

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

COVID-19: Town Hall closed to the public as of Tuesday, March 17

In response to the directives issued by the Direction de la santé publique in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Town of Brome Lake announces the closure of its Town Hall as of Tuesday, March 17, for an undetermined period of time. This means that all in-person meetings scheduled from that date with any of the Town's employees are cancelled.

As an alternative, citizens are invited to use the phone (450-243-6111), e-mail or online services (ville.lac-brome.qc.ca) to communicate with municipal employees. This measure is in addition to those announced on Friday, which include the closure of the Centre Lac-Brome and the three community centres on the territory, as well as the interruption of all courses and activities. It should be noted, however, that the CLSC and the blood collection clinic remain accessible.

"Brome Lake is one of the communities with the highest average age in Quebec," said Mayor Richard Burcombe. "We can't sit and watch, we have to do everything we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I am now asking my fellow citizens to stay home and restrict their outings to the strict minimum."

The municipal administration is also in early warning mode following a meeting last Friday of the Brome Lake Municipal Civil Security Organization. It is important to know that the civil protection plan covers all risks, including those associated with a pandemic, as well as the measures to deal with it.

The Town of Brome Lake continues to closely monitor the evolution of the situation. Measures to support vulnerable people and people aged 70 and over are currently being studied and may be announced in the near future. Daily updates will also be made on our various platforms.

Pettes Memorial Library



PHOTO TAKEN BY JOHN AUSTIN WHEELER

By Taylor McClure
Special to The Brome County News

The Pettes Memorial Library, built by Narcissa Farrand Pettes in honor of her husband, Federal M.P. Nathaniel Pettes, became the first free rural public library in Quebec following its foundation with an act of Parliament in 1894. The library has been a pillar in the community of Brome Lake for over 125 years and it is now expected to undergo future plans for expansion that will allow it to serve as an educational, cultural, and social hub for the village.

In 1894, Quebec received its first free public library in what used to be known as Brome Township. "The library was built by Narcissa Farrand Pettes in memory of her husband Nathaniel Pettes," said Jana Valasek, Director of Pettes Memorial Library. "She arranged with her brother-in-law to purchase the land here and she commissioned a library deeded to the community. She

was giving it to the people of Knowlton and Brome Township."

She added that, at the time, libraries were being built around the world, and more particularly in the United States, but that the Pettes Memorial Library predates many municipal libraries. "This was one resident who decided to leave this as her legacy."

The Pettes Memorial Library, a non-profit organization, has been serving the community ever since. "It's been run by a board of trustees ever since then."

Over the years, the library has undergone some major changes to support the activities and initiatives they wished to carry out. "The upstairs level was originally a music hall," said Valasek. "By the 50s, it was becoming less used, so it was converted in apartments. This helped the library financially."

If you walked down to the basement of the library 50 years ago, you wouldn't find the library space that you see today. "The basement was where they stored

coal. In the 1970s, it was converted into library space; more space was needed."

The back of the building was originally an apartment meant for the librarian, but again more space was needed. It was converted to library space in the 1980s.

Now, the library is ready for the next stage of its expansion. "We're at a point where we are short of space to fulfill our cultural and community initiatives," emphasized Valasek. "A few years ago, we put together a strategic place to provide more space for people to come here to work, to meet, all that stuff. Coincidentally, the town was looking to redevelop Coldbrook Park and it became evident that we should work together when moving forward."

The Board of Trustees has been working on their plan for the past three years and envision a space that can be used to the advantage of all members of the community. "We analyzed our needs, what we would do, and what types of additions. We submitted grants

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Brome County Community Bulletin Board

March

Avante is in prevention mode. The rest of our March activities are cancelled in order to keep our members and staff as safe and healthy as possible. The office will stay open during this time. Stay tuned for further updates on April 1st.

March 19

CANCELLED: Thursday, March 19, the Canadian Club of the Yamaska Valley will hold an Annual General Meeting at 10 a.m. at the Bruck Museum, 225 rue Principale, Cowansville. (450-263-3977). Information available at 450-243-6524.

March 21

CANCELLED: St. Patrick's Pancake Luncheon at Emmanuel United Church has been canceled, 203 Principale, Cowansville, on Saturday March 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

March 21

POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE: Cowansville Lions Club Fundraiser pulled pork supper and mashed potatoes scheduled for March 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Église Sainte-Thérèse, 209 rue Ste. Thérèse,

Cowansville, in the basement has been postponed to a later date. For information please contact Ross Cote 450-266-1716, Alan Blackburn 450-263-7141, or [facebook.com/ClubLionsCowansville](https://www.facebook.com/ClubLionsCowansville). We thank you for your support.

March 21

CANCELLED: Juno Award winning Ensemble L'Harmonie des Saisons. BOUCHERVILLE: March 20, 7:30 p.m., at Église Ste-Famille, 560 Boulevard Marie-Victorin, and at the Abbaye OF SAINT-BENOÎT-DU-LAC: March 21, 2 p.m.

March 29

14th Annual Parish of Brome Sugar on Snow Outreach Fundraiser - Sunday March 29 Holy Trinity Church Hall, Iron Hill - Admission \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids 10 and under - Admission includes, taffy, sleigh rides, petting zoo and coffee and doughnuts. From noon - 3p.m. Canteen on site. Information Judy (450) 263-3025, Doug (450) 263-2579, Val (450) 204-7285.

