

# Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2002

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## China hunt for male beauty may lead to Knowlton

*Karl Végiard first French-Canadian Québécois to become Mr. Canada*

By Kate Shingler  
KNOWLTON

It's a long way from Knowlton to Beijing, and locals Karl Végiard and his fiancée Rachel Lauzière know this as they preparing to make the trip to China this fall, where he will compete in the final world Manhunt competition.

Végiard recently captured top honours at The Universal Models Pageant's Manhunt Canada and Miss International Canada competitions on June 28 at the Cabaret du Casino de Montréal. In doing so, he is the first French-Canadian Québécois to win the event.

First prize was airfare and two weeks all expenses paid to Beijing. Now, the Knowlton resident is hoping to find sponsors to pay for clothing needed for the various categories, including

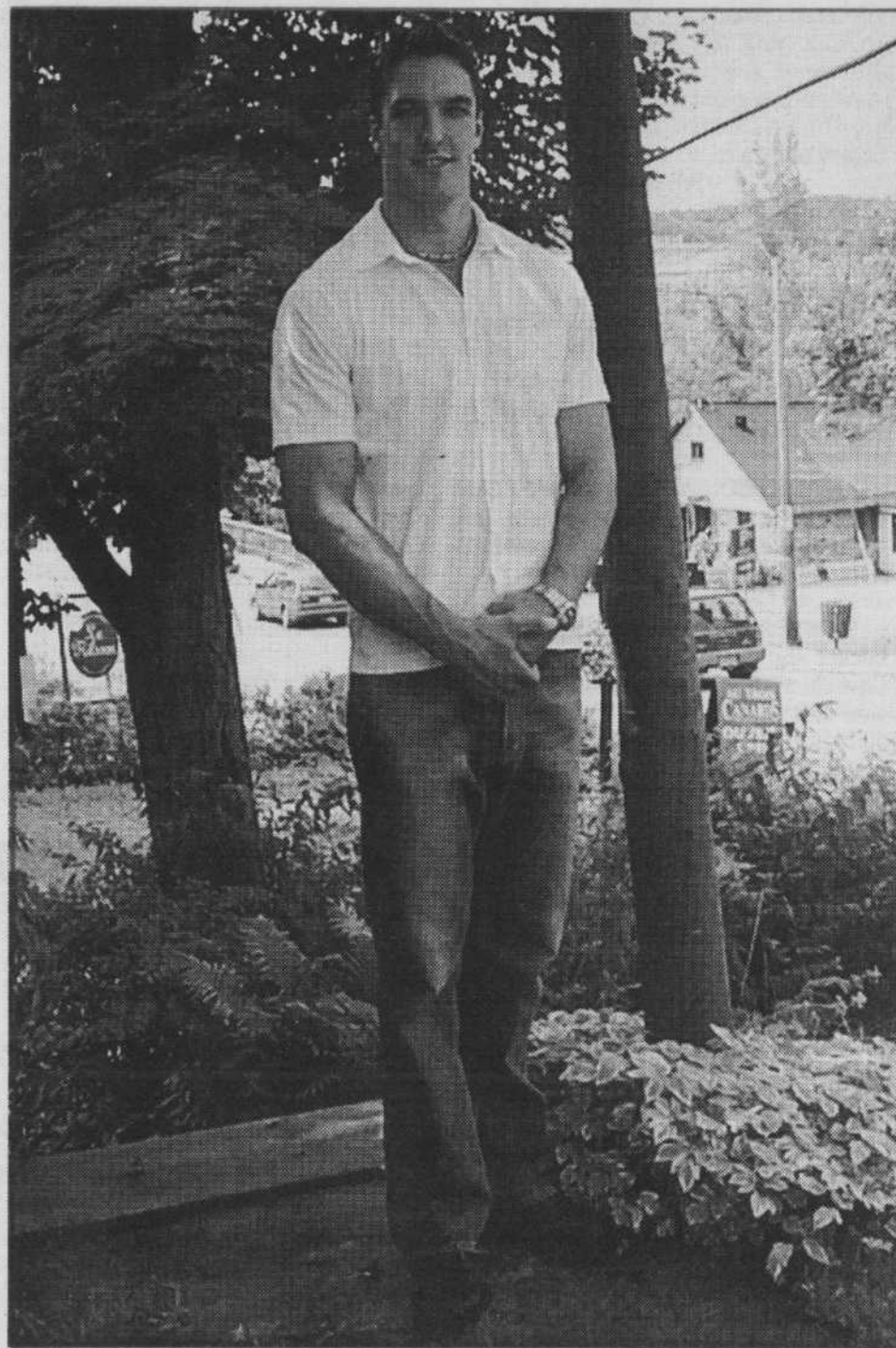
evening dress, business, swim wear and even a smoking jacket section.

Born in Granby, the 25-year-old just started dabbling in modeling at the suggestion of friends. At six-foot-four and 215 lbs, Végiard was told by agencies in Montreal that he was too big to do serious runway modeling. So instead, he decided to pursue the Manhunt pageant, magazine, billboard and television advertisements.

"I've always been interested in being famous, but I've never had the opportunity to do this, or I didn't have the guts," he says. "I just want to push it as far as I can."

Apparently a very popular event in Asia, Manhunt is a male beauty competition established in 1993. Last year, it was viewed by an audience of 2,600 guests, as well as 500 international and local members of the press.

SEE MR. CANADA, PAGE 5



KATE SHINGLER

Knowlton resident Karl Végiard said he always wanted to be famous, and will get the chance as he heads off to Beijing, China for Manhunt, a male beauty competition established in 1993.

## Is Sutton becoming a Mecca for book buyers?

*Don the Bookman makes annual return to small rural town*

By Caroline Kehne  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
SUTTON

To many Sutton residents, Don Bell is a harbinger of the summer season. His return to the village is as predictable as the return of northbound Canada geese in spring.

Each year, "the Bookman" returns to the ski town from his winter scout-

ing grounds (Montreal and Paris) and pitches his tent in front of Café Mocado where he sells his "found treasures": used and rare books for the discriminating reader.

Now, this nomadic bibliophile has given up the tent for a semi-permanent residence at 21 Main St. N. Librairie Founde Bookes will be open three days a week (Friday through Sunday) during summer months.

