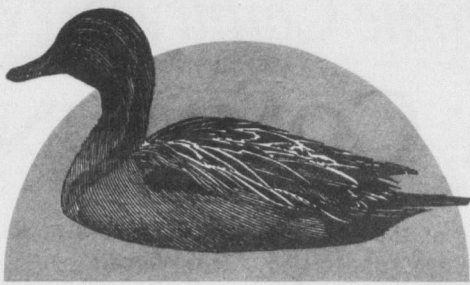


# Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2004

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## Christmas basket campaign a family affair

By Wendy Denman  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

Last Friday, surrounded by boxes and boxes of canned goods, dozens and dozens of frozen turkeys and hundreds of bags of apples, potatoes and carrots, members of the Knowlton Lions Club and friends put together Christmas boxes and parcels to make the season brighter for those in need in the community.

"We worked assembly line and there were a lot of people to help," Judith Dunkinson said.

More than 40 people, including many children, came to Knowlton Academy to help out.

"We put together food for over 70 families," continued Dunkinson, a Lions Club volunteer. "We put the big stuff like bags of vegetables and the turkeys in big clear plastic bags and then packed the rest in boxes."

Every family received the makings of Christmas dinner, including stuffing mix, cranberry, cake mix, canned and fresh vegetables and gravy.

"I'd say each family received enough food for a week. We had two sizes of turkeys, depending on family size, and if the family was just one or two we included a large chicken instead of a turkey. If there were kids in the family we included a bag of candy, but mostly the food was healthy. We thought healthy when putting this all together."

For every child in a family, the Lions included a wrapped present along with the food supplies.

"A lot of people helped with the toys, the staff at the community centre collected them and wrapped most of them, but other volunteers

pitched in too."

The parcels also included some surprises. Knowlton Packaging donated various products to be included.

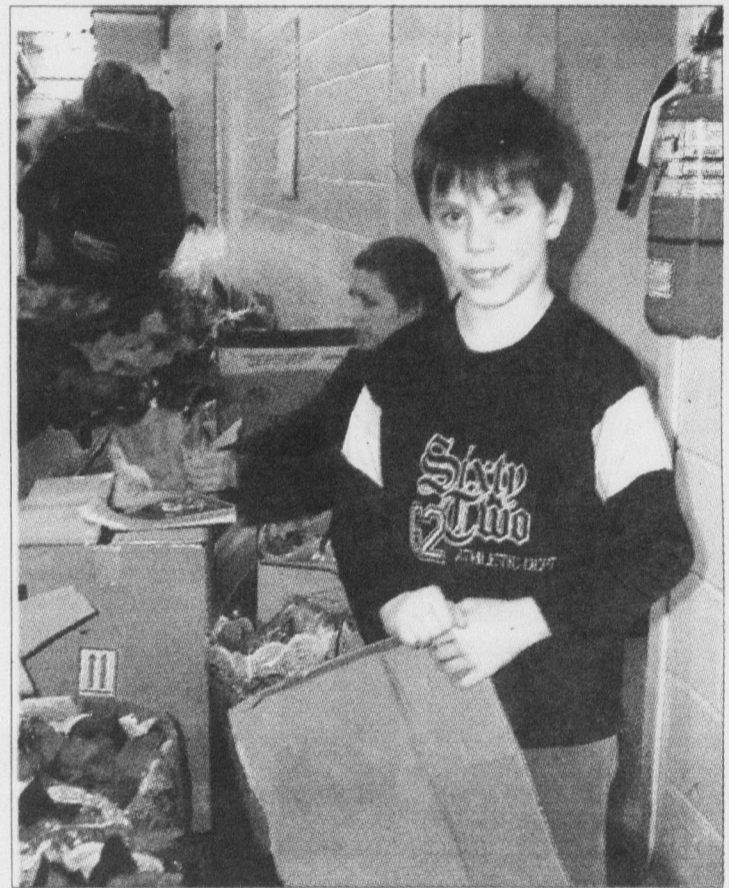
"It was great fun watching the kids who came to help. We set one little boy about seven to putting lip balm in each parcel and the concentration on his face was wonderful. It was a great community gathering, it really did your heart good to see all these people helping and working to make Christmas better for others. It was a very rewarding experience."

On Saturday, troops of drivers delivered many of the parcels and boxes.

"Some people were able to come and pick up the supplies at the school, but many couldn't so we delivered. We also delivered over 100 Christmas flowers. We brought huge ones for the lobbies of Knowlton House, Knowlbanks and the Manoir and the rest to shut-ins and seniors. People alone don't bother with a tree. The Poinsettias brought in color and those who received them were very excited and appreciative. It makes you feel good to make people happy," she said.

The Lions Club thanks the community for its help in this Christmas project, to all those to donate money, time and presents.

"It was wonderful to see the community working together, particularly the children whose parents are showing them that there is more to Christmas than receiving. The children worked very hard and were very dedicated."



LINDA BELLAVANCE

The Knowlton Lions Christmas basket campaign benefitted from the help from many children, who accompanied family members.

## Couple celebrates 50th year on Christmas Eve

By Wendy Denman

This Christmas Eve marks a very special anniversary for two beloved members of the community, as Minnie and Allister Kerr celebrate their Golden Wedding day.

The Kerrs were married on Dec. 24, 1954 in Moncton, NB.

Allister Kerr, 83, is a retired teacher, previously head of the math department at Massey-Vanier. During his long career, he also taught at Knowlton High School and Sunnyside High School

in Stanstead. He was a United Church lay minister and also helped out playing the organ in a number of churches, including United Churches in Cowansville, Knowlton, Sutton and Granby.

Minnie Reid Kerr shares the love of music with her husband, both helping out with many community choirs over the years. Reid Kerr still sings in the Emmanuel United Church Choir in Cowansville.

"My dad has been in long term care at the BMP Hospital, where he has been

receiving excellent care, since July," said daughter Valerie Kerr. "The family gathered at the hospital last Saturday to celebrate their anniversary. We had a big family party, and the music and laughter did wonders for everyone's morale."

The Kerrs have seven children and 12 grandchildren, dedicated as a family to a love of music and community service. Dad and Mom, children and grandchildren often entertained seniors at numerous area seniors' homes,

particularly at Christmas time.

The anniversary party at the hospital brought together a close, yet far flung family.

