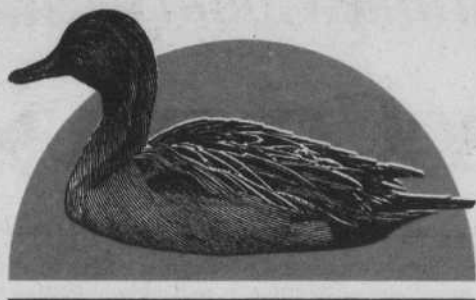


# Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2002

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## St-Armand finally recognizes The Rock

### Resolution gives site of slave cemetery historic status

By Caroline Kehne  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
ST-ARMAND

On Friday, July 12, the town council of St-Armand/Philipsburg took a step forward by passing a resolution that recognizes the place known as "Nigger Rock" as an historic site.

The resolution, passed by three votes to two, is a first, modest step toward elucidating a corner of Canadian history that has long been neglected.

The controversy over the site believed to be the final resting place of black slaves owned by Loyalist settler Philip Luke is a relatively recent one.

The site is located at the foot of a massive stone outcropping south of St. Armand Station. Above the rock is the final resting place of members of the Luke family, including patriarch Philip Luke. At the base of the rock, according to local oral tradition, lie some or all of

the 30 slaves Luke is believed to have brought with him after he acquired land in St-Armand in the early 1780s.

Whether the 30 farm workers were slaves or former slaves freed by Luke — as some contend — stories abound of the rock as the only marker of the place where the black farm workers were laid to rest.

The slave cemetery is mentioned in articles by Irving E. Struthers (1910) and United Empire Loyalist genealogist Audrey Martin McCaw (1979). Although no evidence appears that the graves were marked with stone markers, local oral tradition was considered credible enough for the Missisquoi County Historical Society to place a sign reading "Negro Cemetery" at the site.

Anecdotal stories have surfaced about visitors arriving at the farm claiming to have relatives buried in the St-Armand site.

In 1972, Montrealer and retired teacher Violet States, who is black, visited the rock with her now deceased husband.

SEE CEMETARY, PAGE 5



RECORD FILE PHOTOS

St-Armand/Philipsburg town council took a step forward by passing a resolution that recognized the place known as 'Nigger Rock' as an historic site. Montrealer Violet States, a retired school teacher, and John Leblanc, a dedicated amateur historian, joined local teacher Hank Avery and others in pushing for official recognition of the site.

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# BROME COUNTY COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Through to July 21

**HERITAGE WEEK** at Town Hall, Bolton Centre, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Theme: 'Our Schools of Yesteryear'.

July 19 & 20

**Knowlton** United Church presents **ANTIQUES & QUALITY ITEMS CONSIGNMENT SALE**, July 19, 2 to 8 p.m.; July 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Information regarding consigning: 450-243-5980/242-0246.

July 20 & 21

**BIG BOOK SALE** at Pettes Memorial Library, Knowlton, Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Hundreds of books, 25 cents to \$3.

July 27

**Bedford** Wesley United Church will hold **FLEA MARKET, GARAGE SALE AND FOOD SALE** on the Church Lawn, 51 River St. starting at 10 a.m. Table reservations: contact Fred Gilman, 450-248-3341.

Aug. 3

Brome County Agricultural Society **ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BARBECUE**, 5 to 8 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. Dancing afterwards. Adults, \$12, children (under 12), \$6. Tickets/Info: 450-242-3976.

Aug. 4

**ANTIQUÉ/COLLECTIBLE & CRAFT SALE** on Curley St., Sutton, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Profits to Sutton Valley Council. Free admission. Rain or shine. Info: 450-266-4748.

Aug. 6 to 9

**SUMMER DAY CAMP** with Joel Heimbecker and family at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 24 St. Paul Rd., Knowlton from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For all children ages five to 12 yrs. (Bring your lunch). Info: 450-242-2885/243-0538.

Aug. 24 & 25

**ADVANCE NOTICE:** Royal Canadian Legion Flea Market at 120 Davignon Blvd., Cowansville. We are looking for articles to sell at this event. If you have items you would like to get rid of, we will gladly take them before Aug. 17. Contact the R.C.L. at 450-263-3543; Denise Bedard, 263-0561 or Autry Tracey, 266-6120.

## ARTS CALENDAR

July 19 to 26

**'REFLECTIONS'** an exhibition of photographs by Diana Harding Tucker and paintings by Sally Kininmonth. Exhibition reveals a similarity in the work of both artists on the subject of reflection and transition at Brome County Historical Society, 130 Victoria, Knowlton. Vernissage, Friday, July 19. Wine & Cheese, 5:30 to 8 p.m. Open Saturday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July 19 & 27

**AFRICAN DANCE AND PERCUSSION SHOWS**, as fundraisers for the Townships F.A.M. Gazelles at The Relais Restaurant, Knowlton, July 19, and July 27 at the Granby Zoo. Info: 450-243-5157.

July 27

Theatre Lac Brome 2002: **MIDSUMMER GALA**. This highlight of the Lac Brome summer social season features gourmet dinner and dancing under the stars in a beautiful garden setting. Reservations: 450-242-2270.

Aug. 11

**KNOWLTON HARMONY BAND** third park concert, 2002 at Edwards Park, West Brome. Free concert. Alternative White Anglican Church if raining. Info: Wade Johnston, 450-243-5432/Lois Hardacker, 242-2000.

