



Brome County News

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Friday, December 27, 1996

THE LARGEST CIRCULATION WEEKLY IN BROME-MISSISQUOI

Eighth annual event to take place Saturday

Brome bird lovers set for Christmas count

By Maurice Crossfield

KNOWLTON – Bird lovers in Brome Lake will be out in force Saturday, taking part in the region's eighth annual Christmas Bird Count.

The Dec. 28 count will see bird watchers covering a 15-mile circle centred on Brome Lake. While some will be out on the road, others will be looking at bird populations on their own properties, or at their own bird feeders.

Bird count organizer Ilay Ferrier said the tradition of counting birds during the Christmas season dates back to the turn of the century, when a group of bored bird watchers in New York City decided to see how many birds and how many species they could spot in one Christmas Day.

"Over time the Audubon Society set up rules on how to do it," Ferrier said. The Brome Lake count will be one of five in the Eastern Townships and one of 1700 across Canada and the US. The idea is also beginning to spread into Mexico and some Central American countries. Last year 38,000 people took part in the event.

When Ferrier retired to live in Brome Lake full time in 1989, he decided it was an excellent place to hold a bird count. So he applied to the Audubon Society to become part of this growing network of bird lovers. Last year some 45 people took part in the CBC, nearly two-thirds of which spent the day watching their bird feeders.

The counts are held between Dec. 19 and Jan. 14. At last year's Brome Lake bird count participants voted to hold this year's count on Dec. 28. Other counts across the region have or are taking place in Georgeville, Granby, Cowansville, and Lennoxville.

For the serious bird watchers, Ferrier and others will be gathering in the Parking lot of the Knowlton



PHOTO: PERRY BEATON

Birdwatchers will cover a 15-mile circle looking for our feathered friends.

IGA at 7:30 a.m. Saturday. From there the region will be divided into quadrants, with groups of birders heading out to cover specific areas.

So just what happens after birders are done counting up the numbers and various species of birds?

In Brome Lake the statistics are

compiled by Ferrier and then sent off along with the \$ 5 per person fee to the Audubon Society. The overall results of the CBC are then compiled into an annual book which examines the overall bird populations as well as a breakdown of each individual bird count.

In the 1994-1995 count Corpus Christi, Texas recorded the largest number of species, listing 217. At the other end of the scale was Yellowknife, where spotters saw a mere ten species. During that same period Brome Lake birders spotted 35 different species.

Ferrier said the bird count gives insight into changes in the bird populations. These populations can shift over the years, affected by weather and available habitat. For example, a hard winter or poor food supply for pine grosbeaks further north could lead to their appearance here in the Townships. Warmer winter weather could mean the appearance of species usually found further south.

But Ferrier cautioned that there are rules in force to prevent counting the same bird several times during the day.

If you are counting at your feeder, then you register the highest number of birds of a species seen at one time during the day. For example, if you see two birds at your feeder one hour and then you see three the next hour, then the official count is three, not five. That way you don't count the same bird more than once.

Following Saturday's bird count there will be a reception held at the home of Jim and Barbara Brodeur at 66 Benoit Street in Knowlton where the counts will be summarized. Those not at the reception can contact Ferrier at his home the following day.

For more information on taking part in the Christmas Bird Count, or to register your count, contact Ilay Ferrier, at 243-6644, or Dick Eldridge at 776-6117.

For more photos of our feathered friends, please turn to page 7.

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FRI. DEC. 27 - JAN. 1

Arnold Schwarzenegger
JINGLE ALL THE WAY
 Daily 2 PG

Tom Cruise
JERRY MAGUIRE
 Daily 4, 7 & 9:30 R

Disney's All New
101 DALMATIANS
 Daily 2, 4 & 7 G

FINAL WEEK
STAR TREK, First Contact
 Daily 4 & 9 PG13

John Travolta
MICHAEL
 Daily 2, 7 & 9 G

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Brome County Community Billboard

Community Calendar

Dec. 29
United Churches of the Yamaska Region will worship together at Granby United Church, 101 Principal, Granby, at 11 a.m. Choir members meet at 10 a.m. Everyone bring a bag lunch!

Dec. 31
New's Years Eve Dance at the Royal Canadian Legion, 2 Curley St., Sutton. 9 p.m. Music by Wayne Durrell, door prizes, bar and cold buffet. Admission: \$15 per couple.

UCW meeting

DUNHAM — The Dunham U.C.W. entertained at a pot luck supper on their regular meeting night, Tuesday December 14.

The invited guests were those in the congregation who are called upon throughout the year to assist with extra baking, serve or help in other ways at our suppers, sales and other events.

The tables were set in a festive fashion

Limited tickets! Tel: 538-1857 or 538-3713.

Jan. 5
The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #158, 2 Curley St., Sutton will hold a western breakfast, all you can eat, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission: \$4.50 per person, children under 10 \$2.50.

Arts Calendar

Jan. 4 - 26
Arts Sutton, 7 Academy St., Sutton will display the work of three artists:

Chanal Brulotte, Janice Flood Turner and Nancy Retallack-Lambert. Vernissage on Saturday, Jan. 4, from 2 to 5 p.m. Exhibition can be viewed on Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday at 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. until Jan. 26.

January 13
Knowlton: Bishop's bilingual, credited, art courses begin. Painting on Paper, an introduction to color relationships, color mixing and various mediums associated with painting on paper; Collage, a contemporary art medium using mostly recycled materials. Both courses will

develop creativity, personal images, visual and technical skills. No prerequisites. Call Louise Jamet at 243-4137.

