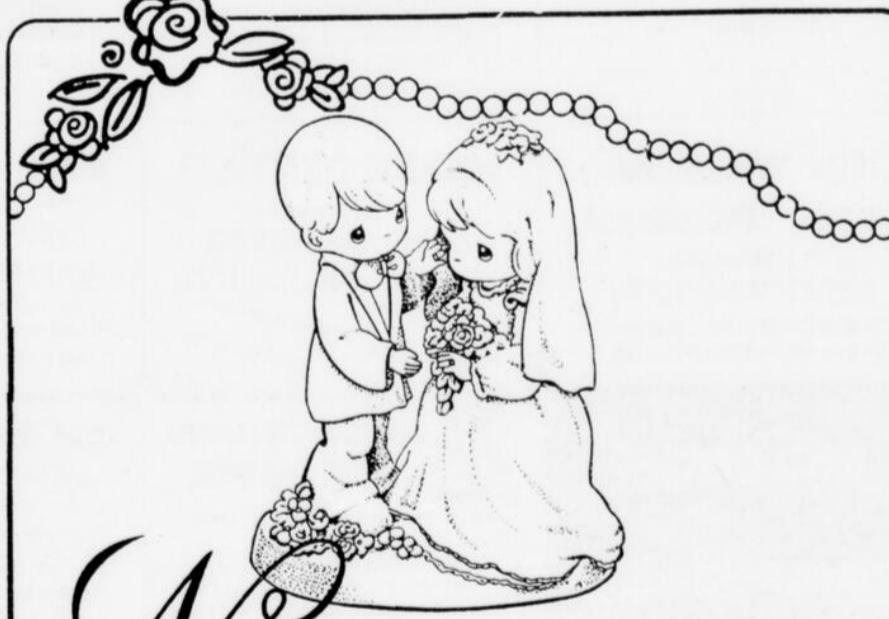
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