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MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 1998

Fireplace blamed Fire claims life of Richmond man

By Paul Cherry
RICHMOND

Fire claimed the life of a man in Richmond on Friday and authorities believe he was yet another victim of the worst ice storm in memory.

The town and surrounding municipalities had been fortunate until freezing rains in the region knocked down power lines Thursday morning. Sixteen hours later, the two-storey building the man lived in on the town's main street was in flames.

As investigators combed through the still-smoldering rubble of the building that housed a restaurant, bar and apartments, their worst fears were founded. Firefighters who worked on the blaze were certain they had heard cries for help from inside the building as they rescued at least five other people.

The body was unidentifiable but police believed it was a man in his 60s who lived in the building and had not been seen since the blaze.

Witnesses told police they heard a loud explosion before spotting the flames but investigators were working on the theory that a fireplace was the cause.

"They were many small rooms in the building with a lot of things like furniture inside which made the fire intense," said Quebec Police Force spokesman Serge Dubord explaining why it took so long to put out.

Fourteen hours after the first alarm,
SEE FIRE, PAGE 5



TODAY'S WEATHER

Flurries

COMPLETE WEATHER: PAGE 2

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NO ICY TREAT



PERRY BEATON/CORRESPONDENT

Granby was a disaster area with power lines draped over signs and streets. For storm coverage in Granby and other areas see inside

Situation is busy but stable

Hospitals working overtime

By Sylvia Warden
SHERBROOKE

Hospitals in Cowansville and Granby are seeing up to three times the number of emergency room patients normally seen since the most-populated area of the Eastern Townships was thrown into darkness when hydro poles snapped like matchsticks Tuesday evening.

Both the Brome-Missisquoi-Perkins and Granby Hospitals are reporting increased traffic in their emergency rooms but say the situation is not critical.

"We have doubled the number of doctors working in the emergency room," to deal with the three-fold increase in people needing help, said Granby Hospital spokeswoman Sylvie Veilleux.

Most people coming to the hospital

are suffering from minor hypothermia, cold hands and feet, and older people are seeking help for heart and respiratory conditions.

Veilleux offers the following tips to keep warm in homes without any power.

- To keep hands warm, put them under your arms or between your legs.

- For seniors: help maintain circulation in your hands and feet by moving them very slowly every so often. In addition try to reheat them by immersing them in warm water for a few minutes. The water should be at least 25 degrees Celsius but don't use water heated over a fireplace or wood stove because it's too hot, she cautions, and can damage tissue.

Meanwhile over at BMP Hospital, people wishing to see an emergency room

physician should expect to wait two-hours, "a little longer than normal," said Dr. Jacques Ricard, director of medical services for the hospital.

Ricard is asking people who use oxygen machines and who have lost power in their homes to bring both the pump and all medication with them when coming to the hospital.

BMP is working on a back-up generator since it lost power at about 11 a.m. Sunday. Granby has been using a generator for four days since its power lines went down, resulting in the cancellation of all non-emergency surgeries at both hospitals. As well, the clinic usually held every Monday at BMP has been cancelled today. But Ricard isn't worried about using a generator for power.

"We can use a generator for a long time, a week and more."

Maybe the ancients had it right

Something I heard on TV the other night

It's already Day 7 of the Great Ice Storm of 1998. No more ice has fallen from the sky for a couple of days now, although plenty of it is still dropping from overhead wires and branches. About half of Quebec's population is still without power, along with more than 300,000 residents of eastern Ontario and a few thousand in each of New Brunswick, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York State.

'So you're the big expert; tell me what's going on.'

I keep thinking about something I heard on TV the other night. A man living near Drummondville had lost power in his house and then saw the St. Francis River flow through it. Shaking his head in amazement, he wondered aloud at the cause of all our trouble. Echoing humankind through the ages when faced with a dose of bad luck, he blamed our current catastro-

phe on higher authority.

"What have we done to disturb God," he asked, "that he would bring something like this upon us?"

'Oh yeah. I saw him too. That's a heck of a question.'

It's a good question indeed. And it brings up others. God? What or who is God? Is God alive? If so, is God a male, as most of us apparently believe? Does God have gender at all? For that matter, who says there's only one God?

'Oh boy. Here you go again. Watch out, everybody.'

Maybe the ancients had it right, dividing their worship among dozens of little God-doms, each with its own set of questions and answers - and unanswered questions -

and each with its own little god to supply them. These specialized deities broke life down into bite-sized chunks that were relatively easy for the folks to figure out.

'Easy?'

Sort of. In ancient Scandinavia, for example, the god Thor was in charge of thunder and, by extension, probably dealt with other weather issues as well.

In the same way, Venus looked after love for the Romans. That gave her a big say in matters of hate as well, although divorce was dealt

with, then as now, in the human courts.

'That's where they take all your money and give it to your ex-wife, eh?'

Well, they would if you had any. But you're getting me off the track.

The Greeks had Zephyrus, who was in charge of the warm west wind, and whom my dictionary says was "thought of as the most gentle of Gods". There were even super-gods - Zeus for the Greeks, Jupiter for the Romans - to keep all the lesser lights in line.

'Don't give me that. Jupiter's a planet, not a god.'

dle at the corner convenience store.

'Speaking of storms, you know I think we already have a god for ice.'

What?

'Yeah. It's the Zamboni. There's one in every rink. It blesses the ice before every hockey game, and touches up between periods.'

That's very good. Don't tell anyone, but there may be some hope for you after all. But I think the Zamboni is only good for indoor ice.

'Is there another god for ice storms?'

There must be, but it doesn't have a name. It's not El Nino or La Nina - they're only good for Pacific Ocean currents, and don't have much influence around here.

'Let's give the ice-storm god a name.'

Why not? Got any ideas?

'Well, if it's not El Nino or La Nina, maybe we could call it the Nono.'

Nono?

'Yeah, Nono.'

What do you mean?

'Do you want more freezing rain? Say Nono.'

'Do you want the power to stay off? Say Nono.'

'Did you do something to displease a god? The god? Some god? The gods?'

Say Nono. Maybe then they'll leave us alone.'

Hmmm. Not bad. If this works I'm going to have to give you a raise.

'Really?'

Sure. But what's the god for that?



CHARLES BURY

'Is there a god for ice storms?'

There must be, but it doesn't have a name. It's not El Nino or La Nina - they're only good for Pacific Ocean currents, and don't have much influence around here. 'Let's give the ice-storm god a name.' ... 'Well, if it's not El Nino or La Nina, maybe we could call it the Nono.'

The planet is named after the god, you cement-head. Now will you please be quiet? Nowadays, probably to avoid offending the Judeo-Christian Big Boy upstairs, we tend not to call our symbols "God". But they're here just the same.

'They are?'

Oh yeah. Take food. We don't have a humanoid god for food. We have supermarkets instead. And since it's the 20th-century, we even have a choice. You can worship the big ticket at Provigo or Metro, or you can light a smaller can-

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|--|
| loto-québec | | <i>results</i> | |
| | Draw 98-01-10 | WINNERS | PRIZES |
| 3 6 9 16 30 49 | Bonus number: 11 | 6/6 2 \$ 2 500 000,00 5/6+ 13 \$ 50 399,00 5/6 438 \$ 1 196,70 4/6 23 183 \$ 43,30 3/6 369 888 \$ 10 | Total sales: \$ 17 926 211,00 Next grand prize (approx.): \$ 2 000 000,00 |
| Québec | | WINNERS | |
| | Draw 98-01-10 | PRIZES | |
| 20 28 29 40 45 49 | Bonus number: 7 | 6/6 0 \$ 1 000 000,00 5/6+ 0 \$ 50 000,00 5/6 7 \$ 500 4/6 567 \$ 50 3/6 11 895 \$ 5 | Total sales: \$ 472 457,50 |
| Extra | Draw 98-01-09 | WINNERS | PRIZES |
| NUMBER PRIZES 853717 \$ 100,000 53717 \$ 1,000 3717 \$ 250 717 \$ 50 17 \$ 10 7 \$ 2 | Bonus number: 43 | 7/7 0 \$ 4 000 000,00 6/7+ 0 \$ 96 410,50 6/7 34 \$ 2 481,10 5/7 2 077 \$ 145,00 4/7 41 461 \$ 10 3/7+ 37 951 \$ 10 3/7 348 028 free play | Total sales: \$ 5 138 838,00 Next grand prize (approx.): \$ 5 500 000,00 |
| Extra | Draw 98-01-10 | WINNERS | PRIZES |
| NUMBER PRIZES 818743 \$ 100,000 18743 \$ 1,000 8743 \$ 250 743 \$ 50 43 \$ 10 3 \$ 2 | Bonus number: 43 | 7/7 0 \$ 4 000 000,00 6/7+ 0 \$ 96 410,50 6/7 34 \$ 2 481,10 5/7 2 077 \$ 145,00 4/7 41 461 \$ 10 3/7+ 37 951 \$ 10 3/7 348 028 free play | Total sales: \$ 5 138 838,00 Next grand prize (approx.): \$ 5 500 000,00 |

TVA, the network of draws
 Claims: See back of tickets, in the event of discrepancy between this list and the official winning list, the latter shall prevail.

TODAY'S WEATHER

REGIONAL FORECASTS MAX MIN

Sherbrooke and area forecast calls for flurries ending Monday night. Temperatures will reach a low of -18 and a high -8. Tuesday will bring snow up to 10 cm low with a low of -14 and a high -2.

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Granby takes hardest hit Brome-Missisquoi part of 'terrible triangle'

By Maurice Crossfield
COWANSVILLE-BRIGHAM-GRANBY

There's only one word to describe the scenes in the westernmost sections of the Eastern Townships: Disaster.

While towns like Knowlton and Bromont remained relatively unaffected until Sunday, communities not far away were a mess of downed trees, hydro and phone lines. Homes in neighboring Cowansville, while spared some of the devastation experienced by communities to the west, were without power since Wednesday. But resumption of power to Cowansville is dependent on progress made in the hardest hit Granby-St-Hyacinthe-St-Jean triangle.

Community centres, high schools, convents and other large buildings were transformed into shelters for thousands of residents, as temperatures in homes continued to drop closer to the freezing mark.

By noon Friday 302 people were calling Massey-Vanier High School their new home, over 200 of whom were brought in from nursing homes on Thursday. Hundreds more arrived over the weekend as falling household temperatures forced even more people to seek warmth elsewhere.

Food for the refugees came from a variety of sources, including private citizens concerned that the food in their freezers was probably going to go bad before power is restored. The staff at the cafeteria pitched in to cook it all up, providing two meals a day.

A spokesman for the Cowansville Police said there were few reports of break-ins in the town as of Friday. Referring to the situation as "Christmas for thieves," he said things actually weren't as bad as



SHARON MCCULLY

The Pike River flooded homes and businesses in Bedford.

they had expected.

Another bit of good news was that the Yamaska River did not overflow its banks as badly as many feared. Residents of flood-plagued Veterans Boulevard in Cowansville were not forced to evacuate, and riverside residents of Brigham were likewise spared.

However all Brigham residents were faced with the common enemy of no power and a seemingly endless supply of downed trees and utility wires.

Less fortunate were residents of parts of Bedford. The Pike River overflowed its banks between Bedford and Philipsburg Friday, forcing the evacuation of three families. The Meigs Bridge on

Route 202 between Bedford and Pike River was closed when rising waters submerged the structure Friday morning.

Police and firefighters in Bedford worked 12-hour shifts, while town workers took measures to ensure a supply of water, diesel fuel and gasoline.

At an emergency shelter in Farnham, several people suffered from gastro-intestinal problems and volunteers were forced to scrub the place down with disinfectant.

Meanwhile Granby suffered the worst the ice storm had to offer, with downed trees by the hundreds and electrical wires coated in inches of ice. Hydro crews worked throughout the weekend in the slow process of assessing the damage. Hydro sources say it will take up to two weeks before power is restored to the critically damaged Granby-St-Hyacinthe-St-Jean triangle.

The Granby radio station, M-105, operated on battery power Friday until it managed to scare up a generator. As a public service, the station then sent out calls looking for everything from all-night restaurants to generators and a dwindling number of stores still stocked with batteries.

Over the weekend increasing numbers of Granby residents filled up a convent, the CEGEP-de-Granby and other temporary shelters. Calls went out regularly for volunteers to help out in a variety of tasks.

Meanwhile the darkened streets of Granby were extremely quiet. Officials there asked residents to stay off the streets as much as possible to allow work crews to circulate freely.

Over in Philipsburg, mayor Raymond Rosetti said the situation was still under control on Friday although phone and

power lines were lost. The Philipsburg volunteer fire department spent the weekend like many others in the region, pumping out basements and checking on residents.

"Our streets are terrible, there are trees down all over the place," Rosetti said Friday. "It's a mess all over the place."

The scene in neighboring Clarenceville was one of sheer devastation with several kilometres of hydro poles snapped in the middle leaving a tangled mess of hydro and telephone wires. Thick layers of ice coated homes, trees, signs and cars.

Throughout the region there were line-ups at garages as people tried to find gas stations still operating with generators. Most bank machines within a 100-kilometre radius were inoperable and cash became an even more precious commodity as direct payment equipment became inoperable in most stores.

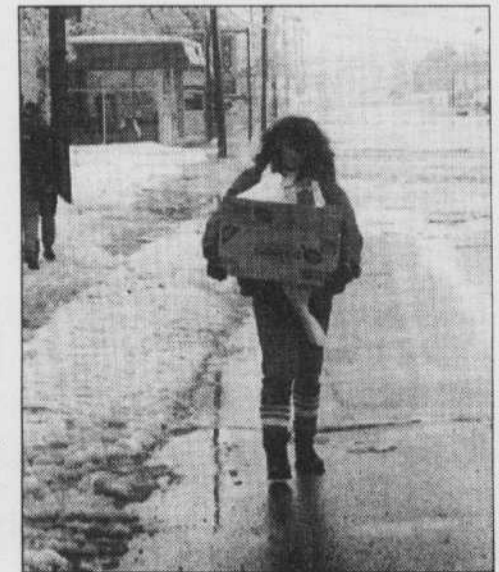
There was a permanent line-up outside the Canadian Tire store in Cowansville as employees ushered customers in one at a time. Shoppers were coming from as far away as Montreal in search of batteries and emergency materials.