"My brother Don drove all the way from London, Ont. and back again the day of the party," Kerr said. "My sister Pam joined us by phone from Calgary, my mother's niece sent an e-mail from Moncton. My eldest brother Bob, is a member of the Knowlton Harmony Band, and when dad couldn't make it to

SEE ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 3

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# BROME COUNTY COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Dec. 31**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE**, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. #77, 77 Lewis St., **Waterloo**, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 31. Music by Gary Darling. Tickets available now at Waterloo Legion. \$15 per person. Info: 450-539-0005 or 450-539-3436. Lunch at midnight. 18 yrs. and over. No smoking.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY** at the Royal Canadian Legion, 120 Davignon St., **Cowansville**, Friday, Dec. 31st starting at 9 p.m. Music: South Street Band. Mini Buffet served from 9 p.m. till 1 a.m. \$20 per person. Info: 450-263-3543.

**Jan. 2 & 3**

Calling for **AUDITIONS FOR KNOWLTON PLAYERS** March Production upstairs at the **Knowlton Pub** at 7 p.m. Young teens and 30 to 50 yr. olds welcome!

**Jan. 8**

1st **Knowlton** Scouting Movement **BOTTLE DRIVE**. Scouts, Cubs and Beavers will go door to door for pick up from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For large quanti-

ties please call Jeremy at 450-242-1644. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

**BROME COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL/WINTER LECTURE SERIES** in the Old Court House, 15 St. Paul, **Knowlton**, 1 p.m. Guest Speaker: Jimmy Manson. "A Call to arms: A Military History of the Eastern Townships". This lecture examines the military involvement of Townshippers in conflicts as diverse as the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the 1837 Rebellions, the Fenian Raids and the two world wars. Many of the most prominent early settlers in the Townships were veterans of the American Revolution who fought to maintain familial ties with Britain. Canadians and Townshippers would continue to enlist for much the same reason during most of the 19th century and by the end of World War One, Townshippers had achieved national recognition for the skill and bravery with which they conducted themselves in the trench warfare that marked the Great War.

8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Rector, The Reverend Tim Wiebe.

**SAINT-EDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH**, Knowlton — Masses: Dec. 24, 7 p.m. (French, 9 p.m. (English)); Dec. 25, 11 a.m., (Bilingual), Sunday, Dec. 26, 9 a.m. (English), 10:30 a.m. (French); NO MASS on Dec. 31; Jan. 1, 10:30 a.m. (bilingual); Jan. 2, 10:30 a.m. (bilingual).

**BROME PARISH SERVICE**: Come and join us. Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24, St. John The Evangelist, Brome Village, 7 p.m. with Rev. John Seargentson; Holy Trinity, Iron Hill, 7 p.m., Bilingual Service with Rev. George Campbell; Church of the Ascension, West Brome, 9:15 p.m. with Rev. Canon Tim Smart; Saturday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day, St. Aidan's, Sutton Jct., 10 a.m., Rev. George Campbell. Only Service in the Parish. Sunday, Dec. 26, No Services in the Parish. Sunday, Jan. 2nd Service at St. John the Evangelist, Brome Village, 10 a.m. The Rev. George Campbell. Only Service in the Parish.

**ST. LUKE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH WATERLOO — CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**, Dec. 24 at 9 p.m. Rev. Wilmur Davidson. All are welcome.

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

**TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, COWANSVILLE**. Come and join us for Sunday Worship. We have a service at 9 a.m. (traditional) and a family service with music and Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. Information, 450-263-2662.

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF BEDFORD/PHILIPSBURG & FARNHAM** - Sunday services: Philipsburg and Farnham, 9:30 a.m.; Bedford, 11 a.m. Fr. Brian A. Evans, Rector. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. (Matt. 25:35).

**BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE**: Christmas Services:

Dec. 23: 7:30 p.m., Stanbridge East, Festival of Lessons, Carols and Communion for Christmas; Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, 7:30 p.m. Wesley, Bedford, Communion; Dec. 26, There will be no scheduled services; Jan. 2: 10 a.m. Combined service at Stanbridge East. Rev. K.C. Triskle officiating at all of the above services.

**GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH in SUTTON**, welcomes anyone wishing to join us in Christmas Worship and Celebration on Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m. and Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. There will be no service on Dec. 26. Come and join us at 52 Principale Sud. The Rev. Canon Tim Smart, Rector. Info: 450-538-8108.

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

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, ABERCORN** - Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24 at 4 p.m. Come and join us with Rev. George Campbell.

**MOUNTAIN VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE** - Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24, Mansonville, 7:30 p.m.

**BUTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** in Bedford is in search of used instruments: Clarinette, Saxophone (alto, tenor, baritone), tuba, Electric bass, bass Clarinette, Flute, French horn. Donations to our music program would also be greatly appreciated of any kind. Info: 450-248-2090.

## ARTS CALENDAR

**GALERIE CHARMANTE** is hosting the work of Cari Anya Ensio, graphite drawings and photography; also see the ongoing exhibition of calligraphy, including the narrative paintings of Randall M. Hasson. Friday through Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., 1182 Macey Rd., Sutton. Info: 450-538-0989.

## CHURCH SERVICES

**DUNHAM UNITED CHURCH** No Service on Sunday, Dec. 25.

**KNOWLTON/CREEK PASTORAL CHARGE** Worship & Song by members assisted by The Reverend Dale Skinner. Creek United, Foster, 9:30 a.m. Sunday School at Creek. Knowlton United, Knowlton, 11 a.m. (Handicap access).

**ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**, 24 St. Paul St., Knowlton. Sunday Services,

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**MENTAL HEALTH & WELL BEING SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS** WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL JAN. 8. There will be no meetings during the holidays Saturday, December 25 or Saturday, Jan. 1 meetings will resume Jan. 8. Mental Health Well Being & Support Group at St. Paul's Church (basement), Knowlton, approx. 2 p.m. Do you or someone you know suffer from depression? Whether the depression is situational or diagnosed is not important. This group can help you.

Having difficulty coping? Are words like Schizophrenia, Manic Depression, Bi-polar confusing to you? Or you're not sure how to support someone struggling with one of these illnesses? Or maybe you just  
SEE BOARD, P. 12

Program playing from Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> to Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>

**SPONGE BOB** (87 min.)  
Dec. 31: 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Jan. 2-Jan. 6: 1:00, 3:00 & 5:00 p.m.

**FINDING NEVERLAND**  
Jan. 2-Jan. 6: 7:00 p.m.

**CLOSER**  
Jan. 2-Jan. 6: 9:00 p.m.

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Program playing from Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>

**SPONGE BOB**  
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Dec. 26-Dec. 30: 1:00, 3:00 & 5:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS**  
(99 min.) Dec. 24: 3:00 p.m.  
Dec. 26-Dec. 30: 7 p.m.