Through to Aug. 24

**THEATRE LAC BROME 2002:** A Summer Festival of English-Language Theatre in Knowlton. This week: Wed. "2 for price of 1" for Lac Brome residents/Thurs. - Vil-

lage Wooing. Fri./Sat./Tues. - Evelyn Strange. Also in repertory: Old King Cole and Hank Williams: The Show He Never Gave. Performances Tues. to Sat. 8 p.m., matinées Thurs. 2 p.m. Tickets: \$5 to \$22. At 9 Mont Echo Rd. Info: 450-242-2270. Web site: www.cclacbrome.qc.ca/tlb.

Aug. 24

**'PATSY, HANK & MAYBE ELVIS'** Celebratory Bash to close Theatre Lac Brome's repertory season of plays. One night only. A musical night to remember. Reservations: 450-242-2270.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**KNOWLTON/ CREEK PASTORAL CHARGE:** Worship and song by members & Rev. Burn Purdon. Creek United, Foster, 9:30 a.m. Knowlton United, 11 a.m.

**St. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:** 24 St. Paul's Rd., Knowlton. We wish to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Sunday services: 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday school and nursery, 10 a.m. The Rev. Ralph T. Leavitt - Pastor.

**PARISH OF BROME:** Anglican worship summer service July 21, St. Aidan Church, Sutton Junction, 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer. Info: Gladys Mudd, 450-538-5001.

**WATERLOO ST. PAUL'S AND FULFORD UNITED CHURCHES:** Weekly Sunday worship and song in Waterloo at 11 a.m. Fulford worship on the second and fourth Sundays at 9:30 a.m. May through October. Zone team ministers Rev. Lilian Patey and Rev. David Lambie.

**COWANSVILLE AREA PASTORAL CHARGE UNITED CHURCH:** Worship School at East Farnham United Church at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Mary MacPherson officiating.

**GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH SUTTON:** Come, let Jesus know you love Him. Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m. at 52 Principale Sud. The Rev. Canon Tim Smart, Rector. **SUTTON-DUNHAM UNITED:** Services

## Exhibit opening



COURTESY BROME COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY Reflections, an exhibition of photographs by Diana Harding Tucker and paintings by Sally Kininmonth opens in Knowlton. See 'Arts' for more.

at 10:30 a.m. in Sutton on the first and second, Sundays and in Dunham on the third and fourth Sundays of each month.

**BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE:** Joint Summer Service, July 21, 10 a.m. in Philipsburg with Rev. Cogswell.

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

## Brome County NEWS



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### RATES & DEADLINES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Brome County News Community Calendar is reserved for non-profit organizations only. Deadline is noon on Mondays. A pre-paid fee of \$6 is required weekly. Please forward notices to Box 488, Knowlton, JOE 1V0, email: bcnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.



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### CIRCULATION

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

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

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CANADA: 1 YEAR	114.40	8.01	9.18	\$131.59
6 MONTHS	59.00	4.13	4.73	\$67.86
3 MONTHS	30.00	2.10	2.41	\$34.51

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# Stanbridge Ridge Chapel celebrates 160 years

*Location has become increasingly popular for weddings, baptisms*

By Barbara Bellingham  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
STANBRIDGE EAST

One hundred and sixty years ago, Hiram Corey, then 41, struck off from Stanbridge East to Montreal in search of a Baptist minister for a newly erected stone chapel on Ridge Road in Stanbridge East.

He eventually found Francis Nathaniel Jersey, a Methodist minister, and persuaded him to return to Stanbridge Ridge with his wife and eight children. Rev. Jersey was ordained and inducted as the pastor of the Baptist Ridge Church in 1843, and services began for regular Sunday worship.

Close to 150 years later, his great-great-granddaughter Kerry Lackey was married in the very same church as the historic structure continues to host special ceremonies throughout the year.

The first wedding in the Ridge Chapel was that of Reuben Corey and Sally Martindale. Martindale lived next door to the church, where her father settled a farm for his wife and nine children. The grandson to one of these children, Guy Martindale, still lives at the Chase Home in nearby Bedford, but spent his years growing

up beside the chapel and surrounding farmland with his 12 siblings.

Guy says he can still remember not being allowed to play ball on Sundays, so the highlight of the day was finding out who was preaching at that week's service.

"If it was Mr. Purley, we liked to watch him bang his hands down on the pulpit," he recalls. "But he did it so hard, they had to replace it with a second hand pulpit from Dunham. It's still the same one that's there now."

The property on which the historic church now stands was originally purchased by the trustees of the Ridge Baptist Society for about \$8. Most of the materials were local, but the bigger stones were brought over from the neighbouring Blinn farm.

The masonry work was supervised by Asa Martindale, and accounts show that the men made up to 50 cents a day bringing in the loads of stone. The simple, symmetrical structure is a beautiful example of fine stonework. With the exception of some interior painting and touching up on the windowsills, the church has stood much as it was when it was built in 1842 — that is until May of this year.