April 3 & 4

The Quilt Show at Emmanuel United Church for April 3 and 4th has been POSTPONED. New

date to be determined. Annual Quilt Show to be held at Emmanuel United Church, 203 Principale, Cowansville,

April 4

Township Toddlers Annual Benefit! Saturday, April 4 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Roast beef and pork BBQ. \$15/person, \$8 for 6-12 yrs and 5 yrs and under free. Auction (arts/crafts) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dance with Smokin Country and Friends from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. \$5/person for dance. Salle des Chevaliers de Colomb 224, rue Christophe Colomb, Cowansville 450-263-5080. Reservations (Ross) 450-266-1716.

April 19

Once again the Brome Lake Firemen's association is having their Annual General Meeting. This year it will be on April 19 at 9 a.m. Coffee and donuts will be served. All association members that wish to attend can confirm with an email to blfa1896@gmail.com before April 17.

Church Bulletins

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH - DUNHAM
Sunday services at 10 a.m. - all welcome! The Reverend Sinpoh Han. Information: 450-295-2045.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME

Services are suspended until Easter. Services at 9 a.m. begin again Easter Sunday, April 12, Church of the Ascension (West Brome), Sunday, April 19, Holy Trinity (Iron Hill). Canon Tim Smart, rector. Information: 450-538-8108.

BEDFORD PASTORAL CHARGE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

You are warmly welcomed to join us each Sunday as we gather in worship. We welcome you and your ideas as we provide a safe place where all can seek a greater purpose to life. Services take place: March 22 in Stanbridge East, and March 29 in Mystic. Worship begins at 9:30am and is followed by coffee and snacks. For more information please visit <http://www.bedfordpastoral.org/> or call 450-248-3044.

CALVARY UNITED CHURCH SUTTON

A warm welcome awaits you at our Sunday worship service in Sutton at Grace Anglican Church at 9 a.m. followed by a coffee hour at 10 a.m. in the church hall. Information: 450-538-0530.

CREEK/WATERLOO PASTORAL CHARGE

Sunday, March 22 - worship and music. Creek United, 278 Brill Rd., West Bolton, service and Sunday school at 9:00 a.m.; followed by Annual Congregational

meeting. St. Paul's United, 4929 Foster, Waterloo, service at 10:30 a.m. led by Virginia Wallace LLWL. Reverend Dave Lambie, minister. For information or to leave a message call: 450-539-2129.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Emmanuel United Church worship service is at 1 a.m., 205, rue Principale, Cowansville. Sunday School is held the first and third Sunday of each month. Drumming in worship. Everyone is welcome at our Lent 4 service. Wheelchair accessible. Please note that our St. Patrick's Pancake Luncheon scheduled for March 21 has been CANCELLED. Minister: Rev. David Lefneski. Church office: 450-263-0204 web site: emmanuelcowansville.ca

ÉGLISE CATHOLIQUE ST. ÉDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

366 Knowlton Road, Knowlton. You are invited to participate in a bilingual Mass Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

52 Principale sud, Sutton, welcomes everyone for Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. All welcome. Canon Tim Smart, rector. Information: 450-538-8108 or visit our website at www.gracechurchsutton.org.

KNOWLTON-MOUNTAIN VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE

Worship at Knowlton United Church, 234 Knowlton Road is at 11 a.m. and will be held on the First 3 Sundays of each month. A warm welcome is extended

to all. Should you require the services of a minister, please contact Rev. Steve Lawson at 450-242-1993. Handicapped access available.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Due to the fact that we are taking precautions for the COVID-19 virus, services will continue to be online on our website <http://www.stpaulsknowlton.com/> or our Facebook and YouTube pages. All services are live and also available for replay. On Site Church worship is postponed until further notice.

24 St. Paul's Road, Knowlton. St. Paul's is a dynamic, diverse community pursuing and serving Jesus in the Eastern Townships, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services (traditional, contemporary and modern music and format). New: Tune into "Tim Talks" on facebook - three times weekly. Everyone welcome. Please check out our website: www.stpaulsknowlton.ca or St. Paul's Knowlton's Facebook page. We are now live streaming! Everyone welcome. Telephone: 450-242-2885

TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

409 South Street, Cowansville. All Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. First and third Sunday of month is communion service. Second, fourth and fifth Sunday of month is morning prayer service. Minister available Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come and join us as we endeavor to learn and practice God's loving will. We'd love to welcome you. Information: 450-955-3303 (leave message).



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When you choose products with the Health Check symbol, it's like shopping with the Heart and Stroke Foundation's dietitians, who evaluate every participating product based on Canada's Food Guide.

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Town of Brome Lake is closing its four community centres until further notice

BCN Staff

In accordance with the recommendations of the Government of Quebec and the Direction de la santé publique and as a precautionary measure, the Town of Brome Lake is taking several exceptional measures. In order to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Centre Lac-Brome, as well as the three community centres (Ovide-Dagenais Hall, Salle du Club de la bonne humeur and Davis Hall) will therefore, be closed as of Friday, March 13, 2020, until further notice.

Community Activities and Services

All planned activities and courses are therefore cancelled or postponed. The public will be kept informed of developments as the situation evolves. The activities of the CLSC and the blood collection clinic are maintained. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. and the Centre Lac-Brome will close at 4:30 p.m.

General Preventive Measures

Whether you are suffering from a cold, the flu, COVID-19 or gastro, here are a few measures that we strongly encourage you to follow.

- Wash your hands often with warm running water and soap for at least 20 seconds or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth without first washing your hands.

- Regularly disinfect work surfaces and equipment, such as desks, landline and cell phones, computer mice, and computer, and laptop screens and keyboards, at the end of your workday to minimize the risk of spreading.

- Observe recommended hygiene rules when coughing or sneezing.