Next door at the Cowansville IGA, shoppers were leaving fresh meat offered at half price in the shelves because they could neither cook it nor freeze it.

Offers of help have poured in from neighboring municipalities where power has been maintained.

The Manoir Lac Brome senior's residence was holding 13 beds open Sunday night for residents of the Robinson home in Cowansville in case the generator which is currently supplying power, fails. The senior's residence is also opening its recreation room for others affected by the black-out provided they bring their own bedding and pay for their food.

For a more detailed list of available shelters see other stories.



SHARON MCCULLY

Residents of Bedford had been without power for several days when flood waters arrived.



MAURICE CROSSFIELD

Volunteers brought cheer to people who had little to cheer about.

Where help is available and other briefs

The storm may be over but residents of the Eastern Townships are not out of harm's way. Entire communities such as Richmond, Granby and Cowansville remain without power and it may be two weeks before residents will be able to turn on their lights and sleep in a warm home.

To help people living in those areas more than 30 shelters have opened

across the Townships and many hotels, auberges and motels are offering cut-rate prices on rooms. The following is a list of places where people can go:

Cowansville: Massey-Vanier High School is running a full-service shelter for up to 650-700 people. For more on Cowansville see stories inside.

Waterloo: The Rehabilitation Centre has been opened by the Red Cross and is

receiving people mainly from Granby and Longueuil. Volunteers are going from house to house in the town collecting blankets.

Town of Brome Lake: Manoir Lac Brome, a senior's residence in Knowlton is on stand-by to receive seniors from neighboring residences if they lose generator power, but have room available in the recreation room for people who want to bring their own bedding and pay for their food. The Brome Lake community centre is also open to people who want to bring their own bedding and if necessary, fire chief Pierre Laplante says the fire station can be used as an emergency centre. The Auberge Joli Vent and Motel Cyprus in Brome Lake are both offering accommodation at half price (\$40) call the Auberge Joli Vent at 514-243-4272 or Motel Cyprus at 514-243-0363.

Bedford: The Centre Communautaire Corriveau is set up as an emergency shelter.

Sutton: The Auberge Schweizer is offering free rooms. Call 538-2129. Emergency shelters are set up in Sutton at the Ave Maria School and the Catholic Church.

Mansonville: Good Samaritans Danielle Danis and some 50 volunteers in Mansonville decided to adopt a storm-struck town. Hard hit St-Alphonse-de-Granby was chosen, and on Sunday afternoon 100 cords of wood, food, clothing, bedding, medicine, bottled water and donations of money made their way to that community.

Dudswell: An emergency shelter has been set up at the Erablière Bertrand Paré on Rte 112 and the Centre Communautaire de Weedon.

Richmond: Shelter is available at

Ecole Sacre-Coeur for those without power between Richmond and Drummondville.

Danville: Members of the local Knights of Columbus are serving hot meals three times a day to anyone in need at their hall on 1st Ave.

Drummondville: Shelter is available at College St-Bernard located at 25 Ave. des Frères 478-3330; Ecole Polyvalent Marie Rivière, 265 St. Felix 478-6600; Marie Reine des Coeurs retrait, rue Mont Plaisir. For those just looking for a hot shower, Ecole secondaire Jean Rainbault and Gymnase Drummond.

PETS WELCOME

The following hotels, motels and B&Bs in the Orford area have softened their policy on pets and are allowing storm victims to keep their animals with them:

Auberge du parc Orford - 843-8887
Motel de la Pente Douce - 843-1234
Motel de l'Outlet - 847-2609
Motel du Ranch - 847-4091
Motel Fleur de Lys - 843-5508
B&B A tout Venant - 868-0419
Au Coeur de Magog - 868-2511

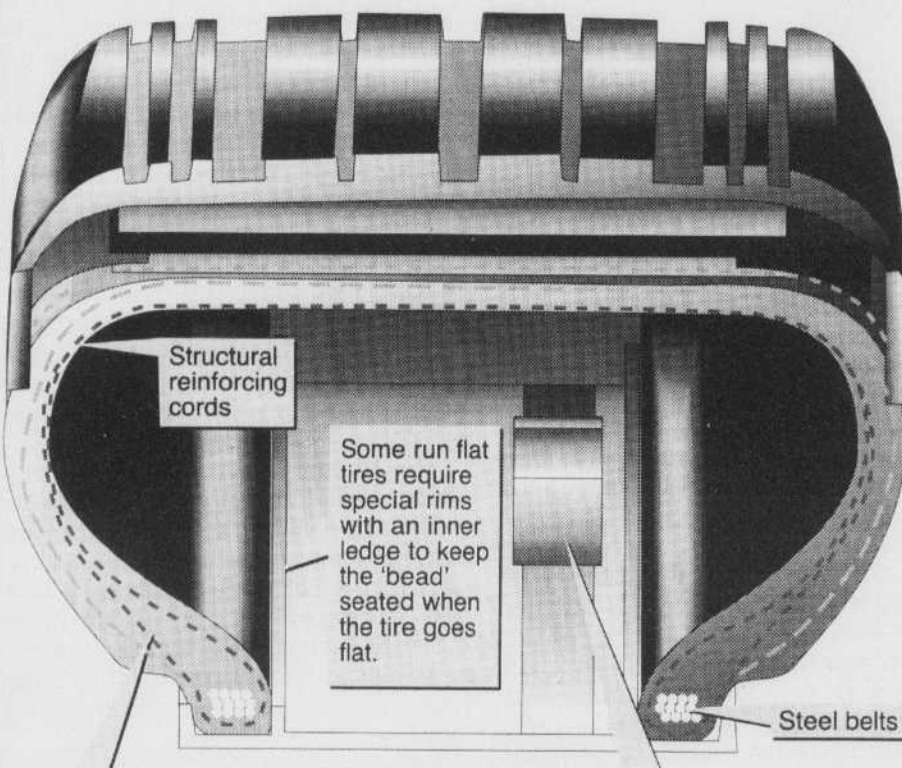
SCHOOL CLOSINGS

All District of Bedford schools are closed at least until Tuesday afternoon. At that time school board officials will decide whether to open schools on Wednesday, said director-general James Bissell. Three school in the Eastern Townships School Board "are in trouble" in the Richmond area Bissell said. ETSB director-general Walter Duszara said Richmond Regional, St-Francis and ADS schools will be also closed for the next few days. Parents and students should call their school on Tuesday afternoon to find out if school is open on Wednesday. The school board meeting scheduled for Monday night has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.

AUTOGRAPH

How run-flat tires work

The days of carrying a spare and a jack may be numbered with the advent of the run-flat tires. Although introduced in 1994 as optional equipment on a couple of new cars, the 1998 Corvette was the first to come with run-flat tires as standard equipment — no jack, no spare. Depending on the make of tires, you get from 50-200 miles (80-320 km) of driving once the air is completely gone, enough to get you to a service station. Drive slowly and you'll get more, as too much heat spells death for run flats.



The most distinguishing feature of run-flat tires are the thickness of the sidewalls — much thicker than conventional sidewalls — which support the weight of the car while there's no air in the tires. The thicker sidewalls make for a heavier tire that rides somewhat rougher than a conventional tire.

If a tire goes flat, how do you know? When run-flat tires are purchased, an air-pressure sensing system must be installed to let you know when there's little or no air left in the tires. Run-flats are available for a growing number of vehicles.

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We will be happy to help you find out
where you can best be of service
and we will publish the location of your
shelter or any other information that
may help those affected by the ice storm.

Volunteers brighten days

Making the best of a bad situation

By Sylvia Warden
SHERBROOKE

If one didn't know better, one might think there is a party going on at Massey-Vanier High School.

The slumber party for 369 people displaced from their homes because of power failures in the Montérégie region of the Eastern Townships has featured live bands, a casino, on-going television and VCRs in addition to a three-course meal of soup, roast beef and potatoes and lemon meringue pie for example.

"I think life is really great here. People seem to be in fairly good spirits," said Don Craig, building manager for the District of Bedford and Davignon School Boards.

Craig, who himself is planning to spend his sixth day without power at his Cowansville home, is just one of the innumerable volunteers who have stopped by the shelter to give a few hours of their time or drop off supplies such as mattresses, blankets, food and milk.

"Right now we have enough blankets and mattresses for 650 people," Craig said Sunday night from the shelter. But last night only 369 people spent the night. "Tonight we expect the number to be over 400," said Craig, as temperatures outside are expected to dip below freezing.

Milk however is being rationed and

Craig is putting the word out that if anyone can donate even a litre of milk it would be greatly appreciated.

"Right now we're short of milk. We're saving it to give to the kids."

While milk may be in short supply, Craig said, the generosity of people is not. In fact it's even surprised him.

"The amount of stuff people are bringing in has amazed me but I'm not surprised that people are bringing things."

He said a man arrived today with a bag of carrots, a woman whose power hasn't been affected decided to bake apple pies and 15 other desserts for those living in the shelter.

In addition, while it's been reported that some businesses were raising their prices on items such as water, batteries and gasoline, Mike's Restaurant donated Black Forest cakes and pies and the local McDonald's called to see what it could donate.

The school-turned-shelter is operating on a generator that is able to provide dim lights in all hall ways, rooms and bathrooms including shower areas of the 188-classroom building.

Currently just 40 rooms are being used for sleeping quarters.

The gymnasium has been transformed into a play area for children. Parents can leave their children in the gym monitored by 17- to 20-year-old volunteers or in another room that

plays videos like Walt Disney's *The Lion King*, Craig said.

"We really couldn't do all this if it weren't for the volunteers." Some, like the assistant manager and cook for Versebec which supplies food for the school cafeteria, have been volunteering 18-19 hours per day since the community of 12,500 was plunged into darkness at about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Craig isn't sure how much longer

the shelter is expected to be open, only saying it will remain open until after breakfast on Wednesday but he wouldn't be surprised if it stayed open through to Friday. And this 29-year employee of the school board isn't in any hurry to close the doors.

"Everyone is helping out their neighbor. There are no knots in this wood."

FIRE:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



PAUL CHERRY

Firefighters battled a blaze that claimed the life of a Richmond man.

firefighters were still working to ensure flames wouldn't spread. Some sat while holding hoses because thick ice had made the process treacherous.

Just a few blocks away the town's mayor, Marc-Andre Martel, was running a shelter for victims of the blackout and keeping an eye on two water levels. One was the town's water pressure which was being slightly affected by the fire; the other was the flood level of the St. Francis River. The town's water was controlled by a generator that was working well but the river had risen several feet overnight and was being monitored full time. Fortunately, weather changes removed the threat of flooding and the rising water subsided.

Meanwhile in the shelter, about 20 people had taken up for the night and Martel was expecting more on Saturday. Children were watching television and playing in a gymnasium while their parents were quietly playing cards in an-

other room.

The mayor said the fire had also taken a lot of energy out of the town's volunteer fire department and hoped no other problems came up. He also said every time he spoke to Hydro-Quebec, the estimate on when power would be restored was doubling.

Just blocks from the fire, Provigo owner Pierre Cyr was watching a steady flow of people come through his grocery store's doors. Cyr said he believed he was the only food store in town. A generator he got when he purchased the store hummed along, allowing people to buy items with credit cards or ATM cards.

"Business is good today," said Cyr, with no excitement in his voice and looking a little awkward. "I'm the lucky one who has a generator. If the town goes on a state of emergency, I'm supposed to turn it over to the municipality."



MAURICE CROSSFIELD

Volunteers with help from Versebec, which supplies food for the school cafeteria, have been volunteering 18-19 hours per day for the past five days.

COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIAL

Sad start to a new year

Rarely have I witnessed so many sad sights in such a short space of time. Busloads of seniors, confused and frightened, being moved from the comfort and security of their homes and beds to strange places filled with strangers; thousands of stately trees felled like matchsticks; miles of telephone poles clipped in half, leaving a tangled mess of wires across roads and yards; homes abandoned and now encased in ice. Then, added to the cold and darkness, flooding.

In Bedford on Saturday, tears rolled down a young woman's face as she waded through rising floodwaters trying to salvage a few groceries as the Pike River flowed through her kitchen.

In the Moulton Hill section of Lennoxville, a maple sugar farmer stood on his veranda watching Mother Nature unleash her wrath on thousands of maple trees that have defined the Eastern Townships region.

In Coaticook, dairy farmers were forced to dump millions of litres of milk because milk processing plants in nearby Granby were shut down. Poultry farmers were powerless to act as their animals froze.

In Clarenceville, neighbors and family members already feeling isolated after several days without power were cut off from one another when telephone lines went down.

For hundreds of thousands, it was a strange and foreign experience to fill garbage bags with chicken, steak, casseroles, milk and eggs.

For many, particularly seniors, leaving pets behind in frosty homes or at

shelters has been a heartbreaking experience.

Equally disturbing are reports of looting; although scattered and sporadic, it is a sorry statement - particularly the theft of generators being used to provide heat and light to emergency shelters. How low some people can stoop.

This week also brought stories of merchants and gas stations hiking prices to make a buck off this disaster. We should remember who they are. Other businesses have dropped their prices and gone the extra mile to accommodate disaster victims.

We should also remember who they are: Hotels that have dropped their prices or allowed families to bring their pets along and restaurants that have provided free coffee and soup.