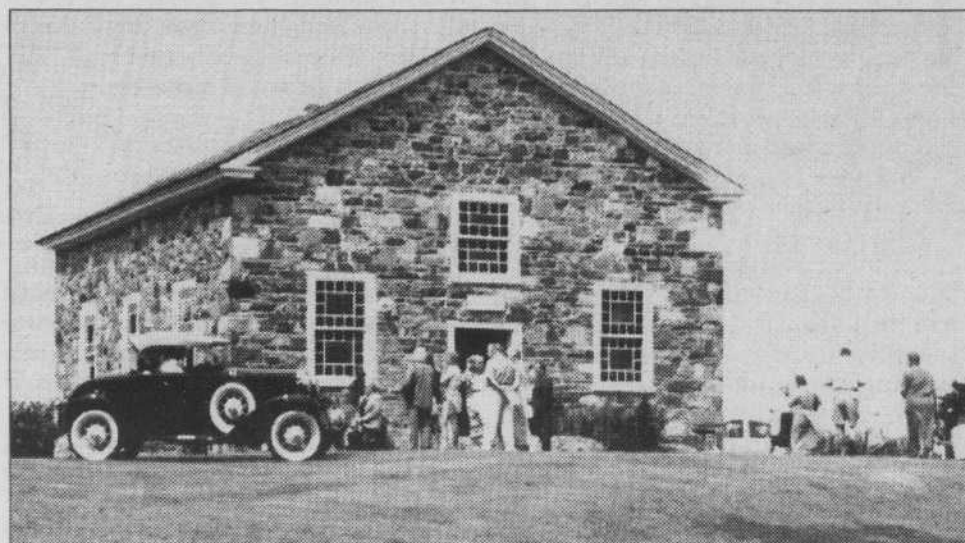
On May 9, Jeane Corey, first cousin to Guy Martindale and secretary treasurer of the Board of Trustees for the Ridge Chapel, went to the church to prepare it for an upcoming wedding only to discover some disturbing changes to the interior.

"The molding along the top of one of the pews was raised right up like a bow," Corey explains. "We assume by the way things look, that lightning came in through the slate roof and down through the chandelier then struck the nails in the pews. Splinters flew all over and some of them couldn't be pulled out because they were in so tight. There were even some up in the balcony."

Although most of the damage has since been repaired by Board Chairman Bruce Bellingham, they decided to leave some of the holes left by the splinters to show people the magnitude of the forces that invaded the church.

"We have a lot to be thankful for," Corey adds. "That chandelier holds the Kerosene lamps, but we put them away. If it had caught on fire, nobody would have noticed through the stained glass windows. It's incredible that in 160 years, the church has never been damaged."

Until the mid 1930's, the Baptist Ridge Church was used regularly before the congregation joined the Stanbridge East United Church for Sunday worship.



PHOTOS BY BARBARA BELLINGHAM/CORRESPONDENT

The 160-year-old Ridge Chapel in Stanbridge East continues to hold an annual summer service.

Now, the Bedford Pastoral Charge maintains an annual summer service, but the church itself remains independent from any diocese. Its location has also become increasingly popular for weddings. What once was an average of two or three weddings a year has increased three-fold as a demand for a simple, traditional service has become more popular.

This summer's service will be even more unique as Stanbridge East Anglican Church's minister Rev. Michelle Eason has been invited for a combined ceremony that will include a baptism. Baylee Alick Ingalls is the six-month-old son of Todd and Laurie Ingalls, who were wed in the Ridge Chapel on Aug. 1, 1998.

"We chose the Ridge Chapel because of its location," explains Laurie Ingalls. "With the cornfields and farmland all around, it represented Todd's lifestyle. We're very excited to have Baylee baptized in the same church on what will be very close to our anniversary."

This year's annual service will be held Sunday, July 28 at 10 a.m. For more information on its location and rentals call 450-248-4123.



Todd Ingalls & Laurie Robinson at their ceremony at Ridge Chapel in 1998

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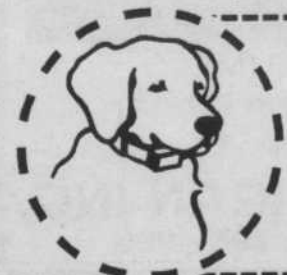
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# I've got a scrap of wood with a number on it . . .

I've got a few things to touch on this week, so let's get started.

Last week I was parking my truck at the municipal parking in Knowlton when I was approached by a man who was doing some construction nearby.

"Are you the guy who parks here every day?" he asked.

Yup.

It turns out that earlier in the day a blue car backed into my beloved truck and then drove away. The carpenter saw the whole thing and scribbled down the licence plate number on a scrap of wood.

Fortunately for everyone, there was-

n't any damage. So I decided not to call the cops. Had there been any damage the driver would have been up for a \$200 fine and nine demerit points.

"We try to prove an intent to hit and run," Brome Lake Police chief Richard Burcombe told me Tuesday. "It's up to the discretion of the police officer, really."

That nine demerit points also means paying more at driver's licence renewal time. If you've already been given points for speeding or other offences, it could mean a licence suspension. A hit and run causing injuries gets you charged under the Criminal Code, and possibly some time in a place with bars in the windows.

So thanks to the good Samaritan carpenter who was quick enough on the draw to get the plate number. If there had been any damage he would have saved me some serious

money. And thanks to the person who backed into me for giving me something to write about.

## UNDER THE HOOD

MAURICE CROSSFIELD

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

It's the construction holiday, and for a lot of you that means more driving. The Sûreté du Québec is calling

on everyone to exercise a little patience and courtesy on the province's roads and waterways.

Last year 17 people died and another 1,092 were injured in transportation-related accidents in the territory covered by the SQ. That doesn't count those who died in areas covered by municipal police.

The SQ says motorists can cut down on the death toll by not drinking and driving, sticking to the speed limit and avoiding tailgating. Extra care near road construction sites is also a good idea. On the water, observe standard safety practices, respect the rules and other waterway users.