**FINDING NEVERLAND**  
(101 min.) Dec. 26-Dec. 30: 9:00 p.m.  
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# Concerts for the sick and elderly in TBL

By Wendy Denman  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

The Brome Lake Concert Ensemble has been busy bringing music and cheer to shut-ins this season, holding a concert at the Manoir Lac Brome on Dec. 12 and playing at the BMP Hospital last Sunday.

"Seven members of the Brome Lake Concert did good service to the community by playing for patients and staff at the BMP," said director Wade Johnston. "Moving and playing in different parts of the hospital, the group entertained with Christmas music, in some cases playing for individuals in front of their rooms."

"Our group started on the third floor, moved to the second floor and finished with a concert in the main lobby that lasted almost two hours."

The musicians were Frank Kantoric and Candace Ladd on clarinets, Janna Ketchum on saxophone, Geoffrey Weber on French horn, Bob Kerr on eupho-

nium and Lynn Patrick on trombone.

"I play flute," explained Johnston. The previous weekend, 12 members of the Ensemble entertained residents at the Manoir Lac Brome.

"We played for over an hour. The residents really seemed to enjoy the old favourites. We played 'Silver Bells,' 'Oh Holy Night,' 'Jingle Bell Rock' as well as some show tunes and classical music."

Many members of the Concert Ensemble have also played with the larger Knowlton Harmony Band. The smaller group is considered a bit of a family affair.

"Some personal glimpses — Craig and Candace Ladd are brother and sister, also Bob Smith our trumpet player is married to Margaret Smith who plays flute with me and if that weren't enough, Frank Kantoric, who plays clarinet, is married to Lynn Patrick who plays trombone with Craig Ladd."

The group's next concert will be an evening of popular music in March at Knowlton United Church.



COURTESY WADE JOHNSON

Last Sunday, the Brome Lake Concert Ensemble played for two hours in the lobby of The BMP Hospital in Cowansville.



COURTESY VALERIE KERR

Minnie and Allister Kerr celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on Christmas Eve. Family gathered at the BMP last Saturday.

## ANNIVERSARY:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

their concert downstairs, Bob and a few members of the band brought the concert to dad's room.

"Dad, whose short term memory has been failing, was thinking as clear as a bell after all that attention. We truly are fortunate," continued Valerie Kerr. "If all continues to go well, mom and dad will spend a noisy — I almost said quiet! — Christmas Eve, with my sister Laura Barr and a few members of our immediate family."

Reid Kerr is still very active.

"My mom has been out singing alto with the Parkview Choir, The M-V Band and community choir all week long as well as her own Church choir. Mom, is well, an amazing mom and grandma."

"My parents love their family and community and are much loved in return. We congratulate them on 50 years together!"

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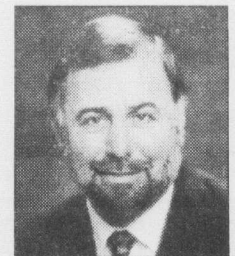
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Pierre Paradis  
MNA

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# Deep freeze reminder for cold weather starting

**B**y the time you read this the first serious mercury dive of the season will be over. If your vehicle got through this without any serious problems, chances are it will survive anything else the winter has to throw at it. But in a Canadian winter, nothing is a given.

Every time the temperature takes a serious plunge, tow truck operators are working overtime boosting cars that have decided that if they just sit there maybe the owner will leave them alone. Unfortunately most of us don't feel we can afford to leave them be.

A block heater is the easiest way to ensure that your car will start when its

cold. Block heaters warm up the antifreeze in the engine, keeping the fluids warm and making the engine easier to turn over at start up. Block heaters are an option on most cars, even though they should be standard equipment in Canada. While just a few years ago installing a block heater was a pretty simple and inexpensive job, today there are a number of vehicles out there for which a block heater can't be installed, or can only be installed at a hefty price. Something to consider at purchase time.

Switching to a thinner oil in the cold months also helps keep things moving. I use 5W30 in place of 10W30, and there are even some 0W30 synthetic oils out there now. Check your owners manual before changing to thinner oil, to make sure that oil is

right for your vehicle.

To save on your Hydro bill while using your block heater there are plug-ins that turn on when the temperature dips below -12 or so. Barring that a timer set to turn on three or four of hours before you leave will also give your car's engine enough warmth to coax it to life.

## UNDER THE HOOD

MAURICE CROSSFIELD

Electric battery blankets also provide help by keeping your battery warm, and therefore at full charge.

But sometimes we don't have our cars plugged in, possibly because, as we experienced this week, it was raining in the afternoon, and the next morning it was about 30 degrees colder. Or because it's cold, but your car has been sitting in an open parking lot at work far from the nearest electrical outlet.

## BOOSTING

At that moment, the first likely problem is that the engine doesn't turn over fast enough, requiring a boost. Connect the positive booster cable to the positive connection on the dead battery first, then to the good battery. Now connect the negative cable to the negative on the good battery and then to your en-

gine block. Keep the donor car running, to avoid killing its battery and leaving you with two dead cars.

If the engine is turning over well but still not starting, chances are you've flooded the engine with gas. This is more of a problem these days with fuel injected engines. What you need to do is burn off the excess gas. Some cars have advice for cold starting in the owner's manuals. In general, you'll want to push the gas pedal to the floor, which cuts off the gas supply and gives the engine the chance to burn off the excess fuel in the cylinders.

If this fails you can always try removing the spark plugs and drying them with a hair drier. If it still doesn't work, you may want to call in the professionals.

At the other end of the list of possibilities is ice in your fuel line. Gas line antifreeze added when you tank up will prevent the problem. If your car is iced up, put some in, wait awhile and give it a shot.

Once your car is running, give it a few minutes to warm up before driving away. It doesn't take long, just two or three minutes to make sure everything is ready to go. Then drive away slowly, giving the rest of the vehicle a chance to adapt to the demands of driving in a deep-freeze.

