

665 CON

## Dixville Home Foundation fundraiser

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# THE RECORD

THE VOICE OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SINCE 1897

## Mayor Sevigny as subtle as a bulldozer

Mike McDevitt - Page 6

75 CENTS + TAXES

PM#0040007682

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013

### Opinion piece Why I won't be voting for Mayor Sevigny in November

By Tim Belford

I won't be voting for Sherbrooke's Mayor Sevigny in the coming election. It's simple.

We don't speak the same language. I'm not talking here about French or English. It's all about three things: centralization, cost cutting and party politics. Let's deal with centralization first.

During his present term, Mayor Sevigny introduced a proposal which, among other things, called for the centralization of several functions now carried out by the boroughs, including aspects of parks and recreation. The proposal was defeated but the mayor says he will re-introduce it if he is re-elected and the new council is more amenable.

From what I have read, and I read a lot, centralization of administration has not, for the most part, worked well in other amalgamated cities including Montreal, Toronto and Boston, to name just three. The reason is simple; people in the boroughs generally have a better idea of how to use, maintain and allocate local resources and are also able to react to the needs of their community in a much more timely fashion.

Admittedly, it does make sense in a larger city to unify large ticket items like policing and fire protection, but those items of a strictly local nature are best left to the people most familiar with the situation and best able to act. These include minor infrastructure repair, maintenance and allocation of recreational facilities, garbage pick-up and yes, snow removal to name but a few.

Citizens in the Lennoxville borough are all too familiar with the inefficiency demonstrated by central co-ordination and control. I myself witnessed a perfect example when I observed the digging of an eight by eight foot hole and the replacement of a water pipe which took a total of seven trucks, two semi trailers,

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## Lennoxville Farmers' market 'exceeded expectations' according to organizers



GORDON LAMBIE

The sunny skies were uncharacteristic, but welcome last Saturday at the last farmers' market of the season in Lennoxville.

Gordon Lambie  
Special to The Record

The last farmers' market of the season was held in Lennoxville this past Saturday morning. Roughly a dozen vendors gathered at 2882 College Street, on property owned by Bishop's University, for the last day of the market's second year of highlighting produce and handicrafts from producers

in and around the borough.

According to Darren Bardati, President of the Lennoxville Farmers Market Association (LFMA) and Chair of Environmental Studies & Geography at Bishop's University, the sunny skies were uncharacteristic, but welcome.

"The season itself was challenging because the weather wasn't so good, so growing the produce was a challenge, and the market days were not the best

weather days, either," said Bardati at the market Saturday, "but given the circumstances it has exceeded expectations in terms of success of the vendors and the people coming."

To celebrate the closing of the market's second season, and coordinating with the harvest theme of Thanksgiving weekend, the organizers planned a "Scarecrow Festival," featuring stuffed

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## THE RECORD

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Do you have a knack for writing and photography? Do you have what it takes to be a correspondent?

The Record is looking for a person to cover the following regions.

Coaticook/Compton  
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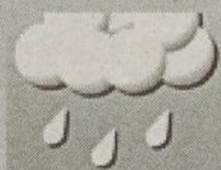
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Email to Daniel Coulombe, News Editor at dcoulombe@sherbrooke.com.

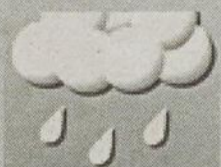
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This is a position which does not offer any benefits.

### Weather



TODAY:  
ISOLATED SHOWERS  
HIGH OF 18  
LOW OF 9



THURSDAY:  
SHOWERS  
HIGH OF 15  
LOW OF 11



FRIDAY:  
SHOWERS  
HIGH OF 13  
LOW OF 8



SATURDAY:  
CLOUDY, SHOWERS  
HIGH OF 13  
LOW OF 8



SUNDAY:  
CLOUDY, SHOWERS  
HIGH OF 10  
LOW OF 6

## Keeping in Touch



Have you thought about volunteering lately?

Do you enjoy reading and would you like to share this joy. Reading can provide a wonderful escape from the day to day hustle whether you are 6 or 66. The Memphrémagog Community Learning Centre (Magog CLC) is hoping to start a pilot project to ignite young reader's curiosity into worlds of adventure, mystery and knowledge with "The Reading Buddies Program."

Along with helping students find the joy in reading and feeling supported and connected by and to their community, the project aims to build relationships and improve overall reading and comprehension skills.

Volunteers can help this project hit its mark by simply reading with students. You can read a page, have the student read a page, or if better suited, a paragraph each. If the student doesn't know the word you can explain it to them or give them examples to illustrate the meaning. It's all about having fun reading. You don't have to teach them how to read. Just get comfortable in a cozy spot and read together while you get to know each other.

The CLC will work around volunteer availability, just provide the CLC with the times and/or days that you can share with a young reader. Volunteers can read with one child at a time or, if more comfortable, reading groups with up to four students can be arranged. If you have an open schedule, the CLC is looking for volunteers to fill potential reading blocks from 8:20 to 10 a.m., 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. or from 1 to 2:20 p.m.

The Magog CLC is one of two active CLC's - the other being the Richmond & Region CLC - who are promoting life-long learning for the region's English



TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Earlier this summer Evelina Smith, Townshippers' Association Information & Referral Coordinator, and Martha Crombie, Director of the volunteer driven CEDEC, met to discuss ways to help support small business owners from the region's various industries through activities such as the upcoming free webinar.

community. Operating out of Eastern Townships School Board schools, such as Magog's Princess Elizabeth Elementary School and Richmond Regional High School, the CLC's offer a variety of activities, classes and workshops designed to help community members. Advance your hobby, pick up new skills or give your health a boost with fitness classes such as zumba.

For more information or to inquire about volunteering or other projects at the Magog CLC please contact Pervana at 819-238-1285 or mladenofp@etsb.qc.ca. To contact the Richmond & Region CLC contact Sui-Min at 819-826-3702 ext. 24026 or richmondclc@etsb.qc.ca.

#### Working together to support businesses

Townshippers' works with a variety of partners to support the diverse needs of our community members. The association's partnership with the CEDEC Small Business Support Network (SBSN) connects small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs to a variety of skill boosting activities such as the Lunch and Learn Webinar Series.

The next webinar focuses on agricultural producers with "CUMA and CUMO

Cooperative Services (Cooperative use of agricultural equipment and Cooperative use of agricultural labor)."

Held on Tuesday, October 29, 2013, from 12 to 1 p.m. this webinar will be hosted by industry expert Carrolyn O'Grady agr. Advisor, Agri-Environment and Regional Development, Regional Directorate of Montérégie West, the Quebec Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Participation is free, but registration is required. To sign up visit <http://webinaroct292013.eventbrite.ca/> or contact CEDEC Webinar Coordinator Mary Sicoli at 514-903-3753 ext. 221, [mary.sicoli@cedec.ca](mailto:mary.sicoli@cedec.ca).

To learn more about the personalized services, networking and training activities offered in English by CEDEC SBSN, visit [www.cedec.ca/sbsn/](http://www.cedec.ca/sbsn/).

For more information on Townshippers' Association and our activities, keep reading this weekly Keeping in Touch column in The Record and visit us on Twitter@Townshippers, Facebook and our website [www.townshippers.qc.ca](http://www.townshippers.qc.ca). Connect with Townshippers' offices in Sherbrooke at 100 - 257 Queen St. 819-566-5717, toll free: 1-866-566-5717 or Lac-Brome at 3-584 Knowlton Rd, 450-242-4421, toll free: 1-877-242-4421.

### Ben by Daniel Shelton



# Last chance to get on the list of voters

Gordon Lambie  
Special to The Record

Today is the last day to have ones name added to or stricken from the list of voters for the upcoming municipal elections in Sherbrooke.

All Sherbrooke residents should have received, on the 8, 9, and 10 of October, last week, a notice indicating that they are

either on the voters list, or that no one at their place of residence is registered.

Anyone who would like to be added to the list, or who has a correction to the list to make needs to go to one of the seven locations around the city at which boards of review are being held to have that change officially noted.

Boards of review for the list will be sitting from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the following seven locations:

80, Saint-Lambert Street in the Borough of Brompton;

987, Conseil Street in Fleurimont, room 309;

In the Amédée-Beaudoin Community Centre in Lennoxville;

The former Sherbrooke police station, 400 Marquette Street, downtown;

Student House E2 of the University of Sherbrooke, 2500 University Boulevard;

The borough office of Rock Forest -Saint-Élie-Deauville, 1000, Haut-Bois Street North;

The Jacques Cartier Community Centre at 2050-B, Portland

Boulevard, Room 122.

Those authorized to make applications for registration, removal and correction are: the elector himself; the spouse of the elector; a parent of the elector or a person who is living with the voter.

The board of review will be making decisions on the spot, in the presence of claimants.

# Sherbrooke connection to high speed police chase in Maine

The Canadian Press  
KINGFIELD, MAINE

Two Canadian teenagers stole three vehicles and led law enforcement officers on a high-speed chase in which two U.S. Border Patrol vehicles were damaged and shots were fired before the teens were apprehended, U.S. authorities alleged Tuesday.

Stephen McCausland, of the Maine Department of Public Safety, said a 16-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl were arrested late Monday after abandoning a

stolen truck and attempting to flee down a steep embankment next to Route 27.

Const. Darcy Nichol, of the Killaloe detachment of Ontario Provincial Police, said the incident began Sunday night around 9 p.m., when a male youth stole a vehicle — a gold Chevy Avalanche — in Eganville, Ont., about 100 kilometres west of Ottawa.

Nichol said the male youth then headed to the Upper Ottawa Valley area where a female youth was picked up and the

two then went to Ottawa.

Const. Chuck Benoit of Ottawa police said there was a "small pursuit" early Monday in the city, but it was called off because it was deemed too dangerous. He said the car was later found dumped in an LCBO parking lot in the city.

McCausland said the boy, from the Eganville, Ont., area and the girl, from Pembroke, Ont., abandoned another stolen vehicle in Sherbrooke.

In Maine, the teens were in another stolen car when they

drove past the U.S. Border crossing at Coburn Gore, prompting a pursuit that topped 160 kilometres per hour on Route 27 and a collision with two border patrol vehicles, McCausland alleged.

Troopers used spike mats to deflate two tires of the teens' stolen vehicle, a pickup that had managed to elude roadblocks, McCausland said. They eventually abandoned it before jumping over a guardrail and scrambling down the embankment.

The boy was charged with eluding an officer, passing a roadblock and aggravated criminal mischief, according to the Morning Sentinel newspaper.