I'd add to that: Avoid driving when you're tired. A lot of vacationers embark on marathon drives, and exhaustion takes its toll. Falling asleep at the wheel is a leading cause of accidents, and one that is the most easily avoided. Plan some extra time for the trip, make regular stops, arrive in one piece.

## TIRE TAX WORKS

It seems the provincial government

does get something right occasionally. This time it's the tire recycling business.

Recently environment and water ministry delegate Jean-François Simard announced the government goal of recycling 85 per cent of the province's old tires by 2008 has already been reached. To date that's about 32 million tires that won't be rotting in a landfill somewhere, waiting to cause an environmental migraine.

The Recyc-Quebec success story began a couple of years back with the introduction of a \$3 per tire tax on all new road rubber. That money was to be used to cover the eventual recycling of the tire, as well as cover the cleanup costs of the millions of old tires found in dumps across Quebec.

Strangely enough, that's what the money has been used for. Today, 85 per cent of the six million tires taken out of use annually are recycled, while serious efforts are being made to deal with the 25 million used tires still in dump sites. Tire dumps are expected to be a thing of the past in Quebec by 2008.

So while you may want to continue grumbling about all the taxes that you have to pay, the tire tax shouldn't be on the list. It's one tax that's doing what it should, making our environment a little cleaner in the process.

J A R D I N

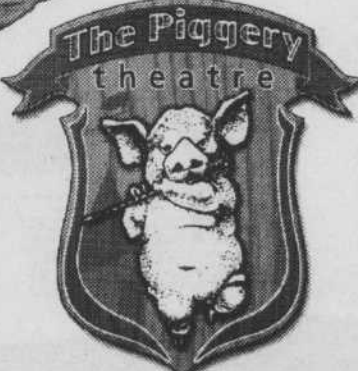
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**BRIEF**

**Maison du Livre hosts works by Gérard Schwartz**

Record Correspondent

La Maison du Livre is currently hosting an exhibition of the paintings of St-Armand artist Gérard Schwartz.

Schwartz studied at La Grande Chaumière (Paris) and the Visual Art School (New York) and Concordia University (Montreal). He has practiced in a variety of media, including as a sculptor of animal figures in steatite, which led to his participation in Le

Salon des Métiers d'Art in Montreal and the One of a Kind Show in Toronto.

After retiring from stone sculpture, he turned full-time to expression in watercolour and oil. His subjects range from the pastoral landscapes of the countryside surrounding Mount Pinnacle to scenes of daily life in Morocco.

The exhibition continues until the end of August. The Maison du Livre, Route 202 in Stanbridge Station, is open Tuesdays from 1 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 450-248-3388.

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# Recognition a step in the right direction: Avery

## TURNWORD:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

"In 1972, we saw the rock, but what could we do?" says States, who still attends most of the meetings concerning the site. "We visited the local historical society and they had no information about it."

In the late 1990s, Hank Avery, a teacher at Butler Elementary School, began an initially solitary quest to have the site recognized as sacred ground and protected.

Avery says that his early efforts, if not ignored, were often met with arguments from both local officials and residents disputing evidence that the rock had been a cemetery. Slowly, Avery developed a network of contacts, largely within the black community, who began to amass the documentary evidence necessary to make the case for a burial site.

Avery connected with people like States, Montreal resident John Leblanc and Francis Scarderra. Leblanc is a dedicated amateur historian and has meticulously combed provincial archives compiling facts on the region's black population, while Scarderra provided a Web site at no cost, posting updates and articles on Avery's ongoing quest.

A much needed boost was given by a private report prepared in 1998 for the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications (Direction régionale de la Montérégie) by University of Montreal anthropologist Roland Viau, who declared in his conclusion that "le site du Rocher Nigger représente un patrimoine commun." ("The Nigger Rock site represents a common heritage.")

Viau, the author of a soon to be published book on the rock, believes that the evidence points strongly to the presence of blacks in the area, definitive proof of which can only be gained via an archaeological examination of the cemetery site.

The controversy sparked the creation of a citizen action group, Le Centre historique de St-Armand, that is promoting the region's rich history, including that of its black and First Nations citizens.

This year, public pressure for some kind of action appeared to be yielding tangible results. On May 6, the St-Armand Town Council passed a resolution first, "to evaluate a request for the recognition of blacks in the municipality of Saint-Armand" and

second, "to examine the implications of such a meeting."

The resolution, put forth by Town Council member Sandy Montgomery, was passed with only dissenting vote — that of Rodrigue Benoit, a member of the Benoit family, who are current owners of the former Luke farm.

In mid-June, the Montreal Gazette reported that Premier Bernard Landry said his government would recognize a cemetery for black slaves in Saint-Armand as a historic site. Neither Avery, nor members of the Benoit family, were notified by Mr. Landry's office of his intention to recognize the site.

Last week, after a public meeting, Dominic Soulié, spokesman for Le Centre historique de St-Armand, put forth a proposal with a series of seven demands. Included among them: that the Municipal Council recognize the rock as an historic site and to safeguard its character, that it work to construct an enclosure around the base of the rock and that the council begin the process of applying to the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications for its official classification as an historic site.

Councillor Nathalie Quilliams felt that the initial proposal was "too much" and produced a modified proposal which she discussed with a member of the Benoit family and then tabled at the meeting.

The Quilliams proposal called for a commemorative plaque, an explanatory panel encased in the municipal display case and a roadside marker to be supplied by the Missisquoi Historical Society.