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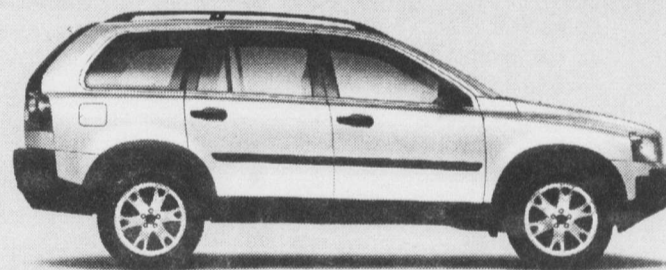
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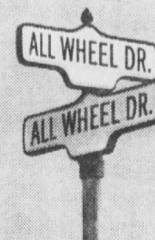
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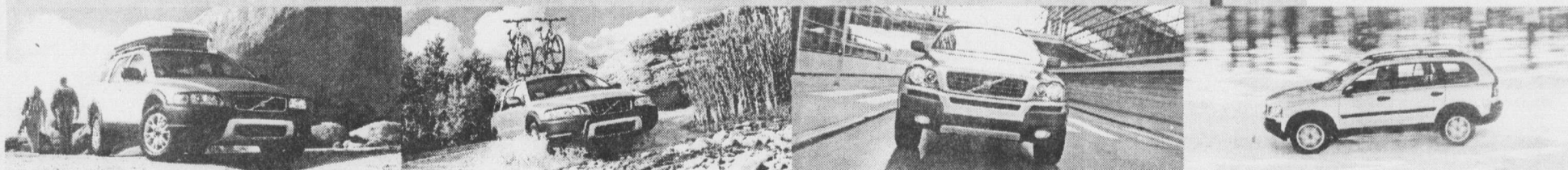


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# Home for the holidays

By Nolan Bauerle

Here in the Townships, many parents have watched their children grow up, get educated, and then go straight down the brain drain in search of the good life. For our past graduates from the region, that brain drain ran directly down the 10 to Montreal, or because of our English-speaking demographics, perhaps down the 401 to Toronto.

Now, however, thanks to this new global village we live in, this brain drain runs a lot farther. Homecomings for the holidays that once meant heading back up the drains of the 10 and the 401 have been supplanted by much longer inter-continental flights. This Christmas in particular, three young men from Brome County will be home after long stays of work in South Korea.

South Korea, eager to join that select group of economically privileged countries, made policy a high proficiency in English among their population in order to help advance their business ties and further develop their economy. This has created a plethora of teaching jobs for young Canadians who have a university degree, but have had difficulty finding gainful employment beyond working for tips tending bar and hustling tables.

Paul Johnston-Main, a young Knowltoner, left for South Korea almost three years ago. After finishing his undergraduate degree at Concordia University, he decided that a little travel and foreign adventure was in order to further refine his professional training. He, like many other young Canadians fresh out of university, landed an English teaching job in the Far East. Being a big fan of soccer, Paul was drawn to South Korea as they were set to host soccer's World Cup at that time.

His e-mails back to his friends in Canada read of exotic adventure, big pay days, being amusingly lost and befuddled while performing daily tasks, and the satisfaction gained at finally being able to navigate himself in the labyrinth that Asian cities can be. These emails lured two of his friends over with him to enjoy similar circumstances, and the South Korean exodus was underway.

Last year, no fewer than eight young Brome County residents made their way to work and live in South Korea. Other than Paul, other residents who were there this past year include Robyn and Emily Albers, Chris Page, Andrew Fincham, Sabrina Fava, and Karen Robertson to name a few. Some were in Seoul, while Paul and his friends found themselves in South Korea's second city, the seaside port of Busan.

There, against a backdrop of mountains scattered with Buddhist temples, Paul and his friends tried to carve out an interesting life for themselves.

Paul played on a local soccer team, joined a mountain climbing club,

played in numerous softball tournaments, and even appeared in a South Korean film. Weekends might have started with a gathering at an ex-pat pub to play some foosball and drink a few pints with people from other Anglo countries as well as Koreans, followed by two days of rest, play, and eating at restaurants with an interesting selection of offerings.

Reluctance to indulge in the local cuisine aside, all of our native sons absorbed many aspects of Korean culture. They all gained a practical and working knowledge of the language, and Paul even gained a certificate in Eastern medicine, including acupuncture.

Paul and his friends were also fortunate to do a lot of other traveling while they were stationed there. Paul was fortunate enough to have visited ten other countries, and even took an around-the-world trip that saw him pass through China, Siberia, Moscow, Scandinavia, Britain, France, Canada for a visit, Japan, and back to Korea.

Some of our locals who went down the long brain drain to South Korea have even begun to pass their larger milestones in life there. Robyn Albers, for one, just recently gave birth to her first child at a hospital in Seoul, South Korea's capitol city.

Now, as the holiday season is upon us, these native sons have found their way across the Pacific and are back to celebrate the holidays with family and friends. Some parents are even experiencing first hand the formative effects of these long working sojourns in the Far East. To the delight of Paul's parents, Evie and Frank Johnston-Main, Paul did not make the trip alone, and is accompanied by his lovely and charming South Korean girlfriend, Jin-Kyoung Kim.

For this new generation, the phrase,



Townshippers in South Korea included Robyn and Emily Albers, Paul Johnston-Main, Chris Page, Andrew Fincham, Sabrina Fava, and Karen Robertson.

"During my time in Korea..." coming from their lips no longer carries connotations of having spent a militaristic tour of duty, but underlines the permeability of today's borders, and the pervasiveness of intercultural dialogue, friendships and experiences. Back up the brain drain, and home for the holidays, indeed.

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# Cousin Billy and Grandma's slop bucket

When asked about the progress of his many fall chores in the late last days of autumn, an old friend over Glen Sutton way replied with his predictable response: "Well, if winter holds off for another three or four months, I should get them all done." I pondered this standard lament while completing a task I myself had left perilously close to winter.

Four years ago, our Brome Lake municipal authorities decreed that every septic tank in the area be pumped out every two years, payment for which would be charged automatically on the owner's already-overburdened tax bill. More than a few folk figured they'd best spiffy up their waste disposal systems a bit, lest the trav-

eling sanitary technicians rat on them for being sub-standard.

Happily, while our septic set-up is old it has functioned well and is more than a football field beyond the lake and the creek. (In fact, there's so much room in between, if we sold out to a developer, those same municipal authorities would likely okay the construction of a dozen or more condos.) Also, several gravelly acres sloping away from the water allow for efficient dispersal of the effluent.

We'd been working on improving access to the reservoir for the large pumping trucks they send around these days. A second part of the plan involved raising the

level of the two lids so that we wouldn't have to dig as much every second year. Difficult as it may be for some to believe, I'd fallen a tad behind schedule with the job half-done, the top of the tank at the mercy of the weather well into this last month of the year.

Thankfully, one fine day recently I managed to complete the cover-up, although such choice of words may unfortunately imply some clandestine goings-on. The disturbed earth hadn't frozen as solidly as feared and could be shoveled easily once a snowy crust had been removed.

