

## 50 years a Canadian

Len Gingras has considered himself a "straight Canadian" for far more than fifty years. He was born in Canada, married in Canada, and fought for Canada in the Second World War. But the coming of the New Year saw only the 50th year of Gingras being an "official" Canadian.

Until 1947, all men and women residing here were still British subjects. Only with the passage of the Citizenship Act in January of that year were those living here considered citizens of Canada. This year, the 50th anniversary of the passing of the Act, is a time of "special celebration," according a press release from Minister Lucienne Robillard.

"It is an opportunity to reflect on the successes our country has enjoyed over the last five decades. It is also a chance to think about the rights we share as Canadian citizens, and the responsibilities which go with this distinction."

The week of February 10-17 has been declared "Canada — Take It To Heart" week to commemorate the Act.

The genesis of the Act was with Paul Martin Sr. in 1945. Then a Canadian Cabinet Minister, Martin was moved by the sacrifice Canadians had made in the war. After approval by the House of Commons and Royal Assent, the Citizenship Act was put into effect in January 1947. Prime Minister Mackenzie King was the first person to receive the citizenship certificate.

Legally, it was a profound moment. But practically — at least to local veterans Len Gingras, Jim Strickland and Dick Medland

— it wasn't a radical change.

Gingras, who served as a Special Investigator with the Air Force through 1945, doesn't recall "any fuss about it."

"I always considered myself to be a straight Canadian and that was it, from the time I was a child" he said. "I remember that we were all British subjects before we became officially Canadian, but nobody got too excited about it back then."

Strickland also remembers the Act being passed, but "no strong reactions" at the time. Dick Medland, an infantry veteran from the war, agrees. "I don't remember much of a to-do in the press; I don't think it really mattered to most people. Generally speaking, it didn't appear until one applied for a passport."

But despite the lack of hoopla on the home front, the Act was still quite significant on a global scale. It was a demonstration to the world that Canada was prepared to become a full-fledged member of the world community. With the passing of the Act, Canada became the first nation of the British Commonwealth to create a national identity other than that of the British subject. For other members of the Commonwealth, the Canadian Act provided a framework in which they could form their own citizenship legislation.

It also resulted in smaller changes, such as the



January 1947: Prime Minister Mackenzie King (l) becomes the first citizen of Canada

introduction of the Canadian passport. Before 1947, Canadian passports were still easily distinguished from their British counterparts — for one thing, Canadian passports were bilingual — but a new booklet-style passport was issued after the Act; one that is much like today's document with its blue cover and pale pink pages.

To Len Gingras, however, the difference between British citizenship and being legally Canadian has always been just a point of law.

"I've always been proud to be Canadian," Gingras said. "I've never called myself anything else...I'm a Canadian, period. I'm as proud to be Canadian as I was 50 years ago, and a more strong and determined

Canadian now than I ever was."

Strickland agrees, and says that Canada's British heritage is just as vital today as it was fifty years ago. "I'm quite Canadian, but I wouldn't want to sever all ties," he said. "The British government and way of life has been going for a thousand years. Today, people want to break from tradition, but traditions are the backbone of a country. I'm a Canadian first, but a Commonwealth citizen second."

And Medland feels that while he is proud to be a Canadian and always has been, the lack of fuss in the first place was merely a reflection of one of the better parts of the Canadian character — our stoicism. "Canadians don't get excited

very easily. It's one of the parts of Canadian nature that I'm most proud of."

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## Editorial

Yesterday, I got my first real taste of a Lennoxville winter. I had been warned about the cold, but I hadn't really believed the stories — until I stepped outside at 7 a.m. on Thursday and felt every fluid in my body instantly freeze.

Our recent cold snap has been the latest in a long line of Lennoxville firsts for me. I moved here six months ago to work at Bishop's University, and since then, the town and the entire Townships have opened up a whole new world for me — and a large part of that world is now the *Townships Sun*.

It may seem strange to have an outsider working as editor at this long-standing and venerable publication, but I am looking forward to my time here. Not only is this paper helping me acquaint myself with this unique and fascinating region of Canada, but my position as a newcomer will, I hope, give me the fresh perspective on the area that will allow all of us to discover

the Townships anew.

And so, I would like to hear from the *Sun's* readership. I feel that one of the priorities of this paper should be a focus on the history of the Townships and its outstanding citizens from both the past and the present. Current events are important — the *Townships Tidings* and *Calendar* will still be a fundamental part of the paper — but our monthly schedule gives us the liberty to focus on more diverse subjects in greater depth than the rigors of a daily, or even weekly, news schedule would permit.

So, if you can find it in your heart to help the new guy, please write me a note telling me what quirks, secrets and stories can be found scattered around the Townships. Everybody I have met in my position of Editor has an interesting story to tell...maybe it's time to start writing those stories down.

I hope to keep this paper as vital and interesting as it

has been in the past; as much a part of the local geography as the Massawippi river and the Coaticook Gorge. The *Sun* is much more than a newspaper — it's a chronicle of what makes the Townships different than any other place on earth. I am proud to be continuing in the footsteps of Pat Ball and those that have preceded her in the Editor's shoes.

There are going to be some small changes here and there, as I find my feet as editor and as both the *Sun* and I get used to each other. Please let me know what you think of the paper. If you see something you don't like, write in and let us know; if there's a change you think we could make to improve the paper, we'd like to hear about it.

I'd like to thank Pat Ball and the Board of Directors for giving me this fantastic opportunity. With the help of our readers, I hope to make the most of it.

Matthew Shepherd

The Board of the *Townships Sun* is delighted to welcome **Matthew Shepherd** as their new Editor. Working as a volunteer, Matthew graciously accepted the challenge of publishing a monthly community paper which is now in its twenty-fourth year. Thank you, Matthew, and Godspeed! We also most gratefully acknowledge **Pat Ball's** indefatigable dedication to the continued well-being of the *Sun*. As its Editor for quite a few years, Pat has set an example in community service. We thank you, Pat, for your stewardship; and also for your willingness to stay with us, not only as our wise stateslady but also as an Assistant Editor responsible for the advertising lay-out of the *Sun*.

- The Board Of Directors

**Call for Contributions:**  
We're currently seeking stories from and about high schools! Please send us your memories, stories, anecdotes and tall tales for future issues of the *Sun*.



### Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am looking for information which could relate to my great-grandfather, Robert Purdy.

He was born in 1829 or 30, and married on March 11, 1850, in Grenville Quebec to Jane Bigelow. Jane was the daughter of Margaret Carr and George Bigelow. It seems that they lived in the Chatham, Grenville, and Thurso areas of Quebec. Robert is buried at the Gore Cemetery.

Robert Purdy and Jane Bigelow had 11 children:

Nancy B-1852 (Alexander Cadieu); Henry, B-1856

(Margaret McGregor); Margaret B-1858 (Jerome Cadieu); Robert John B-1861 (Carrie Olson, Nancy Johnson, Mary Purdy); William George B-1864 (Matilda Slocum); Elizabeth B-1868 (William Larocque); James B-1870 (Marceline Roy); Martha B-1872 (Frank Banning); Alexander B-1874 (Hannah Walster); Sarah Jane B-1876 (Alexander Larocque, John Milner); Mary Agnes B-1878 (Wilfred Langevin-Lacroix). Some of these children have moved to the U.S.A. or other parts of Canada.

It seems that Robert Purdy came to Canada about 1842 from County Antrim, Ireland, with possibly brothers Henry and James and a sister Nancy.

It is believed that a Henry Purdy who married Janet Douglas, 1856 in Chatham, Quebec,

and moved to Bremer County, Iowa, U.S.A. about 1858, was related to Robert in some way. No trace of a Nancy or a James has been found.

There is also speculation that Robert's family went to the U.S.A. from England and Robert came to Canada from there. No evidence has been found to support this theory.

I have not been able to find the names of Robert Purdy's parents or have not been able to verify if he actually had sisters or brothers.

If anyone has any information that could possibly relate to this family in any way I would appreciate so very much hearing from you.