A third proposal, put forth by other Benoit family members, called for a petition to the Ministère de la Toponymie, to rename the rock (listed on local maps as

"Nigger Rock") in a more respectful way and, as in the second proposal, to have a marker on the side of the road and an explanatory panel encased in the municipal display case.

Mayor Brent Chamberlin, presiding over last Friday's meeting, chose a middle ground and chose to avoid the fine details by proposing only a resolution recognizing the rock as an historic site.

"This is the first step," said Chamberlin. "We want only to start the ball rolling and then we may fine tune the resolution with participation by the (Benoit) family."

The resolution passed by a narrow margin, with Nathalie Quilliams, Sandy Montgomery and Murielle Cartier voting for and Réal Pelletier and Rodrigue Benoit voting against the resolution.

The next step, according to Chamberlin, is to sit down with the major players in this ongoing drama and hammer out a compromise that will be acceptable to all.

Quilliams believes that at a minimum, the resolution is to be followed by the least contentious items such as the erection of a plaque or roadside sign.

As for the more contentious issues, such as an archaeological examination of the site or unrestricted public access, Réjean Benoit says, "we are still not there yet."



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

In the late 1990s, Avery began an initial quest to have the site recognized.

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# A hot time in the old town this weekend

## Canadian and U.S. firefighters to attend conference in St. Albans

By Caroline Kehne  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
ST. ALBANS, VT.

Personnel from five Canadian firefighting units will take part in the 113th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Vermont State Firefighters' Association.

The annual conference, scheduled from July 19 to 21 at the Collins-Perley Sports Complex in St. Albans, Vt., will be hosted this year by the Franklin County International Firefighters' Association (FCIFA), comprised of units on both sides of the border.

Timothy Girard, president of the Franklin County International Firefighters' Association as well as a firefighter from Swanton, Vt., expects 2,000 or more conference registrants, including firefighters, first responders and emergency personnel from over 30 U.S. and Canadian units.

Girard said he also expects a greater than normal representation by the association's five Canadian units (Sutton,

Philipsburg/St-Armand, Clarenceville, Bedford and Bedford Township) because of the conference's proximity to the border. He calls the annual meeting part business and part fun, both a team-building exercise and a tool for promoting public awareness.

"This is a way of showing people how we do it and what we do," said Girard.

One of the most popular public events, the firemen's games, will take place Saturday at the sports complex. The games, which test teamwork and stamina, are being organized this year by Clarenceville-Noyan Fire Chief Peter Clark.

Girard says that many parts of the conference are open to the general public. Open admission events include the opening golf tournament at the Enosburg Country Club (Friday, July 19), the Firemen's Memorial Service (Saturday, July 20, 8:45 a.m. at the Collins-Perley Memorial Complex), 'Firefighters' games' (beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday at the sports complex) and the annual awards banquet (Saturday, 6 p.m. at the American Legion).

The public is also welcome to attend Sunday's activities, including apparatus judging (Sunday, July 21, 9 a.m. at the Collins-Perley Sports Complex), and the Vermont State Fire Association Parade through downtown St. Albans. The parade begins at noon and ends at the sports complex with the battle of the bands, as well as the parade judging and award presentations.

Philipsburg-St-Armand Fire Chief Grant Symington said that Canadian and U.S. units have a long history of cooperation. The FCIFA was formed in 1970 after a catastrophic fire destroyed Swanton's village square. Symington said he was one of the Canadian firefighters called to put out the blaze, which resulted in a unique interna-

tional partnership that has helped improve firefighting and rescue capabilities in rural areas on both sides of the border.

Units pay \$40 a year to belong to the 'mutual aid' organization. In return, member units provide backup manpower and equipment support at no charge per call.

Symington points out that this partnership gives smaller towns fast access to high ticket items such as ladder trucks (mutual aid units do aid non-member companies when asked to do so; however, he adds that non-members companies are charged a much higher fee for services).

The Collins-Perley Sports Complex is located off I89 (exit 19). The golf tournament will take place at the Enosburg Country Club on Friday, July 19. A shotgun tee-off starts at 10 a.m.; tournament registration is at noon.

The awards banquet will take place Saturday July 29 at the American Legion (on Parah Drive in St. Albans). Tickets are \$24.50, and should be purchased in advance. Cocktails are served at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and awards presentations at 7 p.m. For more information about the banquet, contact Terry Wright at 802-933-8949.

## Pet of the week . . . Chico



COURTESY SPCA

I've been at the shelter since December and because I'm black, I kind of disappear in the crowd. However last Saturday I was one of the 25 lucky dogs chosen to go to the Adoption Day in Cowansville. Even though I didn't get adopted this time, it was a fun, exciting day and all the people got to see what a nice, friendly gentleman I am! So if you are interested in a nice, short-haired black 18-month-old good guy, please come and take me for a walk and get to know me better. I live at the SPCA Montérégie, 178, ch. du Vide in Ste-Angèle-de-Monnoir (exit #37 on autoroute #10). Visiting hours are from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. Or call 450-460-3075, 450-242-2892. Cowansville was a great adoption day. Eleven of my buddies — 10 dogs and a cat — found new homes, and good luck to them all! Also, a BIG THANK YOU to all the people who helped make the day so good for us and such a success — including those 11 households who just added one of us to their families. The next adoption day is Saturday, Aug. 24 at Mill Pond Park in Knowlton.

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# Wooing in the village

Village Wooing, G. Bernard Shaw's short one-act but satisfying play, is the third production at Theatre Lac Brome, offering newcomers a way to get their feet wet to Shaw without having to dive in head first.