The girl was hospitalized in Portland for assessment of possible internal injuries suffered during her tumble down the embankment, McCausland said.

The attorney general's office dispatched investigators because shots were fired by federal agents after the teens' car collided with two border patrol vehicles.

# Lennoxville Farmers' market

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

scarecrows at almost every booth, as well as "live" scarecrows who offered free apples to anyone who came to join in on the fun. Local musician Matthew McCully was also back at the market for a repeat performance, a feature Bardati was pleased to highlight in the midst of the general prosperity of the market.

"It's grown a lot," Bardati explained, "last year we had about eight vendors, now we have twelve or thirteen and we have a musician who has been coming back quite regularly."

Asked whether he felt that the environment for farmers markets was becoming more competitive, given the fact that almost every small town in the area has some form of market at this point, the Environmental Studies Chair was very positive in his outlook;

"As far as I'm concerned, every town should have a market," Bardati explained, "every town has its own flavour, customer base, vendors and philosophy, and that's great."

The Market President explained that the focus of the Lennoxville market is entirely on producers within a 50km radius of the borough, meaning that "local" doesn't just mean that a purchase is from Quebec, but that it is truly from the area. He also emphasized that the products being sold have to



GORDON LAMBIE

There were scarecrows at almost every booth, as well as "live" scarecrows who offered free apples to anyone who came to join in on the fun Saturday morning in Lennoxville.

be completely made by the vendor; they cannot be resales.

"It needs to be something that's really handcrafted from start to finish," said Mary-Ellen Kirby, who sits on the organizing committee of the market with Bardati and three others.

Both Kirby and Bardati expressed that the market is looking to grow in the coming year and are looking for vendors that will suit the demand that the market has been getting so far.

"We'd love to get a baker;

more fruit—an apple producer?" Kirby continued, "It's harder than you might think to attract people." She said that the organizing committee has approached certain local producers, but that many people have operations on their farms that prevent them from being in two places at once. At the same time, the market is looking to add more craftspeople.

The Lennoxville Farmers' market is the first that Jeremy Stewart has ever been a vendor in, and he said he was very pleased with the experience.

"I'm a big farmers market fan; I'm happy to have joined one," Stewart said, "Apparently it's very competitive to get into them."

Kirby explained that the founding of the current market came out of a general feeling that something was missing from the community.

"There used to be (a market) across the road at Clarke's, and I was a regular customer, but then it disappeared," the market organizer recalled. "It was one of those things where you sit around, you know, when you get together, and you say, 'somebody ought to do something about that.' You end up pointing the finger at yourself most of the time." She continued saying that those now making up the organizing

committee put together the plan for the market and started to seek out vendors to set one up.

Bardati explained that it is through his connection with Bishop's that the University grants the market permission to use their land every year, and said he sees it as community outreach on the part of the

school.

"We're very grateful," he said.

The market has a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/amalennox, where news and information about vendors and products sold is posted regularly during the market season.

**Lennoxville Elementary School P.P.O.**

**Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser**

**Thursday, October 24**  
**4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**in the school cafeteria**

A fabulous feast of salad, rolls, spaghetti, juice or coffee & dessert.

**Tickets**

Adults: \$8. Child: \$6.  
Family (2 adults, 2 children): \$25.  
plus \$3. for each additional child

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**Lennoxville**

A great way to enjoy a delicious home cooked meal without having to do the cooking or dishes and support L.E.S. student's activities!

# Dixville Home Foundation presents wine and cheese

Gordon Lambie  
Special to The Record

The Dixville Home Foundation is gearing up for its annual fundraising wine and cheese and silent auction, to be held on Friday, Oct. 18, in the Ross Dining Hall at Bishop's College School in Lennoxville. Tickets for the event, which allow entry for two people, are available for a minimum donation of \$110, of which \$75 is tax deductible.

A tradition more than a quarter century old, the wine and cheese helps raise the funds that allow the foundation to continue to offer financial and other forms of support for the Intellectual Disabilities and Pervasive Development Disorders Readaptation Centre (CRDITED) Estrie.

"The foundation wants to put its energies into ways to improve the quality of life of its

users," said Foundation representative Robert Nutbrown, explaining that the foundation completely or partially funds a community recreation program, the Best Buddies accompaniment program at Bishop's University, and the animation and operation of a drop in centre on Queen street, and a Christmas basket program, among other initiatives.

"A lot of these people are living on fixed incomes," Nutbrown said of the centre's users, "if you're living in an apartment, once you've got your rent paid, your groceries; your living expenses, it doesn't give you a whole lot for the little extras in life."

Aside from the "extras," Nutbrown also pointed to projects like providing electronic communication boards to individuals with speech impairments as examples of the foundation's work with CRDITED Estrie to

improve and facilitate the lives of the people who come to the organization for support.

"Historically the foundation was implicated in fundraising money to put in for residential services at the Dixville home." Nutbrown explained, "In 1992 the boards of the Centre Notre-Dame de l'Enfant and Dixville Home fused and over the years we became closer and closer to being one establishment."

It was in 2011 that the two centres, formerly serving the two linguistic communities separately, merged completely to form one single organization. According to Nutbrown, the group works with individuals on "life projects" and the strategic intervention plans necessary to carry them out.

"CRDITED is a second line service," Nutbrown continued, "they provide services for persons that need support in learning to do something or learning

how to adapt to a behavioural or physical challenge."

It is through the generous donations of the community that the Dixville Home Foundation is able to amass the funds necessary to run its programming, and it is as a show of thanks for that support that they organize the annual wine and cheese event.

"It's been over 25 years that we've been doing it now," said Don Warnholtz, Vice President of the Foundation, "BCS' cafeteria is an excellent place for it... it's a great ambiance, we're well hosted."

Nutbrown pointed out that this year, in addition to the usual silent auction, which he said tends to get quite active, auctioneer Butch Crack from Richmond will be present to conduct a live auction of five to eight "higher end donations." Though lacking a complete list, he specifically mentioned an

Anthony Calvillo autographed jersey, an iPad, and a Skidoo helmet valued at \$300.

According to Nutbrown, there are 250 tickets available for the event, which will take place from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. on the 18th.

"Last year we 'sold out'," he said, adding that he felt the same was likely to happen again this year, "it's a thank you for people who make a donation, but we have a capacity and we hit it."

He added that the Honorary President of the event this year will be The Record's own Sheila Quinn.

It is also worth noting that this year marks the 55th anniversary of the founding of the Dixville home.

For more information on the event or to make a donation to the foundation, contact Sonia Garbutt at (819) 346-8471 extension 602.

# SFVPA recognizes competitive plowers with awards

By Claudia Villemare  
Record Correspondent

Fraser Smith, president, St. Francis Valley Plowing Association presented Mil-

dred Holliday with a special plaque commemorating her many years and enviable reputation as a champion plowperson in the Ladies Class Friday.

Holliday, along with more

than 70 competitors, received awards last Friday evening for their varying degree of expertise in the field of competition. Perhaps the most noteworthy is the consistent award of Highest Merit on the Field going once again to the horse-drawn class with Germain Boutin taking home this important trophy. The St. Francis match, which for several years lays claim to the largest event of this kind in the Townships, attracts competitors from Ontario and outside the Townships region, bringing together a wide variety of tractors and plows from the single furrow hydraulic type to three, four and sometimes five furrow plows as well as antique tractors and trailer plows. There are special prizes for "ins and outs" and best "finish." Teams of horses are also singled out for their neatness and overall appearance and behavior.

Special thanks to supporters, donors, organizers and competitors were expressed by both



CLAUDIA VILLEMARE

Fraser Smith and Mildred Holliday, senior plowperson and participant in one of the first plowing matches 60 years ago.

the president and secretary, Larry Cinnamon and his wife Joyce.

"Our success always depends on the generosity of donors and supporters who have proven once again their interest

through their generosity," Smith said. "But we mustn't forget the directors and volunteers who work very hard to ensure another successful year and I must say, they have succeeded once again with flying colours."

## CONCERT TICKETS TO GIVE-AWAY

The Record has 1 pair of tickets to attend the O.S.S., Orchestre Symphonique de Sherbrooke, on October 19, 2013 at the Centre Culturel, University of Sherbrooke.

To win the pair of tickets, just call The Record on Wednesday, October 16 at 9:30 a.m. 819-569-9525

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Serhiy Salov, piano

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Symphony No. 9 in Eb major, Op. 70

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2013  
2014  
SEASON




## Val-Saint-François flu vaccine schedule

WINDSOR

from noon to 7:30 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Hall, 5 Greenlay South, Windsor.

Community Centre, 387 Principale, Stoke.

The autumn season brings bright colours and cooler temperatures and also portends the beginning of the annual flu season. In preparation, the CSSS du Val-Saint-François will soon have available this year's seasonal flu shots. The free vaccine can be obtained without appointment at any of the following locations:

Richmond

Thursday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Community Centre, 820 Gouin, Richmond.

Valcourt

Tuesday, Nov. 12, from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. St Joseph's Community Centre, 820 Street, Valcourt

Windsor

Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14,

Stoke

Tuesday, Nov. 19, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Annual vaccination remains the most effective way to protect oneself against seasonal influenza. In addition to the vaccine, the public is encouraged to maximize its defenses against the flu by taking simple but effective hygiene measures such as washing hands frequently and coughing into your elbow.

Taking small everyday hygiene action avoids contaminating the environment.

## Programs and services for the elderly 'Be happy to live happily'



### THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

As part of the CAB Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre's SAPA (Soutiens Aux Personnes Ainees) program (funded through the CSSSM support for seniors with loss of autonomy and their caregivers), an English conference on programs and services for the elderly will take place on Thursday, Oct. 31 at 1:30 p.m. This session will be held at the Mansonville Town Hall (2nd floor, 2 Vale Perkins Street) in Mansonville.

Organized by SAPA coordinator, Angelle Laplume, this session will provide updated information on a variety of topics of interest to seniors and caregivers and will give attendees an opportunity to ask questions.

The SAPA program aims to develop and consolidate complimentary community based services for persons with loss of autonomy due to aging and their caregivers in the western sector of the MRC Memphremagog.

Through the volunteer centre, over 200 caregivers and isolated seniors have received direct services in the past year.



Through the volunteer centre, over 200 caregivers and isolated seniors have received direct services in the past year.

COURTESY

That number more than doubles with indirect services such as promotion, prevention and outreach.

The SAPA program offers a weekly Wednesday Drop-in for seniors once a week at the Elementary School in Mansonville which includes "VIACTIVE" which aims to help attendees to move more. This is a program created by Kino-Quebec aiming to keep people fit and in optimal health.