Shirley Beaton  
R.R. #1, Black River Road  
Iroquois Falls, Ontario  
POK 1G0

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## The Townships Sun

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### Objectives:

To publish the *Townships Sun*, and provide support to the English community of the Eastern Townships through publication of information in the form of feature stories, interviews and in-depth articles, etcetera.

The *Townships Sun* welcomes manuscripts, letters, and anecdotes. Material should be double spaced, have a telephone number included and be addressed to the Editor. Material accepted is subject to editing and revision. While all reasonable care is taken, we accept no responsibility for loss or damage to unsolicited material. Unsolicited manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

The opinions expressed by the writers are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor or The Board.

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—from the *Townships Sun* charter.

# Community station looks to expand

*Local radio station CJMQ seeks power upgrade for 1997*

Have you heard of CJMQ?

If you live outside the Lennoxville/South Sherbrooke area, odds are you haven't; mostly because you can't hear them in the first place. CJMQ is a low-power, high-energy radio station operating out of Bishop's University; and the only local English community station on the FM band in the entire Townships.

"The CBC is here — the CBC is everywhere," says Assistant Station Manager David Barnett. "But we're the only station with 100 per cent local programming."

And, as far as Barnett and Music Director Matt

McCarney are concerned, the only thing keeping them from being as popular as the CBC is their power — 25 watts.

"That's about equivalent to a quarter of your porch light," says McCarney. "Most radio stations have several thousand watts to work with." And, while CJMQ is available on cable FM at the frequency 103.9, their broadcast frequency of 88.9 FM barely reaches past the Lennoxville town limits.

What Barnett and McCarney hope to do is boost the station's signal to 250 watts, making it powerful enough to cover most of the Estrie region.

"All we need is to find \$15,000," says Barnett. "Then we can apply to the CRTC for the boost, hopefully get permission to do it, and start really servicing the region with local English radio."

But a small audience is among the least of CJMQ's problems. Unless they can boost their signal soon, they might be taken off the air — forever.

"Our current signal strength of 25 watts isn't enough to make us a 'protected' signal," Barnett explains. "Right now, a broadcaster could approach the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission and ask for our frequency. The CRTC could then toss us off 88.9 FM and allow this new broadcaster to have it." Their proposed boost would place them well within the 'protected' category.

This is a larger problem than it might seem, when you look at the other available signals in the area. "There aren't any, or at least any really worth having," says Barnett. "Anyone who wants to set up shop in the region will come gunning for 88.9 FM."

A hot rumour in Ottawa

it has been in the past. "We are, historically, the radio station of Bishop's University, and will continue to honour that commitment," says McCarney. "But we are licensed as a campus/community radio station, and there's certainly enough room on our schedule to accommodate both — especially over the summer, when the students return home and CJMQ becomes a 100 per cent community broadcaster."

CJMQ already has several programs of regional interest. "Salut la monde!", hosted by Pierre Ty-Aming, is a francophone show dealing with minority and immigration issues. Julie Lowry, a Lennoxville resident, hosts a show every Tuesday featuring guests from the community. Every week, there are six hours of jazz, folk and classical music broadcast, as well as two two-hour country music shows.

"We're trying our best to reach as broad an audience as possible," says McCarney. "There's something on the station for everyone, and if we could just get the word out, I'm sure that everyone would find something to their liking on our program schedule."

But, without the power to reach the surrounding community, McCarney fears that word will spread too slowly — or not at all.

"It's a vicious circle. Without the signal boost, we won't be able to get community support — but without community support, we won't be able to fund the signal boost," McCarney says.

What Barnett and McCarney hope is that they can convince the Anglophone community surrounding Lennoxville that an FM radio station would be an asset to their way of life.

"Radio is a totally unique medium, and we're the only chance at local English radio that the Townships has," says Barnett. "And if we lose the signal, that's most likely the end of English radio for all of the Townships."

Barnett is helping in the formation of a committee to search for funds for the power upgrade. Federal and provincial grants are being researched,

and local fundraising efforts are being planned.

"We hope to be working with the local town councils, the Townshippers' Association, and any citizens that would like to help us," says Barnett. "By working with the community now, we are creating

the ties to ensure great community programming if and when the signal boost happens."

Any suggestions or volunteers regarding the fundraising campaign are welcome — write to CJMQ at Box 2135, Bishop's University, Lennoxville Quebec, J1M 1Z7.

## Farm profits up in '96

by Matt McCarney

The 1996 Farm Financial Survey released December 20th by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada shows that Canadian farms are continuing to show stable economic performances. The survey shows an increase in farm assets and revenues between the years 1993 and 1995. Total farm assets climbed from \$144 billion in 1993 to \$158 billion in 1995, while average farm rev-

enues are up from \$110,000 in 1993 to \$124,000.

This report, updated by Agriculture Canada every two years, focuses on roughly 9000 farms across the country and examines their economic performance. Government agencies, as well as economic and research organisations, use the survey as the basis for analysis and planning for the coming years.

See 'Farming', p. 12



Some CJMQ members at Bishop's Club Day last September, recruiting DJs for '96/'97.

says that there is a broadcaster already getting set to apply for 88.9 right now. A hearing to see if CJMQ can keep their signal could come as early as March.

"The signal boost is something that we have been intending to do, regardless of whether or not it will protect us," says McCarney. "This just adds some urgency to the overall scheme of things."

If the signal boost is granted, funds are found and everything goes smoothly, CJMQ hopes to become more of a community station than



Why is this horse smiling? CJMQ's mascot, Avenger, spreads the good word.

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# Two new regions on bird monitor list

I had a call from John Pratt from the municipality of Hatley about two weeks ago concerning my column about birds in The Townships Sun. I was pleased to receive the call from John — it is always encouraging to hear from our readers. John will give me a report of the birds coming to his feeders each month during the winter. I am also pleased to welcome Lorna and Peter Banks of Island Brook to the group keeping track of the birds coming to their feeders. I hope that the addition of these two areas will be of some interest to our readers.

I am sorry to hear of the recent death of the husband of Gertrude Gagnon of North Hatley. Mrs. Gagnon contributes to this column by keeping track of the birds coming to her feeders; she's a very nice person to talk to and takes everything in stride. I always feel uplifted after talking to her. I called her to express my sympathy when I heard of her husband's death.

The following is a list of the birds seen at feeders or nearby in the areas indicated.

#### Brompton:

Black-Capped

Chickadees, Crows, Mourning Doves, American Goldfinch, Blue Jays, Tree Sparrows, White Breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, White Throated Sparrow, and Starlings.

#### Georgeville:

Black-Capped Chickadees, American Goldfinch, Blue Jays, Pine Siskins, and White-Breasted Nuthatches.

#### Municipality of Hatley (Massawippi):

Black-Capped Chickadees, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, White Breasted Nuthatch, Red Breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, and Brown Creeper.

#### North Hatley:

American Cardinal (seen Jan 8), Black-Capped Chickadees, Mourning Dove, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Blue Jays, Tree Sparrow, Starlings, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Field Sparrow, Crows, Common Redpoll.

#### Huntingville:

Black-Capped Chickadees, American Goldfinch, Pine Siskins, House Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, and

Starlings.

#### Island Brook:

Black-Capped Chickadees, Crows, Evening Grosbeaks and Blue Jays. Lorna and Peter Banks also reported seeing two of a type of blackbird

Mourning Doves, Purple Finches, House Sparrow, White Breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, and Snow Birds.

#### Lennoxville:

American Cardinal, Black-Capped Chickadees, Crows, Mourning Doves, American Goldfinches, Blue Jays, White Breasted Nuthatch, Red Breasted

Nuthatch, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers.

#### Martinville:

Snow Buntings (40 or more), American Cardinal, Black-Capped Chickadees, Mourning Doves, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch,

Evening Grosbeak, Blue Jays, Junco, Pine Siskin, Tree Sparrow, Starling, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers. Isabelle Echenberg reported seeing a robin on December 8th.