Government Recommendations

At this time, the risk to Canadians remains low. However, the government has made and will make special recommendations for the current situation. For details, consult the following web-

sites for reliable sources of information:
<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

<https://www.santeestrie.qc.ca/en/care-services/health-advice/infectious-and-communicable-diseases/coronavirus-covid-19/>

People with symptoms

People who are in doubt about their health should call 1-877-644-4545 toll free. A nurse will assess the situation and give the appropriate instructions.

Ville de Waterloo's preventative measures concerning Coronavirus (COVID-19)

BCN Staff

The City of Waterloo, following a meeting of the emergency measures committee, is taking several measures and actions in accordance with the recommendations of the Government of Quebec. Exceptional measures are taken in an extraordinary situation. The City of Waterloo is taking these actions to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Town hall

We ask citizens to avoid going to City Hall and to encourage phone calls or to use the online services available on the City's website. We are grateful for the cooperation and understanding of all for the well-being of citizens and

employees.

Jacques-Chagnon Arena

From now on, all activities scheduled to take place by the end of the 2019-2020 season at the Jacques-Chagnon arena are canceled without exception. Those responsible will be contacted and a rental credit will be applied in proportion to the ice hours that cannot be used.

Courses and leisure activities

From now on, all the courses that remained for the winter season are canceled. Those registered will be credited in proportion to the activities that remained to be had. The performance of the film scheduled for Sunday March 15 at the Maison de la culture de Waterloo is canceled. The Easter activity preparation, which is

scheduled for April 11, is also canceled.

Municipal employees

An internal note was sent to all municipal employees with all the actions taken by the City as well as the prevention measures to be adopted in all municipal departments. These recommendations align with the requirements of the Government of Quebec.

Agent office of the Quebec automobile insurance company (SAAQ)

The City of Waterloo is an agent of the SAAQ and this service is maintained on a regular basis. Exceptional measures are already in place, however. The number of clients accepted inside the office is five at a time, while other people will be invited to wait outside for their turn. It will be imperative to

wash your hands when entering and leaving the office.

Waterloo Public Library and Maison de la culture de Waterloo (MCW)

These two entities are managed by non-profit organizations independent of the City. We therefore encourage users to contact them directly to find out what action they will take.

- MCW: 450 539-4764 or <http://mcwaterloo.com/>

- Waterloo Public Library: 450 539-2268 or <https://www.reseaubibliomonteregic.qc.ca/fr/bibliotheques-horaire-et-localisation/b106/bibliotheque-de-waterloo>

Cancelled or Postponed!

By Louise Smith

When it comes to events in the Brome County area, the safest thing to assume is that they are either cancelled or postponed.

Heroes' Memorial was scheduled to have a spaghetti fundraiser this month. It is being rescheduled at a later date. If it is not possible to hold it past the end of May, people who have purchased tickets will

be reimbursed. The P.P.O. want to thank all individuals and businesses who have donated prizes for the event. The prizes will be held in reserve for when the spaghetti supper can be rescheduled.

At Emmanuel United Church the St. Patrick's Pancake luncheon for March 21 is cancelled. It will not be rescheduled. The Annual Quilt Show, which was scheduled for April 4 and 5,

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Financial statements, Audit, Bookkeeping, Taxation, Corporations, Individuals, Estate planning and settlement, Farm and business transfers, re-organizations



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The kids are home – now what?

By Louise Smith

Schools are closed for at least the next two weeks. When H1N1 was impending, schools were told to plan materials for students to use for two or three weeks if schools were to close. This time the announcement came on a day when some schools were already closed for the day, and in the case of the Eastern Township School Board, schools, although open, had many students who did not attend that day. This time no “packages of work” were prepared and many students are at home without their school materials. For those who do have some school material, this is a good time to read and review the material that they have with them.

Many parents are scrambling to find places for their children to go and activities for them to do when libraries, the pool in Cowansville, and the arena are all closed.

There are things that can be done.

This is a perfect opportunity for students of all ages to be journaling. Notebooks of various sizes and with appealing covers are widely available at any dollar store. Younger students can have adults help them to transcribe their ideas and they can add their illustrations. Most students from grade 3 and up can write on their own. When it comes to explaining this virus and the developing situation, there are some simple videos that can be found on YouTube. Preview them first to decide whether or not you find them appropriate. Answer questions as gently as possible and with just the right amount of information. Doom and gloom is not the order of the day. By having students write during this time, it will be a record of interest for the future.

This is also a good time to develop letter writing skills. Seniors are being told to stay inside and to stay away from other people. A great source of joy would be the arrival of a letter in the

mail. Young students can have adults help them. Going to the post office to buy a stamp and put the letter in the mailbox can be a “mini field trip”.

There are many math programs available on the internet, MathIXL, or TenMarks. Parents can sign up or there are free sessions available as well.

Students of all ages can start projects on something that interests them. Looking things up, making models, illustrating the project, can keep up their reading and information-seeking skills.

If there is no reading material in the house, the used book store in Cowansville on rue Sud, Sac a Mots, is open. Brome Lake Books is open in Knowlton. Students should be encouraged to read something every day. If they are young, this is an opportune time to read to them. It is a wonderful way to connect with children in a comforting, bonding action that is needed during this time.

This can also be a time to take up a

hobby or interest. It can be anything from cooking to sewing to model making. This would be a perfect time to make things to enter in Brome Fair for Labour Day weekend. The youth categories are available on line or from a booklet available at the Brome County Society office on Stagecoach Road near the fair grounds.