Community Notes

Snap Flap: Brome County News still has a supply of the snaphappy spelling game for children and adults. The game pits players against one another in a race to turn letters into words. Games cost \$25 plus postage. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Words for Women literacy program. Tel: (514) 242-1188.

and added to the festive moods who attended.

All business was dispensed with prior to sitting down to an abundance of food. Marion Robertson was called upon to say grace.

Following the meal, everyone drew out a name to go up and receive a small gift, following which socializing took place before returning home.

On Saturday, December 7 the final event for 1996 for the U.C.W. was held when they had their first annual Tea and Sale. With so many other activities taking place on the same date, the tea was not too well attended, but we were pleased of the "drop-ins" who came and supported our sales, making our efforts worthwhile.

Saturday, December 14, five of our

U.C.W. members, accepted the invitation from the Sunday School Leaders to attend their Christmas party. An enjoyable couple of hours was spent, watching these youngsters ages 1-10 yrs. playing and sharing in the organized games. All the goodies were with children in mind - fruit punch, cookies, rice krispie squares and tea or coffee for adults. After the excited children completed their boisterous games, they were called to sit in a circle while their leader Lynn read them the Christmas story, following which "Rev." Russ (Daye) gave out gifts by calling out

each name which they had to guess with a clue that he gave. (i.e. "smaller than a river, but bigger than a stream" - brook!)

We are fortunate to have such dedicated leaders, in Lynn Grimond and Trudy Stoddard (who travels from Waterloo) and the children love and look forward to them coming. All their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Please note: There will be no morning service in Dunham Sunday December 29. On December 29 we will join Granby at a Regional Service.

Season's Greetings one and all!

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Women's Institute meeting

SUTTON (MB) — The Christmas party for the Sutton Women's Institute was held in the United Church Hall on December 10. Thanks to Monique Lussier for leaving her beautiful decorations after her successful market.

The members and guests met at 11 a.m. for a brief business meeting. President Reda Lewis welcomed members and guests with a special welcome to Chloris Gordon - she had not been with us for some time.

The Collect was repeated by all. Elizabeth Goyette read the minutes and Dorothy Lawrance, treasurer, gave a gratifying bank balance.

Reda reported that 30 knitted articles have been given to the Sutton School and 15 went to the volunteer service. Twelve

lap robes have been given to special people during November and December. This is all part of the Wool Gathering Project. Another bundle of knitted squares have been sent to Zambia.

The bills were ordered paid. Several letters were read expressing thanks for lap robes. There were also verbal thanks for others. We are also grateful for donations received. Reda read a letter from the Sutton School Principal Mrs. Quinlin with her gratitude for the donations given to the school.

Norma Jennings will be sending season's greetings to a number of persons.

Angie Sherrer presented the slate of officers for 1997 — this was seconded by Cora Hazard. Thank you to all the officers and we wish you a good year. The next meeting will be in March.

Ola Carr gave a hearty vote of thanks to Reda for her work as President during another year. This brought the meeting to a close.

There were 30 ladies and gents to find a place at the festive table. Reda led in all repeating the W.I. Grace and a bountiful, delicious meal was enjoyed. The meal was catered by Eileen Menec of Cowansville.

Shirley Crittenden volunteered to play the piano for a time to sing Carols, then the pleasant task of exchanging and opening gifts. Finally thank you and Season's Greetings were being exchanged around the hall and soon all left for home or other commitments.

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Firefighters carry helping ways into new century

By Maurice Crossfield

KNOWLTON — After spending much of the last year celebrating 100 years of community service, the Brome Lake Volunteer Fire Department wrapped things up by handing out \$6000 to three institutions that serve the community.

On Dec. 4 the firefighters handed out \$2000 to Knowlton Academy, \$2000 to Ecole St Edouard and \$2000 to the Brome-Missisquoi Perkins Foundation. The money came from benefit events held over the spring, summer and fall marking the fire department's centenary.

Among the events celebrating the centennial of the second oldest fire department in the region were the opening ball in March, the fireman's competition at the Lion's Park July 1, a duck race, dinner at the Lakeview and the closing ball in November.

The firefighters also held a draw at both Knowlton schools for a mountain bike last June before the beginning of summer holidays.

Brome Lake fire chief Pierre Laplante said the summer's activities allowed firefighters to look back at their own history.

"We wanted to recognize the effort people made over all the years," said Laplante.

He said the events provided an opportunity for people to get together and have some fun. "At the same time we got to help people who are in need," he said, adding that all of the firefighters gave their time freely to help out.

Laplante said he thinks the year also brought the firefighters and the community closer together. With firefighters there to help when there is an accident or a fire, Laplante said it is the nature of the job for firefighters to be close to the people they help and protect.

"When you look at the time and the danger, people are getting a lot for their money from the firefighters," said Laplante. "And our people are often close to those who need help."



PHOTOS: IAN CROSSFIELD

Brome Lake fire chief Pierre Laplante (far right) and members of the volunteer fire department with representatives of Knowlton Academy and the BMP Foundation, organizations which the department donated \$2000 each.

All in all, Laplante said the centennial celebrations were a success.

"The Town of Brome Lake and a lot of local people really gave us a lot of support and really helped to make it a success."

But with the celebrations over and the holidays quickly approaching, Laplante is back to thinking about fire prevention. So here are a few tips on fire prevention for the weeks and months ahead.

If you have a real Christmas tree:

- Try to look for one that is freshly cut, that doesn't shed a lot of needles when you shake it.

