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Wednesday, December 6, 1995

She keeps ancestral home intact, decorated with her crafts

Hogle Loyalists live through Iris Guthrie

By Sharon McCully

PHILIPSBURG — A page of Loyalist history is being kept alive by an 89-year-old Philipsburg woman.

Iris Guthrie is the only known living descendent of the Hogle Loyalists who came to the region in 1781, and she continues to live in the ancestral home on land cleared by her forefathers two centuries ago.

Her great-grandfather John Hogle served during the American Civil War in Jessop's Corps of the Loyal Rangers and Guthrie has his discharge papers, signed by Commander Jessop, to prove it.

When Hogle crossed the border into Canada in 1781, he purchased a large tract of land which spanned both sides of the Canada-U.S. border.

"When they arrived there was nothing but woods," Guthrie said. "They cleared the trees and built a cute little house and barn on the property."

Situated just a few hundred feet from the border, and sheltered by groves of mature trees, the Hogle barn was sometimes used by rum-runners during the prohibition years to stash their stuff.

"Bootleggers would sneak in and hide their whiskey in the barn then collect it later," she recalled.

TESTAMENT

The historic home, rebuilt in 1873 from remnants of the earlier home, remains a testament to Guthrie's ancestry and to her talents as an artisan.

An outdoor bread oven and smoke house remain standing and the musket used by her great-grandfather in the Phoenian Raids hangs over the fireplace.

"He fought at Eccles Hill with that rifle," she noted with the air of a tour guide.

On the mantle is a 150-year-old grandfather clock — from her grandfather's side of the family — and a 200-year-old handmade vegetable basket.

"This is the original deed to the house," she said, pointing to a framed copy of a fragile, yellowed paper with exquisite penmanship.

In the cellar, wine has been aging in bottles since the turn of the century. "It's not very good," she offered.

TAPESTRIES

Tapestries and hooked rugs, painstakingly crafted by Guthrie, hang throughout the farmhouse while afghans add an element of warmth to every chair and sofa.

"When I was growing up, the house was booming with people," she recalled. "I'd say we had 10 family members and two hired hands living here at one time."

The kitchen was the hub of the activity with three generations of women bustling to cook, pickle and preserve.

"Grandmother would spend the day cooking and mother would be busy churning — we were always busy," she said. "We didn't have to buy anything at the store except maybe flour and sugar. We had all the chickens and maple syrup we needed, we made our own butter and cream, and grew our fruit and vegetables."

Excess farm products were transported by train from St. Armand to Montreal for sale in stores, while cream and butter were sold across the border in Vermont.

"You'd get about 25 cents for a nice quart of whipping cream," she said. "There were no customs agents to stop traffic at the border until 1936. We went back and forth all the time without even thinking about it."

CATTLE WALK

As a child, Guthrie and her sister were responsible for herding the family's 30 head of cattle two miles into Vermont every morning, then returning them to their Philipsburg pastures at night.

And there was plenty for the teenagers to do on weekends, Guthrie insisted.

"We had a little orchestra and we played fox-trots, waltzes, and square dances at the local hotels."

Guthrie played piano while her brother Allan played saxophone, clarinet and in a pinch, the washboard.

After she married, Guthrie and her husband, a local carpenter, continued



Iris Guthrie with the original deed to her historic home, rebuilt in 1873... 'I love the land. I'm part of it.'

to live at home and care for her aging parents.

Guthrie dreamed of having her own gift shop with the kind of fine china and beautiful things dreams are made of.

"I didn't have the money to get started so I got 300 turkeys and fed and fattened them up to sell," she said. "When it came time to sell them, I hated to part with them."

Guthrie's husband built the shop for her on a patch of land across the street given to her by her parents and for

more than 25 years she opened the border cafe and gift shop.

"Oh, my I had some beautiful things," she said. "Royal Dalton hummels, Wedgewood, Hudson's Bay blankets and coats," she rhymed off.

"I never thought of leaving here," she summed up. "I love the land. I'm part of it. I have my gardens and my birds — the finches, cardinals and chickadees, this wonderful big house, and all the history that goes with it."

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Brome County Community Billboard

Community Calendar

December 7-10

Mysteria Victorian Collection Christmas Sale at 6 Maple St., corner of Pleasant in Sutton. Open Dec. 7, 8, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 10, 1 to 5 p.m. We have unique creations from jewelery, leather goods, pillows, etc. You will also find everything for decorating your home for the holidays. All individually handmade and well worth seeing. We are also featuring Delilah, a Canadian designer who has worked in Montreal's fashion industry and recently completed a training session with Jean Claude Poitras. Her debut collection, Primitive Pizazz, was inspired by North American Indian and African cultural influences. It is original and daring. There will be chances of winning prizes with each purchase.

