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TBL community centre contract to be awarded Tuesday... See Page 3

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FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006

St. Patrick's — where history meets the present

Sherbrooke native keeps up Irish family tradition

By Brion Robinson
 SHERBROOKE

Sherbrooke native Gregory O'Boyle has been a parishioner at St. Patrick's since he was baptized there in 1913 — shortly before the church was consecrated. He's the last parishioner left from his family.

"Father Doyon always tries to get me going by saying I was baptized before the church was blessed," said the 92-

year-old O'Boyle with a grin

O'Boyle has witnessed about half a dozen priests pass through the church and he says Doyon's friendly nature makes him one of the best.

O'Boyle said he developed a respect for the Church from his father, who was a staunch Catholic. He said all his siblings were baptized at St. Patrick's and they were expected to go to church every Sunday. "It was driven into us," he said. "You had to go to church come Hell or high water."

O'Boyle said his infant grandfather moved to Canada from Ireland in the mid-1800s and settled in Ontario. In the

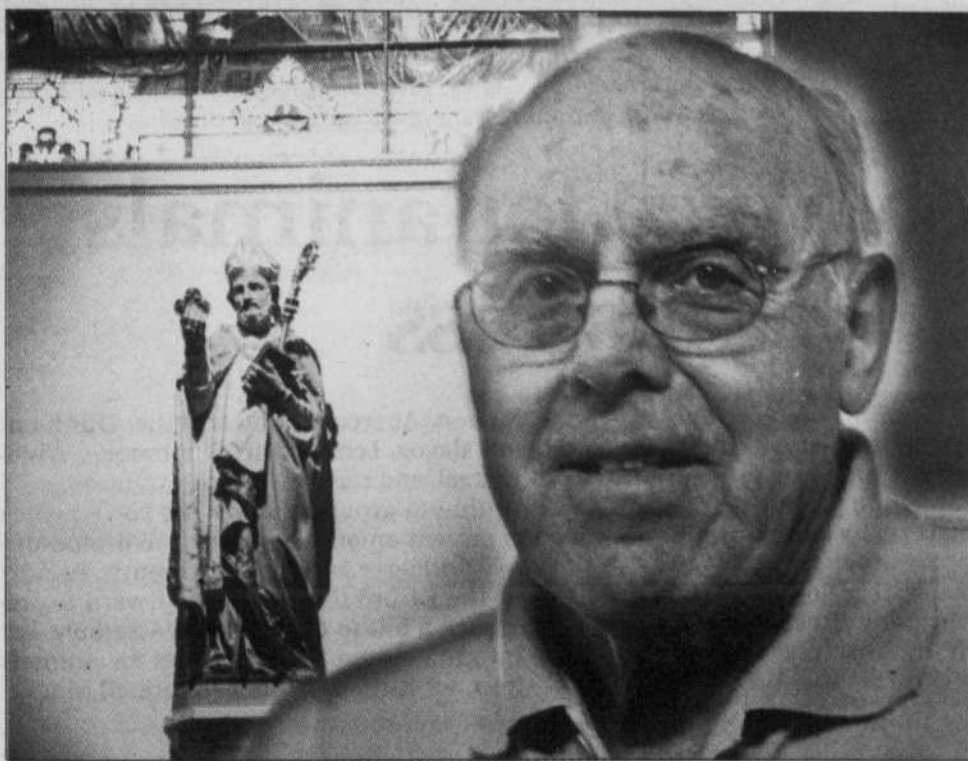
late 19th century his father moved to Montreal to help operate the Montreal Gazette's printing equipment.

In 1901, The Sherbrooke Daily Record bought some of The Gazette's printing machinery and O'Boyle's father came

with it. He worked for the paper until he retired in the 1950s.

O'Boyle's father married a French-Canadian woman and they raised six children. Gregory was the fourth.

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 4



PERRY BEATON/SPECIAL

Father Doyon (pictured) teases Gregory O'Boyle, 92, the last parishioner left from his family, about being baptized St. Patrick's in Sherbrooke in 1913.

Gas Prices Jump



PERRY BEATON/SPECIAL

The price of regular gasoline climbed eight cents at Sherbrooke pumps Thursday reaching \$1.07 a litre as experts foreshadowed even higher gas prices for the summer. Meanwhile, Statistics Canada reported Thursday that falling gasoline prices had reduced the inflation rate to 2.2 per cent in February. Until the sudden surge in pump prices this week, gas had dropped by an average of 6.8 per cent across the country, following the downward trend of crude oil prices.

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Charest throne speech 'interminably boring and empty', says PQ's Boucher

By Stephen McDougall
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD
WINDSOR

Quebec Premier Jean Charest's throne speech earlier this week was "interminably boring and empty of substance," argues Parti Quebecois critic Claude Boucher.

"I have rarely been so bored in all my political career," he said Wednesday. "It was boring, mediocre and full of errors. I was dumbfounded by the lack of connection the premier has with the province's population."

In his speech before the provincial legislature, Charest vowed to tackle the province's \$117 billion long-term debt and

contain the government's habit of raising taxes.

But Boucher argued the premier made no effort to address past promises the Liberal government has not kept.

"He had vowed from the time he was elected in 2003 that he would cut taxes by \$5 billion, that more money would go into the health care system and that waiting times for surgery would be reduced," said Boucher. "None of that has happened. How can we believe he will do anything about reducing the debt or freezing taxes."

Boucher said the government has done little to ease rural unemployment, which he claims is now at 8.5 percent and climbing.