**THEATRE REVIEW**

DIAHANN NADEAU

The opening scene involves the painful spectacle of a pretty young woman desperately attempting to chat up a very preoccupied and stuffy man on a cruise ship. She is chipper and impervious to sarcastic brush offs, while he is determined to finish writing his mandatory 2,000 words a day. He pointedly tries to ignore her, but she is relentless and forces him into a conversation. The scene ends in her triumph as she manages to engage his interest, however begrudgingly, as their soup arrives.

The next scene finds them in her village shop, where she is an assistant and a telephone operator. He wanders in to make a purchase and now finds her quite attractive, completely unaware as they chat about world cruises that they have met before.

He is suddenly interested in life in a small village, in the idea of running a shop, and then in purchasing the business from her current employer. She makes no secret that she is attracted to him, and views him as excellent matrimonial material. A widower with one bad marriage behind him, he agrees — only to keeping her on as an assistant. There is no way that marriage was going to be part of the plan.

The third scene takes place a couple of months after he has bought the store, and she is still trying to convince him of their suitability as marriage partners. In typical Shaw fashion, he argues himself into it, intellectualizing all the way, even about the act of sex, and suddenly she is talking to the vicar about posting the banns. Without one kiss, with nothing but philosophizing, he has suddenly proposed.

The play was written in 1933, during a time of great turmoil as Fascism was on the rise in Britain and Europe. This ideology was anathema to Shaw, and in this play he cuts politics out and digs down to basics — the relationship between men and women. While his man is obtuse and given to over-intellectu-



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS ASSOCIATION

Director Greg Tuck is seen here in rehearsal at Theatre Lac Brome with the cast (Sasha Roiz and Charlotte Gowdy) of Village Wooing. The Townshippers' benefit performance takes place on July 18, 8 p.m. with a special price for members. Call 1-866-566-5717 to reserve.

alizing, his woman is practical and wise and ultimately victorious.

Sasha Roiz and Charlotte Gowdy are excellent as the duo, A and Z (their names are never used, nor are these initials). Their chemistry is good, and Gowdy is delivering on the promise she gave in her portrayal as the dippy Princess Daphne in Old King Cole. She is totally at ease as this character, and a very mature actress despite being a recent graduate from the National Theatre School.

Roiz, as we might expect from seeing him perform last year, is just perfect.

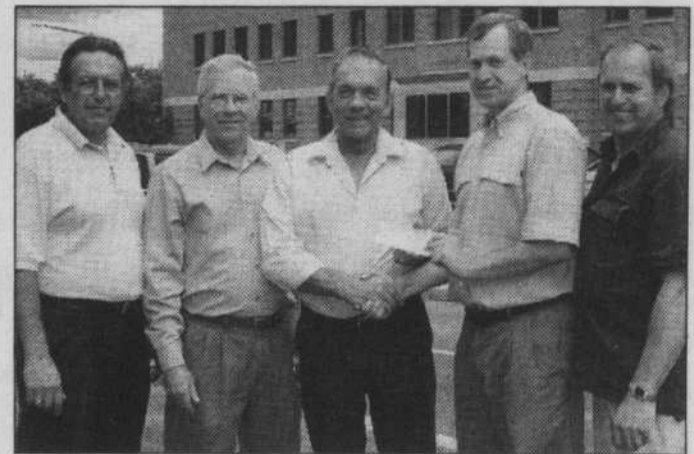
While the play is very short, they both have many lines, none of which are easy, and timing is perfect.

Due to the unusually short running time, (about 45 minutes), the management decided to add something extra — a short but funny monologue called Mrs. Sorkin, given by actress Lauren Piech before the beginning of the play. It is a witty thesis, delivered by a housewife with the chance to break out of her restrictive little mold and talk about CULTURE.

This may be a short evening of culture, but it is nonetheless edifying.

For tickets and information please call the Theatre Lac Brome box office at 450-242-2270.

## BMP presented with \$5,000



MAURICE CROSSFIELD

Organizers of the third annual Cowansville craft show presented the BMP Foundation with a \$5,000 cheque last week. Seen here are Cowansville municipal councillor Michel Charbonneau, craft show organizers Alan Webb and Maurice Lacroix, BMP Foundation director Frank Johnston Main, and Cowansville mayor Arthur Fauteux.



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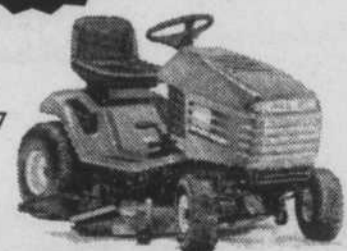
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# Knowlton club helps you learn

*First lesson given at Russel Call's home as early as 1946*

By Philip A. Godin  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
KNOWLTON

For the past 56 years, scores of children from Brome Lake and the surrounding municipalities have thrived on the many advantages offered them by the Knowlton Pony Club. By all accounts, this is one organization that remains very popular, continuously attracting and thrilling new enthusiasts every year.

The club was initially set up in 1946 by Russel Call and Jack Rudel, two community minded residents whose spirit of benevolence led them to secure a structured and entertaining summer recreational venue for

their and other local children.

The first lessons were given at the Call's home, an estate known as Tara Hill, until recently the Mitchell residence. The fields that housed the first riding rings still remain, clearly visible from Lakeside Road in Knowlton.