#### Melbourne:

Black-Capped Chickadees, Purple Finch, Evening Grosbeak, Blue Jay, Tree Sparrow, Starling, and Downy Woodpecker.

#### Sherbrooke:

Black-Capped Chickadees, Crows, and Blue Jays.

#### Waterville:

Black-Capped Chickadees, Crows, Mourning Doves, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, Blue Jay, Starling, and Downy Woodpecker.

## Winter Birds

by Robert W. Hall

that they couldn't identify. They also saw a lot of another kind of bird which I think were American Goldfinches.

#### Kingsbury:

Black-Capped Chickadees, Crows, Blue Jays, American Goldfinches,

## Townships Tidings

#### Attention inventors!

Inventors have until February 7 to enter the "Concours des Grands Prix Quebecois d'invention." The contest is sponsored by the Office de la propriété and TVA. There are three categories: single inventor, currently-paid inventor, and student inventor. The prizes range from \$2,500 to \$7,500 with a \$20,000 grand prize in the Student Inventor category. Call l'Ordre des ingénieurs at (819) 820-3205 for details.

#### Recycling changes

Residents of North Hatley, Ayer's Cliff, Hatley and Hatley Township are reminded that they are in Phase One of a shift from Recyclage Lac Massawippi et region inc. to Municipal Councils for the collection of recyclable materials. The current monthly schedule of collection will continue to June 30, 1997 and is as follows:

North Hatley: 3rd Saturday, curbside  
Ayer's Cliff: 2nd Saturday, door-to-door  
Hatley: 2nd Saturday, stationary drop-off at bin in Massawippi

Hatley Township: 4th Saturday, stationary drop-off at North Hatley Curling Club

Ayer's Cliff residents can pick up their 64L recycling boxes when they go to their municipal offices to pay their taxes.

The recycling schedule will be changing again on July 1.

#### Youth Centre needs support

The Lennoxville Youth Centre is looking for donations to help keep itself functioning. An

association of young people and adults, its mission is to provide a meeting place for adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18 where they can have meaningful contact with adults and work towards becoming critical, active and responsible citizens. If you would like to help, contact Phil Dutton at (819) 821-4805

#### Cancer Society opens free information line

The Canadian Cancer Society has set up a free phone service for those with cancer as well as people touched indirectly by the disease. Between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays, information specialists are available to answer any questions. The phone line is free: (888) 939-3333.

#### Prepare yourself for power outages

Emergency Preparedness Canada has some helpful hints on how to prepare for possible power failures:

- If a storm during a cold spell is predicted, lay in a supply of food and other necessities. Keep the gas tank of your vehicle near full.
- Have flashlights, lanterns, candles and matches stored in a handy place. Make sure you have fresh batteries for flashlights and radios.
- If you have a wood-burning stove or fireplace, keep a good supply of fuel on hand.
- Ensure that stoves, heaters, and generators are vented properly and used only in well-ventilated locations. Carbon Monoxide is a lethal hazard.

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## THE EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SYSTEM

On January 5, 1997, changes to the Employment Insurance (EI) system took effect. The new system replaced the previous Unemployment Insurance (UI) system on July 1, 1996.

EI provides Canadians with basic income protection, plus a range of new re-employment benefits to help unemployed workers get jobs. Here are answers to questions you may have about some of these important changes.

### WHAT'S NEW FOR CLAIMANTS?

**Are we now counting hours instead of weeks?**

Yes. Every paid hour of work will count to qualify for EI. A minimum of 420 to 700 hours (which is the equivalent of 12 to 20 weeks of 35 hours each) will be required, depending on the unemployment rate in your region.

If you are filing a claim after your first job, or after an absence of 2 years or more from the workforce, you now require 910 hours to qualify.

To qualify for sickness, maternity or parental benefits, a minimum of 700 hours of work is required.

**How long can I receive EI?**

The number of weeks payable is 14 to 45, depending on the number of hours of insurable employment and the rate of unemployment in your area.

**If I work 15 hours or less a week, am I now covered by EI?**

Yes. There are no longer any weekly minimum hours or dollars required to have insurable employment. All hours of work will count, and premiums will be payable on every dollar earned. However, if you earn \$2,000 or less a year, your premiums will be refunded when you file your income tax return.

**Does past receipt of EI benefits affect future claims?**

Yes. The normal benefit rate is 55% of your insured earnings. This could be reduced by 1% for every 20 weeks claimed from July 1996. The maximum that the benefit rate can be reduced to, is 50% after 100 weeks claimed. This adjustment to the benefit rate is called the *intensity rule*.

Remember: *The intensity rule does not apply to people receiving the Family Supplement, sickness, maternity or parental benefits.*

**Who can receive the new Family Supplement?**

Claimants with children and a family income under \$25,921, who also receive the Child Tax Benefit are entitled to the new Family Supplement. Eligible claimants will receive up to 65% of their insurable earnings. However, the maximum benefit still remains \$413 a week for all claimants.

**Will there be any change to my EI premium deductions as of January?**

Yes. The EI premium rate for 1997 is lower than last year. However, as of January you may notice a difference in the way your premium is deducted over the course of the year. There is no longer a weekly maximum of \$750 on your

insurable earnings. Premiums are now payable on every dollar you earn up to the yearly maximum of \$39,000. Once you have reached \$39,000, you will not have to pay any more premiums. For example, if your salary is \$58,500 a year, you will pay all your EI premiums in the first eight months and none for the rest of the year.

**Am I allowed to earn more than before without losing benefits?**

Yes. All claimants, regardless of their income, can earn \$50 a week, or 25% of their regular benefit, whichever is *greater*, without facing any loss of benefits.

**What are the new re-employment benefits?**

The Government of Canada is working with the provinces and territories to put in place new re-employment benefits to help Canadians get back to work.

These benefits may include: *Targeted Wage Subsidies*, to encourage employers to provide on-the-job experience leading to long-term employment; *Self-employment Assistance*, to help unemployed people start their own businesses; *Job Creation Partnerships*, local partnerships to create work opportunities and sustainable jobs in your community.

### WHAT'S NEW FOR EMPLOYERS?

The method of reporting employment history has been revised under the new Employment Insurance System. The Government of Canada and employers have worked together to come up with an easier reporting system. An information package has been sent to all employers. If you have not received one, contact your nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada.

**What is different about the Record of Employment?**

In general, for each employee, you will have to report only the following: the first and last day of work, the total hours worked in the pay periods in the last 53 weeks, and the total insurable earnings for the last 27 weeks.

**What is the new hours-based system?**

As of January 1, 1997, every hour worked and paid is insurable, which means that earnings of all workers are now insurable.

**Are premiums now calculated differently?**

Yes. They are now calculated on each dollar of insurable earnings to an *annual* maximum of \$39,000, instead of a weekly maximum.

**What is the New Hires Program?**

If you are a small employer who paid less than \$60,000 in employer's premiums in 1996, you will be entitled to a refund in 1997 and 1998, if your overall premium bill goes up by \$250.00 or more.

### STRICTER ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES

Under EI, claimants who commit fraud now face stiffer rules. More hours of work will be required to qualify for future claims, and financial penalties may increase.

Employers who engage in fraud will also face stricter financial penalties – which can be up to \$12,000 per offence or the total of claimant penalties in collusion cases.

If claimants or employers make an honest mistake and forget to give us information, it is not too late to provide it. Under our disclosure policy, we can waive any penalty or prosecution, if the matter is not already under investigation.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

• call toll free 1 800 276-7655 to receive a brochure on Canada's new Employment Insurance system (TTY 1 800 465-7735)

• visit your nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada listed in the Government of Canada pages of your telephone book under Human Resources Development Canada.

• look on the Internet at <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca>



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Canada

Everything you ever wanted to know about

# Valentine's Day

(but were too in love to ask)

by Tanya Bolduc

## History & Traditions

### How it all began

Historians are uncertain of the origins of the centuries-old celebration called Saint Valentine's Day, or simply Valentine's Day. Consensus points to a Christian martyr, possibly a bishop, who was beheaded at Terni on its feast day, February 14. Saint Valentine is well known as the patron saint of lovers though he is also associated with such illnesses as epilepsy, plague and fainting diseases. While the martyrdom inspired a mid-4th century Church of Saint Valentine to be built on the Flaminian Way at Rome, there is nothing to suggest a connection between the martyr and the traditions that have come to be associated with the date. There are six possible people named Valentine who the day may or may not have been named after.