December 9

Brome Hotel fundraising event for the Children's Wish Foundation: 2nd annual Wild Game Supper of the hunters and friends of the Brome Bolton Fish and Game Club, on Saturday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Donation of \$10. All proceeds go to the Children's Wish Foundation.

Christmas Open House at the Workshop, 11 Church St. West, Abercorn, 10-4 p.m. Many new items this year, lovely created Christmas ornaments, special wrapped gifts, hostess favors, Christmas cookies — all packaged for delivery. Large items such as

quilts, afghans, pillows, and assorted household articles. Free coffee and snacks for our guests. Come and spend the day with us.

Canadian Black Powder Association Annual General Meeting, to be held in the Brome Village Hall, 330 StageCoach Rd., Brome, at 1:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Brian Allen. All members are urged to attend; visitors are welcome. More info, call 243-0264.

December 11

LECTURE/DEMONSTRATION with Dr. Vivien Muir, D.C., chiropractor, at Knowlton Community Center at 7:30 p.m. How to become flexible, aligned, "tuned-up", for the ski slopes — for life in general! Everyone welcome! Refreshments will be served.

December 14

Annual general meeting and elections plus Christmas Party, at Auberge du Joli Vent, 667 Bondville Road, Foster, at 6 p.m. Hors d'Oeuvres and Christmas Cheer. Welcome to All — Members & Non-Members. Elect your new President & Board. Only chamber members may vote. Lottery Draw Entrance From zero dollars to \$12.

December 16

Nine Lessons & Carols Service at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Knowlton, at 4 p.m. Music will be provided by the choir of St. George's Anglican Church, Georgeville, led by Sarah Hoblyn.

December 10 at Theatre Lac Brome in Knowlton. A play for the entire family. Directed and adapted by Patrick David Campbell, based on the story by Charles Dickens. Starring Walter Strapps as Scrooge and Jose Jones as Mrs. Dilber. Final performances take place December 8 and 9 at 7 p.m., and December 9 and 10 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 regular, \$5 11 years and under. For reservations, call 266-4246. A Christmas delight!

Auditions for The Red Shoes (based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Anderson), on December 10 and 11. The Knowlton Players are looking for actors, actresses, stage crew, production crew, seamstresses, etc. Upstairs at the Knowlton Pub at 7 p.m. Opportunity for 12-15-year-olds. Tel: (514) 263-1061.

Arts Sutton: Through December 30, member artists will be exhibiting Diptychs, that is to say, a tableau or a sculpture consisting of two parts. More than 30 participants are expected, this will allow visitors to admire works of

different trends and techniques. The gallery is open in December on Thursday, Friday and Sunday from 1 to 5 and on Saturday from 10 to 12 and 1 to 5. The gallery will be closed on the 24th, 25th, 26th, and the 27th of December.

Les Voix Du Coeur, a new choir based in Sutton will play a concert on December 9. This group sings a capella and is under the direction of Renee Larouche, a well-known musician from the area. Its 17 members come from Abercorn, Cowansville, Dunham, East-Farnham, West Bolton, Frelighsburg, Mansonville and Sutton. The concert is titled *Puer natus in Bethleem*, and will start at 8 p.m. in the St. Simon d'Abercorn church. Reserve your tickets early with Robert Turgeon at the Sutton Caisse Populaire or by calling Christine Bertrand at 538-2484. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children between 6 and 12.

Wildlife artist Gertrude Antoine Barwick at the Knowlton Pub, Knowlton, from 10 a.m. to six p.m. on December 16.

St. Luke's Church Women meet

WATERLOO — On Monday evening, November 20 at 7:30 p.m., St. Luke's Church Women met in the church hall with an attendance of 11. Nellie Darling, president, opened the meeting with the Lord's Prayer, then welcomed all.

The Secretary, Jean Davidson, read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved and signed. She passed on thanks from Alice Ashton for birthday cards and gifts that she had received from the ladies in October. Doris Wilson read her financial report.

Nellie thanked all who had helped with the Christmas tea.

For new business Catherine Lawrence mentioned that St. Luke's Church would be hosting the deanery supper and meeting around February 12, 1996. Catherine moved, Winnie MacIntosh seconded, and all were in favor, that a donation be made to the Corporation of St. Luke's Church.

Nellie read a list of shut-ins who would be visited by different members of St. Luke's Church Women and each given a small Christmas remembrance. Names on the list were Ina Neil, Alice Kavanagh, Alice Ashton, Theresa Roach, Marion Rowe, Dorothy Copping, Carol Johnson, Gordon Honey and Percy Honey.

It was mentioned that Marilyn Sylvain's parents, Evelyn and Asa Squires had donated a microwave oven to St. Luke's Church Women which was appreciated and would be used.