- Cut off the bottom part of the base and place the tree in a stand that can hold a good quantity of water. Cutting the base will allow the tree to absorb more water.

- Use only lights that are approved and in good condition.

- Don't overload electrical circuits.

For the rest of the house:

- Take advantage of the unseasonably warm weather to check out your home heating system. Examine wood stove pipes and chimneys to make sure they are clean and safe for the return of winter.

- Check to ensure your smoke detectors are working properly.

- Make sure all exits are accessible and not blocked by Christmas trees or other obstructions.

- Be careful using candles, especially around anything that could catch fire, such as curtains and Christmas decorations.

Laplante said the holiday season can be the worst time of the year for fires, many of which could be prevented.

"We don't want to see anything like that," he said.



Pierre Laplante (far right) and Brome Lake volunteer firefighters with representatives of Ecole St Edouard, which the fire department donated \$2000 to.

Townshippers Association looking for people to participate

Program to keep youth in region targets Brome

KNOWLTON (MC) — The Townshippers Association's battle to halt the exodus of youth from the Eastern Townships to greener pastures will be concentrating on Brome-Missisquoi over the next few months.

Last year, the Townshippers Youth Project initiated a province-wide effort to show young people what opportunities exist in the regions and

encourage entrepreneurship.

The five-year program, titled Our Region, Our Future/Place aux jeunes, is one of 47 taking place across Quebec. It will offer three weekend sessions in the Brome-Missisquoi regional municipality (MRC) between January and March.

More than a dozen young residents of Brome-Missisquoi between the ages

of 18 and 30 will learn about its economic, historical and social qualities and meet local entrepreneurs and employers. They will look at locally available jobs and the possibilities of starting their own businesses.

The Townshippers Association is looking to recruit young people to take part. They also need people, businesses and organizations in

Brome-Missisquoi who are interested in helping the region hang onto its educated youth.

Partners to help in the organizing and financing of the program are also needed.

Anyone interested can contact the Townshippers Association at (514) 263-4422 in Cowansville or (819) 566-5717 in Ascot.

May this Holiday Season be filled with joy and the New Year bring you good health and happiness!



Denis Paradis

Député libéral fédéral Brome-Missisquoi



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Pierre Paradis

To the people of Brome-Missisquoi,

My personnel and I would like to offer you our best wishes for the New Year.

May this Holiday Season be a time of reconciliation and sharing and bring you Happiness, Health and Prosperity.

Pierre Paradis
MNA

Trail guide will help hikers plot path

Matt Sylvain

SHERBROOKE — The rugged, 150 kilometre Estrie Trail is the longest wilderness footpath in Quebec, and now it's become a little bit more accessible to anglophone hikers.

Les Sentiers de l'Estrie Inc., the Sherbrooke organization that operates the trail, has just released an English version of its trail guide.

Titled the *Estrie Trail Guide*, it was prepared from the original French guide last published in 1994.

On top of being the first English version, it also includes the most up to date information on route changes and extensions to the trail system begun in the early 1970's. The trail today extends from the U.S. border near Glen Sutton to the village of Kingsbury, north of Sherbrooke.

No hiker should head out without a good knowledge of the terrain, and a guidebook listing distances and trail conditions is essential for anyone who wants more than a short stroll.

The pocket sized, 64 page soft cover

book contains tonnes of information valuable to novices, pros, visitors and locals alike.

Especially handy is a glossary at the back that lists the English translation of words found on maps and trail signs.

Accompanying the book are two topographic maps that show the route and charts distances and elevations, all using the metric measurement system.

Also thrown into the package are two photocopied map revisions, dated October 1996, that point out major changes to the Estrie Trail.

Now that an English trail guide is available, it's a safe bet that more hikers and backpackers will be drawn from south of the border, where hiking and backpacking are major pastimes.

The *Estrie Trail Guide* should soon be available at local bookstores and outdoor specialty shops. To find out more about where, call (819) 829-1992.

Government to help fund national literacy project

KNOWLTON — Brome-Missisquoi member of parliament Denis Paradis has announced that the federal government will be giving out \$35,000 to help a national literacy project.

The funding will go towards a project called 'Tools for Literacy for Employability.'

"More than 42 per cent of Canadians have some difficulty in reading or writing and more than 16 per cent are illiterate," Paradis said in a press release. "It is dramatic, particularly when you look at the process of job hunting where the knowledge of reading and writing are essential."

Stanbridge East

Thelma Rhicard
248-4168

Rev. Peter Hannen and his Dalmation dog, Axel were on Pulse News, Ch. 12 as a promotion for the opening of the movie, 101 Dalmations. Speaking of people in the limelight, isn't Rob Kemp on C.J.A.D. doing well? He is the tech-

nical producer for Radio 800 and Mix 96 and now we hear him giving the traffic reports. He is the 24 year old son of Duncan and Joan Kemp. Congratulations and good luck Rob.

Bonne Année 1997

Durant les trois années à venir, il sera souvent question du prochain centenaire ainsi que du nouveau millénaire qui marqueront une étape importante dans l'histoire de l'humanité. Ce sera sans doute un privilège de vivre l'arrivée de l'an 2000.

En attendant, il reste encore trois ans pour permettre au monde de se préparer à fêter de façon extravagante.