Despite Sutton's small size, its residents appear to have a healthy appetite for books, sufficient to support one new and two used booksellers.

SEE BOOKS, PAGE 5

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# BROME COUNTY COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

July 27

**MENTAL HEALTH & WELL BEING MEETING** at St. Paul's Church (basement), **Knowlton**, 2 p.m. Do you or someone you know suffer from some form of depression? Are words like Schizophrenia, Manic Depression, Bipolar Disorder confusing to you? Do you have difficulty knowing how to cope with these conditions or to support someone who struggles with them? Info: Linda, 450-243-0928.

**FLEA MARKET AND SALE** of fabric leatherette and upholstery material plus some antiques and quality items at Knowlton United Church, 234 Knowlton Rd., **Knowlton**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or shine.

July 28

**HYMN SING** on Sunday at St. Michael and All Angels Church, **Bolton Glen** at 7:30 p.m.

Aug. 3

**Brome County Agricultural Society Annual FUNDRAISING BARBECUE**, 5 to 8 p.m. at the Fairgrounds. Dancing afterwards. Adults, \$12, children (under 12), \$6. Tickets/Info: 450-242-3976.

Aug. 4

**ANTIQUÉ/COLLECTIBLE & CRAFT SALE** on Curley St., **Sutton**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Profits to Sutton Valley Council. Free admission. Info: Marcelle, 450-266-4748.

Aug. 6 to 9

**SUMMER DAY CAMP** with Joel Heimbecker and family at St. Paul's Anglican Church, 24 St. Paul Rd., **Knowlton** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. For all children ages five to 12 yrs. (Bring your lunch). Info: 450-242-2885/243-0538.

Aug/11

**CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE** at St. Luke's Church, **Waterloo**, noon to 4 p.m. Enjoy a band concert, bagpipe recital, children's games, a guided tour of our beautiful heritage building and a free hot dog lunch, closing with a commemorative service led by Bishop Russell Hatton and Rev. Wilmur Davidson.

## ARTS CALENDAR

Through to July 26

**REFLECTIONS** an exhibition of photographs by Diana Harding Tucker and Paintings by Sally Kininmonth. Exhibition reveals a similarity in the work of both artists on the subject of reflection and transition at Brome County Historical Society, 130 Victoria, **Knowlton**. Open Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

July 27 & 28

**BORDER CRAFT SHOW** at North Hatley Curling Club, 3245 Capelton Rd., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. Info: 819-876-2943.

Aug. 11

**KNOWLTON HARMONY BAND** Third Park Concert, 2002 at Edwards Park, **West Brome**. Admission is free. Alternative White Anglican Church if raining. Info: Wade Johnston, 450-243-5432; Lois Hardacker, 242-2000.

Through to Aug. 24

**THEATRE LAC BROME 2002: A Summer Festival of English-Language Theatre** in Knowlton. This week: Wednesday '2 for price of 1' for Lac Brome residents - Evelyn Strange. Thursday - Village Wooing. Friday/Tuesday - Hank Williams: The Show He Never Gave. Saturday - Old King Cole. Performances Tuesday to Saturday, 8 p.m. Matinees on Thursday, 2 p.m. Tickets: \$5 to \$22. Info: 450-242-2270, www.cclacbrome.qc.ca/tlb.

Aug. 31

**Brome Fair YOUTH TALENT COMPETITION** at the Brome Fairgrounds at 2 p.m. Ages 19 and under welcome to participate. Registration before Aug. 10. \$10 fee refundable after performance. Registration: 450-242-EXPO.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**STANBRIDGE RIDGE STONE CHURCH:** 160th Anniversary 1842 - 2002. Annual Service on Sunday, July 28 at 10 a.m. Rev. Michelle Eason and Rev. Malcolm Cogswell officiating.

## Joint exhibit at BCBS



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Works by artists Diana Tucker (left) and Sally Kininmonth are currently on display at the Brome County Historical Society in Knowlton. Kininmonth is a member of the just-completed Tour des Arts and a multi-media artist whose works capture the Quebec rural landscape. Tucker is a part-time resident of the Townships, splitting her time between Toronto and Lac Brome. She is a professional photographer who studied art at the Rochester Institute of Technology (1989), and now specializes in digital desktop photography. The exhibit ends Sunday, July 28. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**KNOWLTON/CREEK PASTORAL CHARGE:** Worship and song by members & Rev. Burn Purdon. Creek United, Foster, 9:30 a.m. Knowlton United, 11 a.m.

**ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH:** 24 St. Paul's Rd., Knowlton. We wish to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Sunday services: 8 & 10 a.m. Sunday school and nursery, 10 a.m. The Rev. Ralph T. Leavitt - Pastor.

**PARISH OF BROME:** Anglican Worship summer service July 28 at Holy Trinity, Iron Hill at 7:30 p.m. Hymn sing with special guest choir from St. Luke's, Waterloo. Info: 450-263-2398.

**WATERLOO ST. PAUL'S AND FULFORD UNITED CHURCHES:** Weekly Sunday worship and song in Waterloo at 11 a.m. Fulford worship on second and fourth Sundays at 9:30 a.m. May through

October. Zone team ministers Rev. Lilian Patey and Rev. David Lambie.

**COWANSVILLE AREA PASTORAL CHARGE UNITED CHURCH:** Worship and Sunday school at Emmanuel United Church, 203 rue Principale, at 10:30 a.m. Choir practice at 9 a.m. Rev. Mary MacPherson officiating.

**GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH SUTTON:** Come, let Jesus know you love Him. Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m. at 52 Principale Sud. The Rev. Canon Tim Smart, Rector.

**SUTTON-DUNHAM UNITED:** Everyone is cordially invited to attend services at 10:30 a.m. in Sutton on the first and second, Sundays and in Dunham on the third and fourth Sundays of each month.

**BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE:** Joint Summer Service, July 28, 10 a.m. at the Ridge (combined with congregation from St. James the apostle Anglican Church, Stanbridge East Anglican) with Rev. M. Cogswell and Rev. Michelle Eason.

**BAPTIST CHURCHES:** Sunday services: Mansonville Baptist, 9:30 a.m.; Olivet Baptist, Sutton, 11 a.m.

**MR. DEEDS**  
Fri., Sat., Sun., Mon., Tue., Wed., Thur.  
7 p.m. & 9 p.m. [G]

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Sat., Sun.  
1 p.m. & 3 p.m. [G]

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KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW.