The next meeting will be held on January 15, 1996 at 2 p.m. Rita McKerrell then adjourned the meeting.

Tea, coffee, assorted squares, and a social time were enjoyed by all.

Community Notes

SNAP FLAP: *Brome County News* still has a supply of Snap Flap, the Snappy spelling game for children and adults. The game pits players against one another in a race to turn letters into words. Games are \$25 plus postage. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Words for Women literacy program.

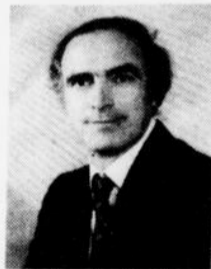
Arts Calendar

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Dawson recreation students test theories at Butler

By Sharon McCully

BEDFORD — No way we're playing a game where you have to hold hands, protested a group of Grade 4 students at Butler Elementary.

"There are some things you just can't anticipate if you're not in a classroom with children," Dawson professor Holly Bockus told a group of college students doing field work at the elementary school in Bedford last week.

Bockus returned to her alma mater this week with second-year students from her recreation and leadership program to allow them to practise their classroom theory on real kids.

"They teach their peers in a classroom setting, but the best way to get feedback is to teach real kids," said Bockus, a former Butler student and graduate of Massey Vanier High School.

And feedback they got.

"It's really great," said Eric, one of the 30 senior students visiting the Bedford school. "Kids tell you exactly what they feel, and they're full of enthusiasm and energy."

Before visiting the classroom, the student leaders were asked to develop a program of song, dance and games for different age and interest levels.

"The teachers at the school have been really helpful evaluating the activities and offering suggestions,"



Students from Dawson's recreation and leadership program practised their classroom theory at Butler Elementary.

Bockus said.

And the young students didn't mind playing lab rats for the practising students either.

"It's fun and I like the songs," one Grade 1 girl said, humming a new tune.

The college students provided a mix of activities each adapted to the skills and motor development of the age group they were teaching.

"They start with introduction games and mixers and move from quiet activities to more active, then back to quiet," said Bockus. "They had to plan their equipment and be ready to move on to another activity if something isn't working."

The multi-cultural mix of the Dawson students added another dimension to the songs, games and dances.

"The songs are in both French and English and we have students who teach Greek dance and native dances," Bockus said.

Bockus said it's likely her students will get a passing grade for their on-site performance.

"The kids appear animated and I think they're enjoying the variety," she said.

"It's fun for them, fun for my students, and fun for me to come back to my old school."



The multi-cultural mix of the Dawson students added another dimension to the songs, games and dances.

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How about some thermo underwear and a bearskin?

Forget the fuzzy slippers. Know what I really want for Christmas?

A His and Hers gizmo for the thermostat.

Why is it men always insist it's warm when it's really not?

In the car, in the living room, in bed, men open the windows and throw off the covers while women try to get the blood flowing to their extremities.

My husband decides it's time to turn on the furnace according to the date on the calendar, not the temperature in the house.

We could be in the midst of an Arctic freeze, but if it doesn't fall between October and April, forget any outside help from hydro.

"Would you like me to get you a sweater," he'll ask, wiping the sweat from his brow. A sweater? How about some thermo underwear and a bearskin?

You'd think with a bi-energy heating system, plus a fireplace, all the bases would be covered. But no. The oil furnace is pre-programmed to kick in when the temperature outside reaches minus 15. It's been my observation that the temperature in this climate hovers around minus 14 and the two systems spend a lot of time sputte-

Out of the Brome Closet

By Sharon McCully

ring in the electrical box about which one should be heating the house.

Fortunately, the latent "Me Tarzan, You Jane" instincts in my husband occasionally surface when he sees me thawing my fingers at the computer with the hair dryer and he'll offer to chop some wood and build a "nice fire".

My man doesn't just throw a log in the fireplace, he creates a combustible sculpture using uniformly rolled pages from the classified section — the sports pages don't burn — topped by a perfect checkerboard of kindling and dried hardwood. And he never strikes the match before mid-afternoon. We've never had a morning fire.

Unfortunately, it's a fire that has to be seen to be appreciated. Beyond six feet, it's all aesthetics.

So what I need is something mechanical — a gadget that will set the heat level somewhere between freezing and frothing.

Pour les malades mentaux: L'Étape du Perce-Neige

Entre Nous

Par Thérèse Bernard

«Qui d'entre nous n'a pas éprouvé, au fil des ans, une immense tristesse, sinon un terrible sentiment d'impuissance au contact d'un parent, d'un ami, atteint, à des degrés divers, de troubles de santé mentale?», de dire Gabrielle Bertrand, présidente d'honneur de l'Étape du Perce-Neige Inc.