The last time schools were closed for an extended time was during the Ice Storm of 1998. It started at the end of the Christmas holidays and continued for three weeks. When the students returned, the year was not extended, and the year’s curriculum, for the most part, got covered as both teachers and students worked together diligently when schools reopened.

The most important thing is that video games should not be the sole occupying activity for students as they are off. This is a time to connect with our youth and to find out, and to develop, interests.

Postponement of certain activities at Theatre Lac-Brome

At Theatre Lac-Brome, we believe that your safety is our top priority.

As we learn more about the COVID-19 virus and assess its risk to Quebecers, we are committed to protect your well-

being.

To address concerns about gathering in large groups, the team at TLB has decided to postpone certain upcoming activities.

These include:

Marie-Pierre Arthur on March 27 and De Temps Antan on April 11.

We look forward to seeing you at TLB for some wonderful programming in the very near future.

Please consult the website [www.quebec.ca/en click Health, then Health Issues A-Z, then Coronavirus for more information on staying safe.](https://www.quebec.ca/en click Health, then Health Issues A-Z, then Coronavirus for more information on staying safe.</p></div>
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Cancelled or postponed

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will be rescheduled for a summertime date.

Most churches have suspended services for the near future. Libraries,

the pool, the arena, and most large social areas have closed. Different groups have cancelled meetings. The Sutton Valley Weavers’ Guild, the

various Women’s Institutes, the Order of the Eastern Star and the Knowlton Sparks, Brownies, and Guides have all decided to suspend meetings for the

near future too.

These are unprecedented times. Things are changing daily.

Brome County News welcomes your letters to the editor. Please limit your letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity, legality and taste. Please ensure there is a phone number or email where you can be reached, to confirm authorship and current town/city of residence. Names will not be withheld but the address and phone number of the writer are not published, except by request. Preference is given to writers from the Eastern Townships.



Brome County NEWS
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BCN RATES & DEADLINES COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Brome County News Community Calendar is reserved for non-profit organizations only. **Deadline is noon on Fridays.** Must be pre-paid. Up to 40 words: \$8, 41-70 words: \$12, 71-100 words: \$15, all prices include taxes. **Special rates:** \$2 off for 2 insertions, 1 BCN and 1 in the Friday Record “What’s On” section. Please forward notices to 5-b Victoria St., Knowlton, QC JOE 1V0, email: bcnnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

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ABC Literacy Canada

Municipal Elections cancelled for Brome and Waterloo

By Taylor McClure
Special to Brome County News

In light of the measures being taken by the Quebec government in the face of the coronavirus pandemic (COVID19), the byelections planned for the municipalities of Brome and Waterloo have been cancelled and will be moved to a later date. On March 13th, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Andrée Laforest, requested that all election polls taking place before April 26th, 2020 be postponed until further notice to help protect the population. As a result, over 29 byelections have been cancelled across Quebec until a new date is set by Laforest in the upcoming weeks.

Elections were set to take place in Brome starting with advanced polls on March 15 and then then the vote on March 22 but under the decision of the government they are officially postponed.

"This was a decision of the Minister of Municipal Affairs," emphasized Carol Kralik, Assistant to the General Director of Brome Irena Hodorowski and Secretary of Elections. "This was not an individual decision but a directive from the government. There are several municipalities involved not just Brome."

In terms of a new date being scheduled for the election, there is no certainty as to when. "We're not speculating right now. When we have further news, we will advise everyone."

William Miller and Roger de Winter were the two candidates running for Mayor to replace the late Tom Selby.

The election for the Town of Waterloo's District Number 4, originally set to take place on March 22 (for advance

polling) and March 29th (for election day), has also been postponed.

"We don't know when the election will happen because it's all about the virus," said Céline Vary, Secretary for the office of Louis Verhoef. "The Ministry of Municipal Affairs asked all of the towns with partial elections to cancel them. It's all about the gathering of people, they want to try and avoid that."

Vary said that there is a possibility that the cancelling of the election will lead to various complications.

"We might have to do the whole procedure again from the beginning. I think that's what's going to happen," she said.

As an example, Vary explained that since the election is being postponed, there will be individuals who will turn 18 during that period of time who will want to register to vote who were previously ineligible to do so.

"There are costs related to that. We have to see from which point in the procedure we will start from. We are waiting for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to let us know," she said, emphasizing that no one truly knows what's going to happen. "We're in limbo right now. I think this is the first time in Quebec history that the government asks for so many shutdowns. We just don't know; we're learning day to day just like everyone else."

The Municipality of Brome will be keeping its citizens informed of the situation and any details regarding the partial election either by email or through mail. For those that live in Waterloo, the town is keeping its citizens up to date on the situation surrounding the coronavirus and its byelection through the Ville de Waterloo website.

Pettes Memorial

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for funding to both the provincial and federal government and we will undertake fundraising to help. This will be another phase for this library to bring it up to date."

As part of their plan, they want to have different spaces for children, teenagers, parents, and seniors to enjoy. "We want to dedicate a space to children and to make it more comfortable for them," explained Valasek. "Additions include a big room that can serve multiple purposes, we're talking about closed in glass pods for a workspace, a children-oriented space, and we also have this idea of a windowed space for parents. We also want to have a space geared towards teenagers."

They envision a large modern room, built at garden level, filled with lighting.

The addition to the Pettes Memorial Library is a part of the larger plan

to reinstate Coldbrook Park as the centre of the village of Knowlton. "It's integrated with this idea of making Coldbrook Park a hangout place for the community. It's a long-continued story for Pettes Memorial; we are always working to keep things current."