After picking up the tools, I paused a moment to contemplate in the pinkish

glow of a late-afternoon sunset. This brought to mind a scene from the TV comedy series Hogan's Heroes, in which Cols. Clinck and Hogan share a touching moment of nostalgia, watching the sun go down over the de-lousing station.

Standing safely over the icky substance percolating in the tank below, I thought also of my maternal grandmother on the ancestral farm in the north country and how she worried about the old cess pool (a waste disposal system even more primitive) freezing up with the first cold snap of winter.

So great was this concern she kept what she referred to as a 'slop-pail' under the kitchen sink. Into it would go any slimy, mucky stuff that could potentially clog the pipes. (The good 'slops' of course, like potato peels, carrot tops, or turnip rinds, went directly to the cows and pigs.)

In late afternoon or evening, Grandmother would hike the pail to the far side of the garden and dispose of its contents by the edge of the bush. However, on a cold, stormy day, disposal could occur somewhat closer to the back door, sometimes very close indeed.

A curious character, an old semi-hermit by the name of cousin Billy, would occasionally prowl the countryside in the evenings, visiting various neighbours and relatives. Sorties from his humble backwoods cabin were more frequent when the evenings grew longer and lonelier; he'd be a more familiar sight as the Christmas season approached.

If the farmhouse were the first stop on his rounds, it'd be natural for him to approach via the shortest route, one leading to the back door. And so he did, one evening shortly before Christmas, just about the same time as the local minister and his wife began knocking upon the front door.

Never a pretentious person, Grandmother decided nonetheless that the slop pail, sitting near the back door, should be emptied forthwith. She instructed a certain young grandson to "Get rid of that thing now." Sensing the urgency, I grabbed the bucket, unlatched the back door, took one step out into the dark, and let it fly.

From an unseen source came some un-Christmas-like language, along with much sputtering and muttering. Realizing what had happened, my next words, just before disappearing, were "Oops, sorry Billy." Luckily, the ladies rallied quickly to help clean up cousin Billy, including, to her credit, the minister's wife.

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# Pendant le temps des fêtes tout est possible

Un petit garçon venu voir le père Noël tenait la photo d'une petite fille dans ses mains. "Qui est-ce?", demanda le père Noël, "ton amie, ta soeur?"

Le père Noël répondit tristement: "c'est ma soeur, Isabelle, qui est très malade." Le père Noël regarda la grand-mère qui attendait plus loin et vit qu'elle s'esquissait les yeux.

"Elle voulait venir avec moi" dit le petit garçon, "elle le voulait tellement." Le père Noël essaya d'être joyeux et il réussit à faire sourire le petit garçon et lui demanda ce qu'il voulait pour Noël.

À la fin de la visite, la grand-mère vint aider l'enfant. Elle commença à dire quelque chose mais s'arrêta. Le père Noël lui demanda de continuer. "Bien, je sais que c'est trop vous demander, père Noël, mais..." La vieille dame envoya son petit fils voir un des aides du Père Noël pour recevoir le cadeau remis à tous les petits visiteurs.

Elle continua: "La petite fille sur la photo, ma petite fille, voyez-vous, souffre de leucémie et il semble qu'elle ne vivra pas jusqu'à la fin du temps des Fêtes" dit-elle, les yeux pleins de larmes. "Pourriez-vous... est-il possible que vous veniez voir Isabelle? C'est tout ce qu'elle veut pour Noël, de voir le Père Noël."

Le vieil homme refoulait ses larmes en disant à la grand-mère de laisser les renseignements quant à l'endroit où se trouvait Isabelle et qu'il verrait ce qu'il pouvait faire. Il ne pensa à rien d'autre le reste de l'après-midi. Il savait ce qu'il devait faire. "Et, si c'était mon enfant qui était mourant dans un lit d'hôpital," pensa-t-il, le coeur gros, "je peux au moins faire cela."

Lorsque tous les enfants furent partis, le père Noël pris le nom de l'hôpital où se trouvait Isabelle. Il demanda au directeur de l'établissement comment se rendre à l'hôpital pour enfants, "Pourquoi", répondit Robert. Le père Noël lui fit part de la conversation avec la grand-mère. "Venez, je vous y conduirai," dit Robert, tendrement.

À l'hôpital, après avoir trouvé la chambre, Robert s'excusa en disant qu'il attendrait dans le corridor. Le père Noël, regarda dans la chambre dont la porte était entrouverte et vit la petite Isabelle sur le lit. La chambre était remplie de ce qui semblait être la famille; la grand-mère et le petit frère qu'il avait vus plus tôt étaient là.

Une femme qu'il prit pour la mère, se tenait près du lit, et repoussait les cheveux fins du front d'Isabelle. Une autre femme était assise près du lit; elle avait l'air très triste. Tous parlaient doucement et le Père Noël sentit qu'il s'agissait d'une famille très unie.

Il prit une longue respiration tout en forçant un sourire et entra dans la chambre "Ho, ho, ho". "Père Noël", s'exclama faiblement la petite Isabelle tout en essayant de fuir son lit et tous les tubes attachés à son corps. Le Père Noël courut près du lit et serra la petite.

Une enfant de l'âge de son fils - six ans - le regardait avec émerveillement. Sa peau était pâle et ses cheveux troués de plaques chauves, suite à la chimiothérapie. Mais il ne voyait que deux grands yeux bleus. Son coeur se serra et il avait de la difficulté à ne pas pleurer.

Ces yeux étaient rivés sur le visage d'Isabelle, mais il entendait les pleurs des autres personnes présentes. Quand il commença une conversation avec Isabelle, la famille revint doucement près du lit. On serra l'épaule ou la main du Père Noël en lui murmurant des mercis.

Le Père Noël et Isabelle parlèrent longuement. Elle lui demanda tous les jouets qu'elle voulait pour Noël en disant qu'elle avait été une très bonne fille toute l'année. Après un long moment, le Père Noël demanda à la mère la permission de prier. Elle fit signe que oui et toute la famille fit un cercle autour du lit d'Isabelle, en se tenant la main.

Le Père Noël demanda à Isabelle si elle croyait aux anges. "Oh oui, Père Noël." "Bien, je demanderai aux anges de veiller sur toi", dit-il. Avec sa main sur la

tête d'Isabelle, il ferma les yeux et pria. Il demanda à Dieu de guérir le corps d'Isabelle et demanda aux anges de l'entourer et de l'aider. Après la prière, il garda les yeux fermés pour entonner "Sainte Nuit...Nuit de paix"

La famille chanta aussi en laissant tomber des larmes d'espoir et de la joie du moment tandis qu'Isabelle semblait très heureuse. Après le chant, le Père Noël s'approcha d'Isabelle et lui prit les mains.