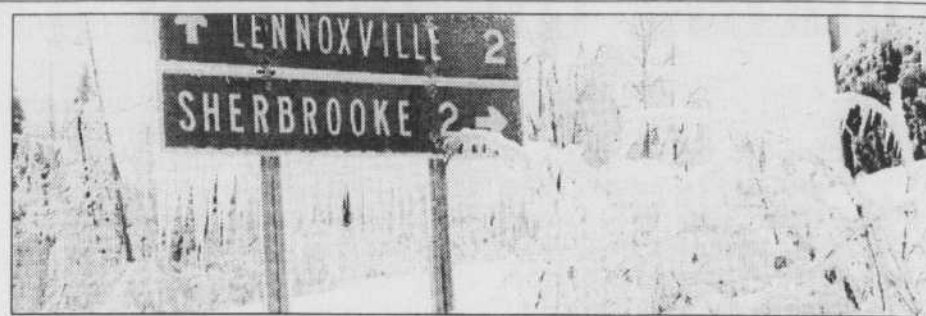
It is the tremendous acts of kindness and generosity that are seeing people through these extraordinary days. People are opening their hearts and homes to strangers and telephone calls are pouring in from across Quebec, Canada and the world. Thousands of volunteers are working around the clock feeding and comforting people in emergency shelters.

When power is restored, and the media focus shifts to tomorrow's troubles, it's important for us to remember those who have suffered severe losses and damage.

And never again should we take the simple things of life for granted: That first cup of coffee in the morning, a hot shower, flipping on the light switch....

SHARON McCULLY

It is the tremendous acts of kindness and generosity that are seeing people through these extraordinary days. People are opening their hearts and homes to strangers...



Icy images

Millions of Quebecers are freezing in the dark and it is an awful sight. Watching it unfold from the relative safety and comfort of my Eastern Townships home, impressions formed that will always be lasting images of The Great Ice Storm of the Century:

Old people hid out in their homes growing colder but determined to stay rather than risk the unknown and humiliation of going to a shelter. Some died.

A woman, waiting to get into a shelter, explained to television cameras why she was there: "I want to wash. I smell bad."

Children discovered life without Nintendo and TV. They were not amused and everyone struggled to keep them entertained.

The press peppered the PM with questions about troops helping out: How many? When? Where? Why now and not earlier? Jean Chrétien, even in an emergency, couldn't get his words straight. Stepping on his toes and mumbling incoherently, he sounded like the situation was out of control. The soldiers, how many he didn't know, were on their way. Soon. Maybe.

The troops arrived on Day Five and served their first meal on Day Six. Better late than never, but that wasn't their fault. Bouchard would rather not have asked for them at all but finally dropped the veil and admitted the storm was bigger than Le Movement. By Day Five, he was pleading for more soldiers.

Hydro workers from New England were more welcome. They left homes and families in the storm to drive through the night.

Firefighters and the Sûreté did us proud. The disaster proved that the closer groups are to the people, the better they serve. Community groups, mostly volunteer, lead the way with shelters and eldercare. Government was left to cheerlead.

The media gave us daily lessons in plumbing and how to look after pets as though these were new elements of our lives. Amazingly, The Gazette published each day. Television pretty well gave up being helpful and reverted to type. Ads looked dumb pushing flashy cars and personal hygiene products. CBC Radio in Montreal found voice to help and bond a community in crisis

but CBC Radio in Quebec City was quickly out of its depth.

Radio stations played reggae music: "...da da don't worry about a thing. 'Cause every little thing is going to be all right. There is a bird on my doorstep. Da da..."

A spokesperson for the insurance industry reassured everyone that everything was covered and to be patient. When questioned, he revealed a long list of exceptions. Even in disaster, some things don't change.

Not to miss the press op in the run-up to elections, Montreal Mayor

Bourque rushed home from Asia on Day Three. The media spotted him taking valuable space glad-handing in a shelter. Soon he was telling his first campaign

lie: "The main roads are clear." His first sensible comment was that the Island had suffered an ecological disaster.

Dozens of phone numbers were given out to help us navigate the bureaucracies; most lines were busy, or nobody answered.

Generators were passed around friends to keep freezers from melting. Neighbors met for the first time and discovered they liked each other and we gave up old instincts, like getting to work on time.

Officials dug out disaster plans to find numbers changed and key people retired.

It was an awful week for Hydro-Quebec. By Day Five, they could no longer explain the problems, never mind fix them. They didn't have power to run computers to keep track. On Day Three, a Hydro-Quebec worker's union, in the name of solidarity and service for the community, issued a helpful press release criticizing their bosses for the way workers were being used and suggesting the equipment had been badly maintained. Yeah, right. We tend to ignore these types of statements during the best of times. During a disaster, they are just dumb.

Many teenagers, particularly girls, volunteered at shelters, defying our best efforts to portray their generation as rootless and selfish.

Suburbanites discovered their fireplaces were for more than candlelight dinners.

Rural residents smugly kept warm but were the first to lose power and will be the last to get it back.

VIEWPOINT

WILDER LEWIS

THE RECORD

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| 6 MONTHS | 53.50 | 3.75 | 4.29 \$61.54 |
| 3 MONTHS | 27.00 | 1.89 | 2.17 \$31.06 |

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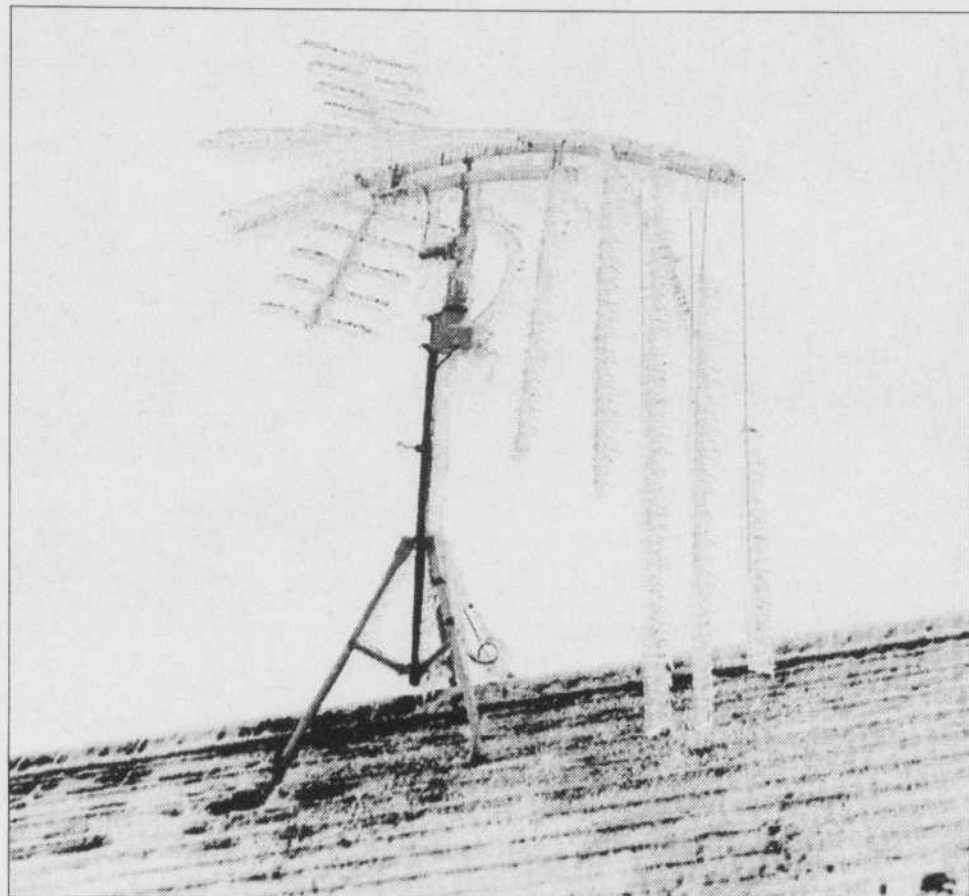
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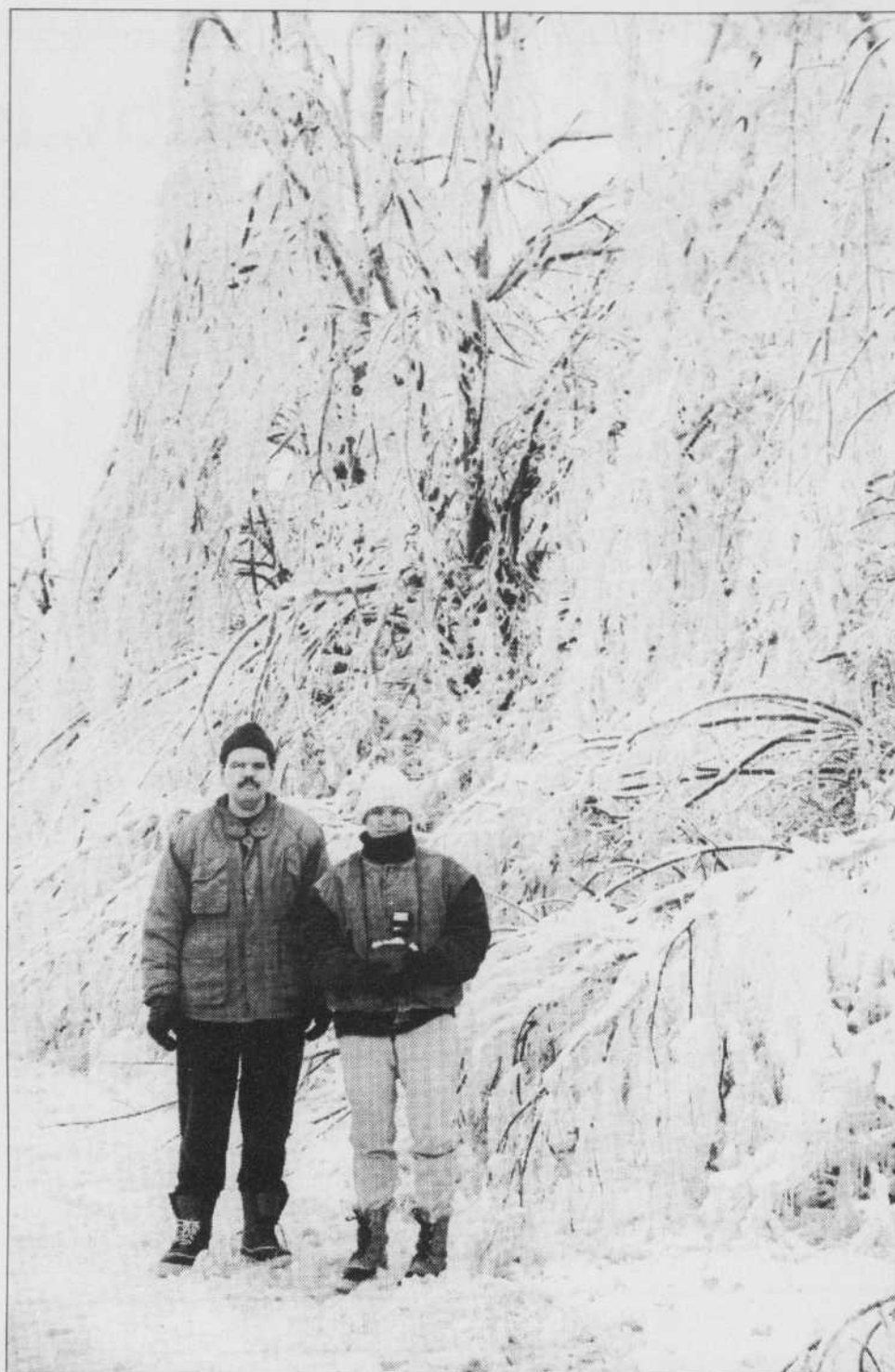
Moulton Hill residents on ice

"Welcome to Montreal." Moulton Hill resident Robert Addis summed up current life on the hill well. He and Ruth McComb live near the peak of the hilly road which links Lennoxville and Fleurimont. Serious icing of the trees started on Thursday and, by early evening, power was disrupted in the area. Fortunately for the couple, Chris and Melissa Drew, who live below them, have a generator which was able to keep the oil furnace going. "Enough heat found its way to the top floor to maintain an adequate temperature," Addis said. Aware that a storm was approaching, Addis filled the bathtub with water to use as toilet water. Candles, however, were their principal source of light. For both he and McComb, the cracking of the ice-laden trees around them was an eerie sound, not unlike the "crack" of a rifle shot. On Friday, Hydro officials indicated they would probably have their power restored later that day. As of noon on Saturday, the area was still without electricity. — Bruce Patton, Correspondent.



BRUCE PATTON/CORRESPONDENT

Will it work? Mother Nature has redesigned this TV antenna, atop a Moulton Hill residence, according to her specifications. Its aesthetic qualities probably exceed its electronic usefulness, however.



BRUCE PATTON/CORRESPONDENT

Not unlike Montreal: Robert Addis and Ruth McComb stand alongside the downed trees which line the Moulton Hill Road near their home.



BRUCE PATTON/CORRESPONDENT

Close to home: Draped in icicles, this Moulton Hill roadside marker would have been a picturesque sight were it not for the devastation around it.



BRUCE PATTON/CORRESPONDENT

Which way will it fall? Ruth McComb and Robert Addis keep watchful eyes on a nearby ice-laden tree. "The branches break without warning and sound like the crack of a rifle", said McComb.

'I've never seen anything like this in my life' - resident

Danville hit hard by ice storm of the century

By Paul Cherry

DANVILLE

Fifteen kilometres east of Richmond, where a fire claimed one life on Friday, people in the town of Danville were praying a fire wouldn't start there.

Severe weather conditions in the elevated areas of the hilly region had cut the municipality's water supply completely. Even though Danville is close to Richmond, its problems were much more serious.

In fact, it was probably the town in the Asbestos region hardest hit by the worst part of the province's ice storm.

On Friday, tree branches filled streets which had been covered with ice for days. Old trees had lost branches while young trees leaned over, fully blocking roadways. Drivers negotiated streets at 20 km. per hour and stopped constantly in front of downed power lines, unsure if there was any juice in them.

James Pye, a resident of Danville for 35 years, slowly walked through the town's ice-covered streets to get some basic groceries.

"I've never seen anything like this in my life," he said. "It's really something to look at, but it's terrible at the same time."