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**CIRCULATION**  
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**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

	GST	PST	TOTAL	
CANADA: 1 YEAR	114.40	8.01	9.18	\$131.59
6 MONTHS	59.00	4.13	4.73	\$67.86
3 MONTHS	30.00	2.10	2.41	\$34.51

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# Evelyn Strange speaks of style and authenticity

**E**velyn Strange, Theatre Lac Brome's last play of its repertory season, is a technically-accomplished production with a great sense of style and eerily authentic atmosphere.

Evelyn Strange is the name of a young woman who has lost her memory, and is discovered walking around NYC in a man's trenchcoat with a gun in her pocket. She has a notebook written in some bizarre code, and she is being sought in connection with a corpse in Central Park.

Besides the gun, her pocket contained opera tickets, and beyond that no clue at all to who she is. She meets the other occupant of the box at the opera, where somewhere between the endless Wagnerian angst (they are watching Siegfried) they end up making a date for a late night dinner at the Automat. Said occupant, a certain sub-editor named Perry Spangler, finds himself drawn against his will into the mystery of the lovely Miss Strange, and helps her find a bed for the night (not his place ± a reputable hotel of course. These are the 50s!).

Thus the mystery of Evelyn Strange is presented, and the solution is revealed in true melodramatic style by the end of the play. The interesting element of this production is that director Greg Kramer had the insight and the audacity to retool the

script. Instead of a straight play of melodramatic proportions with implausible twists, he has chosen to present it as a play being performed on the radio — thus making the implausible plausible, the unlikely likely. What might have appeared as questionable plot devices in this homage to film noir have been made totally acceptable by making it a radio drama — we do not expect realism of this type of entertain-

**THEATRE  
PREVIEW**

DIAHANN  
NADEAU

ment. Kramer has given himself a limited set to work with, and creates a wholly different ambiance by making it a radio studio with a foley artist (sound effects person, and Kramer's invented character) on the side. It is difficult to believe the play as it was originally written could have been superior to this production.

The hard-boiled dialogue, so reminiscent of the world of Philip Marlowe or Sam Spade, works beautifully in this setting, and is delivered with great elan by the radio quartet: Lauren Piech, Karl Graboshas, Stephanie McNamara and Jesse Todd. They are aided and abetted by their sound effects person and Sutton resident Mary Harvey.

Graboshas plays Spangler and Todd is his friend and colleague Lewis Hake. Piech is the boss's wife, Nina Ferrer, and McNamara is the mystified Miss Strange.

The men are great together, bickering in that terse style of film noir, while Piech and McNamara are beautifully paired — the one Rita Hayworth, the other a cross between Doris Day and Veronica Lake.

We have only seen the lovely Lauren Piech briefly as Mrs. Sorkin in a monologue sketch, and here she deliv-



PHOTOS COURTESY DAVID ANDERSON/PHOTO CORRESPONDENT

Karl Graboshas plays Perry Spangler and Stephanie McNamara as the title character in Theatre Lac Brome's final performance of its 2002 repertory season.

ers an over-the-top performance that is perfectly suited to the style of radio dramas.

McNamara is equally riveting as the feisty and terrified amnesiac, and manages to convey a lot of emotional pain in a convincing manner in spite of the stylized nature of the script. As her memory returns we are as gripped as she is by the events that she witnessed.

This is such a fun play, it does not require a great deal of intellectual exercise, but does demand a love of film noir and the radio dramas of a

more innocent and long gone era. It is a masterly production and the must-see show of the season at Theatre Lac Brome.

FOR TICKETS AND SCHEDULES, CALL THE THEATRE LAC BROME BOX OFFICE AT 450-242-2270.



Jesse Todd plays Spangler's friend and colleague Lewis Hake, while Lauren Piech is Nina Ferrer, the boss's cheating wife.

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# Guarantees may have disappointing results

It seems that if you're one of the four people who bought a Daewoo you may have a hard time collecting on your warranty. You might also have a hard time unloading the thing too.

In 1999 the Korean carmaker entered the North American market, offering cheap cars that actually didn't look that bad. But I guess things didn't work out quite as planned, and now General Motors has bought the company out.

The Canadian Automobile Association says GM purchased Daewoo's assets, but not the sales network. This after Daewoo came face to face with the very real possibility of going belly up.

"This could spell difficulties for Quebec owners of a Daewoo product, for example as concerns warranty repairs," said CAA-Quebec spokesman Raynald Côté.

The CAA says so far Daewoo is respecting the terms of the warranties it sold with its cars, but some Quebec dealers have been asking their customers to pay up front.

"In such cases, customers should contact Daewoo Auto Canada at their toll free number, 1-877-290-3500," Côté said.

The CAA recommends that car owners insist the dealer get authorization from Daewoo Auto Canada before carrying out any repairs. If this doesn't work out, pay the repair bill and send it to Daewoo Canada by registered mail for reimbursement. If the claim isn't paid within a reasonable length of time, register a claim against the dealer and Daewoo Auto Canada in Small Claims Court.

CAA-Quebec says Daewoo owners may face other problems as well, because new and used parts may become scarce. Those trying to sell their Daewoo's may also find that the warranty and parts problem means the resale value is "disappointing," as they put it.

In other words, that two-year-old Daewoo can be picked up for \$500 and a six pack.

## WOBBLY WARRANTIES

Speaking of warranties, Wynn's International has announced it won't continue to sell extended warranties in Canada. Bought out by Parker Han-

nafin Corporation last month, Wynn's is best known for its selection of motor oil and fuel additives. Along the way it also got into the warranty business, selling guarantees for new and used cars.

"Wynn's has indicated that all current warranty plans, which vary in length from 12 months to four years, will be respected," said Côté. "... but in fact consumer recourse will be limited."

Côté explained the Consumer Protection Act requires all extended warranty companies keep reserves in a separate trust account to ensure they meet their obligations. A kind of safety to make sure that regardless of what happened to the company, the customer would be covered.

Wynn's never did this, and the Quebec Consumer Protection Office has begun legal proceedings. If your car has a Wynn's guarantee the company says it will honor it, but be ready for delays and headaches if you try to collect.