Support for Seniors (SAPA) services also include: Accompanied medical transportation, a resource guide for caregivers, income tax clinic, medical equip-

ment lending, and information to combat elderly abuse, support for seniors, and referrals to programs like the CAB's information centre for seniors (CIA) as well as the P.I.E.D. program for those who have already fallen or are concerned about their balance; a service offered free of charge by a rehabilitation technician where registration is mandatory due to limited places.

SAPA workshops, conferences and information sessions thus far have included topics such as: wills, home security with the SQ, and conferences like the one being held on Oct. 31 which

will include the contribution of two CLSC social workers (Robert Du Fresne and Marie-Andrée Brassat-Latulippe) and CIA project coordinator Lucie Bedard. SAPA coordinator, Angelle Laplume will also be there to promote, explain and answer questions on the SAPA programs for the elderly and their caregivers.

For more information about this CAB initiative or any of its many programs, visit: [www.cabmn.org](http://www.cabmn.org) or contact the CAB main office at 314-B Main Street, Mansonville. (450) 292-3114 ext. 103. (Angelle Laplume). [sapa@cabmn.org](mailto:sapa@cabmn.org)

## Reid confirms Orford candidacy

Record Staff  
MAGOG

Liberal MNA Pierre Reid has confirmed his intention to run again as a candidate in the next provincial election, which some are predicting could come as early as this December.

"I am more than ever con-

vinced of the great potential of the MRC Memphremagog, both economically and socially, as well as in tourism," Reid says, adding that he continues to be driven by a desire to serve the community.

"I'm still inspired by the same desire to serve the citizens of the County of Orford in the National Assembly. I sin-

cerely believe that the public deserves better than what the Parti Québécois government offered in September 2012 and this is an added incentive to get involved even more."

Reid cites his implication in the expansion of the Magog Hospital, the new La Ruche Sports Centre, the revitalization of Stanstead, and the de-

velopment of sports tourism, as evidence of his effectiveness.

"Through the awkward governance of the PQ, we lost more than 40,000 jobs in Quebec last year and this hasn't helped us here at all. Recent announcements by the PQ government are not reassuring because they are distant promises of money that does not exist," Reid says.

"The Orford population is entitled to a government that will put the economy back on track and that's what our Liberal team is offering under Philippe Couillard."

Reid was first elected as Liberal MNA for Orford in 2003 and was re-elected in 2007, 2008, and 2012.

## Suspicious fire destroys Magog RV

MAGOG

Police believe arson may be behind a fire that completely destroyed a recreational vehicle parked near Merry St. North in Magog on Saturday.

A dozen Magog firefighters were called to the scene at around 7 p.m. Although the fire was soon put out, the vehicle was a complete loss. There were no injuries related to the incident.

According to Magog Fire Chief Luc Paré, evidence at the scene has led investigators to be suspicious as to the fire's ori-

gins and the investigation has been handed over to Memphremagog Police.

### Post knocks out Sherbrooke's west-end power

A broken Hydro-Sherbrooke post was at the origin of a three-hour power outage that hit Rock Forest and Saint-Élie, Monday afternoon. Nearly 3,000 customers in the old village of Saint-Élie and Mi-Vallon areas were without power after the top of a power pole fell onto high-tension wires.

"A faulty high-voltage insulator burned the top of the column, causing it to fall onto

insulated lines," says Daniel Corriveau of Hydro-Sherbrooke.

The stretch of Highway 220 between Hamel and Dion streets was completely closed to traffic by firefighters while technicians made repairs.

Some customers were without power for nearly three hours until current was fully restored around 6 p.m.

### Deer in the headlights

The Sûreté du Québec and the Department of Transportation are reminding the public that at this time of year, the risk of collision with deer is higher because of their more frequent

presence by the roadside or directly on the road. In 2012, 22 per cent of all collisions in the Estrie region of the Sûreté du Québec involved an animal. Of these, a very large percentage was related to collisions with deer.

Dawn and dusk are the times of day when deer come out most and statistics clearly demonstrate the existence of two critical periods, one around June and one in October and November.

People are urged to take notice of the signs put up by the Ministry indicating the risk of collisions with large animals on

Estrie roads. These signs are installed in targeted areas where there is a herd or in places of major devastation, where there is a large concentration of deer, thereby increasing the risk of an accident.

Just on roads under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport Estrie division, there are annually about 650 collisions between vehicles and deer. These encounters with large animals result in significant social and material costs.

Last year, nearly 500 accidents involving animals involved damage of over \$2,000 and thirty people were injured.

# EDITORIAL

*Realistically, the changes the mayor desires are almost inevitable, and are the very intrusions the former towns feared at the time of the merger.*

## Rearranging the furniture



**Mike McDevitt**

One thing that can be said about Sherbrooke Mayor Bernard Sévigny without much fear of contradiction is that when he wants something badly enough, he's about as subtle as a bulldozer.

What the mayor wants this time – and the focus of his political strategy is the next phase of the centralization of Sherbrooke's municipal government. He's wanted that before, of course, and almost got it a couple of years ago, until an improperly tamed Council foiled his hard-won compromise, for reasons that may not have had anything to do with the merits of the plan. Mr. Sévigny was not amused, but allowed his displeasure to simmer on the backburner while he planned his revenge and, to make his point, is going even further than he dared before.

The issue at stake in the upcoming municipal election rests primarily on Sévigny's desire to 'rationalize' public administration throughout the Greater Sherbrooke area, primarily through the concentration of municipal services, standardization of regulations, and a reduction in overall costs. There is nothing new or revolutionary in this perspective, as the desire to concentrate and bureaucratize political authority could be considered a disease in Quebec, but Sévigny's plan does fly in the face of the original merger agreements that forced formerly independent towns into the clutches of the sprawling metropolis. The merger mania of the government of the day was irresistible and the communities of Lennoxville, Bromptonville, Fleurimont, Rock Forest, Ascot, Deauville, and Saint-Élie-d'Orford ceased to exist as autonomous entities and were bent and twisted into the borough sys-

tem that now appears to stand in Sévigny's way.

The loss of their identity did not go down universally well within these communities. Lennoxville, with its bilingual status and anglo heritage, garnered the most attention and it can be argued that this borough has resisted identifying with the greater city the most intensely and its large student population has allowed it to remain distinct within the larger community. The same can be said in large part for the former Bromptonville, which unlike Lennoxville was forced to drop the 'ville' from its name. Like Lennoxville, geography and the river have created a natural barrier preventing the kind of Sherbrookian spillover experienced by Fleurimont and Rock-Forest, both of whose unique identities were blurred by merger reorganization and have continued to decline as the city expands.

For Sévigny, the problems with the current arrangement are obvious. First of all, he argues that 19 councillors, in addition to the mayor, make for an overly unwieldy a body and cost the city much more than necessary in salaries – and time – in terms of getting things done. Secondly, the current structure inhibits the development of comprehensive, global planning, with borough councils having just enough authority to be a nuisance, but not enough to make a real difference. Finally, although the importance of this in the mayor's eyes is questionable, the current structure suffers from an inherent democratic imbalance that gives more weight to the votes of some citizens than others as the city's demographics change.

In response to these concerns, the mayor has come out swinging in his drive for a second mandate. Relying on his own record and approval ratings, which virtually guarantee him personal re-election, he has re-invigorated the political party he led into the last election, having successfully won over several prominent, formerly independent councillors to run under his banner. With several incumbents choosing not to run again, and the mayor's party running candidates everywhere, the likelihood of his winning a majority – and a tight grip – on city council have never been better.

Finally, in his new reorganization proposals, the mayor not only reduces the number of councillors from 19 to an

even dozen, but also alters the boroughs themselves, merging the vastly different boroughs of Brompton and Fleurimont, eliminating two downtown boroughs and expanding others, leaving only the enigma of Lennoxville intact, it's precious bilingual status too valuable to risk.

Sévigny's arguments for efficiency and cost saving resulting from centralization are the same 'common sense' arguments favoured by those, like the mayor, whose business management backgrounds value efficiency and structural elegance over intangibles like 'quality of life,' or 'community.' These were the arguments used in school boards and metropolitan areas throughout the continent and have never delivered the cost savings promised, and have rarely resulted in improvement of service. Nevertheless, the appeal is strong and nobody will argue that there aren't enough politicians yammering for our attention. The mayor seems to have a winning cause as a considerable majority of the city's residents favoured the former, milder proposal contained in the so-called Paquin Report, and a majority appear to back this one, too.

Realistically, the changes the mayor desires are almost inevitable, and are the very intrusions the former towns feared at the time of the merger. Increasingly, the sense of distinctness within the city is fading and residents of the outlying boroughs have come to see themselves more as Sherbrookers and less as citizens of Fleurimont or Rock Forest. Other identities have all but disappeared.

The Borough of Lennoxville occupies a unique position within the city structure and has, arguably, been the most vocal in vigorously defending its sense of uniqueness. During the public consultations over the Paquin Report, the community turned out in impressive numbers and demonstrated firmly and in a united voice that it was not interested in the proposed changes at all. This demonstration of unanimity impressed

Councillor Nathalie Goguen who was planning to run in the provincial election in the riding, which includes Lennoxville. Whether made from conviction or convenience, however, Goguen's vote rejecting the Paquin recommendations killed the project and handed the mayor his mandate's only humiliating defeat.

In presenting his new reorganization plan, Sévigny guaranteed that candidates elected under his banner would support his plan, essentially abolishing their own jobs.

The danger in this single-issue campaign, however, lies not so much in the content – the Mayor's plan is not inherently unreasonable, but with the means by which it is to be achieved, which is dangerous in its own right.

Sévigny has created a political party based on his own person and, should it succeed in obtaining a majority, political power, not to mention influence, will rest in his hands. Those wishing to gain the administration's ear will now have a direct, non-elected, non-accountable mechanism through which to exert their influence.

With a council loyal not to communities, but to a party, the executive committee will be able to get its wishes through quickly, to be sure, but not necessarily in the best interests of everybody and without rigorous scrutiny. Moreover, given the current Quebec context, voters should be aware that corruption in municipal government was eased through the existence of political parties and their funding needs.

Sévigny, by all accounts, has had a very successful administration and has managed to achieve this with a council dominated by independent men and women whose political legitimacy rested with the people who elected them. Sévigny's preferred scenario, however, consists of a dozen like-minded club members following the captain's lead. He is capable of better. It's too bad he's chosen the lesser path.