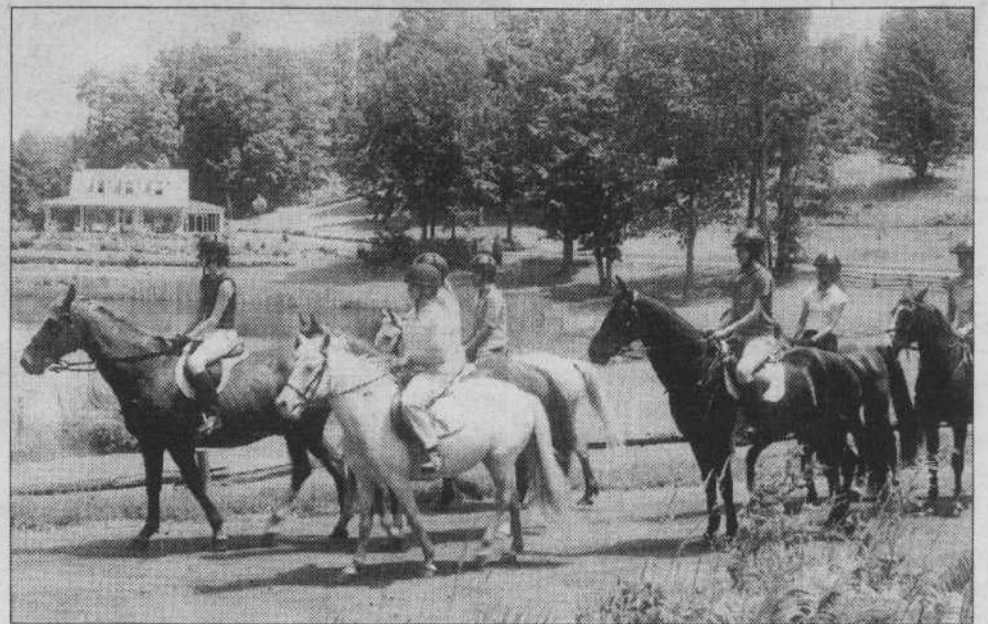
In 1952 the Club was registered with the Canadian Pony Clubs, an official designation that permitted member clubs to compete with each other. In 1953 the Knowlton Club hosted an inter-branch rally that attracted nearly 100 young competitors from Hudson, Toronto and North York.

It was only in 1965 that, through the generosity of local families, the club acquired some land on Ball Road, on which it built a small building to be used as stables.

In 1970, adjacent properties were subsequently acquired, again mostly

through donations and volunteer-manned fundraisers. Later, in a bid to acquire more animals, which members refer to as the real stars of the club, the Ball Street property was sold.

Today, the club operates from the massive red barn located at the in-



PHILIP A. GODIN/CORRESPONDENT

Children who are part of the Knowlton Pony Club learn everything from mucking out stables to the finer points of dressage, teamwork and personal development

tersection of Mount Echo and Sugar Hill roads.

True to the standing tradition of supporting this vital youth organization, the current owner, Marielle Teryaszos, has generously allowed the children to use the building for stabling the club's mounts and the fields for their lessons. As fate would have it, Jack Rudel, the club's co-founder, at one time owned this property.

Long time volunteer Ann Johansson was asked to estimate the number of area children who have enjoyed riding at the club.

"Well, you can count about a hundred or so children per year at least. Over more than 50 years, there must have been thousands!"

Johansson, who has been an active supporter since the very beginning, personifies the spirit that has bound members and supporters through time.

"I'm just one of many devotees that have helped the club out over the years. It is just so good to see the kids get involved in it".

Devotees, whose names read like a whose-who of local community service, all played a crucial role in the

club's survival in hard times and growth in better ones.

An important spin-off of volunteer-driven associations such as this one is a policy of universality of access, most often reflected in the pricing policy.

"We want the club to be open to all children. That's why the prices have been kept so reasonable," explains head instructor Violaine Fortin of the \$50 membership fee that allows hourly lesson rates to go for \$20 per hour.

Since getting on board three years ago, Fortin has fostered a down-to-earth philosophy.

"We are trying very hard to dispel the notion that riding is only accessible to certain people, that it costs a lot to learn to ride," she said.

In fact the club has an unwritten thrift policy that encourages the exchange of gear between members as riders grow, as evidenced by the bulletin board that reads as much like a lawn sale as it does an information centre.

"We are a non-profit organization and we want our members to learn to ride and take care of horses safely more than how to dress the part," adds Fortin.



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# about ponies and yourself

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Less expensive, however, doesn't mean poor quality.

Former Canadian equestrian team member Lisa Johansson, who teaches the top level 7 at the club, makes a clear distinction as to the important place the organization plays within the community.

"It really is a club for the kids that are interested in committing time and energy into horsemanship," she said. "We count on everyone's involvement. This is not a country dude ranch for people to rent-a-pony. We take riding seriously."

Notwithstanding the efforts, wills, hopes, aspirations and determination of the adults that manage the business end of things, the heart of this pony club beats in the chests of the young riders that seem to grow within it as individuals. They rely on their human and their equine partners for guidance.

In the poignant speech she delivered as riders' representative at this year's annual meeting, 16-year-old Robin Lacoste said it best.

"Thanks to my exposure at the Knowlton Pony Club, I have become a much more outgoing person. Many people, when they first start out at the barn, don't say anything hoping they won't get noticed. But we find them and slowly pull them out of their emotional shell. The nine weeks of pony club can change young people forever," she said.