"Maintenant, Isabelle," dit-il avec autorité, "tu as un travail à faire," "tu dois te concentrer à devenir mieux."

"Tu dois jouer avec tes amis à l'été et je compte te voir à ce temps-ci l'an prochain, là où je rencontre les enfants avant Noël." Il savait que cela était risqué de dire de telles choses à une enfant souffrant d'un tel cancer, mais il fallait lui donner de l'espoir.

"Oui, Père Noël," répondit Isabelle, les yeux clairs. Il se pencha et posa un baiser sur son front avec de quitter la chambre.

Dans le corridor, Robert et le Père Noël se regardèrent et se mirent à pleurer, sans gêne. La mère et la grand-mère d'Isabelle sortirent de la chambre pour remercier le Père Noël. "Mon seul enfant a le même âge qu'Isabelle," dit-il, "C'est le moindre que je pouvais faire."

Un an plus tard, le Père Noël était de nouveau en place pour rencontrer les enfants. Une petite fille

vint s'asseoir sur ses genoux et lui dit: "Bonjour, Père Noël, Te souviens-tu de moi?" "Bien sur," répondit le Père Noël (comme il le fait toujours) en souriant. Après tout, le secret d'un bon Père Noël est de toujours faire en sorte que l'enfant sur ses genoux, se sente comme le seul enfant au monde, en ce moment.

"Tu es venu me voir à l'hôpital l'an dernier." Le Père Noël n'en croyait pas ses yeux. Les larmes coulaient doucement sur son visage alors qu'il étreignait son petit miracle. Il avait du mal à la reconnaître car ses cheveux étaient longs et soyeux et ses joues étaient roses. Il regarda sur les côtés et vit la mère et la grand-mère d'Isabelle souriant et pleurant à la fois.

Ce fut le meilleur Noël pour le Père Noël. Il était témoin d'un miracle d'espoir. Cette précieuse enfant était guérie et en excellente santé. Silencieusement, il regarda vers le ciel et murmura "Merci, mon Dieu. Voici un très heureux Noël."

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# Finding the right connections

Connections for mental health is a non-profit organization whose board is comprised of people with various kinds of experience with mental health issues.

Our main objective is to advocate for additional mental health services and support for the anglophone communities in the region served by the Granby and Cowansville hospitals. Our mandate is to enable anglophones in the Montérégie to better access existing mental health services and resources, while at the same time to improve these through advocacy and a community and volunteer network.

Members of the board, Wendy MacLean, Linda Ransom, Candy Ladd, Maryann Skinner and Cathy Ratcliffe would like to share a few thoughts about maintaining balance, mental health and well being during the holiday season.

It's a strange experience being tangled up in light – but probably pretty

common at this time of year. Stringing lights on trees and bushes, from eaves and windowsills, some of us aim for perfection. Others of us just want to get them up and get back in the house where it's warm. But why do we bother in the first place?

In these days, which are the longest of the year, we crave light. It is like food for the soul, and energy for the heart. Studies have shown that depression is aggravated by a lack of light. So when we light up our community with twinkley lights and strings of colour, we are offering our world a lift for its weariness, and a burst of joy to break through all the layers we use to protect ourselves from winter and its darkness.

I caught myself complaining: "But all these lights use up so much power! Surely we should conserve energy." We don't need to make our light displays into Wonderland to break through the hard nights.

We must respect Mother Earth and

her limitations. But for this season, let's indulge our souls' needs, and invite them to be roused and awakened by the beauty of light. Take time to enjoy the lights, and let wonder lift your spirits and then let the light from deep inside your spirit shine out in season's greetings to the world.

—Wendy

I have to remember to breathe. When things get rushed and busy and it seems like there are 10 things going on at the same time that all require my attention and a scatter of bits and pieces of things in my brain to remember to do – to stop and breathe is important for me.

Of course, as for most of us, breathing is a function my body will do whether I tell it to or not – it is part of living.

However, for me, remembering to stop and breathe is an intentional way of remembering to just be still – the action invites a peaceful state of body mind and spirit.

—Maryann

St. Francis of Assisi, it is said, reminded us all to think of God's little creatures outside in the cold at Christmas time, and to give them gifts as well. He suggested that we go outside on Christmas day and sprinkle seeds for the birds and small animals in the forest.

So I have made it a tradition to do just that every year. It is a lovely feeling to be in nature and thinking of the birds and animals as I walk and scatter

seeds. Try it and you will see. Go outside on Christmas – to the park or nearby woods or a field, or your backyard – and do as that good man advised, thinking of the small beings who share our cold and snowy corner of the world.

It is a wonderful way to offset the commercialism and frantic stress of Christmas in these times. And the exercise and fresh air are good for us, too!

—Cathy

This time of the year can be particularly difficult for some. Low funds, expectations that can't be met and stresses (internal and external). Commercialism plays a huge part in all this. Let's try to remember who and what Christmas is all about.

We need to get back to basics, and concentrate on the small things, things that might get overlooked or pushed aside and forgotten in all the hustle and bustle. We all have something we can give to another person that is priceless but doesn't cost a cent. A smile, a word of encouragement, a listening ear, a compliment, a hug.

Mother Teresa puts it this way, "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: Kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile.

We can make a difference.

"People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel," said Bonnie Jean Wasmund.

—Submitted by Linda Ransom



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Lynda Bellavance*



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145 Miscellaneous Services

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150 Computers

**AS SEEN ON TV!** Get a fully loaded MDG computer for only .81 cents per day (o.a.c. + s&h)! Includes everything you need: free printer / scanner / copier, loaded with free software, 17" perfectly flat monitor, Windows XP! Call **1-800-791-1174**.

155 Travel

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190 Cars For Sale



1999 VW GOLF, 4 door, manual, 107,000 km, CD player, security system, Thule ski rack, almost brand new winter and summer tires. Used for commuting, excellent condition. New transmission and clutch, belts replaced. Call (450) 538-3387 after 6 p.m.

195 Trucks For Sale

1992 FORD F350, 12' closed box. TCM lift truck, 3000 lb., triple mast. Call (450) 266-5646.

205 Campers-trailers



2002 DODGE PHOENIX B Class, 80,000 miles, sleep 4, V8 350 gas engine, like new, fully equipped, excellent condition. \$39,000. or best offer. Call (819) 829-0779.