Pye had wisely parked his car at a friend's house because the six maple trees on his property were losing strength by the minute. He said he was ready to tough the storm out with his wood burning stove.

As he spoke, a man drove by barking instructions from a megaphone telling



BRUCE PATTON/CORRESPONDENT

Severe weather conditions were responsible for falling trees and cutting the municipality's water supply.

residents the municipality was setting up two shelters. Pye said it was about time because the small town had been without power for more than 48 hours.

"There was no one cleaning up the mess yesterday when things were falling everywhere," he said.

The municipality was expecting to

have running water again by this morning but Hydro-Quebec was giving no estimates on when power would be restored.

GENERATING SOME HEAT



BRUCE PATTON/CORRESPONDENT

Danville's situation is just as serious as that on the South Shore of Montreal. Although many trees are down, there is not a lot of evidence of abundant power lines down. Residents have been informed that power will probably not be restored for seven to 10 days. With the exception of one service station that has a generator, the town is virtually closed down. The local Knights of Columbus are serving hot meals three times a day to anyone in need at their hall on first avenue. On Sunday afternoon, some Canadian Militia units were seen clearing fallen trees from the wires on the streets. - Bruce Patton, Correspondent.



PAUL CHERRY

Danville was probably the town in the Asbestos region hardest hit by the worst part of the province's ice storm.



JOANNE FLANAGAN/CORRESPONDENT

Sharp cracking noises followed by thunderous crashes can be heard across Quebec as limb after limb falls to the ground.

Trees in danger

DUDSWELL

Candlelight, in the wee hours before dawn. Sounds like a war zone out there, sharp cracking noises followed by thunderous crashes as limb after limb of the trees around our farm fall to the ground, unable to support the weight of ice accumulated after days of freezing rain.

It's scary, and it's dangerous - for us and for the trees, and for any living creatures trying to make their way through the woods.

Our neighbor, Jocelyn Perreault, wears a hardhat as he picks up yet another branch that's fallen onto the road by the house he shares with Louise Guimond and their two children. They're surrounded by towering ancestral maples that today have become a menace to their safety.

"Widow makers," Perreault calls them, as he gets his chainsaw for the third time to chop up yet another felled limb too heavy to drag, but large enough to completely block the icy road.

"You wouldn't believe how heavy this wood is," he said. "Branches must weigh about 10 times their usual weight, there's so much ice on them. No wonder they're falling. I've never seen anything like it before. It must be terrible in the woods. Nobody should go in the woods now. It's very dangerous."

Dangerous for the trees too.

"When spring comes, or a spell of warm weather, the sap is going to run out of those gashes," said Perreault. "It can't be good for them."

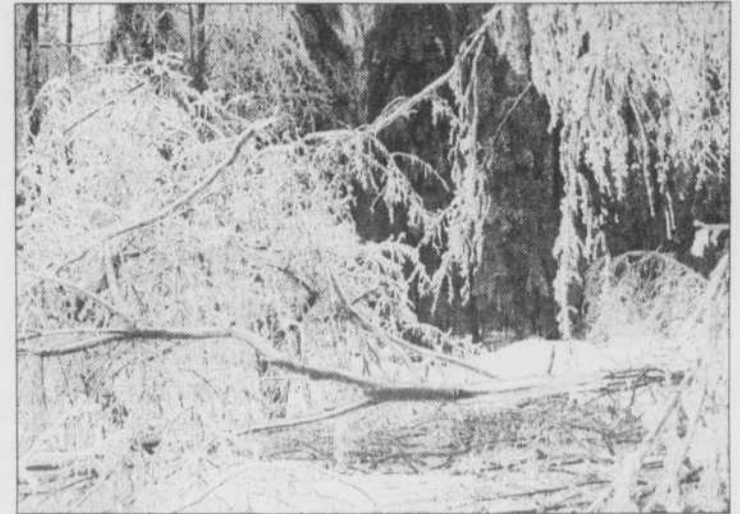
My husband, Jean Guimond, said he doesn't think anything can be done to repair the damaged trees. "If you put pitch on the wounds to seal them, they can't breathe, and there is a risk that a layer of moisture will develop and cause rot," he said.

Don't worry about the trees, he reassured.

"It's a wicked pruning, but it's January, and the wounds may have time to dry. They're old enough to survive," he said. "I don't know about the younger ones that have lost their tops though. They don't look too good. A person would do well just to collect all the fallen branches before they rot and make firewood out of them."

One of those branches hung precariously on our power line last night, sending sparks into the darkness. It must've landed by now, and whether or not it took the line down, we have no electricity. Luckily though, we do have lots of good firewood to heat and cook with.

Joanne Flanagan, Correspondent



JOANNE FLANAGAN/CORRESPONDENT

The ice storm is having a devastating effect on Quebec's foliage.



JOANNE FLANAGAN/CORRESPONDENT

Falling trees are destroying power lines, cars and homes.

Milk dumped as processors remain powerless

By René Bruemmer

SHERBROOKE

Dairy farmers in the Townships started pouring tens of thousands litres of milk down the drain over the weekend as power outages left them with no place to deliver their supplies.

At least 14 milk processing plants in Quebec were shut down by last Friday due to blackouts caused by the ice storm. Transport companies that normally shuttle milk from farms to processing plants stopped picking up milk because factories can't process the milk and their storage facilities are full.

But dairy farmers can't stop milking their cows.

"If we stop milking, we have problems with sick cows," said Angus Mackinnon, who runs a dairy farm with 90 cows in Barnston. If cows aren't milked, Mackinnon said, they can develop infections incurred when the udder becomes too full, leading to fevers, an inability to produce milk and even death.

Most dairy farmers have generators

in the case of blackouts, to take care of electronic milking, heating and water pumps, so milk production hasn't been affected by the blackouts. But the breakdown in the delivery system means they can't get rid of their never-ending supply, and with limited storage space on their farms and a limited amount of time it can be stored, farmers have to dump their old milk to make room for the new.

Mackinnon had to dump most of the 2,500 litres produced every day on his farm because the truck that arrived only had room for a few hundred litres. His neighbor also had to dump a full tank. Their transport company normally brings their milk to the Agropur plant in Granby, but the city has been without power since Wednesday.

At a price of around \$50 per hundred litres of milk, Mackinnon estimated that he's dumping about \$1,250 dollars down the drain every day. And he's not sure yet if he will be reimbursed.

"The milk producers' union hasn't told us yet," he said. "We just have to

wait and see."

The Eastern Townships milk producers' union advised dairy farmers last week to dump their supplies if transport companies didn't arrive. Milk can only be stored for four to six days before it starts to go bad. The trucks normally come every two days, but the shut down of the processing factories has left them scrambling for places to deliver the milk.

"We've started bringing the milk to plants in New Brunswick, even Nova Scotia," said Quebec Farmers' Union president Alain Doyon. "Quebec produces 46 per cent of all the milk in Canada. It's crucial that we deliver it as soon as possible."

Doyon couldn't say exactly how

much milk had been dumped so far, or how long the problem would persist. He did say that union leaders would be talking to the Ministry of Agriculture about the question of reimbursement.

For those like Mackinnon that have no delivery, giving a bit to neighbors and pouring the rest down the drain are the only solutions. But things could be worse, Mackinnon said.

"It's unfortunate, but we are absolutely nowhere near as unfortunate as the people in St-Hyacinthe or St-Jean," he said. "We still have power, we haven't even had to use our generators. We count ourselves among the lucky ones."

Lending a hand

By Rita Legault

SHERBROOKE

As Quebec began cleaning up the worst ever weather disaster to hit the province, residents in areas who were spared the worst of the ice storm were seeking ways to help their fellow citizens.

Seeking to ensure their help was not wasted and that the right relief was directed to the right places, Sherbrooke area officials set up a co-ordination centre to deal with requests for help from municipalities in the disaster zone.

Sherbrooke area has already heard from municipal authorities in Granby and St-Jean-sur-Richelieu asking for a number of things from generators to food.

The Fondation Rock Guertin, which collects and distributes Christmas hampers has re-opened a collection and distribution centre at Place Brouillard at the corner of King West and Burlington, across from Sherbrooke's convention centre.

People of the region are invited to drop off non-perishable foods and other donations at the centre anytime between 7:30 and 9 p.m. tomorrow and for the next few days.

"We're used to this, we did it three weeks ago," said foundation president Serge Audet, adding that they have had requests for baby formula, diapers and soap. He said some 1000 blankets have already been sent to the Granby area and there are hundreds of blankets and old sleeping bags already at the makeshift distribution centre.

Audet said the public can also make financial donations if they prefer.

Audet said that any non-perishable goods left over after the collection will be given to needy people in this region.

The Salvation Army is also collecting non-perishable goods at its offices on Wellington Street in downtown Sherbrooke. Director Laurence Roseberry said a truckload of goods will be taken to Granby every day until the need has ebbed.

In the meantime Sherbrooke regional police chief Michel Carpentier issued

a warning to citizens to ensure they are making donations to credible organizations because some crooks could take advantage of the disaster to cheat people out of their money claiming it will be used to help victims of the ice storm.

The Sherbrooke regional co-ordination centre, set up at police headquarters on Marquette Street, has seven volunteer operators who will take note of what services and goods the population is willing to provide whether it be food, lodgings or equipment. The information will be transmitted to Quebec's civil protection authorities so that the aid can be channeled where it is needed.

The number to call is 821-9134 anytime between 7:30 and 10 p.m.

Mayor Jean Perrault said local firefighters have been helping out in Granby and Montreal has asked for and will receive some snow removal crews to help with the cleanup. Sherbrooke may also send some Hydro Sherbrooke crews to help reestablish power in the sectors hardest hit by the storm.

St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, which may be looking at a week or two without power, is looking for a powerful generator, and the CSN Construction union is looking at regional companies to see if there is one which could be sent.

Regional health board director Jean-Pierre Duplantie said that a doctor has gone to St. Jean to check on their needs and a group of nurses is heading down there to lend a hand. They could be followed by a group of general practitioners from the region.

Duplantie said the region's hospitals are open to lending a hand and receiving patients from hospitals and nursing homes in disaster zones. He said the regional health board is even prepared to re-open St-Vincent de Paul hospital to house Richmond-area seniors if needed.

Wales Home director Rod Mac Iver said he contacted the health board to warn that if their generator goes, they will need a lot of assistance. Right now the homes houses more than 200 residents along with some 50 or so seniors from the region being sheltered there while awaiting the power to return.

Road to recovery will be long for farmers

By René Bruemmer

SHERBROOKE

Almost all sectors of the agricultural community are suffering from the effects of the ice storm, Estrie Farmers' Union president Antoine Doyon said yesterday.

"We have problems, especially in the areas on the periphery such as Richmond, Valcourt and Lac Mégantic," Doyon said. "It's a catastrophe."

It was difficult to get an exact idea of the scope of the difficulties, Doyon said, because of communication problems throughout the province. Most of his information came from regional agricultural administrators using cellular phones, since many producers had lost telephone service.

Dairy farmers started dumping their milk supplies over the weekend because at least 14 processing plants in the province were shut down as of last Friday, leaving farmers with no place to deliver their milk to have it pasteurized and homogenized.

Maple syrup producers were probably the most affected, Doyon said, because of the number of maple trees destroyed by the weight of accumulated ice.

Chicken farmers are especially sensitive to a loss of electricity, since tightly packed chicken farms require constant ventilation to provide sufficient oxygen for their fowl. A farm in St-Jude, near St-Hyacinthe, that was using a generator to power its ventilation system, stopped the generator on Thursday to oil it. The generator failed to restart, and within half an hour 10,000 chickens had suffocated to death.

Farmers without electricity who

have been using generators are starting to run out of diesel fuel, and there is a lack of both generators and diesel fuel throughout the province. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that looters are starting to target the highly coveted generators, stealing them from farms. Some farmers have started rigging makeshift alarm systems, running wires under the snow from their generators to bells in their homes. At least one burglar so far has been caught by the bell.

Chicken farms have also been affected by the closure of several slaughterhouses due to blackouts, Doyon said. Most farmers have only enough grain feed to maintain their chickens for 39 to 40 days. If they're kept longer, the chickens lose weight, and subsequently lose value. If they become hungry enough, cannibalism starts to become a problem.

Ventilation is also a serious concern for pork farmers, although most barns have trap doors and windows that can produce natural ventilation. But with temperatures dropping, that method only works for awhile before the animals risk freezing to death, Doyon said.

Members of the farmers' union are scheduled to meet on Monday in Sherbrooke and an administrative council meeting is set for Thursday afternoon, where members will discuss the current crisis and possible remedies, Doyon said. They would also be discussing compensation for any farmers who lost money on account of the ice storm. Press releases will be distributed throughout the week.

Estrie region spared devastation

17,000 still without power in Sherbrooke area

By Rita Legault
SHERBROOKE

While the Estrie region was spared the devastation that occurred throughout many areas of southwestern Quebec, thousands of residents were left in the dark as the region was sideswiped by the ice storm of the century.

By Sunday evening, some 17,000 people were still without power. Seventeen municipalities were totally blacked out, and at least nine others were partially blacked out.

Hardest hit on the east side of the Townships was the Richmond-Danville area which has been without power since Wednesday and where it could take several more days before power is restored.

Asbestos, which has been in the dark since Wednesday, saw some neighborhoods regain power on Sunday. Officials could not say how long it would take before the lights would come on the other side of town.

Throughout the Asbestos MRC, some 4,500 homes including those in the towns of St-Adrien, Shipton, St-Joseph de Ham and Trois Lacs were also still waiting for power.

In adjacent Val St. François MRC, Richmond was joined in the dark and

cold by Melbourne, Maricourt, and Valcourt Township.

Most of those areas had been without power since Wednesday and officials still have no idea when it will be restored to the region. Some guess it could be more than a week before things returned to a semblance of normal.

The Val St. François MRC was hardest hit with some 12,000 homes losing power.

In the Sherbrooke area, the power flickered on and off throughout the weekend, but some homes in St-Elie and St-Denis de Brompton were still hoping power would be restored late Sunday. About 6,000 Hydro Sherbrooke clients were without power on Friday, but most were restored later in the day or throughout the weekend.