Et pur 1997, quelles résolutions prendront nous? Qu'arrivera-t-il de toutes les guerres et de tous les conflits? Qu'advientra-t-il de nos gouvernements qui ont de plus en plus de difficulté à gouverner? Où prendront-ils l'argent sans créer de nouveaux pauvres, sans emploi? Comment nous adapterons-nous au réchauffement de la planète? Y aura-t-il des dégels tout au long de l'hiver?

Comme il nous est impossible de régler tous les problèmes, pourquoi ne pas essayer de vivre joyeusement chaque jour. Qui, je sais, ce serait facile s'il n'y avait pas tel ou tel problème, tel ou tel événement,

telles ou telles personnes dans notre vie. Bien que ce soit difficile à accepter, nous n'avons personne à blâmer. Tout ce passe dans notre esprit. Nous avons toujours le choix de voir les choses autrement. Ouais!

Et pour les résolutions pour 1997, que ferez-vous? Cesserez-vous de fumer? Changerez-vous votre routine? Ferez-vous plus d'exercice? Utiliserez-vous d'avantage un talent que vous avez? Communiquerez-vous plus souvent avec les personnes que vous aimez et avec celles qui sont loin ou seules?

Quant à moi, je prends la résolution de commencer à écrire un livre. C'est un projet que je caresse depuis déjà assez longtemps. Le temps est venu. Je commencerai le 3 janvier. Il s'agira d'un roman basé sur une histoire personnelle vécue et l'action se passera au Canada, aux Etats-unis, en Suisse, au Danemark, en Allemagne, en France, aux Pays-Bas, à Singapour, à Hong Kong et en Malaisie!

Bonne année 1997 à vous, chers lecteurs. Mille pensées et plein de bisous!

Still time to enter our Oliver Klaus CD contest

KNOWLTON — Time is running out to win the new compact disc from Waterloo's own Oliver Klaus.

The Waterloo rockers have been at it for years, and are credited with being the first Canadian band to release an independent album. Their newest release, *Homeless*, comes more than 25 years after that first effort.

You can win the new CD by answering the following Oliver Klaus trivia question: Why did the members of Oliver Klaus wear skirts?

Hint: The answer can be found in an issue of the *Record's* own Townships Week just a few weeks ago.

Answers should be mailed or faxed to the Knowlton Office at 88 Lakeside, JOE 1V0. Our fax number is (514) 243-5155. Entries must be received by the morning of Jan. 7, and will be announced in the Jan. 8 *Brome County News*.

If you don't happen to win *Homeless* or didn't get it for Christmas, you can still get your hands on a copy at various video stores in Waterloo and the surrounding region.

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Letters to the Editor

More bewildered than offended by cantata

Dear editor,

Having read about the controversy concerning the Rev. Burn Purdon's cantata, *Sacred Scandal*, I attended its presentation at the United Church on Dec. 21 to seek understanding of its rather confusing content.

The Yamaska Regional Choir gave an impressive performance in its interpretation of the work of the talented author/composer, Dr. Purdon. Although the music was pleasing, it was the mes-

sage in the cantata that I had come to hear.

Its aim had been to seek new insights into the birth of Jesus and so find new spiritual truth in God's divine purpose. I regret to say I did not come away with any such uplifted sense of faith, although others may have found it inspirational.

I felt more bewildered than offended by the description of Mary's violation and the bragging of its perpetrator (although

it certainly took away from any warm fuzzy Christmas feeling one might previously have had.) The concept, presumably endorsed by some United Church, Roman Catholic and Anglican theologians, that a Roman soldier was the father of Jesus, raises far more questions than answers.

If the virgin birth is in doubt, will the resurrection be next? Are all religious beliefs to be discarded as mere romantic presentations, "the opiate of the people"?

(It didn't work in Russia.) Just because there is no absolute proof that these events took place, does that mean we are not to believe them? Whatever happened to "faith is the belief in things not seen"?

Perhaps Christianity will go full circle and become again like the original 'little band of Christians' in a disbelieving world where they will face, not persecution, but a more insidious foe — denial.

Ainslie Laing
Knowlton

Two aspects of cantata deserve appreciation

Dear editor

I have read and heard of shocked reaction to *Sacred Scandal*, the cantata by Rev. Dr. Burn Purdon.

I have seen much of his material and I am not surprised that some people react.

But I thought that there were at least two aspects of his work which deserve

our appreciation.

In the first place, the cantata provides the best statement I have heard of understanding rape victims, a counter to our society's tendency to look askance at them or even blame them for their hurt. I believe that god cares deeply for them and would approve of Dr. Purdon's state-

ment on this account, at least.

There is also a reminder that the Christmas story is of God's grace, which is not dependent on or limited by human worthiness. The cantata says this emphatically, and this is an important part of the Good News of Christmas.

Is the cantata a perfect theological

statement? I doubt it. But even through flawed instruments like it and like us God may work wonders. And God may well work wonders through "Sacred Scandal" if we are not closed to wonder.

Yours truly,
R. Stewart Clarke, Minister
Cowansville

Ontarian relatives looking for Purdys

Dear editor,

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

He was born 1829-30. Married, March 11, 1850, Grenville, Quebec, to Jane Bigelow, the daughter of Margaret Carr and George Bigelow.

It seems that they lived their lives in the Chatham, Grenville, Thurso areas of Quebec. Robert died July 30, 1921 at Burk's Corners near Thurso, Quebec. He 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, possibly with 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 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

From legion to Lions

Open letter

Dear Ms. Banks:

As President of the Knowlton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, I am writing to express our thanks to the Lions Club for the delicious breakfast served to our Veterans on Sunday, Nov. 24 at Knowlton Academy. All of the members who took advantage of your kind invitation enjoyed themselves immensely.