It has been suggested that the pairing of individuals of the opposite sex on February 14th arose from the

medieval idea that birds wooed and found their mates on this day. This is given some credibility by the birds that continue to be featured on candy boxes and Valentine's Day cards even today. These medieval ideas most probably saw their origins in pagan times, making the association between birds and Valentine's

Day older than perhaps the saint himself.

In medieval times, boys and girls kissed the first person they met on Valentine's day, making them their special friend for the day or year.

The most obvious of Valentine's Day gifts is candy, a custom that goes back several centuries. A long European tradition of sending confections to one's betrothed was brought to North America by

the early pilgrims. Candy at the time could only be bought at expensive shops and could only be afforded by the very rich. The relatively poor American colonists soon learned to make homemade candy, and on Valentine's Day scratched messages of love on the surface of the candy and sent it to their sweethearts. Hard heart-shaped candies with imprinted messages of love became a norm in the American candy industry by the early 1900s. The industry later expanded into chocolate and chocolate boxes, heart-

shaped lollipops, red-hot hearts and jelly beans. \$655 million is spent each year on Valentine's candy in the United States alone.

It is also interesting to note that Valentine's Day is second only to Mothers' day as the busiest day of the year for restaurants. In this way, the origin of Saint Valentine's day as a feast day continues.



Michaelangelo's "Love, the Conqueror"

Later on, boys and girls drew pieces of folded paper with names on them on the eve of Saint Valentine's Day, leading to a billion-dollar Valentine's card industry.

### "Sweets to the sweet"

Gift-giving is by far the primary and longest-lasting tradition of Valentine's Day.

### This Valentine's Day: BE ALTERNATIVE!

While customary Valentine's Day gifts have a "traditional" romantic appeal, why not tinker with tradition a bit? Here are a few ideas to tune up some old stand-bys:

Roses, especially red roses, are a Valentine's Day favourite. Instead of trying to impress your Valentine with an expensive bouquet, send her (or him) a single red rose with a message of your affections rolled into a tiny diploma and tied with a ribbon nestled in the centre of the flower. Instruct your Valentine not to remove the message until the rose blossoms. If, however, you are set on a bouquet, put similar messages, perhaps different reasons for your love, in each rose and instruct your Valentine to open them one day at a time.

- Dried roses are just as nice as fresh ones.
- They can be purchased from your florist and arranged with other dried flowers into attractive and long-lasting bouquets. Pre-arranged bouquets can be found in drugstores, department stores and craft shops. If you insist on drying your own, hang your roses high in a dark, dry room. Spraying them with hair spray once before hanging will help to preserve the colour. Once dry, arrange your roses in a vase with baby's breath, hang them by attractive ribbons on a wall or lay them in a delicate bowl for an interesting display. Dried wild flowers of various colours are also guaranteed to be a hit. Try surrounding a single dried rose with wild flowers and ribbons.

While chocolate is a Valentine's Day must, don't limit yourself to one box of chocolates. Buy smaller, individually wrapped chocolate boxes or hearts and leave them in different places where your Valentine is sure to find them such as under the pillow, in the fridge, at work (if you can manage it) or in the car. Accompany each with a short message. End the day by bringing your Valentine a cup of hot chocolate.

More alternative Valentine's ideas:



# Chocolate...

Stuffed animals will always bring a smile, but don't limit yourself to teddy bears unless your Valentine collects them. Try a stuffed emu or platypus, orca or musk-ox. These are just some of the unique stuffed animals available at most department stores. Wrap your own red ribbon around it. It's removable. A stuffed animal with "Be My Valentine" stitched into its stomach may seem appropriate, but will soon be out of season for display.

Live animals, though cute, can be risky. Vaccinations, neutering or spaying that adorable kitten or puppy you saw in the window can cost up to \$200. If you're set on the idea, try the SPA where the animals are vaccinated and are desperate for homes. Choosing just the right pet for your Valentine should actively involve your Valentine. Only your Valentine really knows what pet is best for them. Make the event oddly romantic by giving your Valentine's pet a wrapped animal collar or biscuit.

**A few facts about chocolate:**

Carolus Linnaeus, an 18th century botanist, characterized chocolate as "the food of the gods." Indeed, its source substance, cacao, taken from the cacao plant's beans or pods, has an extensive history dating back prior to 2000 B.C.

Native South Americans of the Amazon and Orinoco regions (present-day Brazil, Peru and Venezuela) made a bitter-tasting beverage from cacao. An Aztec emperor shared this drink with Spanish Conqueror Hernando Cortes, drinking each serving from a golden cup; each cup was immediately destroyed after use. It was the Spaniards, however, who thought of combining cacao with cane sugar, though not in a solid form. Rather, sweetened hot chocolate was welcomed by the European aristocracy as an expensive elixir, balm and aphrodisiac because of the

strong hold it had on both the taste-buds and the psyche. Indeed, chocolate is referred to as "comfort food" because it is often consumed to combat negative feelings. Furthermore, modern science has proven that chocolate releases a chemical in the female brain that is very similar to a chemical released during sexual ecstasy.

Hot chocolate, because of the high cost of sweetening cacao, became an expensive treat for royalty and the upper class who preferred to drink it in the boudoir or in bed. With the mechanized creation of sweetened chocolate in the 19th century, middle and upper-class Europeans and North American alike could afford the treat. Special china sets for hot chocolate became common household items.

Between 1828 and the 1840s, the extraction of cacao butter from chocolate liquor

was perfected. Combined with sugar and ground bean paste, solid chocolate emerged. The first chocolate bar was manufactured in 1847. The Swiss later blended in condensed milk to produce milk chocolate and Milton Hershey, whose company invented the chocolate drop or "kiss", lowered the cost of chocolate by blending in everyday whole milk.

In Mexico, chocolate is more than candy. A traditional drink at fiestas, The Day of the Dead and other holidays, Mexican hot chocolate is made by melting and frothing an ounce of chocolate in a cup of boiling water and dipping chunks of egg bread or pan de yema into the drink.

Asking your Valentine out for dinner can never fail, but call the restaurant well ahead of time and make a few preparations. Ask for as secluded and romantic a table as possible. Nothing can kill a mood faster than a busy table next to yours. Ask if a candle can be added to the table. For a really quirky, yet romantic night to remember, see if you can book a normally-closed section in a fast-food restaurant and decorate it appropriately.

## Love and the VCR

If you're planning a quiet evening in with someone special on Valentine's Day, take advantage of soft lighting, a comfy couch, a warm blanket and the world of video rentals. While "going to the movies" has become a 20th century rite, "renting" can be just as nice. All of these are available on video. We've included synopses and a few of our own comments to help guarantee that your choice will be the right one.

**The Piano** (1993)

Set in the 19th century, Holly Hunter plays Ada, a mute woman who travels with her only daughter to the New England bush to fulfil an arranged marriage. Her husband, however, refuses to transport her beloved piano to the beach which they died on. Tormented by its possible destruction, Ada agrees to exchange certain "favors" to her strange male neighbour for its eventual return. The deal draws them into a complex and frightening emotional bond. 3 Oscar nominations; best actress, best supporting actress and best original screenplay.

**Frankie and Johnny** (1992)

Johnny (Al Pacino), an ex-con and short-order cook, falls for co-worker/waitress Frankie (Michelle Pfeiffer) in this remarkable comedy with a real-world message of love.

**Casablanca** (1954)

Well...what can I say? If you haven't seen it - do. If you have seen it - see it again.

**When Harry Met Sally** (1989)

Can a man and a woman really be just friends? That's the question explored in this sit-back-and-enjoy romantic comedy by acclaimed director Rob Reiner (Stand By Me, The Princess Bride). Stars Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan.