Un projet de logements supervisés pour les personnes souffrant de problèmes de santé mentale qui ne nécessitent pas une hospitalisation à long terme, est mis sur pied pour les régions de la Haute-Yamaska et de Brome-Missisquoi.

On veut venir en aide non pas aux déficients mentaux de naissance, car ceux-ci bénéficient d'organismes tel que Butters dans la région. Il s'agit d'aider les gens souffrant de maladies développées plus tard.

Souvent, après un séjour plus ou moins long dans l'aile psychiatrique d'un hôpital, ces personnes ne savent pas où aller. Les familles ne sont souvent pas disponibles pour les aider et ils ne sont pas assez bien pour un retour normal dans la société. Il leur faut un encadrement dans un milieu d'autonomie. L'idéal semble qu'ils aient leurs logements dans un immeuble à vocation particulière où ils sont entourés et aidés lorsque nécessaire.

C'est dans ce but que l'étape du Perce-Neige a pris naissance.

Il s'agit d'un organisme à but lucratif qui s'est donné comme mandat de mettre sur pied un ou des immeubles à logements supervisés destinés à des personnes atteintes de troubles de santé mentale.

Dans la grande région de Brome-Missisquoi et de la Haute-Yamaska, de nombreux bénévoles se dévouent à dispenser certains services. L'Association des parents et amis du malade mental (A.P.A.M.M.) ainsi que la maison l'Arc-en-Ciel à Granby, regroupent déjà un

bon nombre de personnes intéressées.

L'étape du Perce-Neige veut offrir un havre aux personnes ayant besoin d'un minimum d'encadrement après avoir reçu des soins spécialisés en milieu hospitalier.

Il en coûte 476 \$ pour garder un patient mental dans un hôpital et à cause du manque d'endroits où ces gens peuvent aller, ils sont souvent gardés à long terme dans un hôpital. Cette situation, en plus de coûter très cher, ne leur rend pas service.

Dans certains cas étudiés par l'Étape du Perce-Neige, il en a coûté jusqu'à 1,042,440 \$ pour un seul malade mental en milieu hospitalier parce qu'il n'y avait pas de ressource de rechange. Un autre malade a dû séjourner pendant huit ans à l'hôpital.

Dans un logement désigné, il en coûterait environ 29 \$ par jour au lieu de 476 \$! Et les lits d'hôpitaux pourraient servir seulement pour de courtes durées.

La réalisation du projet se fera en collaboration avec le Centre Hospitalier de Granby, l'hôpital de Brome-Missisquoi-Perkins de Cowansville, les C.L.S.C. de la Haute-Yamaska et de Brome-Missisquoi, les organismes locaux en santé mentale, le gouvernement, les bénévoles et les donateurs.

Une campagne de financement de la maison prévue se fera en début d'année 1996. Pour renseignements ou pour des dons ou pour offrir vos services bénévoles, communiquez avec Monique Lambert, présidente de la campagne de financement au 378-7339, ou avec Gabrielle Bertrand au 263-0391, ou encore avec Réal Désourdy au 534-2297.

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Letter to the Editor

Our most sincere appreciation

An Open Letter to Brome Lake councillor Michael Calouri:

Dear Michael,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Town of Brome Lake Community Services, and following a motion passed at our November meeting, I would like to express our most sincere appreciation

of the support you extended to our committee as councillor in charge of recreational and social programs.

You have been a member of the Board of Directors since our corporation's founding in 1991 up until recently, and during this period your dedication and hard work has not failed to gain our respect.

As an organization devoted to promo-

ting a wide variety of recreational programs and social services, we are witness to the time and energy you devoted towards improving the quality of life for all citizens of Brome Lake.

Your contribution to TBL Community Services is highly regarded by all, whether committee members, hands-on volunteers or staff, and your presen-

ce will be greatly missed.

We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and you can be assured Michael, there will always be a place for dedicated persons such as yourself in our organization.

Lorraine Labrecque
President

TBL Community Services

Volunteers fêted at Brome County Historical Society

KNOWLTON — More than 50 volunteers participated in the first annual Volunteer Appreciation Day festivities held at the Brome County Historical Society administration building.

The day was planned as a thank you for the many people who give so generously of their time.

David Dawes, vice-president of the society, presented a plaque to Marion Phelps in appreciation of her many

years of service to the society.

Phelps thanked those present and mentioned that she could think of many others who had also given much time and energy to the good of the society.

Four young volunteers were presented with Junior Memberships to encourage them to continue participating in the community. They are Angie Dawes, Vance Schinck, and Pam and Karen Williams.



Volunteer Marion Phelps was honored for her many years of service to the Brome County Historical Society.

Massey-Vanier gears up for first Christmas Coffee House

The Massey-Vanier Jazz Ensemble hosts a festive evening of old-fashioned family fun at the high school's first annual Christmas Coffee House.