230 Tires

16" STEEL RIMS for VW Passat (1998+), Jetta, VW vans and Audi, fit on 5x112 bolt patterns. \$200. Call (819) 566-0446.

281 Firewood

BOIS DE CHAUFFAGE. Fire wood. Call (450) 243-6753.

290 Articles For Sale

10 GALLON AQUARIUM with pump, heater and accessories. \$45. Call (450) 538-6588.

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**HARDWOOD FLOORING** from Brazil. Also available: Cherry, Maple, Oak, Birch and much more. Contact Monbert Flooring (819) 580-2227.

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**POOL TABLE** - Solid maple, 1" slate, with accessories. Never used. Cost \$4,800. Sell \$2,300. Call (514) 745-6536.

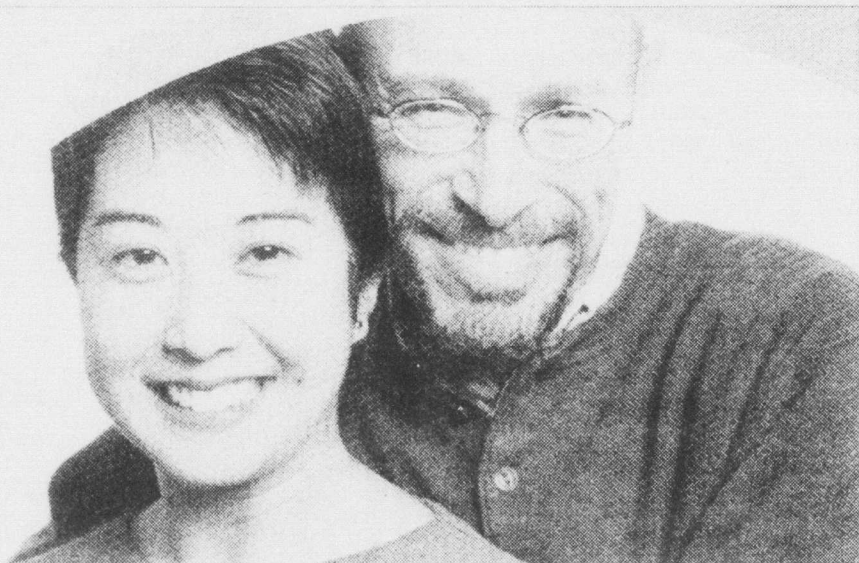
**ROOTS BLACK** feather downfill jacket (long), worn twice, size XL. Bought \$200., asking \$150. negotiable. Brand new, still have receipt. Call (450) 539-1114 daytime, 539-3654 after 5 p.m.

**SAWMILLS \$3,495.** LumberMate 2000 and Lumberlite 24. Norwood Industries also manufactures utility ATV attachments, log skidders, portable board edgers and forestry equipment. [www.norwoodindustries.com](http://www.norwoodindustries.com), free information, 1-800-566-6899 ext. 200-C.

**STEEL BUILDINGS** FINAL CLEARANCE! 25'x32' \$6150, 25'x40' \$6500, 30'x40' \$8200, 32'x50' \$11,397, 40'x60' \$15,100. Many other sizes and prices. Call 1-800-504-7749. [PioneerBuildings.com](http://PioneerBuildings.com).



VW GOLF & JETTA FACTORY roof rack, 1993-2003, complete with lock, like new. New value with taxes \$250. Selling for \$150. 2 VW ski carriers available, \$150. Call (819) 566-0446.



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140 Professional Services

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Classifieds (819) 569-9525 (450) 242-1188

**CLASSIFIED**

**295 Articles Wanted**

**\$\$\$ PAY CASH \$\$\$**  
Buying all scrap cars, trucks and farm equipment. Will also pick up any metal. Radical Auto Inc., Robert (450) 243-6404.

**GUITARS!!!** Collector buys guitars made before 1970. Paying \$400 to \$15,000+ for certain models by Gibson, Fender, Martin, Gretsch and National. Call Steve, anytime, 1-800-964-3544.

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**295 Articles Wanted**

**INTERPRO INC.** - Buyers of all types of grains, wheat, barley, oats, corn, soya beans and grain by-products. Please call Neill Hopkins 1-800-267-7034.

**310 Arts & Crafts**

**SALON DES ARTS** de Sutton offers gifts for everyone on your list! Stained glass, hand-bound books, pottery, jewellery, candle holders, paintings and much more! Sutton Town Hall, 11 Principale South, from the 19th to the 30th of December from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (ex-

**310 Arts & Crafts**

cept Christmas Day). For more information, please call (450) 538-8122, or contact the Sutton Tourist Office at 538-0793.

**315 Horses**

**PONY** - Gelding Bay, 13 h., ready to begin training, \$600. New English saddle, black, 17 inch, with bridle, girth and breast collar, \$525. Call (450) 538-2936.

**To sell or buy, consult our Classified ads.**


**330 Pets**

**BREEDING SERVICES:** Fox Terrier, Welsh Corgi, mini Dachshund, Border Collie, Boxer, Chocolate Pomeranian, Jack Russell, German Shepherd, Sheltie, Neapolitan, Mastive, Airdale. (450) 248-4245.

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**CHRISTMAS TREES** - \$20 tax included. Wreaths, swags, centerpieces, floral arrangements, baskets, etc. [www.cowansvilleflowers.com](http://www.cowansvilleflowers.com). Pousse Verte, 1296 Principale, Cowansville. (450) 263-2794, 1-888-547-5055.

**385 Home Services**



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**227 Knowlton Rd. 242-1122**

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**385 Home Services**

**385 Home Services**

**400 Lost**

**PET CAT** - Purr Purr, Knowlton, missing since mid-August around Shufelt, Ball Road area, also close to Conference. Medium build with long black and white fur. Has a funny meow and many battle scars. Possibly could have returned to former home in Barnsfield. Please call (450) 242-2268.

**425 Bus. Opportunities**

**ARE YOU LOOKING** for \$2500+ per week income? Coke/M&M Vending. 30 locations available. 1-800-367-8409 (24 hours), ext. 15.

**CHANCE TO DOUBLE** your paycheck. Get your share of riches from Canadian blue chips shares. It is a load of fun! Go to: [www.canrich.ca](http://www.canrich.ca).