Sherbrooke mayor Jean Perrault said power would be restored tonight or tomorrow after which time Hydro Sherbrooke is considering deploying some teams and trucks to help its provincial counterparts at Hydro Quebec restore power to the hardest hit areas in the Townships, the South Shore and Montreal.

In the Granit area around Lake Megantic, several municipalities were without power including Frontenac, Marston, Milan, Nantes, Piopolis, Val

Racine, and Ste-Cécile de Whitton. Between 2,000 and 3,000 homes in the region were affected by the blackout which, in some cases, has lasted for more than four or five days.

In Haut St. François, almost a dozen municipalities were cut off including Ste-Herménégilde, Westbury, La Patrie, Lingwick, Dudswell, Ditton and Bury who were still awaiting power Sunday night.

There were a dozen emergency shelters still operating last night mostly in municipalities hit the hardest including Richmond, Danville, and Shipton. On Saturday, 178 people sought heat in almost two dozen shelters, especially in areas where the power had been out for days.

The region, which saw more than 100 centimetres of rain in the last week, was spared much of the hazardous effects of the ice storm that hit the St. Lawrence valley.

However, the rain and runoff from melting snow led to some minor flooding Friday mostly on the St. Francis, Coaticook and Eaton Rivers. In North Hatley, the Massawippi River spilled over into Dreamland Park, but water levels remained stable and decreased as the weekend turned colder.

The Drummondville area, which got

its share of both rain and sleet, suffered from both blackouts and floods.

The St. Francis River burst its banks in the Drummondville suburb of St. Nicéphore Friday afternoon forcing the evacuation of about 200 homes. As a raging thunderstorm showered the area with several centimetres of precipitation late in the afternoon, residents gathered at the community hall worried that ice floes gathering at a nearby dam would cause another inundation.

Swollen waterways were no longer a threat on Sunday, except for the Bury stream where an ice floe was causing a backup. Civil protection officials have authorized work to break up the floe later today.

Various highways throughout the region were closed throughout the weekend due to fallen trees and electrical wires. Most were reopened but three remain closed to traffic including Ranges 11 and 12 in St-Joseph de Ham and Route 222 between Val Racine and St-Denis-de-Brompton.

Route 243 between Richmond and Ste-Felix-de-Kingsey has reopened but closed to heavy traffic because of low hanging wires.

One lane of Capelton Road was reopened for local traffic only.

Three men arrested

Generators are hottest item for looters

By Rita Legault
SHERBROOKE

While the ice storm which wrecked havoc on Quebec brought out the best in many generous citizens, it brought out the worst in others as some criminals took advantage of abandoned homes to loot and pillage.

And provincial police are calling in extra troops to deal with the crime wave and to help civil protection authorities.

Over the weekend police received many reports of homes that had been broken into and robbed, said Quebec Police Force spokesman Serge Dubord. But the item favored by many crooks during the worst blackout of the century was generators.

On Saturday night, robbers stole a generator from outside a fruit and vegetable store in Roxton Falls, cutting through a chain to get the valuable black market commodity. Meanwhile, across the Townships, another generator was being stolen from a home in St-Claude.

Also during the night on Saturday an apartment building in Ste-Cécile-de-

Whitton was struck by robbers who broke in all six doors and made off with a variety of electronic appliances including stereos and televisions.

In Rainville, a burglary netted thieves a fax, a camera, a computer and a variety of electronic equipment. In Danville, looters broke into the Chez Ivan restaurant stealing money and some beer.

While none of the culprits in those robberies were caught, a trio of burglars in Drummondville weren't so lucky.

Three Drummondville-area men, including one 16-year-old minor, were arrested and will be charged with looting in court on Monday.

The men were caught fleeing a home in the suburb of St. Charles around midnight when a neighbor called police to warn them that three men were lurking around the neighborhood, said Drum-

mondville QPF spokesman Cpl. Jacques Boivin.

The suspects fled when a nearby cruiser arrived to investigate and a search of the neighborhood uncovered the three suspects who had been preparing video and electric appliances to take away.

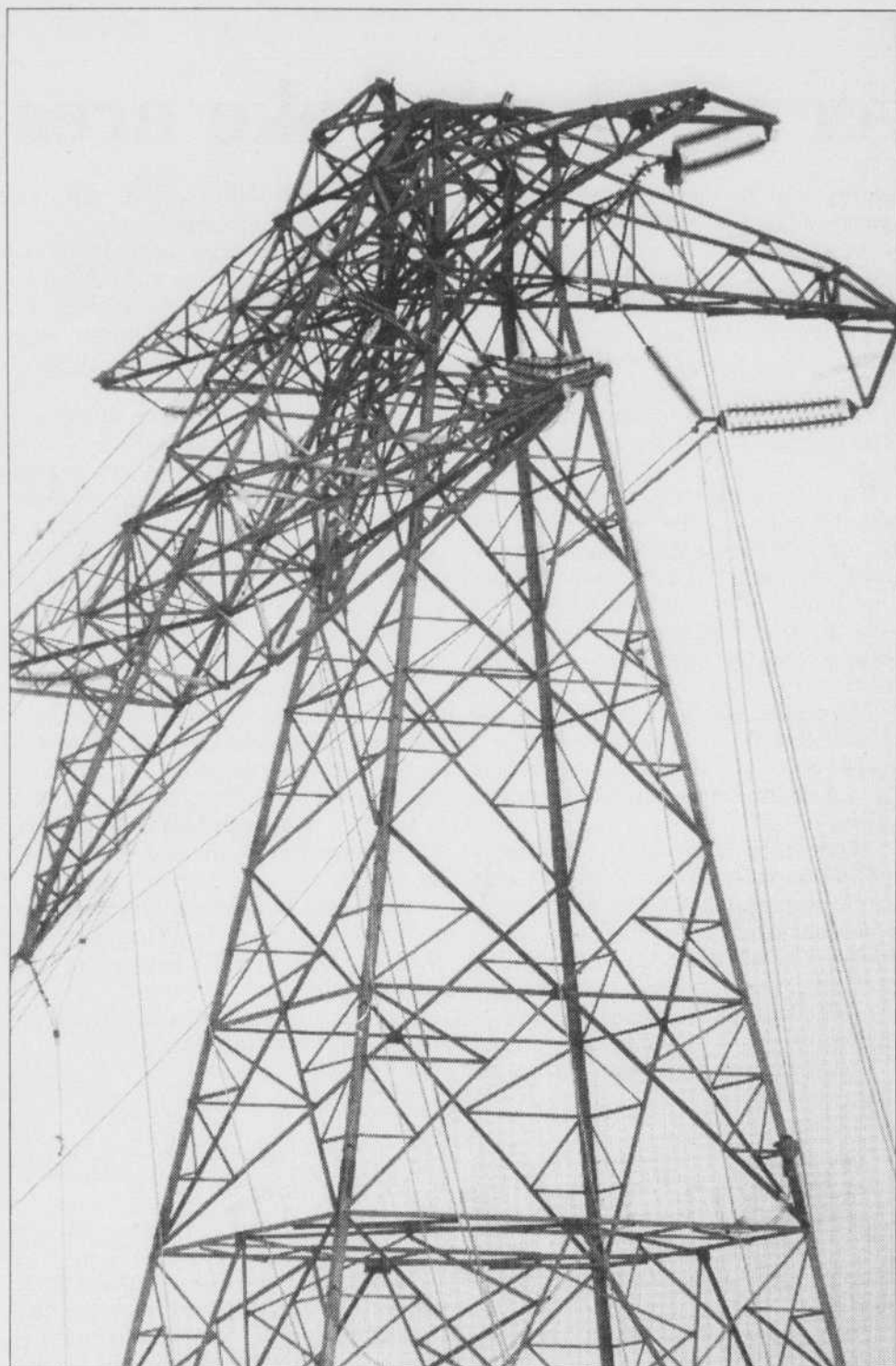
A 19- and 20-year-old suspects are being held at the Talbot Jail in Sherbrooke. The minor is being held at the Pavillon Lemire youth detention centre in Drummondville.

Cpl. Boivin said the looters were caught thanks to increased patrols in neighborhoods and municipalities where power outages forced residents to seek shelter elsewhere. Boivin said increased patrols will continue till the situation returns to normal.

MORE PATROLS

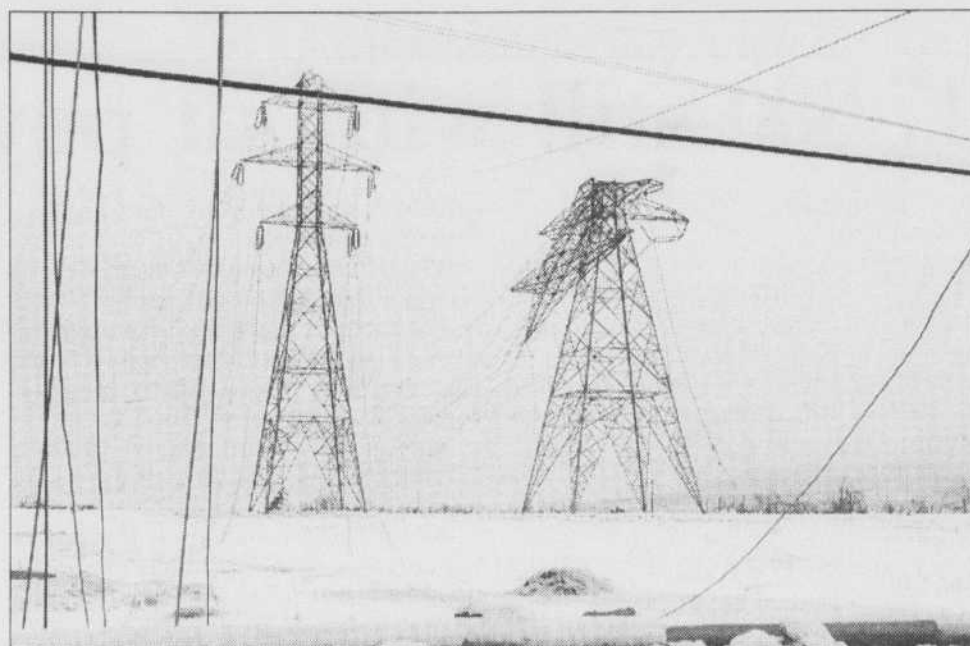
Dubord said that patrols will continue in blacked out areas until the situation returns to normal.

Three Drummondville-area men, including one 16-year-old minor, were arrested and will be charged in court on Monday with looting.



PERRY BEATON/CORRESPONDENT

And they all fall down: This Hydro pole in St. Cesaire was one of literally thousands across the Eastern Townships that were damaged during the ice storm.



PERRY BEATON/CORRESPONDENT

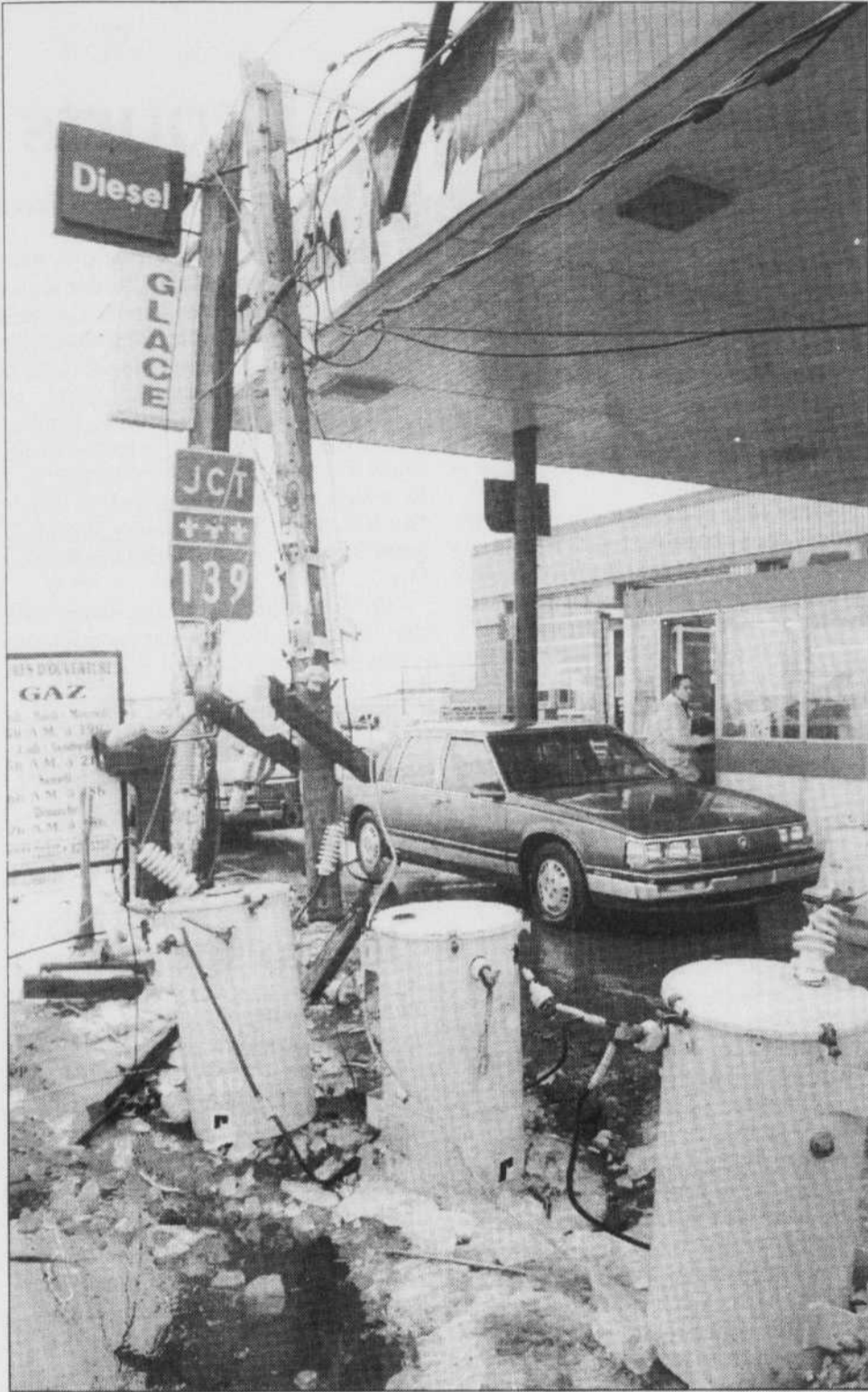
One up, one down: Hydro poles in St. Cesaire affected by the worst ice storm of the century.