To be held on Wednesday, December 13, in the school cafeteria, the evening will replace the regular Christmas Concert traditionally held in the auditorium.

"We wanted to try something different this year, less formal," said organizer and musical director John Barr. "We want the community to get involved and to know what's going on musically in the school and in the community."

The popular 12-member Massey-Vanier Jazz Ensemble will perform danceable tunes from the big band era.

The Cowansville Community Choir and the Heroes' Memorial Children's Choir, under the direction of Laura Barr, will entertain with all-new holiday selections.

The Music and Motion Dancers, under the direction of Rahnieda Rose, and the Cowansville Community School Line Dancers, under the direction of Leslie Royea, will entertain as they kick up their heels.

Darlene Bell & Friends, patrons of the Stanbridge East Coffee House, Laura and John Barr — accompanied by

Patrick Norris — and many other local performers are expected to participate.

Guests may visit the displays throughout the evening, browse or catch up on their Christmas shopping. Artisans and community organizations are invited to use the evening as a fundraising opportunity by setting up tables at the back of the cafeteria.

"There will be a Christmas tree and decorations," explained Barr. "Exhibitors may sell baked goods or gift items and are responsible for setting up their own displays in keeping with the season."

People of all ages are invited to put on their dancing shoes, warm up their vocal cords and join in the fun. The show starts at 7:30; the community choir rounds out the evening by leading the community in singing favorite Christmas carols.

Profits from the two-dollar entry fee will go to the music department for the maintenance and purchase of instruments.

Tickets may be purchased at the door and there will be no additional fee for those setting up tables. Those wishing to get involved or in need of further information are invited to call the school at (514) 263-3772 and ask to speak with John Barr.

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Farm chores: Preparing for the big chill

Several professions or occupations claim to be the world's oldest.

Prostitution and farming are leaders among the candidates. One is adventurous and highly profitable; the other is ... farming.

A friend who operates a relatively big spread overlooking the Missisquoi River valley recites a familiar refrain this time of year. When asked how the fall chores are coming, he replies that, if winter holds off for another six months, he'll probably get most of them done.

In another time at another job, he reported to the boss that there was no use pushing sales of a yearbook because each one they sold represented a nine dollar loss. When the boss observed that this was a bleak economic outlook

The Country Squire

By Brian Eddington



indeed, his cheery reply was, 'oh, but it's much better than farming!'

Another friend, after several failures at hog raising in the Eaton valley, was asked why he always went bankrupt. His answer was that he bought when the price was high, and sold when the price was low. That'll do it every time.

Increasingly, though, we are sensitive to and concerned about the health of the family farm, the 200 to 400 acre operation with a score or so of cows, some pigs and chickens, a good mixed woodlot and — if luck is really with you — a gravel deposit in a white zone. Agriculture, like everything else, has undergone enormous changes since the first little furry folk decided that growing things made more sense than plodding about looking for them. Not all of these changes have been beneficial in the mid and long term.

Record keepers proudly report that as the number of people involved in farming continues to drop into the tiny percentages, food production doubles and triples. Logically, though, there is a limit to this digression, or does it mean if nobody works the land we'll have an unlimited supply of food? Hopefully, along with the mechanized mega-farms of the present and future, there will always be a place for those bold, independent types doing it the traditional way.

Back to the chores. New England writer and pond-dweller Henry David

Thoreau noted a century ago that cattle are more the keepers of men than the other way around, and that he personally preferred bees. A good point, perhaps, but on the plus side, no doubt there's more reward for all the time and work than just bucks for meat or milk. Because the farming life isn't easy doesn't mean it can't be good, sheep-farmer jokes notwithstanding.

After laying in the last of the crops, after inevitable repairs to buildings and machinery, after late hopeful improvements to the water supply system that failed in the winter of '94, the farmer can step back a pace or so and appreciate the hard-to-evaluate bonuses of fall on the farm. You can't measure in bales or bushels or board feet

the restorative powers of the land late in the year, the rich brew of autumn elements that re-awakens the senses. Clean fresh mornings sharpen the focus on familiar landmarks, leaf-steeped air drifts down from the old sugarbush, a late-day mist creeps over the pond and along the bottom field.

With the light of day leaving early, the farmhouse beckons. A pot of pickles cooling steams up the windows in the cluttered porch. Through the inside doorway, the heat from the wood stove is direct and immediate. The fence that didn't get fixed today will be there tomorrow, and whatever other unfinished business life holds, it too can wait. Besides, it'll be a few months before anyone has to worry much about a fence.

Brome briefs

KNOWLTON — The regional health council for the Montérégie has announced changes to its access plan at health and social service institutions for English-speaking citizens of the region.