## Letter

### Fluoridation : Visit to Richmond's Water Treatment Plant

DEAR EDITOR:

On Sept. 27, the Citizens for Healthy Water in Richmond committee visited Richmond's water treatment plant.

The committee was happy to better understand the steps taken to add fluoride to Richmond's drinking water. In addition, the committee found it interesting to learn more about the origins of Richmond's drinking water and the treatment steps taken to respect the norms before it is released into the water supply.

"We were able to see that Richmond's fluoridation system is quite simple and that the installation added to the water treatment plant is very modest. We still do not understand Richmond's bill of \$260,000, the cost of this installation

whereas in Beaupré, for a bigger population than Richmond, the installations only cost \$45,000. This is a big difference in cost. Beaupré is the only city in Québec where a precedent for reimbursement has been set for voluntarily ending of fluoridation of their drinking water by their municipality. Richmond's municipal council has given itself the mandate of speaking with the city of Beaupré in an attempt to better understand their situation. We look forward to finding an explanation as to why the price difference is so big," states Marylène Pronovost, spokesperson for the committee.

The committee would like to thank the town's council for accepting to let them visit the water treatment plant and in particular, the technician at the plant for his time and explanations.

MANDY DEMERS  
RICHMOND

## THE RECORD

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### PRINT SUBSCRIPTIONS

QUEBEC:		GST	PST	TOTAL
1 YEAR	120.00	6.00	11.97	\$137.97
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3 MONTHS	32.00	1.60	3.19	\$36.79

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1 YEAR	55.00	2.75	5.49	\$63.24
1 MONTH	4.99	0.25	0.50	\$5.74

Rates for out of Quebec and for other services available on request.

The Record is published daily Monday to Friday. Back copies of The Record are available.

The Record was founded on February 9, 1897, and acquired the Sherbrooke Examiner (est. 1879) in 1905 and the Sherbrooke Gazette (est. 1837) in 1908. The Record is published by Alta Newspaper Group Limited Partnership.

PM#0040007682

Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to The Record, 1195 Galt East, Sherbrooke, QC J1G 1Y7

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# COLUMNIST

*There is something oddly savoury about it – as though in toughening up, I'm earning part of my knitter's badge of honour, moving through my rookie phase – like riding a bike.*

## Knit one, purl two



DISHPAN HANDS

SHEILA QUINN

The tip of my right index finger has a sensitive spot – the kind where you feel as though the fingerprint is worn away just a little, it's a smoother, softer spot. That spot of me is adjusting to a new ritual – the repetitive pressing on the end of a knitting needle.

It had been a long time since I had made any attempts at knitting – since back in the Gran Quinn days, when I'd sit beside her on the long, light grey couch in the windowed corner of their living room. That was her roost for the times when she relaxed (between constant cooking and cleaning, and run-

ning around after the grandkids), the place where she herself sat to knit, where she could watch TV (the news, every sport going and The Dukes of Hazard), and where most evenings she ate her supper from a small off-white tea tray with gold detailing – a chicken sandwich with tea and YumYum rippled plain potato chips.

Somehow, the summer I was 10 (1984), through enough determination on my part, and definite patience on Gran's part, I had figured out what I had to do. I could basically cast on, knit, purl and cast off. I never learned much more than that, never followed a pattern, but I managed to make a whole bunch of doll clothes.

Starting the Close-Knit Crafting Community on campus at Champlain and BU (as described recently in DH), has had a self-serving purpose – I'm aware of the meditative and healing nature of crafting, and how much more powerful it is to work on projects while in the company of others. When Lucinda Iglesias (owner of Sutton wool shop, Mont-Tricot) came to sell her wares and create with us last week, I had set aside a little mad money for knitting supplies. How exciting to purchase what, to me still appears to be, the new-fangled approach to knit-

ting needles – those connected by a long, plastic cord, and a skein of "silky baby alpaca" variety yarn in dark, smoky grey.

"It's like riding a bike," Lucinda, her mother Amalia and friend Carol told me. I started to cast on. Indeed "it" is coming back – knotted dance steps and swirls, repetitive movements and small tugs. The slender needles create a nice, tight, satisfying stitch. My hands felt a little cramped on the first afternoon, but a few days later I feel my dexterity improving. I'm always going to be dreadful at counting, so devising some system of keeping track is necessary.

On Sunday, Lucinda held a "mini festival of knitting" at Mont-Tricot, and the beautiful weather found us Sutton-bound, to take in the event and actually visit the shop for the first time. Mont-Tricot is like a candy store for knitters and non-knitters alike – there is something so attractive about the neat arrangement of skeins, products, samples, patterns, and Sunday's mini festival meant that there were knitters tucked into every available space, creating away.

Also on hand was Compton's David Lord, with his amazing sock knitting machine – a 1910 model. Lord specializes in the repair of such machines,

some dating back much further than the model he was working on.

Potted "knitting bowls" were on display, designed for a ball of yarn to sit in, with a cut out edge for the end of the yarn to pass through – keeping yarn in place, in a work of art, no less. Potted, painted buttons of all sizes were also on sale, to decorate and make pieces that much more unique.

When was the last time you rode a bike? If it's been a while, there are some spots in your under carriage that adjust to the bike seat, yet once you're rolling down the road, you realize that the adjustment is worth it, and in time, well, I guess you could say, your bum toughens up.

As the lines grow, and I spot little mistakes in my work, I can feel that spot on my index finger every time I push the needle through. There is something oddly savoury about it – as though in toughening up, I'm earning part of my knitter's badge of honour, moving through my rookie phase – like riding a bike.

DON'T MISS DH Radio tonight from 9:00 - 11:00 on CJMQ 88.9 FM with your hosts, Sheila Q. and Stéphane Bessette!

## Road infractions, road injuries steady over holiday weekend

Record Staff  
SHERBROOKE

There were 36 accidents on Estrie roads over the long holiday weekend, the SQ reports, with 11 involv-

ing personal injury and 25 other restricted to material damage.

In total, 541 notices of infraction were issued during the same period, two thirds of which involved incidents of excessive speed.

Police also handed out 223 warnings for various Highway Code infractions and eleven drivers were arrested for driving while impaired.

In 2012, 546 tickets were issued, of which 369 involved excessive speed.

The number of accident injuries remained the same this Thanksgiving as last, while the number of material damage accidents decreased to 25 from 44 in 2012.

## Why I won't be voting for Mayor Sevigny

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

two backhoes, and twelve workmen, over three separate days for what should have been a one day job.

You also need only ask anyone involved in groups as varied as local sports teams, art clubs, libraries, or social clubs just how cumbersome things become when they are forced to deal with the central administration – a process that would become more frequent if Mayor Sevigny has his way.

Part of this problem revolves around my second item of concern. Much of the emphasis on centralization is driven by and under the banner of cost cutting. No citizen will complain unduly when he or she is told the municipal government wants to save money. Unfortunately, once again, this is more of an illusion than an example of sound reasoning.

Take, for example, the suggestion that the number of town managers should be reduced.

In this scenario Lennoxville would share a manager with another borough, say perhaps Fleurimont. Eliminating one manager would indeed save money

– for the first year.

Unfortunately, experience would indicate that costs would actually rise soon after.

The manager, left to run two boroughs, would rightly believe his work and responsibilities had in fact doubled. He, or she, would therefore, once again rightly so, believe an increase in salary was merited. There would also likely be an increase in support staff to compensate for the increased work load.

This rule of 'bureaucratic ballooning' would hold true for the suggested reduction of councilors as well. Yes, fewer councilors would streamline many functions of city business but at the same time it stretches credulity to think the remaining councilors would not feel the need for an increase in pay as they picked up the work left by those departed. The result, inevitably, would be that the position of city councilor would become a full-time job, or at the very least a job with greatly increased remuneration.

But is that what the electors want? There is, to my knowledge, not one

example of a major municipal merger in this country, with the concomitant centralization, that has resulted in a net savings for taxpayers.

Which brings me to the elephant in the room.

If Mayor Sevigny was actually interested in cutting the cities budget and our taxes, he and city council would tackle our biggest expenditure – the city's unions. Staffing, salaries, pensions, work schedules and the like should be brought within the city's financial means. This, however, would be a difficult job. Much easier to make cosmetic cuts through badly thought-out centralization.

My final issue with our present mayor is perhaps the simplest. I strongly believe that at the municipal level political parties are simply wrong. If the examples of Montreal, Laval and Quebec city are not sufficient to deter party politics, common sense should at least prevail.

As most Quebecers have seen, to their dismay, municipal political parties are prone, at worst, to corruption and fiscal

hanky-panky and at best to abuse of power. When individual councilors owe their allegiance to the party and the mayor who leads it and not to the voters and borough which elected them, there is a disconnect in the democratic process.

Admittedly, having one party with a majority of councilors would allow for a much speedier enactment of proposed legislation. But at what cost? Much like the federal and provincial systems, a majority of elected members, or in this case councilors, seldom means a majority of the popular vote. What it does mean, however, is little or no restraint on the party in power.

Perhaps it is time for our municipal leaders to realize that the greater control voters feel they have over their neighbourhood, their borough or their city, the greater will be their participation and contribution. Unfortunately, Mayor Sevigny doesn't agree.

TIM BELFORD,  
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
LENOXVILLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

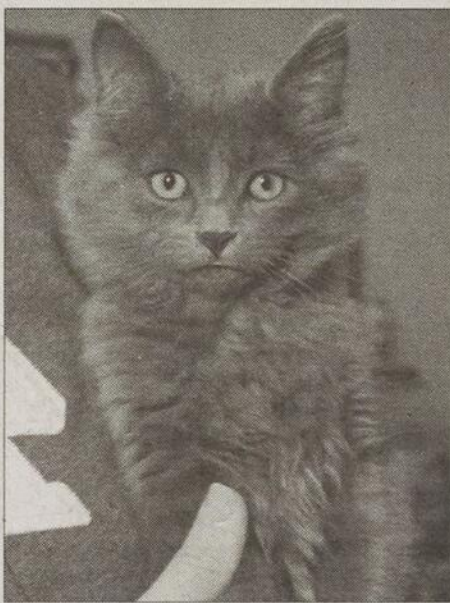
# THE PET CONNECTION



Jen Young

**Twinkles the chipmunk catcher**  
 A few days ago, Missy, our resident Pet Connection caught a chipmunk and brought it in to the warehouse as a gift for us. Lucky us. She let it go in the warehouse and for three days we had all been trying to catch that chipmunk. Last Friday, Shannon came upstairs from day care and I heard her yell at my boys who were working in the warehouse, "Guys, there's the chipmunk." After commotion I come out of my office, but it was too late for the chipmunk. You see, he ran out of the warehouse, through

Olive and Oscar's cage; right between them, around the corner, into the grooming room and another right and that chipmunk was in the cat house with eight cats. It took two seconds for Twinkles to wake up out of a dead sleep and catch that chipmunk. Unfortunately for the chipmunk, there was no way we were fast enough to get him out of her mouth. So, rest in peace chipmunk, but you should have seen how proud of herself Twinkles was. If anyone is dealing with mice problems, Twinkles would be a perfect adoption for you.