"The more years people come, the independent and responsible they be-

come. Being independent at the club is very important. There is no mother to take of you."

Lacoste continued, saying that the knowledge she gained from the experience was important.

"Responsibility is something you learn. You are responsible for animals and their welfare at the pony club and the horses always come first," she said. "The pony club to me is more than just a riding school. It is my summer home. The Knowlton Pony Club is a living, breathing beautiful thing. Everyone plays on an equal playing field. All people there are brought to together for one reason, the love of horses. The friendships I have formed have lasted."

Working together was also something Lacoste took out of her time at the club.

"Playing as a team is very important," she said. "Not one person can do all the work at the club. You meet all different types of characters. Some types of people you really get along with and others you have more difficulty. You learn that working with people isn't always easy, especially if you don't get along. But the work must get done, and you quickly learn to resolve your differences. This is skill you will always need, so the younger you learn it, the better."

"At the pony club I have learned to be outgoing, responsible, independent, create friendships, deal with people, get things done and ride. At the end I have grown into my skin and become a leader. Hopefully if you stick by the pony club, so will your children."

There are many lessons to be learned at the Knowlton Pony Club, for adults as well as children.

For more information on memberships, activities or events, contact Violaine Fortin at 450-243-6613.



PHOTOS TAKEN BY PHILIP A. GODIN/CORRESPONDENT

Three generations of equestrians who have developed their talents at the Knowlton Pony Club and in turn contributed their expertise to teaching others without interruption since 1946: Ann Johansson, her daughter Anna and granddaughter Magic, with Pegase and aunt Lisa who was a member of the Canadian Equestrian team from 1994 to 1997.



Volunteering for the Knowlton Pony Club is a family affair, as demonstrated by this gathering at the current location on Sugar Hill. Twelve-year-old Stable resident Pegase, Kristy Taylor, the Johanssons Ann (grandmother), Anna (mother), Lisa (aunt) and Magic (granddaughter), Head Instructor Violaine Fortin, outgoing thirteen-year veteran Debbie Rogers, Heather and Julian Tuer, and Robin and Cathy Lacoste.



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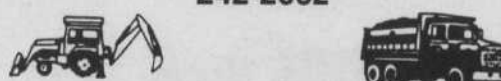
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# The 'rules of the road' on the water

By Lee Patterson  
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

The past two segments of this column have dealt with the elements required before we untied from the dock or left the boat launch. Now it's time to enjoy ourselves on the water.

An enjoyable boat ride is much like a motorcycle or car tour with the top down. The major difference on water is that there are no lines to indicate where the road is. On the water we must be vigilant at all times to make sure we respect the right of way rules. These rules indicate which craft has priority over another.

## THE RULES OF THE ROAD

The "right of way" rules are quite simple. They are part of the Collision Regulations, which explains how boaters should behave on the water. The first rule is to always have a constant look out. This means that when you are the captain of the boat, you are obliged to look and listen constantly around you, in order to avoid a collision.

A rough overview of the right of way rules is as follows:

- Non-powered crafts, such as wind-surfers, canoes and kayaks are on the top of the priority list.

- Crafts with restricted manoeuvrability, such as commercial fishing boats, or boats performing diving operations are in second place.

- Boats with large drafts (need lots of water to avoid hitting bottom) are next in the priority scale.

- Sailboats, then motorboats, round out the rules of the road.

If you are in control of a boat, that must give the right of way to another, do so as soon as possible and make it obvious. Simply slowing down does not show that you understand the rules and it's difficult to see from far away that another boat has slowed. Unfortunately, waterskiing and recreational fishing are not recognized as restricted manoeuvrability activities. Common sense says that we should stay well away from all other crafts, to reduce the risk of collisions and to be courteous to our fellow boaters.

Another aspect of the rules of the road is meeting other crafts. A simplified approach is to give the right of way to all crafts that are approaching from our starboard side (right). If we meet another power boat head to head, do as we do on the road, keep to your starboard side (you will cross left side to left side or port to port).

Remember that boats don't have breaks. Modify your cruising speed if there are other boats around or if the visibility is less than perfect due to fog, rain or darkness. A slow speed is not always the best. This does not mean that you should always travel at high speed,

remember that you are responsible for your wake. The wake of a boat is considered to be the water displacement, or waves, that it leaves behind. Sometimes traveling at 10 to 15 km/h creates enormous wake, which can cause damage to shoreline, other boats or docks.

With these tips, you can insure that you will have a round trip on the water and that no one will crash into each other. Next week we will look at the Criminal Code as it relates to boating and answers to some of your questions.

The next boating safety course in Lac Brome will be held in July. If you would like to register, please call 450-242-2844 or send an e-mail at lee@endirect.qc.ca. If you live outside this area, feel free to call and discuss the possibility of forming a group in your area.

Editor's note: Lee Patterson has been an accredited boating safety instructor with the Life Saving Society for the past three years. He was Lake Patroller for five years on Brome Lake. His duties included enforcing federal, provincial and municipal regulations regarding boating safety.

## Mid-summer antique/craft market



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

The Brome County Historical Society will hold its mid-summer antique and craft market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 21 on the museum grounds at 130 Lakeside in Knowlton. Come peruse antique woodworking tools, primitives, furniture, trunks, collectibles, glass, porcelain, jewelry, books and local crafts. You can also take the opportunity to visit the museum's collection of pioneer memorabilia and current exhibitions. Spaces are still available. For information, call 450-243-6782.

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