Over the years, the Legion and the Lions Club have had a most harmonious relationship, and the breakfast was certainly evidence of this fact.

Our thanks also go to Steve Trew, principal of Knowlton Academy, for providing the facilities, the school children who created the fascinating wall mural, and especially to Lion Peter Treacy, whom we understand organized the festivities.

Once again, thank you. We look forward to many more years of association with the Lions Club.

Sincerely
Phoebe McBride,
President,
Royal Canadian Legion
Brome (Que. No. 23) Branch

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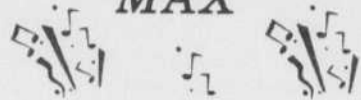
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Happy Fiftieth Birthday



from your friends and family



50th wedding anniversary



Congratulations to Rita Bouchard and Georges-Emile Boisvert of South Stukely on their 50th wedding anniversary, Dec. 27, 1946. Wishing you a long, healthy and happy life. Love from your eight children.

CLSC schedule

COWANSVILLE — The offices of the CLSC La Pommeraiie will be closed from Dec. 31 to Jan. 2.

The community health centres in Bedford, Cowansville, Brome Lake and Farnham will be closed on those days due to the New Year's holiday.

In Farnham the walk-in clinic will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 31.

If you need any information about health care, contact the Info-Santé line, which is in operation 24 hours a day throughout the holidays.

In Brome-Missisquoi the numbers to call are 293-3622, or 6-3622.

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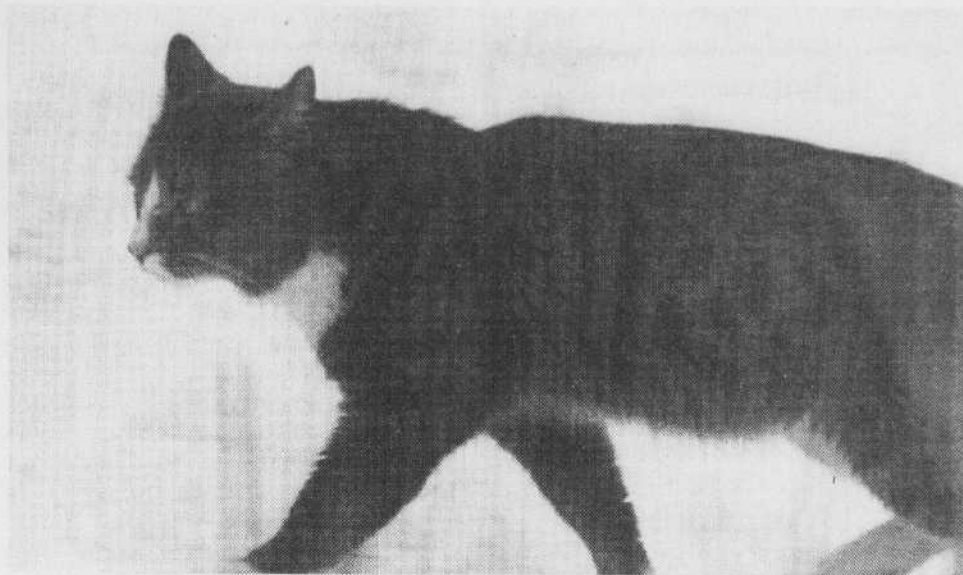
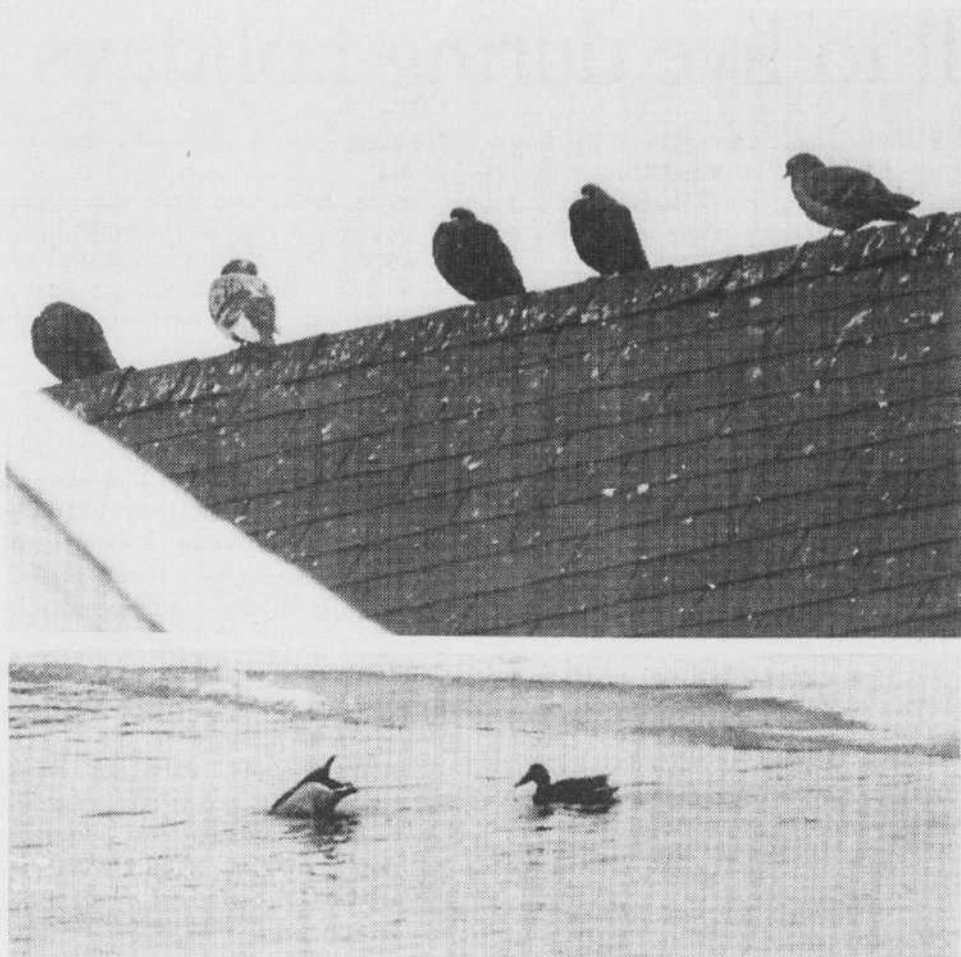
Join us for a super New Year's Eve dinner and party.