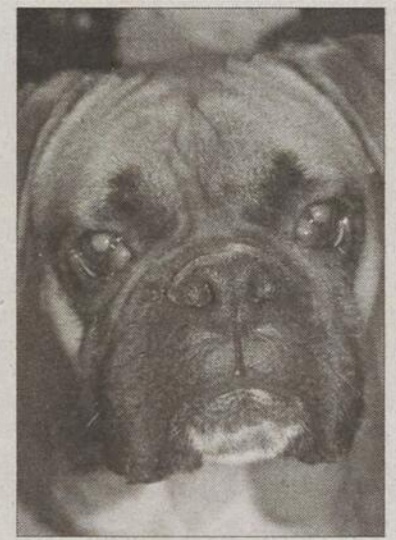
Smokey is six months old. He is a beautiful boy and quiet.



Wiley is an overly affectionate Labernese. He loves to be cuddled. Because he is older, he is seven, he had some skin tags (formations of skin) on his chest. It will be up to his new masters if they are to be removed or not, but he is just happy being loved.



Barkley is three years old. He is a goldendoodle. He is great with other dogs but is anxious and would not be suitable for a family with young children.



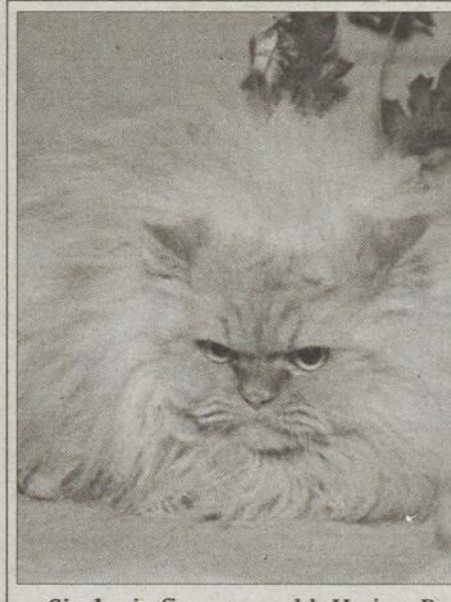
Jones, the male boxer who was found over a month ago, never had any masters look for him. He now needs a new loving home. He has "cherry eye," which is a condition where the inside of tear ducts pushes out. It causes him no pain and his new masters can decide whether they will have his eyes operated on or not. He is very affectionate and obedient. Good with dogs, cats and kids.



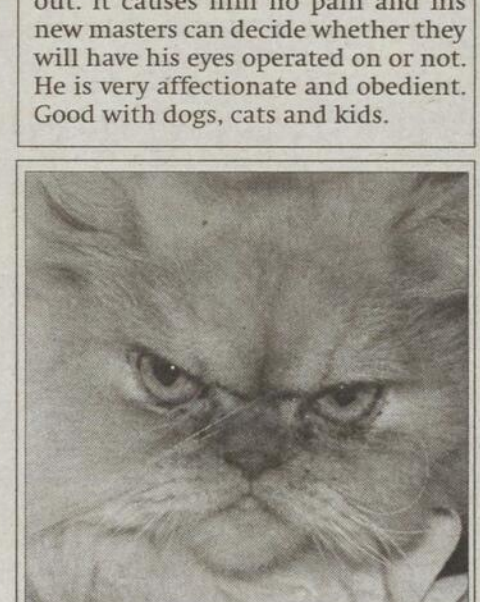
Jemma is an 11-month-old cat who is scared at first but very affectionate.



Jersey is seven months now. She is full of energy and waiting for the perfect new master.



Simba is five years old. He is a Persian and declawed. He is timid and likes to nap during the day.



Sirabi is five years old, she too is a Persian and shy. She also is declawed.

This page is provided by Blue Seal - The Animal Nutrition Centre and The Pet Connection.



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# Richmond County Women's Institute semi-annual meeting

**Mona McGee**  
Publicity and Awareness Chair  
Richmond County Women's Institute

The semi-annual meeting of the Richmond County W.I. was held on Monday, September 30, 2013 at the St. Anne's Church Hall. President Vera Hughes called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. by all repeating the Mary Stewart Collect and the Opening Ode. A minute of silence was held for deceased member, Grace Taylor, who had served for 65 years in the W.I. The roll call was answered by 24 members. The minutes of the annual general meeting and a special executive county meeting, which dealt with the changes in assessment fee payment, were read. The minutes were approved with one correction — the decorated bank was won by Gore W.I.

## Business Arising

The roses are now planted at the Upper Melbourne Town Hall. The W.I. groups will not need to look after them anymore as they will be looked after by the municipality. A discussion was held on what to do if these roses need to be replaced.

Motion: A motion was made that Richmond County W.I. advise the Melbourne Township Council that the W.I. would be willing to donate money to cover the cost of replacement of Adelaide Hoodless roses that may have died during the growing season.

Moved by: Muriel Duffy, seconded by: Joan Morrison, all in favour.

Bread Tags and soft drink can tabs are now going to be sent to the Veteran's Hospital in Montreal. These can be given to Vera Hughes and she will get them there.

The semi-annual meeting was changed to St. Anne's Church Hall due to the road closure in Melbourne.

The open position of First Vice-President for county will be left until the annual county meeting.

## Correspondence

A letter was read from the FWIC — the article on "Growing a Healthy You" was not able to be printed off the computer. The FWIC convention for 2014 will be held in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

An invitation to Pontiac W.I.'s 100th anniversary celebration — a bus will leave from Cowansville but no interest from Richmond in going on the bus. Muriel Duffy said that she would be attending.

## Treasurer's Report

Ruth Mountain gave the financial report. All fair prizes had been paid. Bills were given in for payment.

Motion: A motion was made to pay all bills.

Moved by Matty Banfill, seconded by: Estelle Blouin, all in favour.

Vera Hughes reported on the following:

If anyone needs W.I. pins they can first contact other branches to see if they have any not being used.

The wool gathering is still going on and articles can be sent wherever you wish.

Spooner Pond had a lot of entries in the QWI crafts. It was stressed that if exhibiting a sock monkey, do not dress him up, as the entry will be disqualified.

When entering handicraft competitions be sure to put your name and branch in a sealed envelope so that it is not visible at time of judging. This was not mentioned in the QWI president's letter.

Scrapbook pages and banks were judged by the people attending the convention.

The decorated banks — the project for fundraising is continuing but the banks will not be judged again.

## Committee Chair Reports

**Agriculture** — Cindy Johnston thanked all members who helped at the W.I. booth at the fair. She reported on the entries in the W.I. section at the fair. To be noted: Group '92 had no entries in the penny creation. Gore had no entries in the Halloween mask. RYWI had one entry in wind chimes. Spooner Pond had one entry in Play Doh figure.

The results of the Interbranch Competition were as follows: Gore - first; Group '92 - second; Cleveland - third; Spooner Pond - fourth; RYWI - fifth. Entries were judged on the plants and not the planters.

If any branches have any changes for

entries they are to contact Cindy Jackson.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Agricultural Society asking for a parking pass for a W.I. helper to be able to park in the back near the ladies' building.

The inter-branch competition for 2014 is in charge of Group 92. Each branch was given the instructions. Each member of the branch creates one of the following. They may be judged at branch level but only one entry from each branch will be judged at Richmond Fair.

Article: Homemade Ladies Folding Hand Fan

Size: Maximum 12 inches high

Materials: Any material may be used or recycled material. No samples will be required.

**Education** — Patricia Keenan-Adank reported on the Past President's 2013 Essay Competition. She received 80 entries from St. Francis and ADS elementary schools. Winners were as follows:

Grade 1 - Best Friend: First - Daphne Morin Mauriee from St. Francis; Second - Elyse Robidas-Loiselle from St. Francis; Third - Madeleine Lepine from St. Francis.

Grade 2 - Back in Time: First - Sophie Liebrecht from St. Francis; Second - Kolton Crack from St. Francis; Third - Hailey Dubois from St. Francis; Fourth - Kaitlyn Brock from St. Francis.

Grade 4-5 - Flight: First - Joshua Turnbull from St. Francis; Second - Lea Groleau from ADS; Third - Felicia St Hilaire from St. Francis.

Grade 6: Perfect High School: First - Marianne Lessard-Mastine from ADS; Second - Anne Bachand-Laberge from ADS; Third - Samuel Richard from ADS.

Patricia reported that the winners of the Richmond County W.I. Bursaries at Richmond Regional were Rebecca Caron and Matthew Morin. She has received confirmation and thank-you from both students so that their bursaries can be sent out to them.

**Health and Community Living** — Louise Perkins reported that she had sent out 300 soup labels.

Publicity - Mona McGee reported that

no news had been received from the branches. Publicity convenors can send any news from their branch at any time.

**Sunshine** — Vera Hughes reported on sending nine cards to date. She will do a card for Pontiac County's 100th anniversary.

The inter-branch competition for 2013 was won by Gore. Blanche Mastine received the plaque for this.

Vera Hughes and Joyce Cinnamon presented Ruth Mountain of Gore W.I. with her Life Membership pin. Ruth has been a member of the W.I. for 62 years.

Melbourne Ridge had asked Vera to find out if they set the price for catering at the county meeting.

The volunteer centre will be having their luncheon on December 5, 2013. Each W.I. branch is responsible for three pans of squares (9 x 13). Be sure to mark the group on your squares and they can be taken before the date to the volunteer centre. One person from each branch is invited free and any others would be at a cost of \$12 each. Branches are to give the names to Vera at the end of their November meeting of who is attending.

Marjorie Lancaster will be looking into another bus trip for 2014.

2014 is the 100th of QWI "Convention." She was wondering if Richmond County should look into getting a bus to go to this special event. Convention will be at the end of May 2014. Delegates are to take this back to their branches and get back to Vera on the answer. The final decision will be made at the County Annual Meeting in March 2014.

All chair convenor reports are due to be read at the November branch meeting and then sent to the County Convenor right after the meeting.

Seamen's boxes — Fran Dewar said they will be picked up around the first of December.