**425 Bus. Opportunities**

**EARN \$10,000 per month+**. Take advantage of record year in Housing Industry. Low mortgage rates, growing employment and increasing income is surging new housing starts. Masterbuilders is accepting applications for exclusive new home distributorships in select territories of Canada and USA. Construction background and realtor license not required. Executive income potential from home f/t or p/t representing our new home selections. Eye for new home design a must. Free information package 1-888-616-0181 or Director of Business Development direct 1-877-261-1998. [www.masterbuilders.ca](http://www.masterbuilders.ca) or [www.masterbuilder-susa.com](http://www.masterbuilder-susa.com).

**430 Personal**

**ALL KINDS OF PSYCHICS.** Be ready for 2005! Love? Money? Life? **1-900-677-5872** or Visa/MC and PayPal **1-877-478-4410**. 24 / 7. 18+, \$2.99 per minute. [www.mysticalconnections.ca](http://www.mysticalconnections.ca)

**CANADA'S TOP PSYCHICS.** Are you ready to believe in Psychics again? Call now, you won't be disappointed! 1-900-451-7070, \$2.95/minute. 18+.

Looking for a companion? Place an ad in the classifieds. **(819) 569-9525** **(450) 242-1188**



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- Be specific - buyers want useful information such as price.
- Group related facts in the same sentence.
- Avoid slang and abbreviations. Abbreviations are not needed because **The Record** charges by word rather than space.
- Above all, don't forget your telephone number or address and when respondents may contact you.

**Got a special event?**  
**Put it through the classifieds!**  
**It will get around faster!**



**CLASSIFIED**

**Business Directory**

**Physiotherapist**



**Louis LaHaye, physiotherapist**

Sports medicine • Massage  
Vertebral manipulation  
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27 Rock Hill  
Knowlton, Qc  
(450) 242-0228

**In Memoriams**



**THAYER, Lois** - In loving memory of our dear mother who passed away one year ago on December 22, 2003.

A day has not gone by  
Without you in our thoughts.  
We miss you.

Your sons  
**JAMES and CLAUDE**

**HARVEY, Kevin** - Who left us suddenly December 21, 2000.

We miss you, we love you,  
We'll never, ever forget you.  
**MOM & DAD  
and MARK**

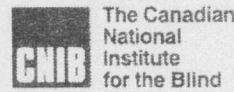
**MATTHEWS, John:** September 11, 1943 - December 26, 2003. In memory of John, the best son a mother ever had.

There is a link  
Death cannot sever,  
Love and remembrance  
Will last forever.

Sadly missed by  
**WINONA (mother)  
JEANNIE (sister)  
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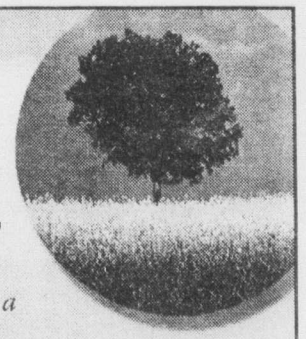
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## BROME COUNTY SOCIAL NOTES

## Fulford

The Fulford Social Club held its December meeting and discussed a wide variety of subjects. Work is progressing on the new quilt, more heritage photographs have been plasticized, and the recycled cards are proving popular. The Sunshine convenors will visit and present gifts to residents and former residents. A donation is being made to the Davidson family with sympathy at the loss of Peter, and affable man who seemed to enjoy his delivery stops at the general store here, always with a ready smile and a little chat.

Lionel Gaylor is doing well after a short stay in hospital.

—Submitted by Margaret Fordham

## Knowlton's Golden Agers Christmas Dinner

Members of the Golden Age Club met at the Oddfellows Hall in Knowlton on December 2nd for their Annual Christmas dinner, a gift from the Oddfellows which was much appreciated. There were forty two people present. Among the guests were Mayor Wisdom, Mr. Gib Rotherham, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Stairs. Mrs. Aida Wilms, our

president, welcomed and introduced the invited guests. At the head table, when everyone was seated the "Grace" was said by Rev. Stairs. The meal was delicious and all those who prepared and served it were thanked by Aida afterwards. Mayor Wisdom gave a little speech and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. There were lots of presents waiting to be given out. Mrs. Stairs had brought her little organ along and we all sang carols and Christmas songs. It was a lovely afternoon and thanks a lot to the Oddfellows. The next meeting for the golden Agers will be on Jan. 13.

—Submitted by Edna Badger

## Military Whist at the

## Knowlton Oddfellows Hall

On December 7th there were only 8 tables of Whist played due to the inclement weather. Table #6 with Capt. Arnold Fletcher, Jean D'arc Elie, Lionel Foster and Larry Royea received the highest score with 40 points. Table 7 with Capt. Bruce McPherson, Annie Jones, Roger Jones and June Call, came second with 37 points, and Capt. Margaret Royea Sylvain, Lil, and Helen at table 1 took the consolation prize with 15 points.

On Dec. 14, there were 13 tables of Whist at the Oddfellows Hall. First prize went to table 6 with Capt. Nancy Page, Peggy Battley, Rita Bowbrick and

Martha Dudley, with 43 points, 2nd prize went to table 7 with Capt. Bruce McPherson, June Call, Doreen McPherson and Edna Badger, and 40 points, consolation prize went to table #8. After the card game and prizes were given out there were gifts for everyone present. Santa Claus himself came to see everything was done right. (He seemed to have trouble with a falling tummy though). A lovely salad supper, with pizza and meat balls, and loads of desserts followed and a great time was had by all. Thank you, Annie and Eugene and all the other dedicated people at the Oddfellows.

—Submitted by Edna Badger

## BOARD:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 2

want to be more informed. We have a lending library with books and videos. Need a ride to a meeting? Information — Linda at 450-243-0928 or e-mail pleas-antvalley@sympatico.ca

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** - If you wish to drink and can... that's your business. If you wish to stop and can't... that's our business. Info: 450-242-2611.

**"AU DIAPASON"** is offering a Loss and Bereavement Group. Are you having difficulty dealing with a loss of a loved one? Au Diapason is now offering support groups in English addressing living with loss in a non judgmental, educational and confidential atmosphere. English language sessions, Tuesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. There is no charge to join this group. A preliminary interview is required before the registration. If you wish to participate, please call: Au Diapason, 450-266-4342, ext. 4322.

**THE BROME COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** office will be open on Saturdays during the month of December. (We will be closed on Wednesdays). We invite you to come in for coffee and to take a few minutes to look at some of the merchandise we have for sale. We have our new Fokker DVII posters, books, T-shirts, photo frames, place mats. Among our many books we have available the Glen Mountain book "Out of Bounds", Four Seasons in the Eastern Townships, From Isolation to Integration...our ever popular Yesterdays series. For information please call Arlene (450) 243-6782

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