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Bird land

Brome Lake bird lovers will be on the lookout this Saturday as they take part in the area's eighth annual Christmas Bird Count. Some will be on the road, covering a 15-mile circle centred on the town, while others will be looking at bird populations on their own properties. While most will be spotting the feathered creatures for the census, others — like Mr. Cat (below) — may have other things on their mind! Photos by Perry Beaton.




Stanbridge East

Thelma Rhicard
248-4168

David and Donna Kidd drove to Plainfield, New Jersey to attend the wedding of their son Jeremy and his wife Anastasia. Congratulations to the happily married couple.

Rev. John Lee was the guest speaker


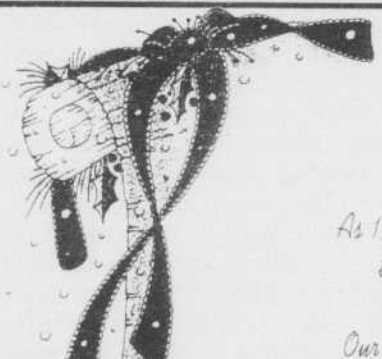
on "Prisoner's Sunday," the 24th, at St. Margaret's Church in Tetreaultville. In his absence here, Patricia Blinn took the service and Gerry Lafferty Jr. of St. Michael's Mission in Montreal, was the guest speaker and spoke about the mission.

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Dying muster force of will to live during holidays

TORONTO (CP) — Death apparently takes a holiday before Christmas.

Doctors who work with the dying say some terminally ill people manage to defy the odds and, through sheer force of will, live past Dec. 25.

"People do hold on for events that are important to them," said Dr. Elizabeth Latimer, professor of family medicine at McMaster University in

Hamilton and a specialist in care for the dying.

Important events include Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, the impending birth of a grandchild and more.

"When a particular event has happened, we also have a sense that people sort of let go," said Latimer, adding she has witnessed this herself.

"How it works is part of the mystery of life and death that we really don't understand."

Clifford Drennan, 79, died last year after a long decline due to heart disease. But he managed to reach two milestones — his golden wedding anniversary and Christmas Day.

"Our 50th anniversary was Sept. 15, 1995, and he was determined to live until then. And it was the same with Christmas," said Edythe Drennan of nearby Mississauga.

"He was having trouble breathing and was confined to bed. I didn't think he'd make it to Christmas. They said he was on the verge of dying, but he did it."

She and the couple's three sons

brought Drennan's gifts to his hospital bedside. He was more cheerful than usual and was even able to sit up and eat a bit. Drennan died three days later.

"It seems that death can be postponed until beyond a symbolically meaningful occasion, like Christmas," said Dr. Alastair Cunningham, a clinical psychologist at the Ontario Cancer Institute.

Obviously, it doesn't work in every case. But even though the phenomenon isn't readily explained, "you can't discount it," he said.

David Phillips, professor of sociology at the University of California at San Diego, has done several studies showing that the death rate tends to dip before a major social occasion.

Using California death certificates, Phillips examined the number of deaths from cancer, heart disease and natural causes in the Jewish community before and after the Passover holiday.

He compared that data to the death rate experienced in the Chinese and

Japanese communities over the same period.

Among Jews, the death rate dipped almost 30 per cent in the week before Passover and sharply increased the week after. Yet there was no change in the rate experienced by the Oriental population.

It isn't only holidays that inspire people to hang on to life just a little bit longer.

"If you look at the mortality of famous people around their birthdays you get a very strong drop in death beforehand, and a very strong peak in death afterwards, whether they're male or female," Phillips said.

Well-known people get far more attention on their birthdays than the rest of us, he said.

"Famous people, such as movie stars, presidents, prime ministers and kings, get congratulatory telegrams on their birthdays," he said. "For the rest of us (a birthday) is a much milder situation."

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Making French toast more healthy

Impressive and delicious, yet surprisingly easy to make, this French toast is a low-fat twist on an old favorite. The recipe has been slimmed down with egg substitute and skim milk. Each serving has 231 calories and 2.8 grams of fat.

Holiday French Toast

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 125 mL (1/2 cup) egg substitute
- 125 mL (1/2 cup) skim milk
- 113 mL (1/4 cup) orange juice
- 45 mL (3 tbsp) sugar
- 2 mL (1/2 tsp) grated orange peel
- 5 mL (1 tsp) vanilla

- 2 mL (1/2 tsp) rum extract
 - Dash ground nutmeg
 - 12 slices French bread, 5 cm (2 in) wide, about 1.75 (3/4-in) thick
 - 375 mL (1 1/2 cups) crushed corn flakes
 - 2 oranges
- Preheat oven to 220 C (425 F).
 Spray a 2 litre (1 1/2-quart) shallow, oval dish with nonstick cooking spray.