The health board voted to expand the access program first introduced in 1989 to a larger number of service areas to better respond to the needs of the some 130,000 anglophones living in the Montérégie.

The region has the second largest English-speaking population outside of Montreal.

GRANBY — Beginning December 1, Revenue Quebec will open a telephone line for those requiring information on the law concerning child support payments.

The new law affects those required to make support payments for the first time following a court judgement December 1 or later. Those ordered to make payments can obtain information by calling 1-800-488-2323 or (418) 643-6191.

KNOWLTON — The Knowlton Lion's Club is holding its annual Christmas Drive through December 14.

This year, the club hopes to raise \$15,000 to be spent on worthwhile causes in the community. Among the activities supported by the Lion's are the

annual Christmas baskets, the Christmas parade, Canada Day celebrations and sponsorship of school activities at both the French and English-language schools, seniors programs, scouts and emergency assistance for citizens of the town.

You can make your cheque payable to the Lion's Club Christmas Drive and mail your donation to Knowlton Lion's Club, Box 783, Knowlton, JOE 1VO.

GRANBY — As of November 28, citizens of Granby have a new 911 emergency number.

The emergency service is for the exclusive use of Granby residents and will provide rapid and direct access to police, fire and ambulance services. Personnel from the three departments have received training and are prepared to respond to the calls.

GRANBY — In the November edition of PME magazine, Granby was named the most enterprising medium-sized city in Quebec.

This recognition is based on the average number of companies in business for at least one year, for every 1000 residents from 1986-1992.

KNOWLTON — The seventh annual Brome Lake Christmas bird count is scheduled to take place Saturday, September 16.

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Play raises Christmas spirits

KNOWLTON (MC) — If you're looking for a little Christmas spirit to get you going this holiday season, check out *A Christmas Carol* at Theatre Lac Brome.

The Mandragore production of Dickens' timeless classic, which plays its final weekend December 8-10, was adapted for the stage by producer-director Patrick Campbell.

When Campbell set out to take on Dickens, he said he wanted to do a spoof. But the more he read the story, the more he realised he would be better off sticking to the original storyline.

"You just can't make fun of Charles Dickens," Campbell said. "People who have seen it so far say that we have kept to the spirit of it."

A Christmas Carol tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a man who likes nothing else except making money. But late night encounters with the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future turn his life around, giving him a new appreciation of the meaning of Christmas.

"We've had a very good response so far," said Campbell of the show's opening last weekend. "We are hoping for more people to come now that word is getting out."

Among the 18-member cast are actors from the Echo Art and Knowlton Players theatre troupes. Richard Theriault, who last performed in the Players' *Run For Your Wife* and directed Mandragore's *Aladdin*, stars as Bob Cratchet, an employee of Scrooge who embodies the Christmas spirit.

Kate Wisdom, recent star of Echo Art's *Pizza Man*, takes the stage along with her son James, who plays Tiny Tim.

Campbell said the sets for the 22 scenes in the play are abstract, with the lighting going a long way in setting the mood in this production. With so many scene changes it would have been impossible to build and change sets so often, he said.

"But we tried to make it look kind of like a black and white movie," he said. "The backdrop is white while most of the costumes are very dark."

A Christmas Carol is currently running at Theatre Lac Brome in Knowlton. Final performances are Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$7 adults, \$5 children under 11. They can be reserved by calling (514) 266-4246.

Bedford
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Mr. Hugh Getty spent a few days at the BMP Hospital in Cowansville and has been transferred to the Hospital at St. Jean where he has undergone surgery.

Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Short and family of Ottawa spent a recent weekend with Mrs. Rhea Short.

Mr. Phillip Miller of P.E.I. returned there after spending a few days at his home here where he was doing some winterizing work.

Mrs. Morley Cockerline who underwent surgery at the BMP Hospital has returned home but is still under doctor's orders. All good wishes from friends for her quick return to health.



EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Moving from Unemployment to Employment Insurance

The federal government is proposing an *Employment Insurance (EI)* system. This system would continue to provide Canadians with basic income protection, as does the present UI system. It would also include a range of new employment measures to help people get jobs.

Here are some of the proposed changes:

INCOME BENEFITS

Every hour of work would be insurable

EI would calculate the length of time claimants would get benefits based on the number of hours, not weeks, they have worked. This would mean thousands more part-time workers could insure their income.

Every dollar earned would count

EI would calculate the amount of benefits on every dollar earned over a fixed period of time which will usually be longer than is presently the case. As a result, there will be a stronger incentive to maximize earnings during this period to qualify for a better insurance benefit in the event a claim is made.

An "insurance" program

Under *EI*, the basic benefit rate would remain at 55% of the maximum insurable earnings, which would be set at \$750 per week compared to the existing \$815. However, the benefits would be reduced by a maximum of five percentage points for repeat claims. Claimants with an annual income of \$48,750 or more would have to reimburse a portion of their benefits.