With these additions, they understand the significance in preserving the historical and architectural value of the building. "The integrity of the building is very important," mentioned Valasek. "There is no gutting it."

The Board of Trustees are excited for what's to come for the future of the Pettes Memorial Library, described by Valasek as an 'important cultural corridor,' as they recognize the role these institutions play in the community. "They are community meeting places, a hub of ideas. We want to make it a natural and organic space for people."

Taking the Sting out of Dwindling Bee Population talk cancelled at Brome Lake Garden Club

Please be advised that the talk about the dwindling bee population at the Brome Lake Garden Club on Saturday, March 21 at 2 p.m. has been cancelled. In our changing world, the plight of bees has become painfully clear. We've seen the charismatic honey bee as the face of the crisis and primary focus of conservation efforts. However, bees are surprisingly diverse. Understanding this diversity is key to enacting effective conservation efforts from the national level and down to the level of our backyard. Vinco Culjak Mathieu, a graduate student and insect specialist at McGill University, studies the challenges facing both honey bees, highlighting native bee diversity. He also shares ways you can help protect bees, to improve your gardens and help the environment.

Centre Lac Brome, 270 Victoria, Ville de Lac Brome
www.bromelakegc.org

PROTECT YOURSELF!

The coronavirus causes a respiratory infection (COVID-19) that can involve the following symptoms:



FEVER • COUGH • TROUBLE BREATHING

Protect your loved ones, especially seniors and the vulnerable ones, by avoiding visiting them if you're sick.

It is recommended that anyone returning from a foreign country isolate themselves at home for a period of 14 days and monitor their symptoms.

This isolation is mandatory for all public service employees and for all health, education, and childcare staff, both private and public, returning from abroad.

 [Québec.ca/coronavirus](https://quebec.ca/coronavirus)
Toll free: 1 877 644-4545

Votre gouvernement

Québec

Third annual Discover Opportunities hosted at Massey-Vanier High School



decision is based on a perception of a limited job market in the region, lack of educational institutions, or feeling they come from a sleepy rural region with little to offer their growing curiosities, DO-ET Career and Skills Days highlight the contrary.

Secondary 4 and 5 students spend the first half of their school day attending career panels and skills-building workshops led by local professionals who have been successful in life and in their career in the region, many of whom are alumni of Massey-Vanier, or of one of the other two English-language high schools in the region. Students also tour a networking zone composed of local community resources that provide services supporting education and employability, educational institutions from the region that offer a wide variety of post-secondary programs, and employers from the region that offer career and summer employment opportunities and are eager to employ the next generation of young bilingual professionals.

Each participating student is



PHOTO COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION
Secondary 4 and 5 students at Massey-Vanier High School had a great time meeting local employers, schools, and organizations in the Networking Zone.

On February 25th of this year, the third annual Discover Opportunities in the Eastern Townships Career and Skills Day was hosted at Massey-Vanier high school. The career and skills days are designed to expose secondary 4 and 5 students to the vast career and educational opportunities available to them right here in the Eastern Townships.

It is no secret that there are a number of bilingual youth who decide to leave the region to pursue their desired career path. Whether their

provided with a personalized schedule that is generated based on their responses to a survey that they are asked to complete prior to the event. The goal of this approach is to ensure that each student is attending career panels and skills-building workshops on topics relevant to their desired career path or a career path that they are considering. For those students who are undecided, there are also workshops on offer that address topics such as Paying for school and Career Exploration.

motivating and energetic tone, which carries through the rest of the event.

We are incredibly grateful to all the local professionals who volunteered their time to present at this event. Hosted at three English-language high schools in the region each year, the DO-ET Career and Skills Day offers information, opportunity, direction, and inspiration to our students. They say that it takes a community to raise a child and our community proves the value of that statement at every opportunity.

This year, students attended panels and workshops ranging from Architecture, Engineering and Technology to Alternatives to University; from Careers in Health to Entrepreneurship. In total, there were 8 panels and workshops offered by 20 local professionals who volunteered their time to inform and encourage the next generation of young professionals.

Townshippers' is always looking for new panelists and exhibitors to participate in these events, which are an important contribution to the lives of the region's English-speaking youth. Please feel free to e-mail us at ta@townshippers.org or call our Lennoxville or Knowlton offices at the numbers listed below if you or someone you know would be interested in participating in 2020-2021!

Each year, the career and skills day opens with an assembly to inspire students and orient them on the purpose and overview of the event. The opening assembly features a keynote speaker who shares his or her life journey with the students. The keynote speaker's presentation typically includes their education background, career path and experience, life lessons learned along the way and, of course, why they made the decision to make the Eastern Townships their home. The power of an inspiring personal testimonial demonstrates its value time and time again; and each year the volunteer keynote speaker at each Discover Opportunities in the Eastern Townships Career and Skills Day sets a

This monthly column keeps you in touch with Townshippers' Association's activities and news. Other ways to keep in touch:

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In-person
3-584 Knowlton Rd., Lac-Brome
3355 College St., Sherbrooke

By phone
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Welcome to SANTÉ COURVILLE de Waterloo



Santé Courville de Waterloo first opened its doors in June 1935, offering a peaceful and relaxing haven for residents. The "We Care" tradition began with the home's founder, Vivian Courville, and continues today.

Our 24-hour nursing care, assistance with activities of daily living and high levels of personal care ensure the happiness and well-being of all our residents. This means that family members can have the confidence of knowing that their loved one is in good hands.

Santé Courville de Waterloo is accredited by the Conseil québécois d'agrément (COA). Innovative services and equipment are specifically geared towards creating a relaxing and comfortable environment for residents with reduced independence.