## ROAD REPAIR REMINDER

This is the last week of the Construction Holiday, but for road repair workers this isn't necessarily a break. On Autoroute 10 and 55 they've been out there, sweltering in the heat, trying not to get hit by passing cars while fixing the roads.

Along with the Transport Quebec crews are police officers, watching for motorists who don't follow the rules. Ignore the construction zone signs and the Sûreté du Québec officers, riding their spiffy new BMW motorcycles, will make sure your wallet takes a direct hit.

We all like to make jokes about Transport Quebec crews, but the fact is most of us wouldn't want their jobs. They work with hot asphalt on some of the hottest days of the year. At the same time they have to make sure they don't get run over by a driver in an air conditioned car who may not be paying attention.

So if you're passing a construction zone slow down, and pay a little extra attention. You might save a life, and you might avoid a really nasty way to end your summer vacation, too.

# Canadians put on a show at Vermont parade

By Caroline Kehne  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
ST. ALBANS, VT.

Canadians took part in an old-fashioned Vermont summer parade down main street in St. Albans, Vt. Sunday afternoon.

The parade, complete with antique and modern fire trucks, firemen, rescue and first responder units, floats, a festooned review stand and baby-kissing political candidates closed the 113th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Vermont State Firefighters' Association.

Quebec was well represented in the Sunday afternoon parade, with fire trucks from Sutton and Clarenceville/Noyan units, a marching band from Terrebonne and members of Montreal's Mount Sinai Shriners.

The conference, an annual gathering of representatives from more than 30 member companies, includes five Cana-

dian units (Sutton, Philipsburg/St-Armand, Clarenceville, Bedford and Bedford Canton). The units are part of the Franklin County International Firefighters' Association, a unique cross-border co-operative that offers fire, emergency and first responder support to participating towns straddling the border at little cost.



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CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Members from the Sutton and Clarenceville/Noyan fire departments joined units from both sides of the border in Sunday's old-fashioned parade in St. Albans, Vt.

# Brome County News

## Master of Buckingham Palace

### BOOKS:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

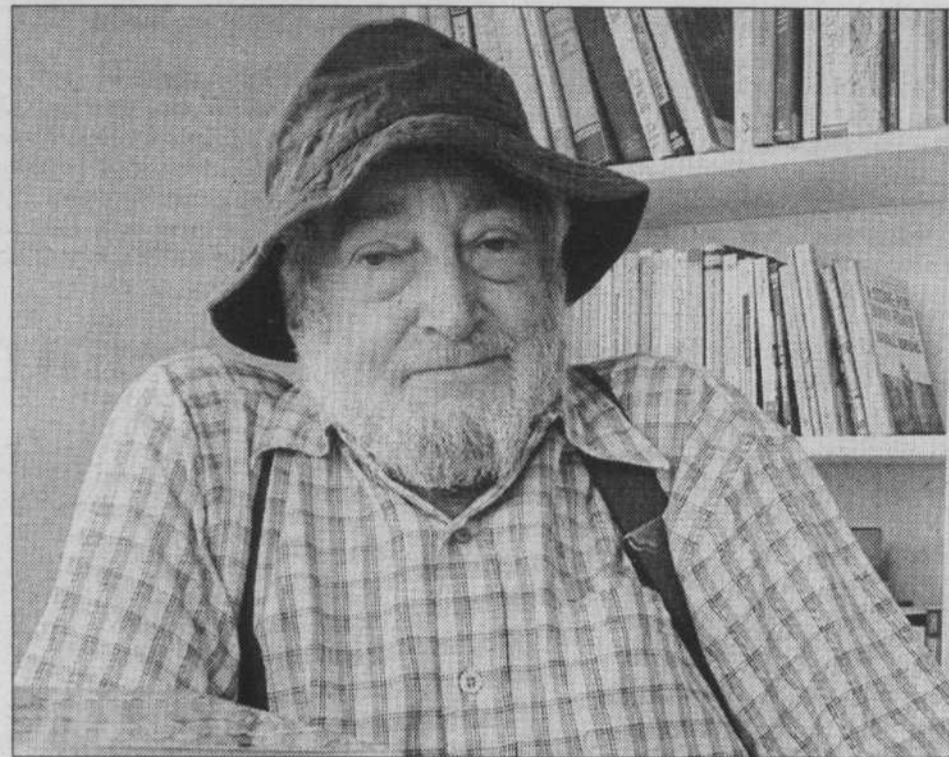
Founde Bookes joins fellow used book vendor Ex Libris (located on nearby Pine Street) and the Book Nook, a vendor of new (and some used). Add to that two small libraries and this small rural town begins to resemble a small Mecca for readers.

Bell is the author of an award winning collection of short stories, including Saturday Night at the Bagel Factory and Other Montreal Stories (Fireside, 1994). He is also author of a column, 'Founde Bookes' for Books In Canada. But he admits his offerings at "Buckingham Palace" are select and "reflect our own reading pleasures" in literature, poetry, travel, Canadiana, old rare books, unusual and scarce books and attractively illustrated volumes."

Bell says he shies away from popular commercial fiction, self-help, new age, Harlequin romances. Instead, he selects books (in both French and English) that are "in excellent condition and a pleasure not only to read, but to look at, to open, to touch."

Even if you don't find your own lost treasure in Bell's every-changing selection, the Master of Buckingham Palace will charm the unsuspecting book buyer with his wicked wit (such as a copy of Murder in the Bookshop, conspicuously placed as a warning to those who would abuse book dealers).

He will also intrigue the listener with stories from the brotherhood of rare book dealers. Ask Bell about his opportu-



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Don 'The Bookman' Bell has returned to Sutton this summer, setting up shop at Librairie Founde Bookes, 21 Main St. N. In doing so, he joins several other book stores in town.

nity to act as broker on the sale of a signed, first printing of Hitler's Mein Kampf, an opportunity which on the one hand, offered the prospect of attractive monetary rewards and, on the other, raised serious moral and ethical questions. Although the book was sold before he could make up his mind, Bell's story reminds us that ethical issues creep into seemingly innocuous businesses such as the rare book trade.