**The Princess Bride** (1986)

Light fantasy which amusingly looks into the idea of true love. Cary Elwes is the star of this fabulous family film, with guest appearances by André the Giant and Billy Crystal.

**When a Man Loves a Woman** (1994)

Hollywood superstars Meg Ryan and Andy Garcia play a married couple whose otherwise passionate and stable relationship is rocked by alcoholism. Buy that box of

kleenex. You're going to need it.

**Up Close and Personal** (1995)

What happens when you match Michelle Pfeiffer and Robert Redford in a movie titled "Up Close and Personal"? A sizzling romance about love in a career environment you'll want to rent all over again.

**Much Ado About Nothing** (1994)

Shakespeare's fun-filled romantic comedy comes to life once again with yet another Kenneth Branagh adaptation. Set within a breathtaking Tuscan landscape, boasting the largest bath scene ever and with an all-star cast including Branagh, Emma Thompson, Michael Keaton, Keanu Reeves and Denzel Washington, Much Ado About Nothing is guaranteed bawdy good fun which doesn't demand you to brush up on your Shakespeare.

**The American President** (1995)

Can anything stand be-

tween love and re-election? You'll have to see this film about a widower U.S. President (Michael Douglas) who finds himself ready to begin dating again to find out. Also stars Annette Bening as the apple of his eye, Martin Sheen and Michael J. Fox.

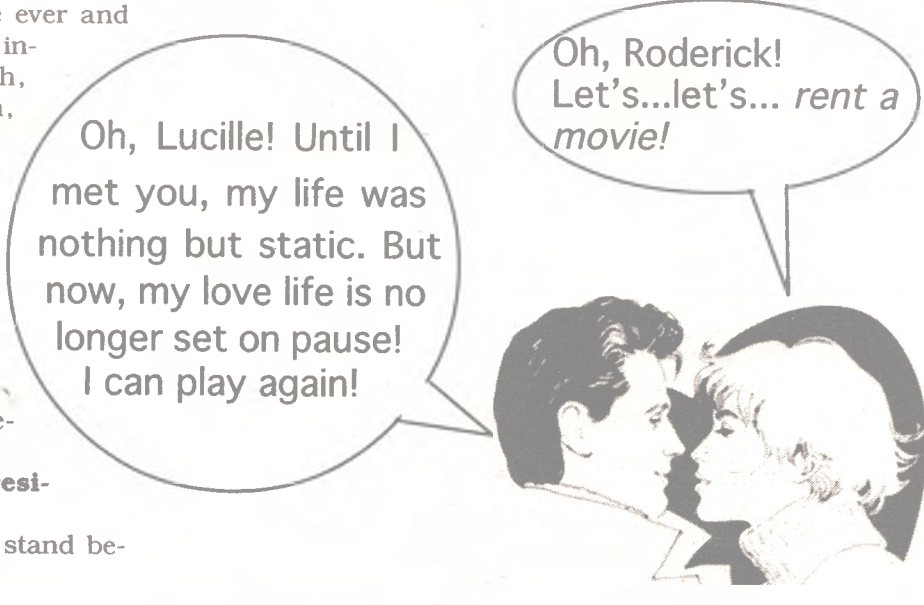
**Dead Again** (1991)

How many times can you die for love? Oscar nominee Kenneth Branagh and at-the-time wife, Emma Thompson, star in this romantic murder mystery with a supernatural twist. Guaranteed to keep you glued to the couch.

Or, for something completely different...

**Leaving Las Vegas** (1995)

Perhaps the most original love story ever. Stars best actor oscar winner Nicolas Cage as a rock bottom alcoholic who forms a unique bond with a prostitute on her own road to destruction. Definitely not a make-you-feel-good movie, but a striking portrayal of unconditional love. *Pretty Woman* set in the dark realities of the '90s. (Rated R)



# Valentine's treats and classic cooking

This month, several recipes perfect for Valentine's treats or for everyday cooking. The leftovers from the Sunday roast can be used in an updated version of the classic Speedy Beef Stroganoff; Beef Bites are an ideal grab-and-go supper or late-night snack.

For the sweet tooth, Chocolate Caramel Shortcake Bars are a painless way to make a great dessert treat, while Peach Gingerbread Muffins and Raisin Oatmeal Cookies are less decadent but still delicious ways to finish a great meal.



**Earthly Pleasures**



## Speedy Beef Stroganoff

1	1	medium onion, sliced
2 cups	500 mL	rare cooked roast beef, cut into strips*
2 tbsp	30 mL	flour
1-10 oz	300 g	can condensed beef bouillon
1/2 tsp	2 mL	dry mustard
2 tbsp	30 mL	tomato paste
1 tbsp	15 mL	Worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup	125 mL	plain yogurt or low fat sour cream
1-10 oz	300 g	can sliced mushrooms
1/4 cup	50 mL	fresh parsley, chopped

Sauté onion in a large non-stick frypan until tender. Add beef strips and lightly stir-fry until warm. Remove beef and onion from pan. Blend flour with condensed beef bouillon and add mixture to pan juices. Add mustard, tomato paste and Worcestershire sauce. Cook, stirring constantly, until thickened. Add beef and onions. Blend in yogurt or sour cream, mushrooms and parsley. Heat thoroughly on low heat. Do not boil. Serve with hot broad noodles and snow peas. Makes 6 servings. Preparation: 5-10 minutes; Cooking: 15-20 minutes.

*Beef Information Centre*

## Beef Bites

1/2 cup	125 mL	cooked roast beef, thinly sliced and cut in strips*
1/2 cup	125 mL	grated Cheddar cheese
1 tsp	15 mL	dill weed
2 Tbsp	30 mL	cornmeal
1 pkg	1	refrigerated crescent rolls

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Toss together roast beef, Cheddar cheese and dill weed. Separate crescent dough into 8 triangles. Cut each triangle in half, making 16 triangles. Sprinkle cornmeal on cutting board and press triangles into cornmeal. Place 1 Tbsp [15 mL] of meat mixture at the wide end of each triangle. Roll up triangle around filling, pressing edges of dough to seal edges. Place on lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375°F for 12-15 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve warm or cold. Makes 16 beef bites. Preparation: 5 minutes; Cooking: 15 minutes. \*Shaved deli roast beef may be substituted.

*Beef Information Centre*

## Chocolate Caramel Shortcake Bars

1 cup	250 mL	all purpose flour
1/4 cup	50 mL	granulated sugar
1 cup	250 mL	butter, divided
1/2 cup	125 mL	brown sugar
1/2 cup	125 mL	sweetened condensed milk
2 Tbsp.	30 mL	corn syrup
1	1	milk chocolate bar (100 g), melted

Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C).

In a medium bowl, combine flour and granulated sugar. Cut in 1/2 cup [125 mL] butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press into ungreased 9-inch (22 cm) square baking pan. Bake for 15 minutes or until beginning to brown.

In a heavy saucepan, combine remaining 1/2 cup [125 mL] butter, brown sugar, milk and corn syrup. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture comes to a boil. Cook, stirring continuously, for 3 minutes more. Pour hot mixture over cooked base. Cool slightly, then refrigerate for 15 minutes or until set. Spread melted chocolate over caramel. Refrigerate 30 minutes or until set. Makes about a dozen bars.

*Variation:* If dark chocolate is preferred, use 2/3 cup [150 mL] chocolate chips in place of the chocolate bar.

*Children's Cottage Cookie Cook Book*

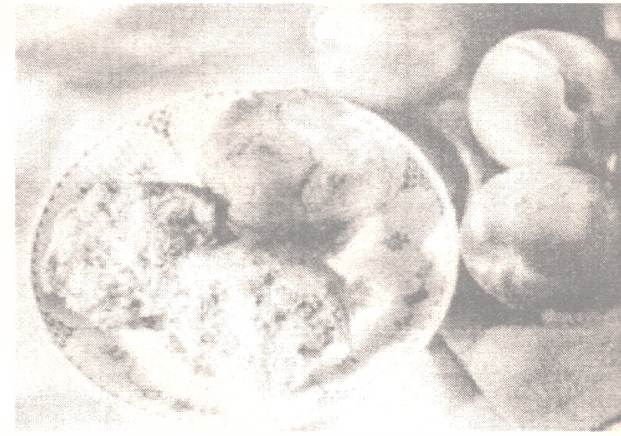
## Condensed Milk

It is convenient to buy condensed milk, but also expensive. You can make your own for one-third the cost.