The annual meeting will be Saturday, March 22, 2014 at 10 a.m. at St. Andrews Church Hall in Melbourne. If a bad snowstorm it will be on the following Saturday.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Vera Hughes at 11 a.m.

## Drunk driving rankles in Brome-Missisquoi

Record Staff  
COWANSVILLE

In spite of intensive anti-impaired driving campaigns by local police, drunk driving continues to be a problem in Brome-Missisquoi with five arrests having been made for this type of offence over the holiday weekend.

The first offender was apprehended Friday evening by border officials in Saint-Armand. Border security officers called in the Brome-Missisquoi SQ to assist with an inebriated driver.

"The 35-year old man from Quebec City was taken into custody and administered a blood test at the police station," said SQ spokesperson Aurélie Guin-

don. "A radar detector was also seized from his vehicle."

Then, a man in his fifties was intercepted early Saturday morning while driving without headlights in Cowansville. The driver, who had just left a bar, failed a breath test.

On Saturday evening, another individual was intercepted leaving a bar by patrol

officers and he too failed a breath test.

On Monday, an 18-year old, under zero tolerance for alcohol was intercepted in Bedford and was found to have consumed alcohol prior to driving. He received a \$451 dollar fine, four demerit points, and had his license suspended for 90 days.

Finally, on Monday evening,

a 61-year old man was stopped for running a red light on River St. in Cowansville.

"Although the man didn't fail the breathalyser test, he was arrested anyway under Article 253 Sec. 1a of the criminal code, which makes it an offence to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

## Active transit in Coaticook and du Granit

SHERBROOKE

In the next year, ten municipalities in the du Granit and Coaticook MRCs will be at the heart of the 'On foot, by bike, active city' program managed by the Regional Environmental Council of the Eastern Townships (CREE).

The City of Sherbrooke is also in the game with two schools

putting heels to the ground.

The CREE initiative provides an opportunity for municipalities to conduct an analysis of the various issues that hinder citizens from moving about on foot or by bike in their city, especially to school.

The objective is to determine incentives for walking and cycling in the community and around schools.

For Paule Rochette, Granite Action Coordinator, the initiative addresses concerns raised during various consultations with the community. "People are concerned about health and safety and this program is timely and will unite local stakeholders around a common goal. In addition, Granite Action provides an opportunity for municipalities, having participated

in the process, to encourage theme activities."

Coaticook MRC urban planner Philippe Brault believes that such an approach is innovative for the region. "This will initiate a reflection on the primary role active transport can have in the dynamic heart of villagers. The school is usually at the centre of the village. In addition, this approach fits perfectly into recent

family policies of the seven municipalities that have such plans."

The municipalities involved in this program include Lac-Mégantic, Saint-Augustin-de-Woburn, Sainte-Cécile-de-Whitton, Waterville, Compton, Saint-Malo, East Hereford, Martinville, Sainte-Edwidge-de-Clifton, Dixville, and Sherbrooke.

# Local Sports

"...In my case, my fondest memories are of my days of minor hockey, and for some kids that's not happening and that's wrong."

## 'Orr: My Story' is defenceman's mix of life experience and hockey advice

By Stephen Whyno  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

**B**obby Orr waited 35 years after his final NHL game to write a book. The result is a reflection on the nostalgia of playing hockey on frozen ponds growing up in Parry Sound, Ont., the physical and emotional pain of knee injuries that cut his career short and the off-ice struggles that the legendary Boston Bruins defenceman hasn't talked much about.

"Orr: My Story" was also created as something of a how-to book by a grandparent about how parents, coaches and children should approach the sport.

"I touch a lot of things, people who have made a difference, people who have sacrificed so I could reach my goals," Orr said in an interview with The Canadian Press. "I talk about a lot of different things and finally I convinced myself that maybe I could put something together that the reader will get something from."

Over roughly 300 pages, Orr, with the help of author and former player Vern Stenlund, describes his beginnings as a talented young rushing defenceman through his Hall of Fame NHL career. Lessons, like his father's hands-off approach to hockey, are dropped in along the way.

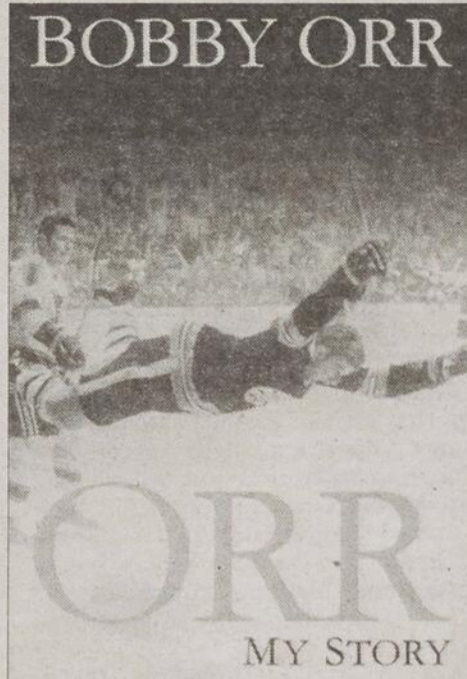
"People would come up to my father and say, 'Your son's going to play in the NHL,'" Orr said. "And he'd come to me and say, 'Look, go out and play, have fun and we'll see what happens.' That's how it should be."

Regrets aren't a major part of the narrative, aside from the knee injuries that limited the eight-time Norris Trophy winner to just nine full NHL seasons and parts of three more. In the past, Orr hadn't been all that open about discussing his knee issues, and this book offers a look into the psychology of injury and the mindset of an athlete robbed of the physical ability to do what his mind thinks he can.

"In the end that's why I stopped," he said. "I had a way I played, and I just couldn't play like that anymore. I couldn't skate. Skating was my game, and I just couldn't play the game that I used to play, and that was very difficult. To finally sit there and say, 'Hey, it's over, you've taken my skates from me, I can't play anymore' was a very difficult thing to do. But I just couldn't do it."

Orr mentions early on that it wasn't his intention to dig up dirt from the past. For much of the time, the focus remains on his journey to the NHL and the two Stanley Cups he won with the Bruins.

The one person who isn't spared harsh criticism is former agent and former NHL Players' Association executive director Alan Eagleson, who stole money from Orr and others along the way. Orr's finances were destroyed by a man who went on to be convicted of fraud and embezzlement.



Orr had to be convinced by the book's publisher to write about Eagleson, but he conceded it was the right decision and then didn't hold back.

"He stole from the guys that he was representing and back in those days, early on, this was supposedly going towards pensions for the players," he said. "Here's a man, he's been a convicted felon, stripped of his Order of Canada, out of the Hall of Fame, disbarred. What he did was disgraceful to the people that trusted him like I did. I trusted Alan. He was like a brother and I trusted him with everything. Not only me but so many players, he hurt so many players. It's incredible."

Orr left plenty of room for praise, especially of his wife, Peggy, several minor-hockey coaches, and the player he still admires more than any other, Gordie Howe. Perhaps more than anyone else, Orr singles out Don Cherry, as an entire chapter is devoted to "Grapes," one of his coaches with the Bruins and a longtime friend.

"Don came to Parry Sound for an Easter Seals skate-a-thon, so before leaving town we went over to see Grandma Orr," Orr said. "Gram Orr was, she was over 90 then and she was a little lady. We walked in, she didn't see very well and I walked over and said, 'You know Don Cherry.' She's looking up at him and she says: 'I like you. You're the only one that tells the truth,' and she's poking him in the chest. She's over 90. Like him or dislike him, they watch and they listen."

Orr contends that Cherry belongs in the Hockey Hall of Fame as a builder, more for his years on "Coach's Corner" as a respected voice than for his one game as a player and six seasons as an NHL head coach.

That's far from the only opinion Orr shares. Now an agent and the head of The Orr Hockey Group, the 65-year-old believes fighting and hitting should remain in the game but that the red line should be put back in and the trapezoid

behind the net taken out to reduce injuries.

"I think today our game is a little more dangerous because of the size of the players, the speed of the players, the strength of the players, and we have no barriers," Orr said. "I like the open game, but I think we've got to really be careful now. The players always have to be aware of where they are. Many of them are coming through the middle with their heads down."

"We are a contact game, but the thing we've got to rid of, we've got to get rid of those high, blind-side hits, the hitting from behind."

Even with the concerns about getting hit, Orr said he'd enjoy playing today because as a creative skater and puck handler he'd have more room to work with than during his career. But he doesn't know if his risky style would be tolerated, especially growing up in an age where kids learn systems and are coached to make the smart play from a young age.

"I played a style that most defencemen didn't play," he said. "Coaches didn't like that style: defencemen going down the ice. They did not ask me to change from the time I was 14 through junior and into the pros. They just thought that's the way I was most effective, and I would hope if I was coming into the game today that the coaches and the team would think the same thing."

Times have changed, something Orr freely acknowledges. The innocence of him and his friends leaving in the morning to play hockey and being told by

their parents to be home by dark just isn't possible in a lot of places anymore.

But that doesn't mean Orr is afraid to share his philosophies, like the notion that children — even if they're that "Next One" — shouldn't play hockey year-round and should be encouraged to play other sports. More than an attempt to get the NHL to change its rules, Orr wants his autobiography to be a teaching tool for parents, coaches and young players.

"We don't have any control on what goes on at the NHL level in minor sports. But we're supposed to have control over our kids' programs," Orr said. "There should be rules (for) what happens inside their organizations, and we all have to work together to make sure it's a great experience for every kid. In my case, my fondest memories are of my days of minor hockey, and for some kids that's not happening and that's wrong."

Eric Lindros' parents asked Orr's folks for advice when Lindros was the so-called "Next One." Their answer was to do nothing, a sentiment their son tries to pass along decades later.

"I guarantee any of the parents, if your son or daughter has the ability to play at a higher level, as long as they're having fun, as long as they love the game, as long as they have passion for the game, they'll get a chance," Orr said. "Keep in mind, .0025 per cent of all kids playing hockey ever play one game (in the NHL), so the chances of your son being the one, it's slim."

"It's a marathon, not a sprint. Leave the kids, let them play, let them have fun, we'll see what happens."

### Bobby Orr believes Don Cherry belongs in Hockey Hall of Fame

By Stephen Whyno  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

**I**f it was up to Bobby Orr, Don Cherry would be in the Hockey Hall of Fame. The former star defenceman writes in his new autobiography, "Orr: My Story," that Cherry deserves to be inducted in the builder category for his standing in the sport that goes beyond the one NHL game he played and six seasons he spent as a head coach.