Claimants would be allowed to earn up to \$50.00 per week, or 25% of their *EI* benefit, whichever is higher, without reducing their benefits.

Family income supplement

A family income supplement would be available to those families with children and with annual earnings of less than \$26,000. This supplement could represent up to 80% of a claimant's insured income, as compared to 60% at present.

Gradual implementation

Some of these changes would be introduced gradually in regions with a high unemployment rate. These regions would also benefit from a jobs fund to help them make the transition.

EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Employment Insurance would include the following five proven employment measures to help people get back to work:

1. Wage subsidies: For employers to help hire unemployed workers.
2. Earnings supplements: A temporary wage top-up to encourage workers to get into the workforce sooner.
3. Self-Employment Assistance: Services to help unemployed people start their own businesses.
4. Job Creation Partnerships: Work experience projects through community organizations in collaboration with the provinces.
5. Skills, Loans and Grants: Province-approved assistance given directly to unemployed people to pursue skills training.

REDUCING OVERLAP AND DUPLICATION

The federal government would work in concert with provincial governments to implement *EI*'s new employment measures. With the provincial governments, it would focus on what works, reducing overlap and duplication.

To get a brochure on Canada's proposed Employment Insurance system call 1 800 276-7655, or look on the Internet at <http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca>
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Mary and Joseph in Sutton

What follows is an original Christmas story written for the Mangers In Sutton celebrations.

By Gerald Morgan

God raises mountains first, then people. He makes the St. Lawrence Valley, and a young couple at home there.

Mary and Joseph live beside a stream where willows grow. Spreading around them are open fields, tilled by

farmers, where woodchucks and foxes play. The fields reach as far away as the eye can see.

In this flat valley, there are mountains pushed up, like mushrooms of rock wearing a fur of trees, to stand against wind and time. The trees lend their branches, every spring, to birds from other lands, who build their nests in leafy Quebec shade.

From the nests, the new-hatched "

birds of Quebec" fly off to the future, as life calls them.

Joseph himself has been born in the shade of a mountain. As a grown man, he has married Mary. He is a strong man, and peaceful, with skill to work the wood which God gives. Mary, gentle and kind, is from the family of the great Jewish king, David.

Mary is expecting a baby. Before the birth-time, Joseph has a dream. He is told of a mountain lifted to guard them from a great storm while the world is changed. The two leave their valley home.

Mary and Joseph come to Sutton. They cross the mountain-flank on Elie Road, which bears the name of the great prophet who could see the world saved by a breath of their child.

Weary of travel, they come to the Dream House; it is so well-made that Joseph knows this is the door to knock on. The door opens to a warm welcome by Serge and Nicole, who give the travellers a good meal. Mary and Nicole

talk about babies and swaddling-clothes. Joseph, master of wood, praises Serge for the beauty of the house. Serge answers, with thanks to God for the gift of skill to builders.

Together, Joseph and Serge build a shelter out of the mountain wood which loggers bring down, the same kind of which is cut for Sutton houses and the cross in the church. They build a country shelter that says 'welcome' to children and to every small creature. They dress the roof with evergreen boughs, bringing life's colour there for white winter.

When the shelter is done, and November gone, Mary and Joseph show themselves to Sutton. Two mayors race to bid them welcome, and all the 'big' people from all around come to meet them. The bank is not ready, the players are still polishing their trumpets to a shine fit for angels.

A mayor is nudged by the secretary, who murmurs "Don't forget the cen-

see MARY & JOSEPH; p. 15

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The Flynn Theatre's Annual New York City Show Tour set for January

The Flynn Theatre's annual show tour to New York City has been announced and registration has begun. Each year, the "Broadway Bound" come from as far away as Newport, St. Albans, and Grand Isle; from Montpelier, Barre and Norwich; from Middlebury and Vergennes; and from Plattsburgh, on the New York side of the lake, as well as Burlington and its neighbo-

ring towns.

The tour leaves by deluxe motor coach on Friday, January 26 and returns Sunday, January 28, 1996. The trip includes accommodations at the Hotel Dorset on 54th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues and a choice of two performances from the following selections.

* Friday night - The Metropolitan Opera's performance of *Falstaff*, Giuseppe Verdi's rich, multi-layered, comic opera masterpiece or Zoe Caldwell in *Master Class*, Terrence McNally's new play about the legendary diva, Maria Callas.