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- Activities department
- Hair and foot care services
- Nurses aid • Medical services
- Food services
- Religious services

Reservation of shrubs for The Regional Shrub Distribution Day 2020

BCN Staff



COURTESY MRC BROME-MISSISQUOI

The Regional Shrub Distribution Day will take place on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (this may vary by municipality). The MRC invites local residents to reserve their shrubs now. There will be 2 types of distribution: Municipal and reserved / paying at the MRC.

Municipal: the distribution will be done by your municipality and the shrubs will be given free of charge in a limited quantity to citizens. The terms will be known shortly, otherwise contact your municipality.

Reserved / payable to the MRC: orders are reserved by citizens with the MRC via the website. Boxes of 15 shrubs of the same species are sold at a cost of \$21 / box + applicable taxes.

The MRC offers native shrubs conducive to the revegetation of riparian strips. By planting shrubs in riparian strips, Virage Rivages has a short-term impact on the erosion, sedimentation

and leaching of fertilizers.

To complete the shrub order form, visit this site: <https://fs20.formsite.com/mclaude/form2/index.html>

To consult the list of available species, click on the following link: www.mrcbm.qc.ca/arbustes

Pet of the Week: Moka



Hi! I am a 5-year-old medium-sized guy (about 55 lbs) with short black fur and white trim - my chest and my toes! I lived with a small dog and we were brought here because our mistress was going on a very long 'voyage' and didn't know what else to do with us! I hope to find a serious, caring, devoted person to take care of me. I am kind of shy when you first meet me but very soon you will see the sweet, loving, happy side of my character. I am waiting for you to come and meet me - maybe I will be your choice! I live here with lots and lots of other dogs and cats at the SPCA Montréal, 178, ch. du Vide, Ste-Angele-de-Monnoir (exit 37 on autoroute 10). Adoption hours are 2 - 4 p.m. on Thursdays & Saturdays.

P.S. We animals all hope you are taking very seriously all the precautions recommended by the governments and health agencies - stay home as much as possible - distance yourself - don't shake hands, quarantine when warranted, etc.) so that you will all come out on the other side of this 'thing' healthy and ready to give us loving homes! Take care.

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A saint who's not a saint

St. Patrick is a man revered in Ireland and around the world. Despite being an influential figure in the history of Ireland and Christianity, St. Patrick is a saint in name only.

Millions of people around the world celebrate whom they believe to be an official saint each year on March 17. However, according to Irish Central and writer Ken Concannon, the formal canonization process in the Roman Catholic Church was not in place during its first millennium, a period of time in which Patrick was active. The official process for canonization was not instituted until around the 12th century, long after Patrick died. St. Patrick joins two other Irish saints who were never formally canonized. The only Irish saint to be canonized is Fergal, also known as St. Virgil of Salzburg. He was canonized by Pope Gregory IX in 1233.

St. Patrick became a "saint" by popular opinion. In the early years of the Church, many martyrs and those whose lives were especially holy were considered saints, even if they were not canonized. It is probable, with the approval of a bishop, that St. Patrick was considered a saint for these reasons.

The concept of St. Patrick not being an official saint adds to the mystery of



the man, who was born in Britain and was said to have converted the Irish from paganism with fabled symbolism that borrowed from ancient traditions.

Even if his status as saint is informal, St. Patrick certainly made his mark, with a world-renowned celebration commemorating his achievements.

(Metro Creative)

Massey Vanier 50th Anniversary

50th anniversary soft-cover book of Massey Vanier High School which includes photos, stories and anecdotes from the school's humble beginnings.

The books are available for \$10 each if picked up (\$15 if mailed).



Drop by the Brome County News office at 5B Victoria between 9 a.m. and noon to pick up your copy.

Information:

Nicole 450-242-1188

How North America shaped St. Patrick's Day

Each March 17, towns and cities are awash in Kelly green as pints of Guinness are lifted in the name of St. Patrick. Even though St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and credited with bringing Christianity to the Emerald Isle, many of the traditions associated with St. Patrick's Day revelry actually originated on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

The familiar traditions of St. Patrick's Day, such as parades of pipers, drinking green milk shakes and dining on green bagels, did not originate in the Irish countryside. Many were the product of the prosperity of North America. In fact, the original St. Patrick's Day celebrations of old in Ireland were much more modest and centered on religion rather than revelry. History.

com indicates that, since 1631, St. Patrick's Day had been a religious feast day commemorating the death of St. Patrick, a missionary who brought religious teachings to a then-pagan nation. Celebrations were solemn and focused on church and family.

Across the pond, as the numbers of Irish immigrants grew, so did the merry-making. In cities throughout America and Canada, St. Patrick's Day took on a more celebratory air.

Various cities claim to have hosted the first St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations, with Boston and New York long claiming to be the originators of these traditions. However, according to research discovered by historian Dr. J. Michael Francis in 2017, gunpowder expenditures logs in Spain's Archivo General de Indias indicate artillery was fired for a feast day of San Patricio (St. Patrick) in 1600 in St. Augustine, Florida. In fact, St. Patrick would go on to become the official "protector" of the city's maize fields in this Spanish garrison town. This seems to have been more of a festival than a parade, though it certainly predates celebrations and parades that took place in Boston and New York in 1737 and 1762, respectively, and oddly links St. Patrick with both Irish and Spanish immigrants.