LIBRAIRIE FOUNDE BOOKES IS LOCATED AT 21 MAIN ST. N., SUTTON. IT IS OPEN FRIDAY TO SUNDAY (10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.) AND OTHER DAYS BY APPOINTMENT. THE BOOKSTORE WILL BE CLOSED DURING WINTER MONTHS. A COPY OF BELL'S MOST RECENT FOUNDE BOOKES COLUMN, A TALE OF THE DISCOVERY OF A COPY OF THE PYX BY JOHN BUELL, IS AVAILABLE AT THE SHOP. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 514-487-4889, OR E-MAIL DONTHEBOOKMAN@HOTMAIL.COM.

### MR. CANADA:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

On Nov. 9, the competition that Végiard compares to a male Miss Universe, will be televised to 500 million people in China.

"Manhunt is not known around Canada. In other countries it is very big," notes Lauzière, who he jokingly refers to as his secretary and assistant as she accompanies him to meetings and interviews. "The competition (in Montreal) was a joke for us. But, in Beijing it's very huge."

A former Granby CEGEP basketball player, Végiard is training weekdays, lifting weights for an hour. Although he takes

protein powder to help build muscle, he is not dieting for the upcoming competition overseas.

In the meantime, Végiard continues to earn a living in a decidedly less glamorous way, working for a printed circuit company in Granby and helping out on his fiancée's nearby family pig farm, where she also works. If he wins in China, he will be awarded

\$50,000 US and a one-year contract with an modeling agency.

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- 2001 MALIBU, auto., beige, a/c, 38,000 km.
- 2001 IMPALA, auto., grey, a/c, 41,000 km., **\$21,450.**
- 2001 CAVALIER LS, auto., white, a/c, 29,000 km., **\$14,500.**
- 2000 CAVALIER auto., gold, 34,000 km., **\$10,000.**
- 2000 CAVALIER LS, auto., gold, full. equipped, 39,000, **\$14,500.**
- 1999 OLDS INTRIGUE, auto., grey, 37,550 km., **\$16,950.**
- 1999 VENTURE, beige, auto., 65,000 km., **\$16,950.**
- 1999 BLAZER 4WD, auto., 53,000 km., **\$17,950.**
- 1999 ALERO GL, auto., grey, 45,000 km., **\$14,950.**
- 1999 CAVALIER, man., beige, 59,000, **\$9,500.**
- 1999 CAVALIER Z-24, auto., red, 70,000 km., **\$12,500.**
- 1999 SUNFIRE, man., black, 49,000 km., **\$9,800.**
- 1999 SUNFIRE, man. black, 56,000 km., **\$9,800.**
- 1999 ALERO, auto., black, full., 61,000 km. **\$16,900.**
- 1999 TRACKER, auto., blue, a/c, 56,000 km., **\$16,950.**
- 1999 ALERO, auto., grey, a/c, 56,000 km., **\$14,950.**
- 1999 MALIBU auto., grey, a/c, 70,000 km., **\$12,300.**
- 1998 CAMARO, auto., red, 81,000 km., **\$11,900.**
- 1998 OLDS. INTRIGUE, auto., grey, a/c, 77,000 km., **\$14,900.**
- 1997 VENTURE, auto., a/c, 105,000 km., **\$12,950.**
- 1996 CORSICA, auto., burgundy, a/c, 103,000 km., **\$6,495.**
- 1996 DELTA ROYALE, auto., beige, a/c, 85,000 km., **\$11,450.**
- 1995 FORD ESCORT, auto., green, 105,000 km., **\$5,900.**
- 1995 DELTA ROYALE, auto., beige, full. equipped, 190,000 km., **\$9,450.**
- 1994 INTREPID auto., black, full. equipped, 116,000 km., **\$6,800.**
- 1993 BUICK auto., green, full. equipped, 191,000 km., **\$5,850.**
- 1992 PLYMOUTH ACCLAIM, auto., silver, 169,000 km., **\$3,450.**
- 1990 PLYMOUTH ACCLAIM, auto., white, 207,000 km., **\$2,350.**

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## 263-1541

# Local entrepreneurs produce coffee table book

By Kate Shingler  
KNOWLTON

Nestled near a quiet hill on the outskirts of Knowlton, Steve O'Collin and Brian Allen have been running the visual communications company Allen and O'Collin Associates for the last six years.

Now, with clients in the Eastern Townships, Montreal and the United

States the photographer and technical production director have teamed up on their biggest project to date, a coffee table book on high-art rifles titled Keith Casteel — Full Circle.

The end result is a unique combination of the famed old-fashioned rifle's history as well as an autobiography of gun maker Keith Casteel. The sterling silver-engraved guns were custom-made

for clients, including one featuring a prized pet golden retriever, another a bible.

One of Casteel's hand-crafted arms recently sold in England for approximately \$200,000. Each rifle involves roughly 300 to 400 hours of labour says the black-powder rifle enthusiast, who also makes firearms, which, he admits are nothing like Casteel's famed flintlocks.

"Invented in colonial United States, this rifle is an icon of American freedom," says Allen, who travelled to various trade shows throughout Canada to photograph the 37 different guns featured in the book, all made by Casteel, a West Virginia countryman.

"(In the late 18th and early 19th century) it was the most accurate arm in the world.

# Bells & Bouquets: A plethora of country weddings

Cantankerous, arch-conservative cartoonist Al Capp added a colourful, curious cast to the cannon of comic-strip characters. After his signature hero L'le Abner, there came Daisy Mae, Cousin Weakeyes, Big Barnsmell, Lonesome Polecat, the weird occupants of Lower Slobbovia, and the critters of the bog. A personal favourite was Strange Stanley of Hopeless Swamp.

A lesser-known persona who appeared

around early summer was Marryin' Sam, an itinerant southern-style preacher who specialized in quick, low-budget, no-questions-asked wedding ceremonies. His manner was similar to that of the Nevada official who joined Homer and Marge Simpson in wedlock: 'By the power vested in me by the State Gaming Commission ...'

The Brome Lake area being an indis-

putably classy spot, we have no local equivalent of Marryin' Sam ... or at least we keep

## THE COUNTRY SQUIRE

BRIAN  
EDDINGTON

quiet about it. However, our regular fine priests, pastors, and padres won't be able to play much golf on any given Saturday this summer; their services are in extraordinary demand. Personally, five invitations to

weddings and reception parties have arrived so far, stretching from July 6 to Aug. 24.