* Saturday night - The outstanding musical revival of *Show Boat*, winner of 5 Tony Awards, 5 Drama Desk Awards and 4 Outer Critics



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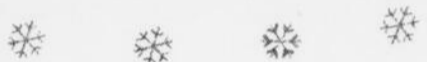
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- 7** For Rent
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MARY & JOSEPH:

from p. 10

sus." The mayor, settling his spectacles, opens the register. Mary and Joseph sign. Beside each name, the mayor ceremoniously writes his own. All visitors have to sign the register, which the bailiff carefully guards. No one writes his age; we'll all be young

like Adam and Eve, when time is left behind.

Suddenly, saints Andrew and Nicholas appear in the village square! The night-grocer says that Andrew is the first Apostle called by Mary's child, and that sunny Greece chooses him for

patron saint, like Holy Russia and craggy Scotland and green Sutton. The same Andrew, says the night-grocer, gives his name to the little 'Brother' of Quebecers who shows Joseph to all the New World. The teacher says that Brother Andrew is named at birth Alfred, after the great English king who has started Christian schools at the same time as Charlemagne, 800 years after the Saviour's birth.

Sutton's sea-captain says that Andrew is the patron saint of seafarers, who have Nicholas as well.

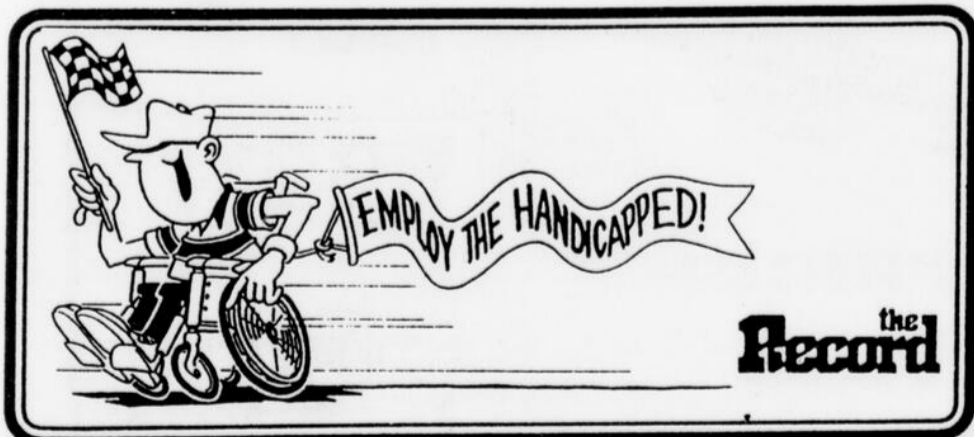
Sutton's librarian says that Russia chooses Nicholas too, as patron saint; Russia needs two at least (hear what Mary says of it, at Fatima). But children know Nicholas best. He's helped three girls to get married, (when their father had no money), by giving them gold for dowries, without showing who gave it, 300 years after the Child's birth. He's known as the saint of surpri-

se presents which fill the world with children.

Black Jake is with the saints. Some parents say that Nicholas gives presents too quickly; he needs Black Jake beside him to spot a naughty child on the way through the villages. But the donkey is there, smiling like the saints, loaded with sacks of presents (Andrew's will be fish-nets and reels). All of Sutton rejoices, especially the 'good' children and those who can hardly wait to be born.

Welcomed by saints and Sutton, Mary and Joseph settle into home. The shelter is happily warmed by pilgrim lambs and kids crowding always to greet Mary and Joseph, who feed them. As he waits for the Child to be born, Joseph makes friends in the village.

God raises mountains first, then people. He makes the heights of Sutton, then the folk of here and forever, who celebrate His birth for them.



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The Centre offers training in the following sectors: commerce and administration, cooking and restaurant service, machining techniques, mechanical maintenance, welding and hairdressing.

Minimum qualifications:

- At least 14 years of education in an appropriate technical field. A Bachelor Degree would be an asset.
- Hold a Permanent Teaching Authorization recognized in Quebec.
- At least four years of pertinent experience.
- Be able to carry out duties effectively in French or English.

Qualifications sought:

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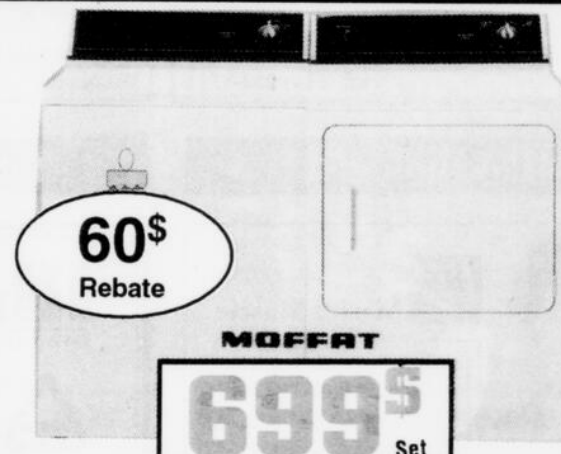
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