Even still, St. Patrick's Day has evolved to be celebrated in tiny towns and major metropolises all across North America. Boston, New York, Sa-



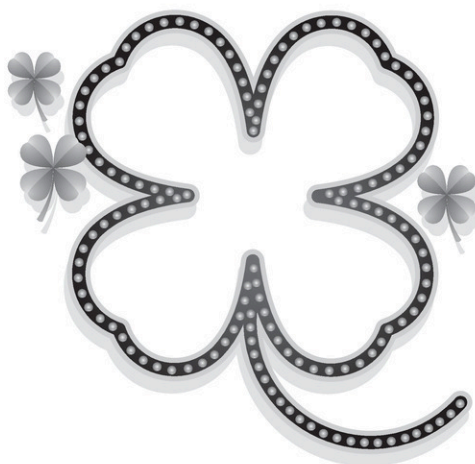
vannah, Chicago, Vancouver, and Toronto all have notable celebrations. Even the famed "corned beef and cabbage" was an American invention. Ham and cabbage was eaten in Ireland, but corned beef proved a cheaper substitute for impoverished Irish immigrants in the United States. It was the cheapest meat to be found at the time, and was soon a staple of the holiday.

St. Patrick's Day remained solemn in Ireland (laws prohibited pubs from

opening on holy days until 1973) even as merry-making grew elsewhere. However, with the invention of television, the Irish could see the revelry taking place in America. Eventually, the country took note and started celebrating in a similar fashion.

St. Patrick may have been the patron saint of Ireland, but the fanfare of St. Patrick's Day traces its roots to North America.

(Metro Creative)



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Death



Osborne (Ozzie) Stone
 1952-2020

At the BMP Hospital in Cowansville, on March 13, 2020 at the age of 67, passed away Osborne (Ozzie) Stone.

He leaves to mourn his beloved wife Jennifer, his daughter Melanie (Tom), his son Mark, his brother Austin (Elaine) and his sister Colleen (Bryan), his nieces Charlene (Herve) and Karen (Bobby), his uncle Terry (Cheryl), his great nieces Mackenzie, Zoe and Olivia, his grandson Eli and close friends, Ian, Sue, Stan and Wayne as well as many other family and friends.

The family will have a celebration of life at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made at the Leukemia foundation. www.llscanada.org

Funeral arrangements entrusted to:

DÉSOURDY FUNERAL HOMES
 101 Jean-Besré, Cowansville QC
 PHONE: 450-263-1212
 FAX: 450-263-9557
 info@desourdy.ca
 www.desourdy.ca

Death



Perkins, Doris Jean (Née Knowlton)
 1929-2020

Peacefully at the Foyer Sutton, QC, on Monday, March 9th, at the age of 90, passed away Doris Jean Knowlton, beloved wife of the late Ralph Perkins.

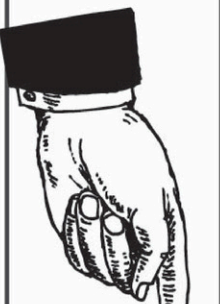
She leaves to mourn her children, Robert (Clarice), Neil (Margaret), Joan, late Stephen and Joy (Michael), many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, numerous nephews and nieces, cousins, and friends.

Family and friends will be welcomed at Désourdy Funeral Home, 101 Jean-Besré, Cowansville, QC on Saturday, May 16th, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., followed by gathering and prayer.

The burial will take place at Farnham Corner Cemetery in Dunham.

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The secret to a great Irish Coffee isn't what you'd expect

By Elizabeth Karmel

Last summer, I travelled to Ireland to learn about Irish whiskey, a spirit I knew relatively little about. The Irish drink I knew better was Guinness, which I enjoyed occasionally and use to make my favourite Chocolate Chocolate Cake.

Turns out, I am not alone in my unfamiliarity with Irish whiskey. Today's Irish whiskey industry is relatively young. It all but died out after Ireland gained independence from Britain in 1922. In 1980, there were only two distilleries, Bushmills and Midleton, makers of Jameson and other well-known brands. Today there are 31. Irish whiskey, like other whiskeys today, is booming.

Distilleries now are making balanced and nuanced whiskeys that are best sipped slowly like a good scotch, bourbon or rye.

Before I got to Ireland, I wondered if Irish Coffee there is like German Chocolate Cake in Germany - an American cre-

ation. But almost everywhere we went, we were served an Irish Coffee. And they were delicious. Way better than anything I had experienced in the States.

These Irish Coffees were served in glass Irish Coffee mugs, some plain, some fancy and one even cut crystal. The transparent glass and the mug's telltale shape signalled that it was time for a pick-me-up.

Some versions of Irish Coffee in Ireland were simple and plain, strong with whiskey. Others had been accessorized with a sprinkle of cocoa or cinnamon and sweetened with vanilla-bean syrup, chocolate or caramel like a fancy coffee drink. They were all good, but for me, one stood out.

After lunch one day, we went to the Stag's Head pub in Dublin. It sits at the end of a pedestrian street and has been a beloved part of the Dublin landscape for 250 years this year. It is a warm, convivial space, the perfect place to experience a neat Irish whiskey with 1/2-pint of Guinness on the side - my favourite

order during my trip.

After consuming my first round, I ordered an Irish Coffee "in the name of research." I was not disappointed. The coffee was flavourful but light, not bitter at all. It complemented and softened the sharp Irish whiskey; when you sipped it through the rich pillows of fresh, thickened cream, the bite of the whiskey was tamed, and it was heavenly.

The Irish Coffee was so exceptional that I asked the manager of the pub for the secret. He was hesitant at first to tell me, and then said I wouldn't believe it. I anticipated that he was going to say it was Ireland's exceptional cream. But that wasn't it.

The secret to a great Irish Coffee, it turns out, is instant coffee.