Combine egg substitute, skim milk, orange juice, sugar, grated orange peel, vanilla, rum extract and nutmeg in a shallow bowl; mix well.

Dip bread in milk mixture, making sure all of the mixture is absorbed.

Place cornflake crumbs in a shallow bowl. Dip bread into cornflake crumbs, coating both sides evenly. Place in prepared dish. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown, turning once. Garnish with orange slices. Top with butter and syrup, if desired.

Makes 6 servings.

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Christmas is a time for renewed hope

By Shirley Maynes Beakes

Record Correspondent

WATERLOO — As preparations are made to celebrate the birth of a very special baby, Pierre Bergeron and Kathy David believe having a child would be a near miracle for them.

Battling cancer since age 15, Pierre Bergeron of Waterloo is left with an abiding sense of hope. Bergeron celebrated his 25th birthday last May 25, thankful not to have faced surgery since 1995.

The young man's battle with cancer began in 1987 while a student at Wilfred Leger School In Waterloo. On an otherwise normal day, he casually put his hand to his neck and shock-waves ran through his body as he felt a huge lump.

"I didn't feel sick or anything but I was so scared that I called my mother to pick me up at school. We went right to the doctor and he ordered X-rays of the neck and lungs. There was a swelling near the lung on the left side, like a balloon the size of a football," Bergeron remembers.

Bergeron was immediately admitted to the Royal Victoria Hospital, where he spent two weeks undergoing tests, CT scan, a biopsy and was diagnosed as having cancer.

"So much for my plans to play hockey for the Triple A "Magog Midgets," said Bergeron. An excellent hockey player with potential, Bergeron had just finished playing in the Inter-City Bantam tournament for the Maroons a few weeks earlier and was slated to join the Magog team.

Over the next two years Bergeron underwent 18 operations, including one which lasted 13 hours. Within the last ten years, Bergeron has also had four bone marrow transplants.

Hope is the key to Bergeron's life. Since 1987, Bergeron has complet-



Pierre Bergeron has battled cancer since he was 15. Now he awaits the birth of his first child.

PHOTO: SHIRLEY MAYNES BEAKES

ed his education at Wilfred Leger School in Waterloo, then found work as a laborer at Zeplin Technology in Granby, until he was laid off.

For the past nine months, Bergeron has been employed at Knowlton Packaging, following a work-training program there for seven weeks, as part of a course he completed last spring as industrial operator.

Bergeron is a man of great strength and perseverance.


For the six years that Bergeron has shared his life with Kathy David, they have tried to lead a normal life and would like to have a family. "It is almost impossible to achieve this dream, when I have had massive doses of chemo and radiation, but I will always try and never give up hoping," said Bergeron.

Bergeron says he has always had the love and faith of family and friends to help him with his disease. "There were times when I felt like giving up; when I lost my hair, or I can't stand being so nauseated. I know that I am not alone though. Without my mom's compassion and understanding, I don't think I could have survived. She was my "Raison d'Etre."

Bergeron's advice to everyone, especially at Christmas, is to have HOPE. "Every day I hope and pray for a cure for cancer, which is a devastating dis-

ease. I also am thankful for the good will and caring of my friends. It's encouraging for me to struggle and maintain a normal life."

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Stanbridge East Women's Institute meeting

The December 3 meeting was held at the Anglican Church Hall. President Dianne Rhicard welcomed the members and two guests, Gladys Dustin and County Pres. Evelyn Lewis. Motto: When you are too busy for friends you are too busy.

Roll Call: Bring a stamped Christmas card to be sent to a sick or shut-in friend.

Business from minutes: Knitted articles are to be sent to St. Michael's Mission, the Veterans' Hospital and Horizon Prouelle.

The annual M.C.W.I. meeting is February 4, 1997 at Anglican Church Hall in Stanbridge East.

County Pres. Evelyn Lewis gave a report on the board meeting. Convention is May 11th to 14th, 1997 at MacDonald College. The Wales Home is in need of large print books.

Annual reports were read and accepted.

At noon we broke for lunch as husbands and friends arrived for a delicious turkey dinner catered by Cafe Chez Moi.

Dianne thanked Linda, Lorette and Marilyn as we gave them a round of applause.

Barbara Harvey played the piano for the Christmas songs and carols and for "Musical Gift", (like Musical Chairs). There was a great deal of laughter as the gift was passed. Evelyn Lewis was the winner. Pam Dillion read from "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens, also part of a letter he wrote on his travels to Quebec.

Gifts were then chosen by answering a question about the Bible, the answer being on your gift.

After all the fun we settled down to business. June Lamey reported on the new program. She will also address the Christmas cards as Shirley isn't well.

Dianne and Thelma will audit the books before next meeting. It will be at Thelma's, Jan. 9, at 10:30 a.m. (pot luck).

After announcements the meeting adjourned and Christmas wishes were exchanged as we left for home.

Stanbridge East
Thelma Rhicard
248-4168

Craig and Ann Boomhower were supper guests at our home to celebrate his 43rd birthday. Their two children are at college.

Flora and Cheryl Rhicard and myself enjoyed the Dunham A.C. Ladies Soup and Dessert Luncheon on November 21. We didn't have to prepare supper either as we were invited to John and Dianne Rhicard's for his 60th birthday celebration. Their children, Ann, Eliza, Conrad and Gail and their families were also present so it was a full big table! The birthday cake was made with tofu and was delicious.