1 cup	250 mL	granulated sugar
1/3 cup	75 mL	water
1/3 cup	75 mL	butter or margarine
1 1/4 cups	300 mL	instant skim milk powder

In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine sugar, water and butter. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally. Pour into blender container. Blend in milk powder, half at a time, until smooth, scraping sides as necessary. Store in refrigerator. Makes 1 1/4 cups (300 mL) which is equivalent to a can of condensed milk.

*Children's Cottage Cookie Cook Book*



## Peach Gingerbread Muffins

2 cups	500 mL	all purpose flour
2 tsp	10 mL	baking powder
1 tsp	5 mL	ground ginger
1/2 tsp	2 mL	ground cinnamon
1/2 tsp	2 mL	salt
1/4 tsp	1 mL	ground cloves
1/2 cup	125 mL	granulated sugar
1/2 cup	125 mL	Allen's Unsweetened App Sauce
1/4 cup	50 mL	molasses
1/4 cup	50 mL	apple juice
2 Tbsp	10 mL	vegetable oil
1	1	egg
1 can-14 oz	398 mL	sliced peaches in juice, drained, chopped

In large bowl, combine flour, baking powder, ginger, cinnamon, salt and cloves, set aside. In medium bowl, combine sugar, Allen's Apple Sauce, molasses, apple juice, oil and egg; mix until well combined. Fold in chopped peaches. Add apple sauce mixture to dry ingredients all at once, stir until moistened. Divide batter among 12 large muffin cups sprayed with non-stick cooking spray or lined with paper liners. Bake in preheated 400°F (200°C) oven 20 minutes or until cake tester inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from pans; cool completely. Makes 1 dozen muffins.

*Allen's Recipes*

## Raisin Oatmeal Cookies

1 cup	250 mL	all purpose flour
1 tsp	5 mL	baking powder
1/2 tsp	2 mL	baking soda
1/2 tsp	2 mL	salt
1/4 tsp	1 mL	ground cinnamon
1/2 cup	125 mL	granulated sugar
1/2 cup	125 mL	packed brown sugar
1/4 cup	50 mL	Allen's Unsweetened App Sauce
2 Tbsp	30 mL	vegetable shortening
1	1	egg
1 tsp	5 mL	vanilla
1 1/3 cups	325 mL	rolled oats
1/2 cup	125 mL	raisins

In medium bowl, stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon; set aside. In large bowl, whisk together granulated sugar, brown sugar, Allen's Apple Sauce, shortening, egg and vanilla until shortening breaks into pea-sized pieces.

Add dry ingredients to apple sauce mixture; stir well. Fold in oats and raisins. Drop batter in small rounded spoonfuls on cookie sheet lightly sprayed with non-stick cooking spray. Bake 1 dozen at a time, in preheated 375°F (190°C) oven 10 to 12 minutes. Cool on cookie sheet 5 minutes. Remove to wire racks; cool completely. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

*Allen's Recipes*

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**The Video Showcase**

# Nick and Fear both winners

by Kathleen Hanna

Life is getting back to normal after the holidays — now seems like a good time for a thriller. Here are two choices:

**Nick of Time;** You and your daughter have arrived at the train station and are hassled by rollerbladers. Two officers intervene, escorting you and your daughter outside. When you ask why you are being detained you are punched and thrown into the van and your daughter is taken away. This happens to Gene Watson, and he is given a demand: he must kill the Governor within 90 minutes or his daughter dies.

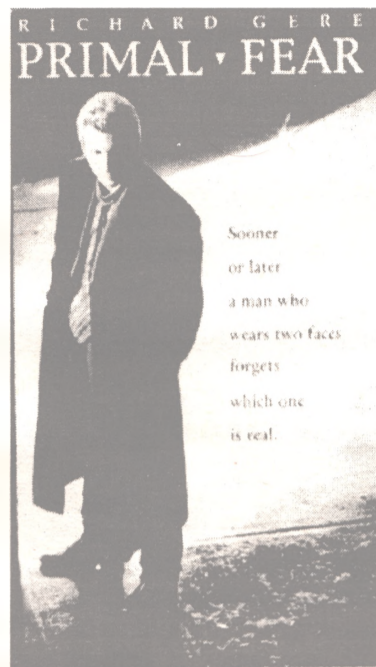
Alone on the sidewalk in a state of shock, the first thing he does is approach a police officer. Bad move, from then on his every move is being watched. Second option is to try and pass a message to a taxi driver, but that does not work. He goes into the hotel where he finds himself in the same elevator as the Governor, along with her security detail, so he does not pull the trigger. He is punished for this failure.

There is a reception on the rooftop garden where the assassination is to take place. He manages to pass through the metal detectors and make his way to where the Governor is standing. Instead of targeting the governor, however, he grabs her assistant and manages to persuade her to help him stop the assassination. She agrees to take him to the campaign manager — the Governor's husband. Unfortunately, the husband is the instigator of the assassination plot and the assistant is killed.

Where can Watson go next? He finds a sympathetic ear in the person of a shoeshine man. With some help he manages to get in to see the Governor and tell her the situation. Now it is up to her to believe Watson, but when the time comes he will do whatever he must to save his daughter — even kill the Governor.

This movie runs in true time, which means for every minute that passes on screen a minute passes in the view-

ers' time as well. Johnny Depp, who plays Gene Watson, is terrific as he moves through



the emotional terrain. Christopher Walken is also excellent as the instigator of the operation. This thriller works because the villain is believable. You will enjoy this movie.

*Primal Fear:* What drives

a defence attorney — the money, the notoriety or the thrill of gambling with peoples' lives? Guilt or innocence are never factors in the equation.

Martin Vale has money and notoriety when he takes a case where a beloved Monseigneur is brutally murdered. The suspect has been caught running away from the scene, covered in blood; the chase was caught on film by a police helicopter. Does this seem like an open and shut case? Never. The suspect says he is innocent. He admits to being in the room but says there was another person there and that he lost time. When he came to, he heard the police sirens and ran.

The young man, Aaron Stampler, is an altar boy. He was found on the street by the Monseigneur and taken in. He loved the Monseigneur like a father, he has no motive to kill him. Aaron is somewhat simple, an unlikely psychotic killer. Martin decides not to plead insanity as a defence but instead to try and prove rea-

sonable doubt.

Soon, another suspect is caught in Aaron's apartment. He tells a very different story: it seems there is a tape hidden in the Monseigneur's office which provides the Monseigneur was somewhat of a director of pornographic material and Aaron was one of the actors. Another wrinkle in the case turns up when it is revealed that the Monseigneur reneged on a real estate development project, costing his partners millions of dollars.

Meanwhile, a psychiatrist evaluating Aaron uncovers another personality, Roy, who admits to committing the murder. Martin is now in a very difficult situation. He can't change pleas, and he cannot enter the tape as evidence without destroying any chance of acquittal.

*Primal Fear* is fast paced with well-defined characters. The movie belongs to Edward Morton, who plays Aaron/Roy Stampler. He is just dead on. The ending is true justice. Enjoy; adults only.

## "King of the Cowboys" a local man

by Bernard Epps

Will Roderick James, King of the Cowboys, wrote 24 books; two which were made into Hollywood movies. Ian Tyson wrote a cowboy anthem in his honour. The N.F.B. produced a documentary film on him, *Alias Will James*. There's an annual *Will James Day* in Saskatchewan, Billings, Montana named a High School after him. New Mexico has a *Will James Society* devoted to his memory. His sketches and paintings are sold for as much as \$30,000.

But here in his homeland, he is virtually unknown.