That's right, the instant coffee you can get at the grocery store. He told me you can't use coffee that is too strong, too flavourful or, in his words, too "good." Those coffees will upset the balance of the drink.

So, you need instant coffee, Irish

whiskey and the best cream you can find, thickened but not whipped. Layer the coffee, whiskey and cream in that order in a tall mug. In Ireland, they use a heatproof glass mug so you can see all the layers. I succumbed and purchased an Irish Coffee mug so I could recreate the experience at home, but you can serve it in any heatproof mug.

When I came home, I started making the Dublin pub's Irish Coffee with instant espresso powder because that's what I had on hand. A spoonful of the powder mixed with 5 ounces of boiling water made the base. I added 1 ounce of Irish whiskey and a big dollop of thickened, heavy cream. It's important that the water is boiling, because the cream is cold and will cool off the coffee as you drink it.

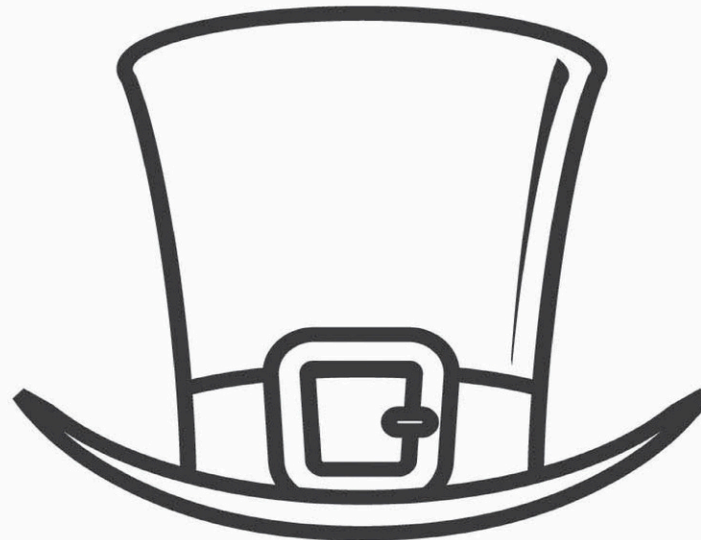
This Irish Coffee couldn't be easier, feels like a treat, and is both relaxing and invigorating, a welcome change from hot tea and hot chocolate when you come in from the cold.

(The Associated Press)



Creative Coloring

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
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CANADA



HISTORY

1904

THE NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE BECAME THE ROYAL NORTHWEST MOUNTED POLICE.



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ANSWER: IRISH

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ENGLISH: Luck

SPANISH: Suerte

ITALIAN: Fortuna

FRENCH: Chance

GERMAN: Glückssache

Did you know?

LEPRECHAUNS ARE A TYPE OF FAIRY IN IRISH FOLKLORE. THEY PARTAKE IN MISCHIEF AND ARE DEPICTED AS BEARDED MEN.



GET THE PICTURE?



Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CLOVER

Enjoy corned beef and cabbage this St. Patrick's Day

Corned beef and cabbage might not be a part of many people's diet regimens throughout the year. But come March 17, it's not uncommon to find people from all walks of life indulging in this beloved meal.

March 17 marks the celebration of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. Over the years, the day has also become a celebration of the Emerald Isle. Such celebrations tend to feature corned beef and cabbage, even though the dish may have little to do with Ireland (and even less to do with St. Patrick). The precise origins of the link between corned beef and St. Patrick's Day remain a topic of debate, but some historians say the corned beef enjoyed today can be traced to New York City's Irish immigrant population in the 19th and 20th centuries, who popularized a salted meat made from brisket that was then sold by Jewish butchers.

Regardless of the authenticity of its link to Ireland, corned beef is delicious and many modern Paddy's Day celebrants wouldn't think of going without it on March 17. Those who want to cook up their own can try this recipe for "Corned Beef and Cabbage" from Arthur Schwartz's "New York City Food" (Stewart, Tabori & Chang).

Corned Beef and Cabbage Serves 6 to 8

Cook a whole brisket with both sections together with all its fat. (You can trim off the fat after the meat is cooked.) Whole brisket and second-cut corned beef brisket are hard to find, but your supermarket should have first-cut corned beef vacuum-packed in plastic. Choose the fattiest piece in the case and treat it gently.

You can cook the cabbage and potatoes in the same water as the corned beef. Because the other vegetables need to be cooked in water that simmers more than the meat, scoop out water from the corned beef pot and cook the vegetables in a separate pot or pots.

- 1 4- to 5-pound corned beef brisket
- 1 teaspoon pickling spices
- 1 head cabbage
- 2 pounds boiling potatoes
- 6 to 8 small carrots (optional)
- Parsnips (optional)
- Turnips (optional)

Place the corned beef in a pot that holds at least 5 quarts of water. Cover completely with cold water. Place over high heat and bring to a simmer.

As soon as bubbles start to break on the surface of the water, adjust the heat so the water simmers very, very gently. With a slotted spoon, skim off the residue that accumulates on the surface. When the residue stops coming to the surface, add the pickling spices.

Continue to cook, with bubbles just gently breaking on the surface, for 3 to 4 hours, until fork tender.

The meat can be safely held in its water for about 2 hours; reheat gently.

Cook the vegetables until fork tender in separate pots of boiling fresh water or, especially for the cabbage, use some of the water in which the corned beef was cooked.

Slice the corned beef and serve with mustard and/or horseradish on a platter, surrounded with some of the vegetables or with vegetables in a separate bowl. (Metro Creative)





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