"His stature within the hockey community is significant and meaningful, and his importance is as great as that of any player, past or present," Orr writes as part of an entire chapter devoted to his former coach and longtime close friend.

Cherry coached Orr for parts of two seasons with the Boston Bruins, and the two have remained close over the years. The Hall of Famer knows it's impossible for him to remain objective about Cherry but sincerely believes the "Hockey Night in Canada" personality should get his due.

"Is there anyone bigger than Don

Cherry in our game today? It's incredible what this man does," Orr said in an interview with The Canadian Press. "People have no idea. They think Don's this big rough, gruff guy. He's paid to give an opinion. Like him or dislike him, when he comes on, everybody, they listen."

Orr writes about Cherry's visit to his grandmother's house in Parry Sound, Ont., in which the woman in her 90s said to him: "I like you, because you're the only one who always tells the truth."

"You have no idea how many e-mails that I get from Don about send[ing] something to this person, that person," he said. "He does a lot of work that people don't know anything about, and he doesn't advertise it."

"Given his long-standing and continuing contributions to the game, both home and abroad, he is more than worthy of nomination into the Hockey Hall of Fame," Orr writes. "And I can tell you, I will most definitely be in the audience that evening when this oversight is corrected."

**Death**



**Doris Marguerite BANFILL**

Aged 90 of Waterville, Québec passed away on October 3, 2013 at the Coaticook hospital. Born in Sherbrooke, she was the daughter of the late Herbert and Evelyn (Smith) Banfill. She was predeceased by her brother Earl and baby sister Marian.

A hard working, kind and generous person, Doris was not only employed for 27 years at Union Screen Plate, but put in long hours at the family farm before and after going to her job. She enjoyed people and loved to laugh. The home was a frequent meeting place for the families in the area, and in fact, many young people would help out and as a result learned much about farming.

Doris was an active member of the Pioneer Historical Society and was a dependable source of information for many. By request, cremation has taken place. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, November 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the United Church in Waterville, followed by an interment and reception. In lieu of flowers, donations in Doris' memory may be made to a charity of your choice.

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**Death**



**Edith Lurinda McGOVERN**  
1934-2013

Passed away at her residence in Magog, Quebec on October 12, 2013.

She leaves to mourn her children: Brenda (Alain), Gary (Elizabeth), Walter (Simone), Joyce (Martin), Sheila, John (Ellymay), and her 17 grandchildren and her great grandchildren, as well as friends and family.

There will be a church service on the 19th of October at 11 a.m. at St-Luke Anglican Church, 120 des Pins St. following the burial in Cherry River (Orford).

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**Datebook**

Today is the 289th day of 2013 and the 25th day of autumn.

**TODAY'S HISTORY:** In 1859, abolitionist John Brown led a raid on Harpers Ferry, Va.

In 1923, brothers Walt and Roy Disney founded Walt Disney Productions (now known as The Walt Disney Company) in Los Angeles.

In 1964, China detonated its first atomic bomb.

In 1995, hundreds of thousands of black men joined the Million Man March, led by Louis Farrakhan in Washington, D.C.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS:** Noah Webster (1758-1843), lexicographer; Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), playwright; David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973), statesman/first Israeli prime minister; Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953), playwright; Angela Lansbury (1925- ), actress; Gunter Grass (1927- ), novelist; Suzanne Somers (1946- ), actress; Bob Weir (1947- ), musician; Tim Robbins (1958- ), actor; John Mayer (1977- ), musician; Bryce Harper (1992- ), baseball player.

**TODAY'S FACT:** In 1986, Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner and his guide reached the summit of Lhotse in Nepal, becoming the first climber to ascend all 14 of the world's "eight-thousanders" — mountain peaks more than 8,000 meters (26,000 feet) above sea level.

**TODAY'S SPORTS:** In 1969, the 8-year-old New York Mets won the World Series over the Baltimore Orioles.

**TODAY'S QUOTE:** "I have the simplest tastes. I am always satisfied with the best." — Oscar Wilde

**TODAY'S NUMBER:** 9 — countries thought to have nuclear-weapon capabilities in 2013 (the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel).

**TODAY'S MOON:** Between first quarter moon (Oct. 11) and full moon (Oct. 18).

**In Memoriam**

**BRAZEL, Janice Alden** - In loving memory of a special friend whom God called home October 16, 2010.

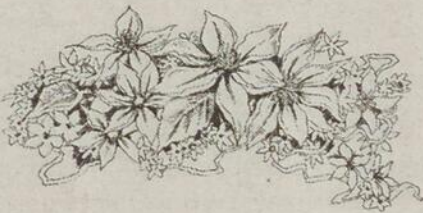
*There is always a lonely heartache  
And often a silent tear,  
And always precious memories  
Of the days when you were here.*

Sadly missed and always remembered,  
MICHAEL, ELSIE & FAMILY

**Card of Thanks**

**HOWE** - The family of the late David E.E. Howe extend their heartfelt gratitude to relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, visits, phone calls, cards, flowers, donations and acts of kindness during this very difficult time. Thanks to Rev. Rosemary Howe and C.B.P. Chaplain Christopher Buckles for their help and support.

Thank you,  
MARGARET STONE  
AND FAMILY



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With photo: additional \$18.50. **DEADLINE:** 11 a.m., day before publication.  
**BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY & GET-WELL WISHES, ENGAGEMENT NOTICES:**  
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With photo: \$25.00 (\$28.74 taxes included) **DEADLINE:** 3 days before publication.  
**WEDDING WRITE-UPS, OBITUARIES:**  
\$25.00 (\$28.74 taxes included) **WITH PHOTO:** \$35.00 (\$40.24 taxes included)

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# If you've been dating for a year, you are already "in a relationship"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013

## Annie's Mailbox

**Dear Annie:** I have been in a relationship with a wonderful guy for a year. We are in our mid-20s. Both of us are interested in moving abroad in the near future.

When we started dating, we just wanted to have fun. I have since graduated and am currently working. He is also a graduate, but has yet to find a job. The problem is, I have begun to really care for him and want to change our status from "just dating" to "in a relationship." However, he still doesn't want to take that step. He says it's because he hasn't started his career yet. He also thinks we are too young to be thinking about marriage, and I agree with that. I'm not interested in marrying in the next few years, but I do want to be in a relationship with someone for a few years before I start thinking about marriage.

This has left me wondering whether I should take it down a notch and enjoy whatever time we have left together, or walk away. — Confused and Sad

**Dear Confused:** If you've been dating for a year, you are already "in a relationship" whether he acknowledges it or not. He believes making it official is akin to a pre-engagement, and he's not ready for that. If you enjoy being with him, feel free to continue and

use the time to "start thinking about marriage." Relationships don't come with guarantees. Only time will help you decide. But until there is a commitment in place, we suggest that you not build your choices around his. Do whatever is best for YOU.

**Dear Annie:** Several years ago, I was cut out of the life of a family member I had previously been close to. No explanation, nothing. Suddenly I'm persona non grata. I tried to talk to her and asked what I had done. I told her that if she would just discuss it with me, I would apologize, if necessary, although I won't apologize for something I don't know I've done.

I just found out that this person is now a grandmother. I posted a congratulatory message on her Facebook page, and now I'm blocked. When the rift occurred, I asked my parents to intervene and find out what was wrong. They refused, saying they didn't want to get involved. I asked my ex-friend's parents and was told it wasn't any of their business. I tried writing this person and asking for an explanation. No response.

I no longer care to reconcile, but I would still like an explanation. — Too Late To Try Again

**Dear Too:** We're sorry you have been stonewalled, but this is not uncommon. Of course, it would be nice if she would tell you why you've been cut off, giving you the opportunity to explain or apologize. And there is nothing wrong with giving a blanket apology, not necessarily for wrongdoing, but for somehow damaging the relationship, even unintentionally. But too many people believe that spelling out the reason would be more damaging than silence, or they may subscribe to the mind-reading school, thinking you should "know" the reason. The fact that no other person will intercede on your behalf indicates there is little hope of reconciliation or of finding the explanation you desire. Accept it and move on.

**Dear Annie:** Tell "Trying To Get Granny To Shower" that for around \$200, Granny's bathtub can be made safe and easy. A shower seat is just the beginning. Add a hose extension to the showerhead so she can direct the flow where she wants it and not have water get in her face. Then install a pole that extends from floor to ceiling just outside the tub so she can hold on as she gets in and out. I ordered mine through a well-known drugstore. — Marsha, Age 76

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

## Ladies Auxiliary Br. 15 Richmond

The first Military Whist party for the fall season was held at the Legion Hall on Sept. 26 with players at 19 tables.

After a warm welcome and a few announcements, play was under way. In no time, it was time to give out the prizes and lunch.

High with 29 went to Judy and Francis Saffin, Ian and Shirley Smith. Second with 28 went to Matty and Evie Banfill, Pearl Armstrong and Linda Badger. Low with 13 went to Sydney and Donna Mills, Annie Day and Pauline Fecteau.

Door Prizes: Marie Berthe Skerry, Fran Cunningham, John Sharman, Raymond Mastine, Jackie Ross, Jeannine Gosselin, Elizabeth Mastine, Nicole Clark, Bob Dunn, Pauline Fecteau, Pauline Lelerc, Klea Mastine, Marty Banfill, Robin Converse, Marjorie Lancaster, Peter Boisvert, Annie Day, Collette Pageau, Ghyslaine Redburn, Daisy McGee, Debbie Knowles, Hughie Lancaster, Helen Knowles. Grocery boxes went to Suzanne Tremblay and Freda Clark.

Many thanks to all who brought in prizes and helped in any way. Especially for your support. Much appreciated. Hope to see you all again in October.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mildred E. Holliday, P.P.  
Publicity

## Bury United Cultural Center card party news

The Bury United Cultural Center held two fun card parties in September. At the first one, on September 10, Grayce Betts won the first prize with a SUPER score of 7020, Laura Fleury came second with a score of 5800. Clayton Lackie came first for the gents with a score of 5360 and Cathy Jacklin came second with a score of 5260. The special 9 no trump bid was won by Nancy Spalding while Belva Dougherty won the most skunks. Grocery boxes were taken home by Sylvia Aulis and Clayton Lackie.

Door prizes were won by June Morrison, Marilyn Salter, Teresa Jacklin, Belva Dougherty, Bruce and Lynn Grapes, Nancy Spalding, Margaret James, Leo Fleury, Durwood Dougherty, Lorna Bennett, Brad Grapes, Shirley Lowe, Sylvia Aulis, Judy Gilbert and Jean Lackie.