He was born at St Nazaire d'Acton, Quebec in 1892 to Jean and Joséphine Dufault, who kept a store there. Second of six children, he was christened Joseph Ernest Naphtali Dufault, but his family called him Ernest. He showed an early talent for drawing and was fascinated by horses. When his family moved to Montreal to run a small hotel, Ernest attended a Catholic primary school. Buffalo Bill Cody's 'Wild West Show' came to Montreal and Ernest made up his mind to become a cowboy. In 1907, he took the train westward and worked for three years as a cowhand in the Prairies.

At 18, he was arrested in



Will James

connection with the fatal wounding of a drunken shepherd in a saloon brawl.

Soon after, he changed his name to C.W. Jackson and then Will James as he drifted through Montana and Idaho as a bronco-rider. After a couple of years rounding up wild horses in southern Idaho, he was convicted of cattle rustling and spent 14 months in Nevada State Prison, where he practised drawing.

Paroled in 1916, he decided to become a western artist in the mold of Frederick Remington and Charles Russell. His first sketches were

sold to *Sunset Magazine*, but he really hit his stride writing and illustrating his own articles for *Scribner's* beginning with 'Broncos and Bronco Riders.' That led to short stories and then books published by Charles Scribner's sons; *Cowboys North & South* (1924) *The Drifting Cowboys* (1925). *Smoky* (1926) was made into a Hollywood movie starring Fred MacMurray, Ann Baxter, and Burl Ives. All this attention required a biography for the fictional Will James and Ernest Dufault concocted a sham autobiography, *Lone Cowboy* (1930), that even fooled his wife.

He died of acute alcoholism in 1942 and it was only in 1967 that a nosy writer named Anthony Amaral stumbled on his will and traced Will James back to Ernest Dufault of St. Nazaire D'Acton.



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## Arts Sutton presents "Around a Chair" Feb. 6



**Arts Sutton** will be hosting the Artifacts installation 'Around a Chair' from February 1 to 23. Six artists — Hélène Béliveau, Réal Dumais, Muriel Faille, Helen Kelly, May Kelly (installation shown at left) and Thérèse Lacasse — are participating in the exhibit. Each artist has created a set which includes a newly built or recycled and painted chair, and five paintings which relate to it.

The exhibition can be visited on Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## Beautiful Crafts Can Be Made From Valentine Flowers

(MPS) — Ask almost anyone what he or she thinks is one of the most popular Valentine's Day gifts given, and he or she probably will tell you flowers.

Flowers always have been used to mark special occasions. Many people tend to associate flowers, especially roses, with feelings of love. While most people are overjoyed when they receive flowers, they also hate to see them die. Rather than keeping flowers until they wilt, why not prolong their lives and put them to good use?

Flowers can be dried and pressed, mixed into fragrant potpourris, and even used as ingredients in fabrics, papers and recipes. "Floralcrafts" (Crown), by Gillian Souter and Catherine Lawrence, provides step-by-step instructions for creating 50 gifts and projects made of flowers.

According to Souter and Lawrence, flowers and foliage can be dried in a number of methods — certain ones suiting some flowers better than others.

The simplest method for drying flowers is to let them dry naturally, either by hanging them upside down in a room or cupboard or by standing them in a container that is empty or has very little water in it. Darkness will help preserve their color.

The easiest way to hang dry flowers is to strip off unwanted leaves and bunch stems loosely so that flower heads are staggered in height. Secure the bunch with an elastic band, which will hold them in place as the stems shrink. Bend two ends of a stub wire, hook one under the band, and use the other to hang the bunch.

Another way to dry flower heads is to lay them flat on a wire rack. For drying clusters of flowers or those flowers that have many small petals

over on a very low setting. The following wreath makes a wonderful present to give that special someone on Valentine's Day, or it can be made out of the flowers people receive from their valentines.

Materials:

Roses, Hydrangeas, Dried moss, Clothes hanger, Wire cutters, Jute or string, Glue gun, Strong scissors.

1. Select roses with half-opened flower heads in pastel shades. Dry the hydrangeas and roses.

2. Bend a wire clothes hanger (or a thick piece of wire) into a heart shape and twist the ends. Trim the excess with wire cutters.

3. Take a handful of the dried moss and wind it loosely around the wire. Knot a length of jute or string at the starting point and then wind it around the moss, binding it in place. Continue working around the heart, adding more moss as required and binding it with string.

4. Cut the rose heads from the stalks. Taking great care, use a glue gun to apply a small amount of glue to the back of a rose and attach it onto the moss frame. Continue gluing on roses, varying the size and leaving some gaps between them as you work around the heart.

5. Cut hydrangea flowers and apply a small amount of glue to the back of each with the glue gun. Use a toothpick or other implement to press them onto the frame so that your fingers do not touch the hot glue. Decorate the sides and fill any gaps between the roses in this way. VD961985

## Townshippers' Loppet Feb. 8

The **Townshippers' Association** will be hosting a **Cross-Country Ski Loppet** at the Round Barn ski centre in Coaticook on Saturday, February 8. The event is also being sponsored by the Société de développement de la Gorge de Coaticook and the Club de ski de fond des Cantons.

In this loppet, participants can choose to ski either a 10, 25, or 50 km course. Registration costs — \$20 for the 10 km course, \$25 for the 25 km course, and \$30 for the 50 km — include refreshment along the course and a buffet-style banquet following the event.

The ski centre consists of 53 km of trails, which range from easy to difficult and which span the hills by the Coaticook Gorge and run up into Barford Township. The headquarters is a newly built round barn located near the Gorge at 400 St-Marc St. on the outskirts of Coaticook. Facilities include a snack bar, showers, waxing area and large dining area.

To register, contact Townshippers' Association at (819) 566-5717 or the Coaticook Gorge at (819) 849-2331. If conditions are poor, the event will be held on Saturday, February 15.

## Townships Classified

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Copies of "The History of Compton County by C. S. Channell. Coil-bound, semisoft cover. \$55.00 [819] 889-2284.

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Watkins products, delivered in Sherbrooke and Lennoxville, once a week. [819] 826-2832.

### PERSONAL

Want to lose weight? Canadian Calorie Counters — Tues and Wed 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.; Wed 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. CLSC, 8 Speid, Lennoxville. Info: [819] 562-8683, 823-4322.

## WHY?

  
MedicAlert  
1-800-668-1507

## Townships Directory



**Dunn-Pariseau**  
Insurance Brokers  
Dale-Pariseau International Inc.

300, rue Belvédère Nord, Bureau 201  
Sherbrooke (Quebec) J1H 4B1  
Tél. [819] 566-7233 Fax: [819] 566-8174

**Dyson & Armstrong**  
Inc.



265 Main Street  
RICHMOND, QUE.  
JOB 2HO

USED CAR LOT  
[819] 826-3501

[819] 826-3721  
1-800-263-9766

**Jacqueline Kouri**  
Avocat — Lawyer

239 Queen Street  
Lennoxville, QC

Bus: [819] 564-0184  
Res: [819] 563-6236

The Townships Sun

**The Townships Sun**  
Advertising Sales

Cindy Nichol

Ramona Garrett  
(Richmond & area)

[819] 566-7424

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**February 1997**

**See Events on Page 10**

**'til Mar 2**  
Exhibit — the "La collection Lavallin — Corpus I". Thirty works by Canadian artists. An exhibit of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal. Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke, 241 Dufferin, Sherbrooke. Info: [819] 821-2115.

**'til Feb 16**  
Art Exhibit — Richard Cyr, a sculptor, will present his work in room 2 of galerie Horace, 74 Albert St., Sherbrooke. Info: [819] 821-2326.

**'til Feb 16**  
Art Exhibit — Jo Cooper, a multi-media artist, will present her work in room 1 of galerie Horace, 74 Albert St., Sherbrooke. Info: [819] 821-2326.

**February**  
Art Exhibit — Members' Show. Free admission. Bishop's University Artists' Centre, Centennial Theatre entrance, Bishop's University, Lennoxville.