All are emphasizing an outdoors, fresh air, country motif, an opportunity to think big, indulge the senses, lift up our eyes unto the hills, so to speak. The venues are spacious gardens, farmers' fields, golf clubs, and mountain resorts. So far, in an iffy month meteorologically, the weather has been co-operative, but big tent just-in-case arrangements no doubt helped.

For the most recent ceremony, I was one of two people asked by the bride and groom to give readings from brief texts selected by them. I re-typed the material in large-case letters with ample spacing for easy reading. While there was no call to commit the selection to memory, I felt a certain amount of preparation and rehearsal was in order. To this end, I stood before the bathroom mirror, checking posture and elocution, practicing cadence, looking for points at which to pause and make eye contact with the audience (apparently Richard Nixon, one of my favourite U.S. presidents, would stick 'Pause' notes in the margins of his speeches, such as 'Break for small endearing smile).

On the evening of the service, at the appointed hours, we filed into the prepared chamber, each receiving a tastefully designed program of proceedings. Listed early were the 'Readings' — but nothing about who would be first. My co-presenter being a lady, it was a safe assumption she'd

be the lead-off and I could relax a while longer. I continued to chew discreetly upon my ultra-cold, super-minty gum, in an effort to conceal the remnants of a hurried, spicy supper.

The guests settled into their seats, the bride appeared, and the service began. After the opening perfunctories, our lady of the cloth cast her gaze upon the group and declared that the first reading would be done by yours truly. After the initial surprise, my first thoughts turned to what to do with my gum.

I was going to slide it into one cheek and talk as if nothing was there. This isn't easy, though, as the tendency is to drool from that side after a few moments. An older relative frequently parks his wad of chewing tobacco in one cheek as he speaks; any 's' words or hard consonant sounds are, unfortunately, accompanied by a fine brown spray.

With many eyes upon me, I couldn't just remove it and park it somewhere. So like a truant child, remembering back to a time in school when things like chewing gum or talking during fire drill were corporal offenses, I just swallowed it.

The whole affair went extremely well, relaxed yet touching and heartfelt ... not to mention air conditioned and brief. Afterwards came music and dancing, refreshments, toasts and sage remarks. All of this against a wide sweep of sky to the west, a vista of water, trees, the hills beyond, and a golden twilight fading softly.

My first autumn in the area, I attended an evening wedding celebration as the friend of a friend, under an 'everyone's welcome' call. When asked why they'd chosen an evening ceremony, the groom's alleged reply was, 'Well, we didn't want to spoil the whole day.'

Apparently, they weren't together very long. Happily, this most recent union has all the elements required for durability.

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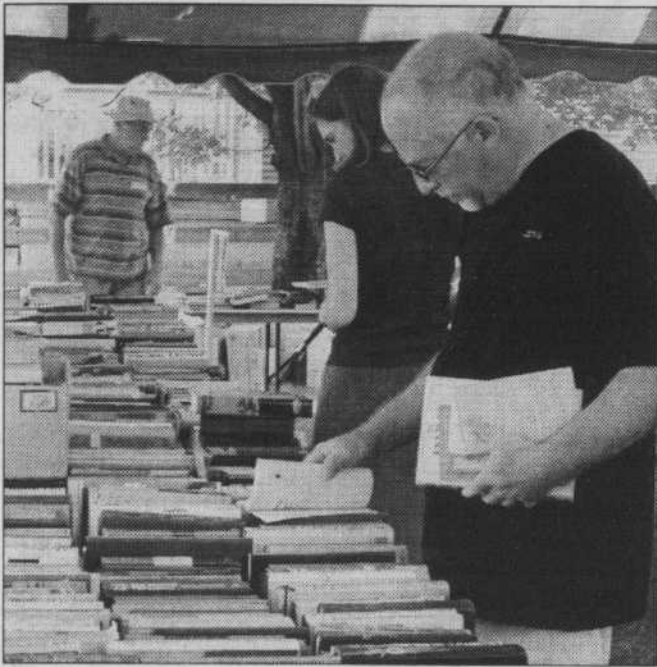
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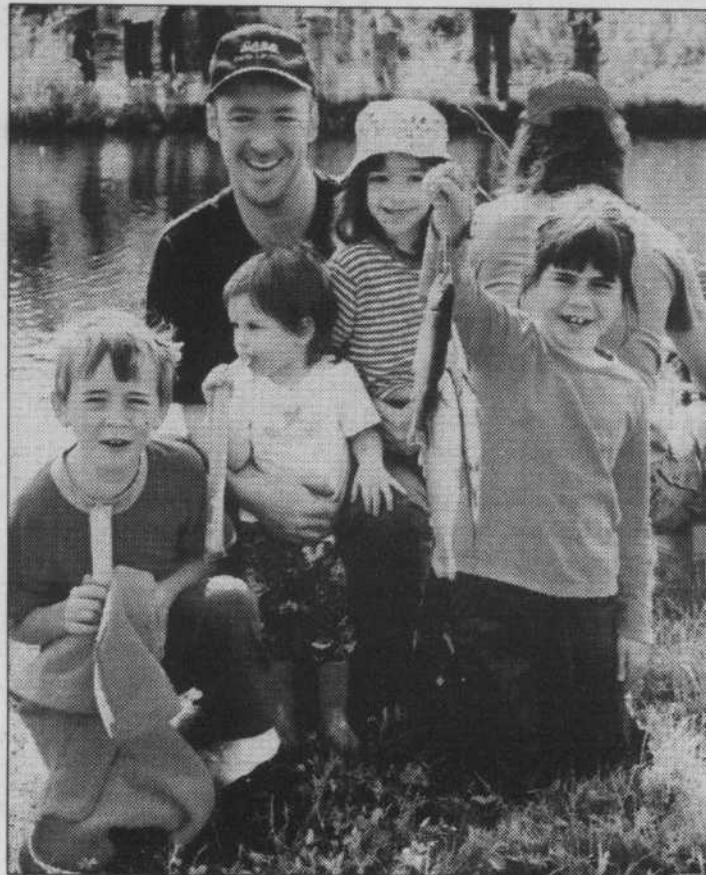
**Library sale raises \$7,000**



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Knowlton's Pettes Memorial Library held its annual fundraiser book sale last Saturday and Sunday. Head librarian Susan Godin said that in terms of book donations and total sales, this may have been the library's most successful sale ever, with net profits estimated at around \$7,000. "We had six book dealers lined up to look at books at 6:45 in the morning," said volunteer Sheila Parsons. The library's unsold books are donated to Philipsburg's Missisquoi Public Library for its summer books sale fundraiser, held throughout August.