MAURICE CROSSFIELD/CORRESPONDENT

A cold day in January: Ice-laden wires in Cowansville.

Images of the ice storm in the Townships



PERRY BEATON/CORRESPONDENT

The effects of the ice storm were being felt at gas stations across Quebec, including this one in Granby, one of the regions in the province that is the hardest hit.



PERRY BEATON/CORRESPONDENT

Granby residents were about as paralyzed as this pick-up truck spotted in the region.

Images of the ice storm in the Townships



PERRY BEATON/CORRESPONDENT

Rising waters in downtown Sherbrooke have forced the closure of the Frontenac bridge.



PERRY BEATON/CORRESPONDENT

Flooding at Capelton Mines.

Galt, Bishop's, Champlain games canceled No contests in hockey rinks, basketball courts

By J.D. Keyes
 RECORD CORRESPONDENT
 LENNOXVILLE

The hockey rinks and basketball courts of the Eastern Townships were empty of sporting competition this weekend, falling victim to the ice storm that has paralyzed more than half of Quebec.

Virtually everything was canceled — from the Alexander Galt boys and girls junior and senior basketball games to the Bishop's University basketball team's trip to Montreal.

"I think we did the right thing, considering the circumstances," said Alexander Galt senior boys coach Matt Carr. "We were supposed to play a team from Woodsville, Vt., and considering how bad the roads are, I certainly wouldn't want them to risk a drive to Lennoxville."

"Sure, it would have been nice to play them, but in the big scheme of things, basketball is nothing compared to what they would have had to go through to get here."

Several teams scheduled to go to Montreal for weekend games had their events postponed. The Champlain Cougars women's basketball team was slated to participate in the Edouard Montpetit tournament, which was canceled altogether.

The Bishop's men's and women's basketball teams were expected to play at Concordia on Friday and McGill on Saturday. On Thursday, the Concordia games had been rescheduled for Sunday afternoon but on Friday the Quebec University Basketball League canceled the games, saying they'd be replayed at a later date.

"I've been coaching at Bishop's since

1984 and this is the first time I can recall something like this happening to us," said Gaiter head coach Eddie Pomykala. "It might have happened for an exhibition game but I don't remember us ever having a league game called off because of the weather."

"Definitely it was the right thing for the league to cancel the games, when you consider how bad the roads were and how badly Montreal's been hit by the storm," he added.

Pomykala also said the Bishop's teams were planning to stay Saturday night in a Montreal hotel but the rooms could certainly be put to better use by people who are without power.

"I've got a mother and a brother-in-law in Montreal, and I'm more worried about them and what they're going through," he said.

Bishop's players had mixed reac-

tions to the break the storm imposed on their season.

"I had been looking forward to playing Concordia and McGill, and it seems strange to have a weekend off at this point in the year," said All-Conference center Rob Burns as he enjoyed a relaxing evening in Lennoxville.

"This weekend will give us time to get prepared for the semester and make sure everything's in order," said Sam Rogers. "And we'll be able to watch the NFL playoffs on Sunday, which is good for me since I'm a Denver Bronco fan."

The Champlain hockey team had their home games against John Abbott Friday night and Collège Français Sunday afternoon called off.

The Bishop's-Champlain Polar Bears Hockey Club also had its game Friday evening against John Abbott canceled.

Quebec junior AAA league president pushing hard

Half-visor may soon be mandatory

By Michael Innes
 Record Correspondent

The Quebec junior AAA league will finally get an official answer to its request for the half-visor. Since league president Michel Gaudette took over at the head of the league this past summer he has not stopped working to improve the league and its image.

The league presented a "memoire" to the Quebec government on Nov. 25 hoping to see its players wearing the half-visor, as do players in the Quebec Junior Major Hockey league. In a meeting late last week in Montreal, Michel Gaudette gave the guidelines to the 12 teams present at the meeting along with Guy Blondeau of Hockey Quebec and Doug Hayward, head referee in Quebec. Gaudette was supported by the excellence committee of Hockey Quebec, which should help in the outcome of the decision. The presentation of the memoire lasted three hours.

"The lawyers said that we had a nice

presentation," Gaudette said. "It doesn't mean that we will get a positive response," but Gaudette is confident players will be wearing the half-visor before the end of January.

"Article 24 has a lot of weight, he said. Legally article 24 says that all leagues affiliated with the Canadian Hockey association must follow the same rules. Development leagues like the Quebec Junior AAA league, referees and coaches must have the same tools to be competitive.

In the meeting last week teams were permitted to start practicing with the new equipment but have to follow some very important regulations. "We are allowing the teams to practice with the new equipment but they must follow the guidelines set by the league and Hockey Quebec. All players must wear a mouthpiece along with the neck guard," said Gaudette, who hopes the final decision will come down before the all star game set for St-Hyacinthe on the January 31.

"I would like to see the players wearing the new equipment for the all star game."

Studies by the Canadian Research Council showed some interesting statistics. Players with a full-face visor often feel overprotected, leading to more injuries. If broken teeth and cuts to the chin are more common with the half-visor there are also the back and neck injuries to look at. The only worry is that other leagues will want to have the same treatment and start using the half-visor but for Michel Gaudette there is no problem.

"The regulation allows league of the same level in other provinces to wear the half-visor. The AAA and A leagues in Quebec do not have the same treatment as the other provinces."

Players with the Coaticook Frontaliers have already started to practice with the half-visor.

Let's just hope the final decision will come soon.

No ice-time due to ice

By Michael Innes
 RECORD CORRESPONDENT
 SHERBROOKE

The bad weather over the past weekend in the Eastern Townships caused cancellations in several sport events.

The Faucons game set for last Friday night in Shawinigan was canceled and is now set for March 3. All the games in the Quebec semi-pro league were also cancelled because of the weather conditions.

Several hockey tournaments had to reschedule games or just cancelled the event for the week. In Richmond the inter-regional novice hockey tournament which was to start over the weekend was cancelled and rescheduled for this weekend. In Coaticook the national Atom/Pee-Wee tournament made some changes in their games, but went on anyway.

Detailed snow forecasts

from Environment Canada...

and road conditions
 from Transports Québec



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A Reason For Eden

When the lord of a garden
Sets up his fields
It is with much joy
He takes his first yield
For then good fruit he desires
Is abundant
Till thorns and weeds
And the like come through
The seasons, and increase
Or decrease with each yield
The good fruit must suffer
And fight it's way through
The seasons of drought
And of pestilence, plagues
Till the lord of the garden
Plucks out the weeds
And plants in due time
A fresh lot of seed
And the lord of the garden
Knows before the first yield
What he will build with these
And what he will keep for
As long as he be
He knows before all the servants
Who tend his great fields
When they say surely the master
Has here too many weeds
And will abandon these fields
And to the weeds let them be
But the lord knows if to him
Even the flowers upon those weeds
Are worthy to keep
And choose for next season
The right kind of seed
And the servants astonished
If the fields he will keep
So servants can see only signs
Of the coming of abandoned fields
But the fields master knows even then
If the end of the fields will not be for
years
And our Lord who's name is Jesus
By the Father, the head of the Lord
Who thinks out all things
Called the first garden,
He planted on earth Eden
And by this we are given to see
Some of the reasons God
May sometimes act harshly
And that he will decide
When Eden is ended completely
And to our Lord a thousand years
Is as a day
And a day to He
Is as a thousand years

Steve Lamb
Sutton, Que.

In Memoriam

BENNETT, Robert (Bob) - In memory of a devoted husband and exemplary father and grandfather who left us on January 12, 1997.

You battled until the end,
But it broke our hearts to lose you.
You will be sadly missed,
But have left us your greatest legacies,
Your love and courage.
May we apply at least some
Of what we learned from you
In our every day lives.
Your memory will continue
To live on forever.

Greatly missed by

LORNA (wife)
BRUCE & LYNN GRAPES (daughter)
RICK & CAROL BENNETT (son)
DAN & ELLEN MCMAHON (daughter)
SHAWN, BRADLEY, COREY, ERIN &
KRISTEN (grandchildren)

FRENCH, Brittany - January 12, 1995

It has been three years since God took you home.

And you have been missed each and every day.

Lovingly remembered by

YOUR PARENTS,
BROTHERS AND FAMILY

HODGE, Eva - Lovingly remembered and sadly missed.

YOUR CHILDREN AND
RANDCHILDREN

HUME, Donald - In loving memory of a dear husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who left us four years ago on January 11, 1993.

Time may wipe out never.
The memory of those happy days
When we were all together.
Remembered and sadly missed by
(your wife) MILDRED
AND FAMILY

Waterloo

Judy Arnott
539-2169

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Marsh spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Doug Lousley at Bishops Mills, Ont. Cheryl Lousley of Toronto was home for the holidays

Christmas guests of Mrs. Stella Stretch were Mrs. Sandra Reid of Toronto and friend Fahi of Iran, Mr. Ronnie Fortin and his friend Laurie who comes from Holland, Jeffrey Reid and his friend Debbie of Toronto, Sylvia and Roy McKergow and their friend Mr. Gordie Simms of Newfoundland, Gary Stretch and his family, and Carol and Daniel Roberge and their family.

Deaths

COREY - On January 11, 1998, Rev. Hugh M., in his 76th year, in Boston, Mass. Beloved husband of Esther (Schroder). Loved father of Bonnie (Corey) and Ossie Mills, Barry and Paula (Wilson). Adored grandfather of Nick and Alek Mills and Anders and Ella Grace Corey. Special brother of Jeane. Visitation Wednesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 9 p.m. at Lee, Moody and Russell Funeral Home in Beverly, Mass. Graveside service Thursday at 9 a.m. at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody. Memorial service Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Park St. Church, 1 Park St., Boston, Mass.



HATCHER, Malcom A. (Mel) - At his residence on Friday, January 9, 1998. Mel Hatcher, son of the late Alvin Hatcher and the late Minnie Nutbrown. Resting at the Steve L. Elkas Funeral Home, 601 Conseil St., Sherbrooke, Que. J1G 1K4, tel: 565-1155, fax: 820-8872, where funeral service will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 1998 at 11 a.m., the Rev. Fairbairn officiating, followed by interment at the Elmwood Cemetery, Sherbrooke. Please note: Visitation on Tuesday, January 13, 1998 from 7 to 10 p.m. and on day of the funeral from 10 to 11 a.m.

Compton

Mrs. Lloyd Hyatt
835-5484

Mr. and Mrs. John Smith visited Mrs. Marjorie Grenier on New Year's Day. They were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jean Paul Girard, also on New Year's Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hyatt were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Wendel Gaulin in Bury.

Deaths

PATCH, George - POSTPONEMENT. Passed away at home after a courageous battle with cancer on January 5, 1998 in his 53rd year. George Patch, beloved husband of Linda (nee Comeau). Father of Daniel and stepfather to Hope. He will be missed by his two step-grandchildren. George is survived by his parents, Bryant and Doris Patch. The funeral service will be held at St. Luke's Anglican Church, Pine St., Magog, on **Saturday, January 17 at 1 p.m.** In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to St. Luke's Anglican Church, Magog, would be sincerely appreciated.

PATTON, Elizabeth (nee Fadden) - Peacefully at the Ottawa General Hospital on Saturday, January 10, 1998, at the age of 74. Dearly loved wife of Arnold Patton and beloved mother of Elaine (Ron Manders). Dear sister of Donald (Ruth) of Brockville, Kathleen (Michael Malczewski) of Cowansville, Que., and Ethleen Sargent of Sutton, Que. Predeceased by three brothers, Lyndon, Clayton and Gordon. Visitation Wednesday from 2 to 5 and 7 to 10 p.m. at Desourdy Wilson Funeral Home, 31 Principale Sud, Sutton, Que. The religious service will be held Thursday, January 15 at 11 a.m. in Grace Church, Sutton, Que. In memoriam donations to the Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre would be greatly appreciated.

WARNER, Arnold - Suddenly at the CUSE, Fleurimont site, Sherbrooke, Que., on Sunday, January 11, 1998. Arnold Warner in his 81st year, beloved husband of Beatrice Webster. Dear father of Louise (Clarence) Markwell and Brenda (William) Phaneuf. Much loved grandfather of Sherry (Cecil) Smith, Angela (Dexter) Wing and Jamie Phaneuf. Dear brother of Lyndon (Vivian) and the late Clifton (Lillian). Resting at Cass Funeral Home, 39 Dufferin Rd., Stanstead, Que., where friends may call on Monday from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., and where funeral service will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 1998 at 11 a.m. Rev. Mary Lou Shortill officiating. Interment in McPherson Cemetery, Georgeville, Que.

Birthday wishes

Happy 70th birthday to Pauline Greenland. Love from the Thompson family.

RATES and DEADLINES: ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

BIRTH & DEATH NOTICES, CARDS OF THANKS, IN MEMORIAMs, BRIEFLETS:

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Please Note: All of the aforementioned (except death notices) must be submitted type-written or neatly printed, and must include the signature and daytime telephone number of the contact person. They will not be taken by phone.

DEADLINES FOR DEATH NOTICES:

For Monday's paper, call **819-569-4856** between 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday.

For Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday's edition, call **819-569-4856** or

fax **819-569-1187** (please call to confirm transmission) between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. the day prior to the day of publication. The Record cannot guarantee publication if another Record number is called.