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If the answer is yes, do we have something for you!

Townshippers' Association's Youth Project will be offering an **Our Region, Our Future/Place aux jeunes** project in the MRC of Brome-Missisquoi over a period of three weekends in January, February and March 1997.

Each weekend has its own theme, varying from "Rediscovering the region" to "Developing a network of contacts" and "Imagining my future in the region." The focus of the project is on discovering economic opportunities that exist in the area, with a special emphasis on entrepreneurship.

Workshops and registration are **free**; meals and transportation costs will also be covered. Registration is limited, so call now! (Deadline to register January 6).

For more information:

Erin Mallory
Townshippers' Association
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Tel: (819) 566-5717
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Golden Age Club meets

KNOWLTON — The last meeting of 1996 of the Knowlton Golden Age Club was held at the Community Centre on December 12. President Jim Eaton brought a large box of chocolates as a Christmas treat. Jim opened the meeting with his usual joke which is always enjoyed by the members. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A letter from Joanne Morin and Chantale McAviney thanking the members for

Christmas gifts was read. Elvia Johnson thanked the Club for the lovely plant she had received. Several Club members had been unable to attend our Christmas dinner due to ill health, so Christmas cards were signed for remember them. We regretted to hear that Gordon Marsh is in the hospital for a few days, a "Get-Well" card was signed for him.

Two representatives from the Home Care Agency of Bedford spoke on the ser-

vices such as nursing, cleaning and even yard work, that their organization is able to provide for anyone needing work done.

Isobel Tryhorn donated tea bags for the kitchen.

500 was played at five tables with four at the game tables. Geraldine Wheeler won the prize at the game tables. In 500, Ron Tryhorn and Marjorie Falle won the special prize for 10 diamonds, bid and made. Other prizes were won by: 1st,

Lawrence Marsh, 5320, 2nd, Elvia Johnson, 5050, 3rd Elsie Royca, 4440, 4th, Voneta Whitehead, 4140, and 5th, Marjorie Falle, 4020.

Phoebe Eaton and Elvia Johnson organized tea and coffee and a pot-luck lunch was enjoyed while the door prizes were given out.

The next meeting will be held on January 9, 1997, when cards will be played, when we hope to welcome everyone back.



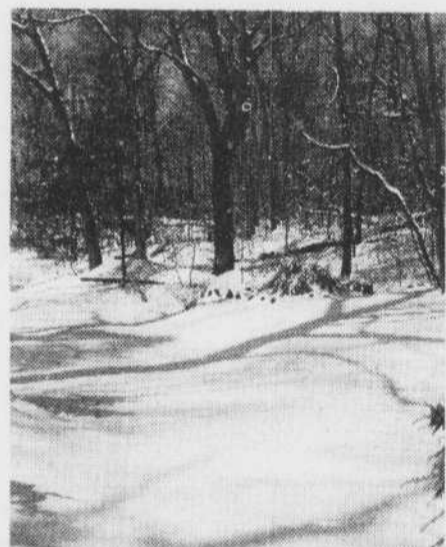


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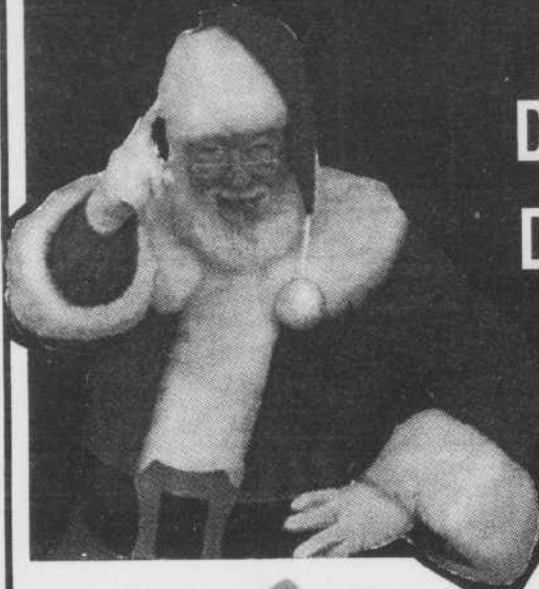
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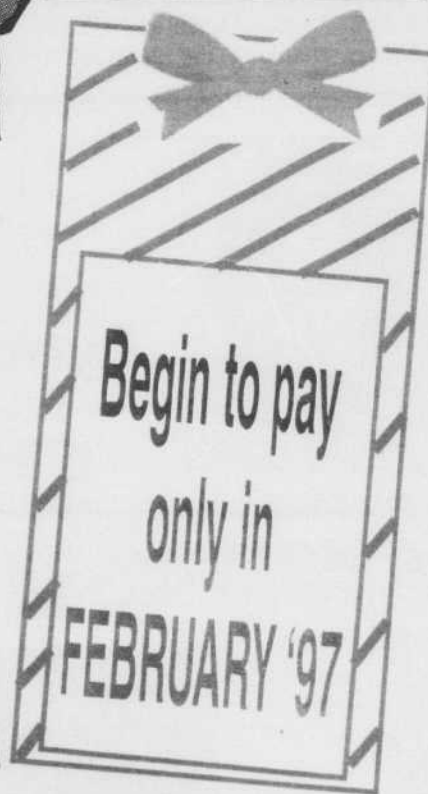
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