**Fishing club hosts derby**



COURTESY ART POWTER

More than 275 participants, included 175 children, recently took part in the fifth annual Childrens' Fishing Derby.

**Brome, Bolton group also stocks Brome Lake and area**

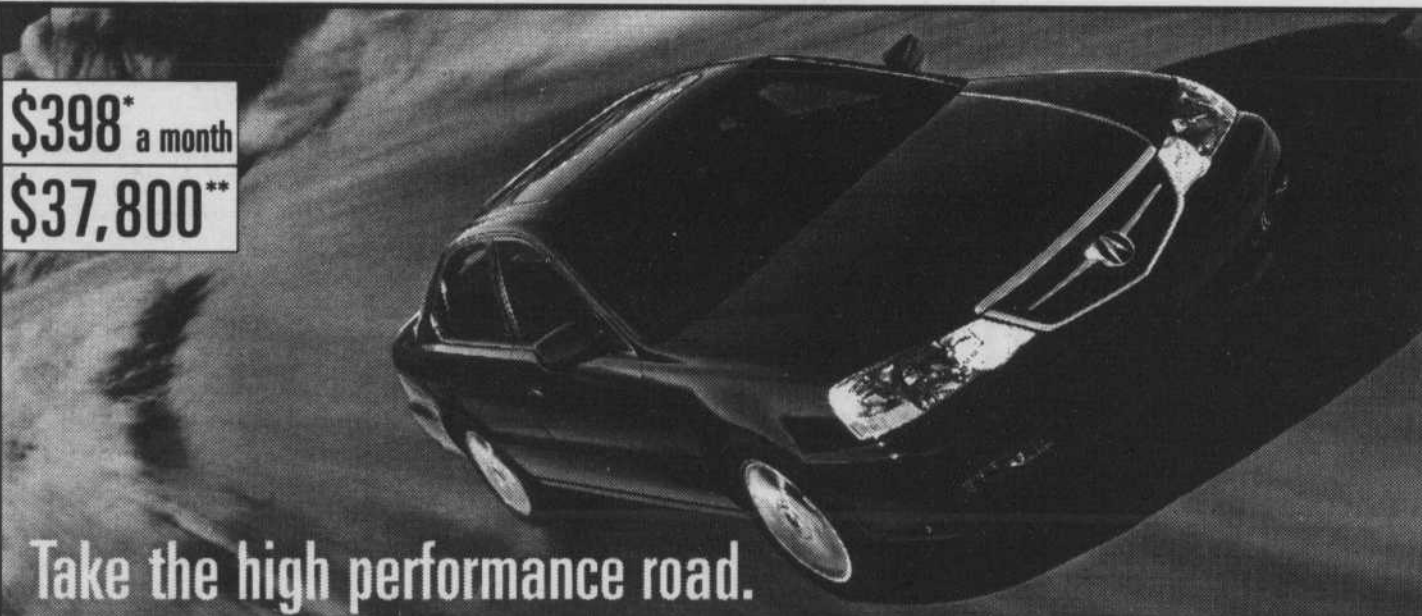
The Brome Bolton Fish & Game Club recently held its fifth annual Childrens' Fishing Derby at Fred Eichenbergers' Pond on Brill Road.

More than 275 participants, including 175 children, took part in this year's edition. Nearly 50 Rainbow Trout were caught by the youngsters.

The Club has also recently stocked Brome Lake with 4,200, eight to 10-inch trout. It has also released 50,000 Fingerlings in 12 different brooks in 21 locations from East Farnham to Bolton Pass.

The stocking program was helped made possible through a provincial government grant of \$4,000, as well as a \$2,000 grant from Brome-Missisquoi MNA Pierre Paradis.

— Courtesy Brian Allen



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# FELIX MIRBT, 1932-2002

## Saluting our Friends

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THE BIG BROME FAIR - August 30, 31, September 1 & 2, 2002

## Renowned Sutton puppeteer passes away at age of



RECORD FILE PHOTO

Felix Mirbt (right) passed away in Sutton on July 15 at the age of 70. Seen here with wife Almut Ellinghaus, Mirbt will be remembered as an internationally renowned master of the art of puppetry.

## Saluting our Friends



From July 24th to July 28th

SYMPOSIUM COULEURS URBAINES de Granby



Jean C. Lapierre,  
Honorary President

A press conference took place in Sherbrooke to promote the 5th edition of Granby's Symposium "Couleurs urbaines". Mrs. Mireille Giguère-Paré, organization chairperson, and Mr. Jean Lapierre, Honorary President, invited everyone to come and meet the artists and participate to the activities such as the silent auctions, the workshops, painting exhibitions and more. For more information call 1-800-567-7273 or (450) 375-8338.

Advertorial

Mirbt will be remembered by friends and colleagues for integrity and uncompromising vision

# 70

By Almut Ellinghaus  
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD  
SUTTON

Felix Mirbt, theatremaker and internationally renowned master of the art of puppetry, passed away at his home in Sutton on Monday, July 15 at the age of 70.

Mirbt is probably best known for his landmark productions of Büchner's *Woyzeck* (1974,1988) and Strindberg's *The Dreamplay/Le Songe* (1977). Both productions originated at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, and have toured Canada and Europe, including the Edinburgh Festival.

His productions of musical theatre include Stravinsky's *Histoire du Soldat*, Brecht/Weill's *Happy End*, Frederic Rzewski's *Antigone*, De Falla's *Maese Pedro* and Timothy Findley's *First Fable*. Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* (1980) opened Festival Canada at the National Arts Centre (1997).

Mirbt's most recent works were a collaboration with German composer Gerhard Stäbler, *'Uferlinien-Shorelines-Rives'* (Germany, 2000), and with Quebec composer Alain Trudel, *'Le Chauffe-O'* (Place des Arts, Montreal, 2001).