Reader's faith in vasectomy completely destroyed

Dear Ann Landers: Recently, you printed a letter from a woman who became pregnant after her husband had a vasectomy. I have a similar story to tell.

In 1971, I had a malignant tumor that resulted in the removal of my right testicle. I was told the laboratory tests indicated my sperm count was just about zero, which meant I was incapable of impregnating a woman. When I told my wife, she said, "That's perfectly OK with me. I won't have to bother about birth control from now on."

Three months later, she was pregnant. We were completely shocked, but we considered our son a miracle. Six years after that, we were blessed with another "miracle." Again, in 1981, a third "miracle" occurred. Please, Ann Landers, tell your readers that the experts are far from infallible. We have three fine children to prove it. — It Happened in Minnesota

Dear Minnesota: It has happened in

several other states as well, but not everyone thinks it's a miracle. You should see my mail! Keep reading for more:

From San Diego: My father and I have been performing vasectomies for nearly 50 years. The lab is almost 100 percent right in identifying the possibility of the male producing a child after a vasectomy. A man is considered impotent if he doesn't have at least 10 million sperm in a semen sample, even though, theoretically, one sperm can produce a pregnancy.

Five of my patients "miraculously" fathered a child. In every instance, the pregnancy was the result of an illicit sexual encounter, not a mistake in the lab. I've had wives come in and yell at me because their husband's vasectomy "failed." In each case, after a calm conversation, it turned out that she'd had sex with another man. Of course, I al-



ANN LANDERS

ways accept the blame for being wrong and never tell what I know.

Champaign, Ill.: Reading those letters about failed vasectomies reminded me of my college days. A young cad told several women he was sterile, which was a lie. He simply wanted to have sex "in the natural," as he put it. Two of those girls became pregnant. He became a father twice in three months. Neither girl wanted to be married to him. I've always known that men are bigger liars than women.

Malvern, Pa.: Reading those letters about vasectomies made me laugh and think of my own story. My husband and I decided when we married that we would have two children — the ideal family. After our second child was born, I went on the pill. Twenty-two months later, I was horrified to discover that I

was pregnant again. My ob-gyn gave us a post-graduate course on the rate of pregnancies among women who are on the pill. We were astonished.

After our third daughter was born, I said, "Enough is enough," and insisted that my husband have a vasectomy. Would you believe that 18 months later, I was pregnant again? After four Caesarean deliveries, my faith in vasectomies completely destroyed, I insisted that the doctor perform a hysterectomy. Reluctantly, he did, but it was a tremendous relief to both my husband and me. After the surgery, I told my doc, "If I turn up pregnant again, you will be paying for five college educations and five weddings." He said, smiling, "That's a deal."

Dear Readers: Total abstinence is one sure way to prevent getting pregnant, but I am NOT recommending it for married couples. It could lead to more problems than an unwanted pregnancy.

Prosperity Rebekah Lodge #32 meets

On Dec. 1, 1997 Prosperity Rebekah Lodge #32 met in the Fraternal Hall, 910 Main St., with the N.G. Sis. Irene Williams assisted by the V.G. Sis. Betty Perry. The flag was presented and O Canada was sung and lodge opened in ritual form.

There were 17 members present, 14 officers, three Courtesy officers and 13 Past Noble Grands answer the roll call.

The N.G., Sis. Irene, welcomed all present. The Secretary, Sis. June, read the records of the previous meeting and they were found correct.

It was reported Sis. Dorothy Clark was home from hospital. She didn't have pneumonia but had breathing problems. Sis. Joan Lanniman had just returned that day from a holiday in Jamaica. Sis. Elaine Fowler found the roads bad. Sis. Jessie Robitaille was visiting friends in Ontario. Bro. Douglas McClay had a very bad cold. Sis. Ethel Redmile had fallen and hurt herself so was back in a walker. Sis. Isabella had been moved to Manoir Lac Brome. Things are looking up. Bro. Doug and several sisters have visited her.

Sis. June Royea, D.D.P. handed in her bill for District Deputy expenses, also we received one from the Canadian Legion for the cross for Armistice Day. They were checked by the Finance Committee and ordered paid by the N.G.

The Treasurer, Sis. Shirley Vaughan, reported all funds were gratifying. Silent Auction at previous meeting was low but the nearly new sale on Nov. 18, 1997 netted \$675.75. The dishes and other articles from Sis. Isabella Beattie's apartment and clothes etc. from the late Mabel Ingalls, helped to swell the "cophers". We certainly appreciated their donations and expressed thanks to each one. We also appreciate Bro. Eugene Jones for bringing the dishes from

Sis. Isabella's apartment to the lodge hall. A letter of thanks was sent to Scott Rocheleau and friend for helping transfer the remaining articles after the sale to Sis. Bernice Thomas' garage in East Farnham until spring when another sale will be held. A verbal thank-you was expressed to Bro. Keith and Sis. Jean Scott for their assistance too.

The secretary read a thank-you from Bro. Douglas McClay for fruit basket and one from Sis. Dorothy for gift while in hospital, and a thank-you from the B.M.P. Foundation for the Blessing Box money accumulated in Sis. Elizabeth Pow as N.G. It was given in memory of her mother and father, the late Bro. Stewart and Sis. Violet Strange.

Sis. Shirley asked if we would have punch and cookies after the Christmas meeting on Dec. 15 while we were opening gifts. Members suggested tea and cookies. Several members volunteered to bring a few. Sister Shirley and Helen to furnish lunch on March 2 when we reconvene. The building fund has closed the hall for two months much to our dissatisfaction. The card party on Dec. 11 will have cupcakes with a Christmas motif on them. Four sisters to furnish, also other members to furnish sandwiches.

Sis. Irene on behalf of the members thanked Sis. Isabella for donating many articles for the nearly new sale and to the late Mabel Ingalls' family for their contribution.

We will be visiting the Edith Kathan Home on Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. Sis. Shirley moved we give the usual donation to each guest plus the matron - Sis. Cecilia Shufelt and Sis. Elaine Fowler. There was two guests, Hap Burnham and Miles (Buster) Fuller, passed away just about a week before Christmas which was sad to hear. A sympathy card was sent to Sis.

Greta Aldridge, as Hap was her brother. This motion was seconded by Sis. Betty Perry.

Sis. Elizabeth Goyette of Golden Rule Lodge No. 20 had asked Sis. Irene Williams to notify her members that Golden Rule Lodge was making a cookbook and she was asking for recipes, anyone can participate. These to be in by end of December.

Sis. Elizabeth Pow reported Sis. Sadie Talbot had lost her sister who lives in Ontario, also Sis. Elsie Neil's sister - Sis. Erma from Granby Lodge. Bro. Doug McClay and several sisters attended Erma's funeral. She has been blind for many years but never missed a lodge meeting. Fifty-four years of dedication. Sis. June read the eulogy and also sent sympathy cards to the families.

The N.G. Sis. Irene mentioned about Christmas supper at next meeting. The Phoning Committee consisting of Sisters Margaret Raymond and Bea Alger to contact absent members. The Secretary to contact Sis. Margaret Lumbr and

new husband to see if they were coming. The N.G. to invite Bro. Eddie and Sister Virginia Clifford. The Waldrons cannot attend. A motion was made and carried that the usual Christmas gift be sent to their daughter Cindy.

It was moved by Sis. Donna Luce and seconded by Sis. Elaine Grubb we give Bro. Gary Montieth a small monetary donation for taking articles from nearly new sale to East Farnham. Carried.

Under Good of the Order, the Charter that had been draped for 30 days in memory of Sis. Mabel Ingalls was removed. Those taking part was Chaplain Sis. Angele Fournier, V.G. Sis. Betty Perry and Past Noble Grand Sis. Elizabeth Pow.

The financial secretary, Sis. Marilyn Mahannah gave her report. The lodge was close in Ritual form. The Rebekah Creed was repeated and God Save the Queen was sung. All retired to lower hall for lunch and to spend our hard earned money on the Christmas goodies for Silent Auction which netted \$77.00.

June Royea, Secretary

Waterloo

Judy Arnott
539-2169

Guests of Mrs. Judy Arnott during the holidays were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bernard of Granby and Mr. and Mrs. David Bernard and sons Justin and Christopher of Mississauga, Ont.

Residents of the area will remember Frank Matsuhana who moved here from Montreal several years ago to operate the lamp division of Roxton Furniture. Sad news has been received that he passed away at his home in Victoria, B.C. He and his wife Irene lived here for a few years and were very dear friends to many of us.

Mrs. Gladys Thompson spent a few days over Christmas with her daughter

and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Cadarette of West Bolton. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cadarette spent Christmas Day at the Cadarette home.

Ellen Lightfoot entertained members of her family over the holiday season. Beverley Arnott of Green Valley, Ont., Pheona Arnott of Peterborough, Ont., Jillian Arnott and friend Dale of Toronto and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Roberge of Ottawa.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Santos of Carleton Place, Ont., spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wilkinson and New Year's guests at the Wilkinson home were Kevin and Joan Abdallah and family of Pierrefond, Que.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today's clue: B equals M

'ZSCTM, P ARGD YSXJSD DS
UREL.' - AKEL UTBIGTM, SC
HSGPCJ OSXHU ZTKNMOTPJZD

DPDHT DS ATGG OPHHKXU.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Samuel Fuller was the greatest, most important unrecognized American director." - Bernardo Bertolucci.

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10

HERMAN® by Jim Unger



"I said 'I wanna marry your daughter when I get some money' and your father gave me twenty bucks."

KIT 'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright



1-12
LARRY WRIGHT
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100 Job Opportunities

other resources. Strong technical ability and computer skills, an asset. Excellent opportunity within a growing company. Fax CV to (514) 697-5297 or (819) 832-4266 attn. VP Manufacturing.

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- '94 Buick Regal, blue, auto, 6 cyl., ABS, AM-FM, A/C, elect. windows, cruise, pwr br/steering, 89,000 km.
- '94 Excel CX, red, auto, 4 cyl., 2 door, AM-FM/cass., pwr br/steering, 57,000 km.
- '94 Lumina APV, green, auto, 6 cyl., AM-FM/cass., 4 speakers, A/C, pwr br/steering, 59,300 km.
- '93 GM Asuna GT, red, manual, 4 cyl., AM-FM/cass., 4 speakers, sunroof, pwr br/steering, 60,000 km.
- '91 Cressida, black, auto, 6 cyl., AM-FM/cass., A/C, elect. windows, cruise, mags, 105,000 km
- '91 4 Runner, V6, red, 4x4, auto, AM-FM/cass., 4 speakers, elect. win., cruise, pwr br/steering, 117,890 km
- '90 Volks Golf, blue, auto, 4 cyl., 2 door, pwr br/steering, 79,600 km

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(819) 563-6622
2059 King St. West
SHERBROOKE

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APPROXIMATELY 400 ceramic molds, kiln, and associated equipment. Everything you need to start a small studio. For more information call (819) 849-3956.

SIMON VACUUM cleaner in good condition. Call (819) 566-2961.

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BUYING ORIGINAL rifles made before 1900, swords, bayonets, Canadian army uniforms 1945 or older, military souvenirs. Plamondon and St. Pierre, (819) 569-6880.

LOOKING FOR PHOTOS or information regarding the old saw mills situated near the bridge on Ladds Mill Road, district of Barnston. This mill was built and operated by the Ladds family around 1930. For information call (819) 849-6208.

It pays to advertise in the classifieds

395 Home Improvement

STEVE'S CARPETS For all your floor covering needs. Installation. Free estimate. Payment plans available. 11 Queen, Lennoxville, (819) 566-7974.

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Please look over your ad the first day it appears making sure it reads as you requested, as The Record cannot be responsible for more than one insertion.



The Eastern Townships School Board is looking for spare (replacement) **SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS** in various locales.

If you would be interested, please note that in addition to a Class II driving permit, you must also follow a 15 hour course entitled "A Special Occupation".

The Eastern Townships School Board will be hosting this course (in English) at **257 Queen St., Lennoxville** on **January 16, 1998** from **19 h 00 to 22 h 00**, **January 17, 18** from **9 h 00 to 16 h 00**.
The cost is 103.00\$.

For more information please call **Austin Bailey at (819) 821-9567**.



PUBLIC NOTICE



Public Notice CRTC 1997-149. The CRTC has received the following applications: 7. SHERBROOKE, Qc. Application by **VIDÉOTRON LTÉE** to amend the licence of the cable system serving Sherbrooke, to be relieved of the requirement to distribute the extra-regional signal CBFT Montréal, Qc. The licensee distributes presently the local signal of station CKSH-TV Sherbrooke, an affiliate of the CBC. EXAMINATION OF APPLICATION: 2830 Galt St., Sherbrooke; and 300 Viger Av. E., Montréal, Qc. The complete text of this application is available through the Public Examination room of the CRTC in Hull, (819) 997-2429, and through the CRTC office in Montréal: (514) 283-6607. Written interventions must be filed with the Secretary General, CRTC, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0N2, with proof that a copy has been served on the applicant **on or before 23 January 1998**. For more information on the intervention process, you may contact the CRTC Communications Branch in Hull by phone at (819) 997-0313, Fax (819) 994-0218, TDD (819) 994-0423, or by consulting our Internet site: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca>. The notice of public hearing is available in alternative format upon request.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes

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Your Birthday

Monday, Jan. 12, 1998

In the year ahead, you might be luckier career-wise than you have been for quite some time. Pursue your dreams and ambitions, and don't be afraid to aim for loftier targets.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Even though your intentions will be well-meaning today, keep your counsel to yourself. Companions won't appreciate you telling them how to run their lives. Major changes are ahead for Capricorn in the coming year. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions by mailing \$2 and SASE to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) You will be pressing your luck with your boss today if you express indifference toward essential but-tedious work assignments. Get the job done!