**Feb 1**  
Concert — The Sherbrooke Symphony Orchestra will perform at 8:00 p.m. in the Salle Maurice O'Bready. Info: [819] 820-1000.

**Feb 4**  
Musical — "Frankie et Johnny au clair de lune", will be performed with Marcel Leboeuf and Louise Portal as the lead actors, 2500 University Boulevard, Sherbrooke. Info: [819] 820-1000.

**Feb 7, 8**  
Concert — Singer Daniel Bélanger will perform, 2500 University Boulevard, Sherbrooke. Info: [819] 820-1000.

**Feb 8**  
Music — "Quatuor Plus" will be presented by Ensemble Musica Nova, who will be accompanied by a string quartet. This performance will take place at Bandeen Hall. Info: [819] 569-4603.

**Feb 8**  
Cross-Country Skiing — Townshippers' Association 1st Annual Cross-Country Ski Loppet at Coaticook. A day of fun for families and ski buffs.

**Feb 14**  
*Valentine's Day February 14th*

**Feb 15**  
Sleigh Ride — Omerville Annual Winter Horse and Sleigh Rally. Info: [819] 843-9553.

**Feb 15**  
Concert - The Shrebrooke Symphony Orchestra will perform at 8:00 p.m. in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Info: [819] 820-1000

**Feb 20**  
Gathering — "Stop by for Pie!" at the Ascot Masonic Hall, 2 Belvidere St., Lennoxville. The event is hosted by the Masons and the Rebeccas.

**Feb 20**  
Gathering — Parent-Finders International will be holding a meeting at the Royal Canadian Legion, 700 Jenkins Ave., Dorval, Quebec at 7 p.m.

**Feb 21 — Mar 16**  
Art Exhibit — Josette Villeneuve, a painter, will present his work in room 1 at galerie Horace, 74 Albert St., Sherbrooke. Carole Bherer, also a painter, will present her work in room 2. Info: [819] 821-2326.

**Feb 22**  
Music — Audrey Andrist, a well known pianist, will perform at Centennial Theatre at 8:00 p.m. Info: [819] 822-9692.

**Feb 26**  
Dance — "Du souffle de sa tourmente, j'ai vu" is a contemporary dance which will be performed at Centennial Theatre at 8:00 p.m. Info: [819] 822-9692.

**Feb 27**  
Concert — Audrey Andrist will hold a concert with the students of the Bishop's Music Department. The concert will take place in Bandeen Hall at 8:00 p.m. Info: [819] 822-9692.



**Cut out this calendar and hang it up so you won't miss any of these events.**

If you would like your organization's upcoming event included in this calendar, drop us a note before the 18th of the previous month. Fax 566-7424 after 6 p.m.

# Ascot divided as Lennoxville grows

*Municipality shrinks as surrounding towns absorb its territory*

by David Barnett

On January 4th of this year, Ascot ceded control of a large part of its more rural territory surrounding Lennoxville. This reorganization of municipal territory was the result of an agreement reached after several meetings through 1996, reported a Lennoxville-Ascot press release dated November 26th. The agreement received approval from the Minister of Municipal Affairs. The Ascot territory surrounding Lennoxville was divided up and distributed amongst the Town of Lennoxville, The Town of Waterville, and Hatley Township. Eaton Corner had previously reached an agreement to take part of Ascot's territory along its historical western boundary.

The most notable acquisitions for the town of Lennoxville in this municipal reorganization are the Federal Government's experimental farm, Galt Regional High School, and the residential Moulton Hill area.

Because of the reorganization, Lennoxville's total valuation has increased by 37 million dollars — from \$115,000,000 to a total of \$152,000,000. Town of Lennoxville Treasurer Kimball Smith said "We feel that we can provide services to the new residents of Lennoxville for the extra money that they will be paying in taxes." One of the advantages for the new residents of Lennoxville is the closer proximity to municipal services. Most of Ascot's services were based in the municipality's more urbanized region, which abuts Sherbrooke.

Probably the most visible change for former residents of Ascot will be their police

protection. Those former residents of Ascot who have joined Lennoxville will continue to be served by the Lennoxville-Ascot Metro Police as they have been in the past. Those former residents of Ascot who now live in Waterville or Hatley will be served by the Surete de Quebec as those two municipalities are served by the provincial police force.

With regards to funding of the Metro Police, Lennoxville will now assume a 50 per cent responsibility for the police budget, up from 40 per cent. Mr. Smith says this new funding plan has been agreed upon because the newly rearranged town limits and populations make the municipalities of

Lennoxville and Ascot approximately equal in size. Under this new arrangement, The Town of Lennoxville and the Municipality of Ascot will each contribute \$725,000 per year to provide police protection to their residents.

## Coming up in March: **The Townships Sun**

St. Patrick's Day: facts and fiction  
A search for Gaelic language in the Townships  
...plus all our regular features!

## Farming up

cont'd from p. 3

The 1996 survey was particularly heartening. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Minister Ralph Goodale was quoted in a press release as saying "The results of this year's farm survey are basically good news. Incomes have increased and the statistics clearly show that producers are getting the largest proportion of their revenues from the marketplace with only modest reliance upon government program payments.

"More good news is that exports generated the greatest part of farm incomes, which shows that Canadian producers are competing successfully in international markets." The survey goes on to further state that the asset levels for all types of farms increased over the survey period, with hog farms showing the greatest improvement at 26 per cent, followed by grain farms and dairy farms, with increases of 18 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. Farms in Quebec and Saskatchewan ranked highest in farm stability; a combination of net operating income and farm debt levels. Quebec farms also had the highest operating income during the survey period. Joining Quebec and Saskatchewan on the list of the farm regions showing the greatest increases is Canada's Atlantic region, while Ontario was the only province which failed to show an increase in net worth and assets from the previous survey.

All is not rosy for Quebec's farmers, however. While the average farm debt was down in all provinces except for Ontario and British Columbia, Quebec farmers carry the greatest debt of all the provinces. But Quebecers need not worry — if the current trends in the Canadian farming community continue, everything will be coming up roses by the next survey period.



### EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SCHOOL BOARD 257 Queen Street, Lennoxville, Quebec J1M 1K7

#### REGISTRATION 1997-1998

Registration of all Kindergarten, Elementary and Secondary students of the Eastern Townships School Board will take place:

**February 3rd - 21st 1997**

The School Board offers:

- Full-day, bilingual Kindergarten
- Community oriented schools with a disciplined, caring approach to learning
- Enhanced, effective French Second Language programs
- Programs for children with special needs

Parents of a student NEW to the school system may register their child at the nearest E.T.S.B. school.

Please bring: - the student's birth or baptismal certificate  
- the student's Certificate of Eligibility for instruction in English  
**OR** the necessary documents to make an application for a Certificate of Eligibility.

MUNICIPALITY	SCHOOL	STREET	TEL. NO.
AYER'S CLIFF	Ayer's Cliff Elementary	952 Sanborn St.	838-4983
BURY	Pope Memorial Elementary	523 Stokes St.	872-3771
COOKSHIRE	Cookshire Elementary	95 du Parc St.	875-3785
DANVILLE	A.D.S. Elementary	745 Rte 255	839-2352
LENNOXVILLE	Alexander Galt Regional High School	2700 Rte 108 East	563-0770
	Lennoxville Elementary	1 Academy St.	569-5103
MAGOG	Princess Elizabeth Elementary	420 Bellevue St. West	843-4847
NORTH HATLEY	North Hatley Elementary	110 School St.	842-2491
RICHMOND	Richmond Regional High School	375 Armstrong St.	826-3702
	St. Francis Elementary	355 College St. South	826-3737
ROCK ISLAND	Sunnyside Elementary	100 Main St.	876-2469
SAWYERVILLE	Sawyerville Elementary	51 Cookshire St.	889-2263
SHERBROOKE	Le Sentier Elementary	4076 Université Blvd.	822-6894
	Le Sentier Secondary	4076 Université Blvd.	822-6894
	Sherbrooke Elementary	242 Ontario St.	562-3515



For further information  
please call (819) 821-9560

Walter Duszara  
Director General