The second card party was held on September 17. Our first place winner, Cathy Jacklin, had a SUPER score of 7000. Ann Auray came second with a score of 5680. First for the gents was Grant Taylor with a score of 5820 and Judy Gilbert was second with a score of 5600. Margaret James won for ten bids, Helen Taylor for 9 no trump and Francis for Skunks. The grocery boxes were won by June Morrison and Lynn Grapes.

Door prizes went home with Madelyn Betts, Jean Lackie, Laura Fleury, Shirley Lowe, Lorna Bennett, Serena Wintle, Mayotta Taylor, Grayce Betts, June Morrison, Harris Olsson, Leo Fleury, Phil Auray, Ellen Bennett, Greta Jones, Keith Bennett, Bruce Grapes, Ryan Murray, Helena McComb, Nancy Spalding, Celina LeBlanc and Doreen Lancaster.

The afternoons were successful as everyone enjoyed good conversations, lots of laughter and really good food. The members of the Cultural Center thank you for your wonderful support and look forward to seeing you next spring.

Submitted by  
Margaret James

## Healthy lifestyle helps maintain executive function

ASK DOCTOR K  
by Anthony L. Komaroff, M.D.

**DEAR DOCTOR K:** I recently read that aging affects something called "executive function." Could you please explain what this is?

**DEAR READER:** Executive function is an umbrella term for the complex thinking required to make choices, plan, initiate action and inhibit impulses. You can think of executive function as your "inner CEO."

Executive function is more complicated than it might seem at first glance. Let's look at planning, for example. What do you need to do when you plan? You need to set a goal. Then you need to focus on the task at hand and ignore other tasks. You need to ask yourself if you have any behaviors that you need to curb to get the task done — and change those behaviors if the answer is "yes."

For instance, do you tend to get distracted? Do you shy away from asking others for help? Can you improve how you explain your vision or plans to others? That's just a partial list.

Not surprisingly, executive function can be more important than many kinds of memory for managing the day-to-day tasks of independent living.

The good news is that you can help preserve executive function by doing many of the same things you should already be doing to stay healthy. Older people who exercise, for example, have better executive function than those who remain idle. Aerobic exercise may be especially beneficial.

Lack of sleep scrambles executive function, so there's another reason to get enough sleep. High blood pressure seems to have a harmful effect on executive function. So if you have it, make the lifestyle changes required and take

the medicines prescribed.

Researchers are looking into whether certain drugs might help older people with executive function deficits. So far, the results have been mixed.

In the meantime, try the following to improve (or compensate for) your executive function:

— Pay attention to paying attention. In other words, work on maintaining focus. If you're easily distracted, do what you can to remove distractions. Does your smartphone always need to be on? Callers can leave messages, and you can pick up your emails and text messages later.

I had one patient who found himself so easily distracted that he created a small enclosed work area in his basement where he had only a chair, desk and computer — no books, no phone, no radio, music player or TV. He also had an alarm clock and developed the discipline to get up and leave the room only once every two hours, when the alarm clock went off. Seem excessive? It worked for him.

— Say it out loud. This is a standard memory tip. For example, "I am now putting my keys in my pocket."

— Make it a habit. Always put keys and other personal items in the same place so you don't have to remember where you put them.

— Write it down. Lists and plans of action are a way of "outsourcing" executive function from the brain to a piece of paper or a computer file.

Follow these tips, and your "inner CEO" may stay in good shape.

(Dr. Komaroff is a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School. To send questions, go to AskDoctorK.com, or write: Ask Doctor K, 10 Shattuck St., Second Floor, Boston, MA 02115.)

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**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.

"YKT ELTMY SKMHHTGET BN  
MFPHYKBBF XZ KBHFXGE BG YB VBPL  
XFTMHXZU MNYTL VBP HBZT VBPL  
XGGBSTGST." — ALPST ZRLXGEZYT TG

Previous Solution: "I've always associated the moment of writing with a moment of lift, of joy, of unexpected reward." — Seamus Heaney

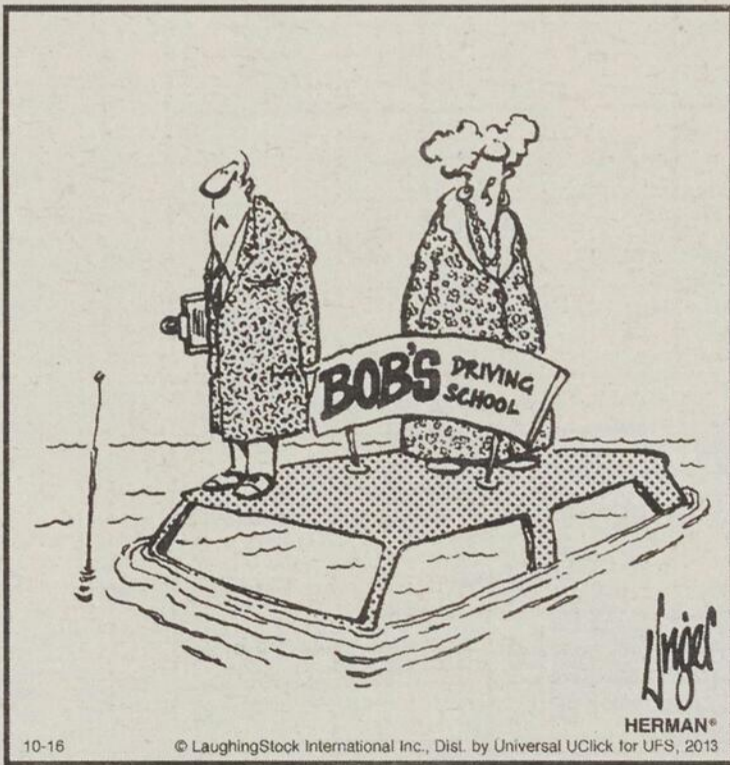
TODAY'S CLUE: g s t n b a v

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**KIT N' CARLYLE**



**HERMAN**



"Well, at least the trip's over."

**ALLEY OOP**



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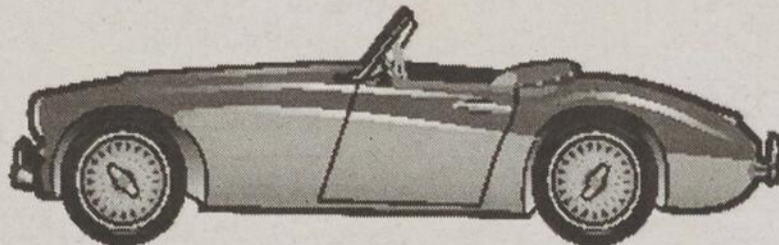
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Difficulty: 4 (of 5)

			6				
	2		5		9	3	
	8			7			2
1				4			6
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10-16-13

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## PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	1	4	6	9	5	3	7	8
5	3	8	1	2	7	4	9	6
9	7	6	8	4	3	1	2	5
3	6	1	2	7	9	8	5	4
8	5	7	3	6	4	9	1	2
4	2	9	5	8	1	6	3	7
6	8	5	9	1	2	7	4	3
1	4	2	7	3	8	5	6	9
7	9	3	4	5	6	2	8	1

### HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

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## How to buy critical protection from floods

FROM CONSUMER REPORTS®  
by the editors of Consumer Reports

Meteorologists predict that the Atlantic hurricane season, which officially started June 1 and lasts until Nov. 30, will be more active than usual. Consumer Reports Money Adviser notes that that forecast, plus the extreme weather in other parts of the country, might prompt you to buy flood insurance for the first time.

Or you might be forced to buy it. In recent years, the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been rolling out new flood maps of the entire country, reclassifying some moderate-risk flood zones as high-risk. Homeowners who live in these new "special flood hazard" areas and have federally secured home loans will have to buy coverage. In addition, some mortgage lenders are requiring flood coverage for houses outside high-risk zones. And a 2012 law reduces federal subsidies on mandated coverage for mortgage holders living in high-risk areas, which could mean that they'll face significant increases in premiums.

### FILL YOUR HOMEOWNERS GAPS

Though you might be able to buy a homeowners insurance rider to cover, say, a sewer backup that floods your home, your best — and often only — option to protect yourself from naturally occurring floods is a government-sponsored flood policy. Even if you don't live near a body of water, flood insurance can be a wise purchase because it includes more than the overflow from rivers, streams and ocean tides. Also covered are mudflows and pooled water from oversaturated or still-frozen soil, and paved driveways and parking lots that divert rainwater into basements and crawl spaces. In fact, those events account for many claims. The National Flood Insurance Program, the FEMA division that administers most residential flood insurance policies, says that more than 20 percent of claims are filed by homeowners in medium- and low-risk areas. A survey this spring by the Consumer Reports National Research Center found that almost 30 percent of homeowners affected by Superstorm Sandy last October could have benefited from flood insurance, but they didn't have it.

Policies can be as little as \$129 a year; the average flood policy costs \$625 annually but can cost thousands for the maximum coverage in high-risk zones. But you could lose much more from just a few inches of water. The average residential flood claim between 2007 and 2011 was almost \$30,000, the NFIP says.

### HOW TO BUY A POLICY

According to Consumer Reports Money Adviser, property owners and renters can buy flood insurance if their town participates in a federal program that requires it to implement certain "floodplain management" measures; more than 21,000 communities do. Communities that go further — requiring new homes in flood-prone areas to be raised, for instance — can earn their residents flood insurance discounts.

The agent or company representative who sold you your homeowners policy can sell you a national flood-insurance



Some mortgage lenders are now requiring flood coverage for houses outside high-risk zones, notes Consumer Reports Money Adviser.

policy. Or go to the Agent Locator at floodsmart.gov, the FEMA website for national flood insurance. Before you buy, you can get an estimate of your premium on the site. (Fill out the red "One-Step Flood Risk Profile" on the home page.) And you can see where your home sits on the FEMA flood map for your neighborhood, which contributes to your premium (type "flood maps" in the search box).

Flood insurance usually has to be in effect for 30 days before you can use it. Coverage is capped at \$250,000 per dwelling and \$100,000 for your home's contents. Most installed items, including major appliances, some carpeting, paneling, bookcases, cabinets and window blinds, are covered; detached garages and debris removal also are included. Clothing, furniture, electronics and valuables such as artwork and furs

worth up to \$2,500 are insured under personal property coverage.

A few private insurers offer excess insurance above the \$250,000 federal limit. Depending on your location and level of coverage, it could cost several thousand dollars more. Consumer Reports Money Adviser warns that you might still be liable for out-of-pocket costs that aren't covered by either homeowners or flood coverage.

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