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Steer clear of someone who you feel is arrogant and dictatorial. He or she could try your patient and you might not be able to hold back angry comments.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) It is unfair to take your frustrations out of loved ones today if the outside world has treated you unkindly. Do not reallocate the anger.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If there is something important you wish to express today, be careful in what you say and to whom you say it. Improper verbalization could be self-defeating.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Business dealings could be loaded with hidden complications today. Do not dive into something that is over your head and beyond your comprehension.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Take time to study major decisions you might have to make today. Do not let others set the speed of your agenda for you or unduly influence your judgment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Today at work, you might have to deal with a self-appointed supervisor. Do your own job as you know it should be done and ignore this person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today, it might benefit you to step back a few paces at gatherings. Pushy types who are anxious to inflate their egos might have them punctured instead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You will be out of line today if you expect associates to march to the tune of your drummer. Boasting your supremacy could result in arguments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Conditions are a bit touchy today and patience might not be your strong suit. Think before you speak and have the tolerance to listen to others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) This might be one of those rainy days for which you've been saving your pennies. If you haven't put away a nest egg, you may be penalized.

North 01-12-98
 ♠ A 10 6 5
 ♥ A Q 10 8 6
 ♦ Q 10 3 2
 ♣ ---

West East
 ♠ J 7 4 2 ♠ 9 8
 ♥ 7 5 3 ♥ K
 ♦ K J 7 ♦ 6 5 4
 ♣ K J 4 ♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 2

South
 ♠ K Q 3
 ♥ J 9 4 2
 ♦ A 9 8
 ♣ A Q 3

Vulnerable: Both
 Dealer: South

South West North East
 1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
 2 ♥ Pass 6 ♥ All pass

Opening lead: ♥ 3

Declarer's first key decision had arrived immediately. Cohen was sure that the lead wasn't from K-x-3 of hearts; that would be far too dangerous. It was either from K-7-5-3 or 7-5-3. Judging that the latter was more likely, Cohen called for dummy's ace. After the king dropped, declarer showed that the contract was guaranteed. What would you have done now?

Sheehan reports that three international players failed to find Cohen's sure-trick line.

Cohen drew the remaining trumps, then cashed his three top spades, ending in the dummy. When West turned up with four spades, declarer ruffed the spade 10 in his hand, ruffed the club three in the dummy, and played a diamond to his nine, spreading his cards.

West won with the diamond jack, but what could he do now? If he returned a diamond, declarer's 12 tricks would be three spades, five hearts, two diamonds, one club and a spade ruff in hand. And if he switched to a club, the contract would be home via three spades, five hearts, one diamond, two clubs and the spade ruff. Cohen had executed a perfect endplay.

Monday, Jan. 12, 1998

Heads or tails, I win

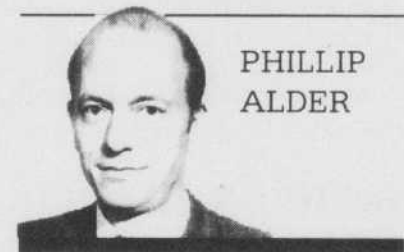
By Phillip Alder

There are a few excellent bridge players who are not well-known, because they play only rubber bridge. One is Howard Cohen. He is the proprietor of the TGR club in London, where this deal was played. I saw it in Robert Sheehan's column in The Times.

North's jump to six hearts is a practical effort typical of rubber bridge. He bids what he hopes his partner could make, without giving away extra information to the opponents.

West, an expert, led the heart three.

BRIDGE



PHILLIP ALDER

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Rider's whip
- 5 Tear into strips
- 10 Signal sound
- 14 Salesman's wares
- 15 Single-family dwelling
- 16 Gymnast Korbut
- 17 Loser in '52 and '56
- 20 Susan of "The Partridge Family"

21 Eur. nation

- 22 Most extraordinary
- 23 Chooses
- 24 Insects
- 25 Sealed tubes
- 28 Mind
- 29 Crowd of whales
- 32 Mazda model
- 33 New York canal
- 34 Connery film
- 35 Loser in '64
- 38 Come up short

39 Barks in comics

- 40 Came up
- 41 Sheepette?
- 42 ___ of Worms
- 43 Genetic copies
- 44 Typeface
- 45 Shopping center
- 46 Musical refrain
- 49 Spanish bull
- 50 Have
- 53 Loser in '68
- 56 Old
- 57 Make laugh
- 58 Chills
- 59 Acuff and Orbison
- 60 Swiss call
- 61 Appropriate

10 Links

- 11 Otherwise
- 12 Problems for prima donnas
- 13 Breathe shallowly
- 18 Not out-of-bounds
- 19 Border
- 23 Highly unconventional
- 24 Dips water
- 25 Mosey along
- 26 Cat call
- 27 Diagram a sentence
- 28 Rental farm in Scotland
- 29 Deceive
- 30 Tubby plus
- 31 Challenges
- 33 White heron
- 34 Seasonal song
- 36 Principal support
- 37 Clobber
- 42 Silently ill-humored
- 43 Mount __, PA
- 44 Savage and Friendly
- 45 Computer clicker
- 46 Scorch
- 47 Writer Victor

48 Toe the line

- 49 Dull sound
- 50 Killer whale

51 Half of a fortnight

- 52 Wall St. group

54 Med. care plan

- 55 Broadway success

Saturday's Puzzle solved.

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By Matthew Higgins Concord, NH 1/12/98

Prosperity Rebekah members gather for turkey dinner

On Dec. 15, 1997 members of Prosperity Rebekah Lodge #32 and friends gathered together to enjoy the delicious turkey supper with all the trimmings catered to by the Eastern Stars at the Fraternal Hall, 910 Main St. The hall was attractively decorated by Sisters Irene Williams, N.G. Betty Perry, Flo Ewings and Margaret Raymond for the Christmas season. We were pleased to have Bro. Douglas and Sis. Sally Dryden of Ottawa, Bro. Duncan and Sis. Jean Levere of Winchester, Ontario and Bro. John and Sis. Monica Paré and Sis. Margaret (Peggy) Sanborn from Farnham, Sis. Margaret Lumbrá of Richford, Vt., and new husband Marcel Martel to join us for supper, also Sis. Else Syberg who turned 92 on Dec. 5th.

The N.G. Sis. Irene welcomed all the members and was glad to see so many friendly faces. She mentioned we had four Past Presidents with us tonight. Sis. Margaret Sanborn, Sis. Jean Levere, Sis. Shirley Vaughan and herself. She wished Sis. Margaret Lumbrá and her new husband many years of happiness.

Lodge opened in form. The N.G. Sis. Irene welcomed back Sisters Winnie Holiday, Leila Peron, and Hilda McEwing, Sis. Christina has a bad cold.

Sis. Elaine Grubb, daughter Valerie and young son were here for the Christmas season so she was unable to attend. Bro. Eddie Clifford was having eye surgery the next day so he and Sis. Virginia were unable to be present.

There were 26 members present, five guests, 18 officers, two Courtesy officers, and 18 Past Noble Grands who answered the roll call.

The Secretary, Sis. June read the minutes of the previous meeting and were found correct.

Several sisters had visited Sister Isabella. Sis. Winnie and June had accompanied Sis. Doris when she went to deliver the Christmas plant to Bro. Doug, and Sis. Sally also visited her and found her cheerful.

The Treasurer's report by Sis. Shirley showed the silent auction on Dec. 1 for Christmas goodies amounted to \$76.90. The card party on Dec. 11 netted \$111.00 at the door and \$52.00 on the drawing.

Christmas cards were received from the Rebekah Assembly of Quebec, Sis. Dorothy Clark, Sis. Irene Williams, N.G. Sis. Dorothy Woods, P.P. Sis. June Royea, D.D.P. for District #2, Sis. Rose Montieth, Sis. Margaret Lumbrá and also for her wedding gift, Sis. Winnie for carnations

when sick, a thank-you from Sis. Elsie Neil for sympathy card and other cards.

Sis. Shirley and Donna thanked members for food and prizes for card parties and meetings. Sis. Elizabeth Pow gave out five books of tickets to each member for a drawing to be held in May.

Under Good of Order: Sis. June escorted Sis. Doris Dougall to centre of floor where she presented her with a box of chocolates from the Lodge for all the sunshine she brings to members. Then she escorted Sis. Leila Peron to the centre and said it gave her great pleasure to pin her raised jewel from 60 to 65 years on her dress. Leila is in fairly good health and still is interested in her Lodge. Then Sis. Irene presented Sis. Sally Dryden with her raised jewel from 40 to 45 years. Sis. Sally lives in Ottawa, but kept her membership in her own home lodge. Sis. Elizabeth Pow reported she and husband Gordon were celebrating 28 years of marriage. The N.G. congratulated her and she was given a round of applause.

Both Bro. Doug and Sis. Sally spoke and said it was a pleasure to be here for the Christmas meeting and they enjoyed the turkey supper. She thanked Prosperity for raising her jewel and they

both wished everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best in 1998. Sis. Jean Levere spoke. She thanked all for courtesies extended to her and Bro. Duncan. She said it means a lot to Sis. Sally to have her jewel again and she would be "roasted" where they attended Kemptville Lodge the next night. She too wished everyone Season's Greetings. Sis. Margaret Sanborn also had a few words too.

Sis. Marilyn Mahannah gave the financial report. A donation of \$20.00 was received from Sis. Florence Fullerton. Ten dollars for dues. It was moved by Sis. Elizabeth Pow and seconded by Sis. Jessie Robitaille that the other \$10 be put in General Fund. Carried.

Lodge closed in form. All retired to lower hall for entertainment. Sis. Donna Luce read an appropriate poem and Sis. Marilyn read a poem. Tea, cookies and coffee were enjoyed while gifts were exchanged while N.G. Sis. Irene played the piano so we could sing carols and wish Happy Birthday to all the celebrants.

All left for home wishing everyone Season's Greetings and good health in 1998 until we meet again on March 2.

June Royea, Secretary

Women's Institute meetings around the Townships

INVERNESS

The Women's Institute met at the home of Mildred Robinson on December 6 at noon for a very delicious Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

The President, Mildred R. opened the meeting in the usual manner. She read the poem - "Tis the Season."

Motto: Don't leave off until tomorrow what you can do today. Roll call: Cooking for Christmas Baskets.

The secretary, Margaret D., read the minutes of the last meeting.

Treasurer, Marion W. gave a satisfactory report. Correspondence was read.

A donation was given to Julie Pelletier and also to the Oddfellows in Inverness.

Convener' gave their reports. No report from Agriculture or Canadian Industries.

Citizenship and Legislation: Lois M. - In November Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Education and Cultural Activities: Mildred R. - The fruit will be out on the 10th of December.

Home Ec. and Health: Jean W. - Did you know that yogurt was the food of the Pharaohs? Yogurt has all the natural goodness of milk including calcium, potassium, Vitamin A, protein and riboflavin. People who routinely eat yogurt may benefit from improved digestion and reduced colon cancer risk. It is a treat befitting a king.

Sent out 28 Christmas cards and 25 assorted during the year. Collection and

Pennies for Friendship were taken.

Evelyn read a poem:

Christmas

Is more than a day at the end of the year

More than a day of joy and good cheer

Christmas is really God's pattern for living

To be followed each day by unselfish giving

Then peace on earth will come to stay

When we live Christmas every day.

After Marion adjourned the meeting, gifts were exchanged and tea was enjoyed by all.

*Miss Jean Wright
Publicity Convener*

Spooner Pond W.I. held their November meeting at the Wales Home, with Stella Parkes and Myrtle Fleck as hostesses. 11 members were present.

Gifts were brought in for a patient at the Douglas Hospital and articles for shoe boxes for the Port of Quebec.

Poppies were available for sale. A donation will be given to the Legion in place of buying a wreath.

A gift was delivered to the son and future bride of one of our members on the occasion of their wedding.

The minutes were heard and correspondence dealt with. All conveners present gave their annual reports.

A program committee including Edna Mallette, Agnes Oakley and Thera Devries will meet shortly to plan our

program for 1998-99.

Spooner Pond is in charge of the programs for all seven branches and would appreciate a copy from each branch as soon as possible.

The buying committee for Christmas cheer this year includes Myrtle Fleck, Florence Blanchard and Thera Devries. Three names will be added to the list this year.

The Hymn of All Nations was sung.

The treasurer's report given by Grace Taylor. All bills to be paid and the subscription to the Federated News renewed. A donation to the Wales Home Foundation will be sent.

Next meeting we will hear the annual reports from the President, secretary and treasurer, as well as appoint a nominating committee and an auditor of the financial books.

Our December meeting will be at the Wales Home on December 4, 1997 at 11:30 a.m. with a pot luck dinner and invited guests. Don't forget your gifts!!

The drawing was won by Grace Taylor, a beautiful tray made in England and donated by Hazel Fleck.

We appreciate our executives who conduct and participate in our meetings and see that all is done in order.

A delicious lunch was served by Myrtle Fleck and Stella Parkes. Thank you ladies!!

Estelle Blouin

A delightful potluck dinner was enjoyed by members and friends of the Spooner Pond W.I. at the Wales Home

on Dec. 4, 1997.

The meeting followed the dinner, with seven members and three guests present. Minutes and correspondence was heard. The treasurer gave a favourable report.

Thank-you notes and an update from Communications Quebec were received. Florence Blanchard, Myrtle Fleck and Thera Devries were thanked for purchasing, wrapping and delivering Christmas cheer.

Seamen's boxes were prepared, gifts were sent to the Douglas Hospital, wool gathering articles went to the local school.

The Hymn of All Nations was sung; pennies for friendship and for the drawing were collected. Agnes Keenan won the drawing. Vera Hughes, Estelle Blouin and Alleda Nixon were appointed to the nominating committee. Auditors for the year 1997 will be Agnes Keenan and Estelle Blouin.

Conveners reports were heard. A donation will be made for Christmas cheer to the Wales Home. The new program proposed for 1998-99 was read and considered.

Our next meeting will be on January 8, 1998 at the home of Agnes Keenan. Don't forget payment of dues and a humorous reading. A gift exchange followed. Thank you to all who participated. Happy Holidays.

*Submitted by
Estelle Blouin for Publicity
(Spooner Pond W.I.)*