Mirbt's work has frequently been ex-

hibited, and has even received a nomination at the Dora Mavor Moore Awards, a UNIMA Citation for Excellence, and first prizes at Radio Canada (*l'Heure du Point*), and at the Quadrennial in Prague.

His career, starting at the age of 10 in his native Germany, spanned six decades and produced an extraordinary body of work. He was a master of his craft. In the words of a colleague, "He could make a pencil cry."

But it was his vision and startling originality of thought that carried him on a life-long quest to break the boundaries of conventional theatre through the use of structure, image and what he termed the "totemic object".

His work is astonishing in its scope, starting from the traditional string puppet and enlarging to the use of abstract sculpture. From large scale opera to intimate fairytale, his work carried a dark strain through which a light shone, an ambiguity that often puzzled, but always sought completion through his audience.

Mirbt will be remembered by his many friends and colleagues for his integrity and uncompromising vision, for the challenges he demanded of himself and others and for his very great generosity of spirit.

Felix is survived by his wife Almut

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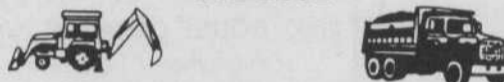


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290 Articles For Sale

work, 2 large mirrors, \$25.; plus various lamps, kitchenware and appliances, glasses, dishes, carpets, etc. (450) 243-0892.

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18 H.P., 3 CYL., diesel, 4X4, Kubota tractor, 500 hrs, \$6,000. Call (450) 243-6133.

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SUMMER DAY CAMP, 8:30 a.m. to noon or 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., daily or weekly, 4-16 years. Come celebrate your birthday with the Morgans. Lessons and trail rides available for adults and handicapped. Call early for reservations. Anna (450) 538-3387. http://cs.ubishops.ca/morepleasuremorgans.

340 Garage Sales

FOSTER Multi-family, 13 Phelps St. (Junction Routes 243 & 215), Saturday, July 27, 8 a.m. Furniture, dishes, tools, toys clothes, wrought iron rails & much more.

340 Garage Sales

WEST BOLTON Multi-family garage sale. Antiques, collectibles, junktiques, etc. Saturday, July 27, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Rain or shine. Corner of Town Hall Road and Argyll Road. (off Lakeside Road - Route 243).

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**Memorial Service**

**DYER, George C.** - A Memorial Service will be held for the late George C. Dyer of Sutton, Quebec on Saturday, July 27, 2002 at 2 p.m. at Grace Anglican Church, Sutton, Quebec. A gathering of friends at Parish Hall following the service.

**Death**

**MIRBT, Felix** - At his home in Sutton on Monday, July 15, 2002, at the age of 70. Well known theatre maker and master of puppetry, Felix Mirbt, born in Germany, has been a resident of Sutton for 42 years. He is survived by his wife, Almut Ellinghaus, and his sisters, Hildemarie; Marianne; and Barbara and their families, and remembered by his friends and colleagues. A memorial ceremony, officiated by Rev. Tim Smart will be held on Friday, August 9th at 4:00 p.m. at 497 Robinson Rd., Sutton, followed by a Potluck Supper. All who wish to extend a last farewell are welcome.

**Card of Thanks**

**CORNISH** - Thanks to everyone for the cards, phone calls, visits and charitable donations at the time of our Mother Mabel Ling Cornish's death. It is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to the staff and nurses at the Courville Geriatric Centre in Waterloo, QC. Please accept this as our personal thanks.

THE CORNISH FAMILY

**Pen Pals for 50 years, meet for the first time**

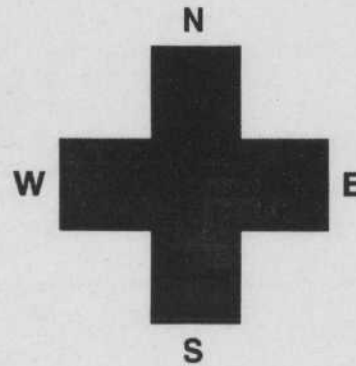
Sadie Talbot and her husband Ronald of Warden traveled to Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia, in June to meet Sadie's pen pal of 50 years, Celeste Hamilton and her husband Gene. Back in the early 50's Sadie sent her name into the children's page of the Winnipeg Free Press Weekly asking for pen pals.



Celeste was one among 6 who answered Sadie's request but the only one who kept up the correspondence over the years.

When asked why they hadn't meet sooner, Sadie's reply was that they were both busy raising their families. Sadie has three daughters and Celeste has a daughter and two sons. Celeste is two days younger than

Sadie and both couples are now retired and looking forward to their next get-together.



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# Brome County NEWS

## Brome Fair talent show winners off to Regionals

By Kate Shingler

Patricia St-Onge has been clogging ever since she can remember, and now the eldest of the popular local group North Star, St-Onge will accompany her three teammates to the semi-provincial championship in St-Hyacinthe this weekend.

The group, which include's St-Onge's younger sister Melissa, Steven Woodward and Jessica Ouellet, qualified for the upcoming competition at last year's Brome County Fair Youth Talent Competition. Though North Star hopes to make it the provincial championship and ultimately win the Canadian championships (the Patty Conklin Youth Talent Competition), St-Onge says performing at the Brome County Fair is her favourite venue.

"It's mostly people we know in the audience, and the audience is so amazing. They really get into it, clapping their hands and tapping their toes," she explains.

Nearly too old to compete, this year's fair will be St-Onge's last, though she says she hopes North Star will carry on without her.

In the fall she will begin teaching her own classes in Mansonville as she has been choreographing her own routines for some time now. During the summer months, St-Onge is one of 40 members to participate in local clogging teacher James Naylor's travelling dance troupe, which performs throughout the Eastern Townships.

Knowlton resident Karen Crandall is organizing the three-year-old Brome Fair Youth Talent Competition, an event she believes offers young people a great opportunity.

"We are so lucky in this area, for we have so many talented children and this gives them an opportunity to show what they have."

North Star will be performing at the St-Hyacinthe fairgrounds July 27, at 1:30.

.....

THE BROME FAIR WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, AUG. 31 AT 2 P.M. ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 19 IS ELIGIBLE TO PERFORM IN THE TALENT COMPETITION. REGISTRATION DEADLINE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S FAIR IS AUG. 10. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL KAREN CRANDALL, 243-6221.

### Pet of the week . . . Tempête



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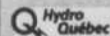
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