"In the eastern townships, that works out to about 1,000 more unemployed this year than last year," he said. "The premier has made no mention of this. He just talks on and on in a glib, jovial fashion about how rosy our future is. This is ridiculous."

Boucher also accused the premier of being too dependent on the new federal prime minister Stephen Harper to solve the province



PERRY BEATON/SPECIAL

MNA Claude Boucher said the Charest government has done little to ease rural unemployment, which he claims is now at 8.5 percent and climbing.

LOTO QUEBEC		Results	
TVA the network of draws			
SUPER 7	Draw	WINNERS	PRIZES
2006-03-10	7/7	0	\$5,000,000.00
09 12 13 31 39 44 45	6/7+	5	\$29,381.00
	6/7	75	\$1,958.70
Bonus: 18	5/7	4,880	\$102.30
	4/7	104,415	\$10.00
Total sales: \$12,756,046	3/7+	97,056	\$10.00
Next grand prize: \$10,000,000	3/7	874,895	Free play
LOTTO 649	Draw	WINNERS	PRIZES
2006-03-11	6/6	0	\$8,536,573.00
12 13 19 20 21 29	5/6+	5	\$68,061.30
	5/6	178	\$1,579.30
Bonus: 38	4/6	8,869	\$60.00
Total sales: \$16,941,656	3/6	158,493	\$10.00
Next grand prize (approx.): \$14,000,000	2/6+	91,855	\$5.00
Quebec 49	Draw	WINNERS	PRIZES
2006-03-11	6/6	0	\$1,000,000.00
	5/6+	0	\$50,000.00
02 07 11 15 30 46	5/6	24	\$500.00
Bonus: 13	4/6	1,227	\$50.00
Total sales: \$487,048.00	3/6	19,787	\$5.00
Extra	Draw	Extra	Draw
2006-03-10	NUMBER	2006-03-11	NUMBER
519389	PRIZE	275501	PRIZE
\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000	
ASTRO \$25,000 A DAY! IT'S WRITTEN IN THE STARS!			
Claims: see back of tickets. In the event of discrepancy between this list and the official winning list of Loto-Québec, the latter shall prevail.			

A new voice for animals in distress

Staff

Last fall a group of concerned citizens in the Brome Lake area got together to push the provincial government to provide permanent funding to fight animal cruelty and eradicate abusive puppy mills.

Dubbing themselves Quebec Voices for Animals in Distress, they are currently circulating the petition seen here, which is available in various businesses and veterinary clinics in the Town of Brome

Lake, Sutton, Abercorn, Cowansville, Dunham, Brigham, Magog, Lennoxville, Sherbrooke, Windsor, Montreal, and the South Shore.

According to group member Art Powter, they hope to present an official petition to Brome-Missisquoi MNA Pierre Paradis next month. Paradis has told The Record that he looks forward to presenting such a bill to the National Assembly. For more information on Quebec Voices for Animals in Distress, write to voixanimals@hotmail.com.

Weather

Today: A mix of sun and cloud. Wind becoming northwest 20 km/h late in the morning. High minus 4. UV index 3 or moderate.

Saturday: Cloudy with 60 per cent chance of flurries. High minus 5.

Sunday: Periods of snow. Low minus 14. High minus 3.

Monday: Cloudy with 60 per cent chance of flurries. Low minus 10. High zero.

Ben by Daniel Shelton



Winter was warm, but doesn't want to go away

By Maurice Crossfield

While it may have been one of the warmest winters on record, don't expect it to go away with the official arrival of spring next week.

"There's a very strong low near Labrador that will keep things unstable for the next five to ten days," said Environment Canada meteorologist André Cantin. "It will remain cool. The normal temperature for this time of year is about plus three, but it will be more like minus three for the next few days."

"It will generally be below the freezing point."

That's in contrast to the rest of the

winter, which Environment Canada has billed as the warmest in recorded history, beating out the winter of 1986-87 by 0.9 Celsius.

The balmy weather has been most deeply felt in Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories, where temperatures ranged from six to eight degrees above normal.

To date forecasters haven't been able to explain why this winter was so warm. No sharp increases in ocean temperature or other outstanding phenomena. But instead the cold weather went elsewhere, dumping heavy snow and bitter cold on northern Europe, leaving Canada mostly unscathed.

All of this feeds into growing theories about global warming, adding to statistics showing the last 10 winters have been warmer than usual.

The recently-released Canadian Arctic Shelf Exchange Study says the Earth is losing 74,000 square kilometres of polar ice every year, about the equivalent of Lake Superior, showing that climate change is well underway. Ocean levels have risen about three millimetres during that same period.

Things were decidedly more seasonal in the Townships this winter, where temperatures were 2.7 C warmer than usual. While the median temperature for December, January and February is -

10.1, this winter it was -7.4. That might not sound like much, but it still ranks as the sixth warmest winter in the last 44 years for the region.

Cantin said the low pressure system over Labrador will keep things cool and unstable for most of Quebec, bringing a mixed bag of cloud and snowy conditions for the next ten days or so.

Accumulations could vary, as Thursday's snow demonstrated: While Sherbrooke only got a few centimetres, Brome Lake and Sutton easily got a dozen more.

Spring officially arrives Monday. But don't put away your snow shovel just yet...

TBL community centre contract to be awarded next Tuesday

By Maurice Crossfield
KNOWLTON

Though the decision has pretty much already been made, Brome Lake town council will officially announce Tuesday the winning bid to build the new community centre.

"Some of the bids were very, very close, which is surprising considering the size of the contract," said Brome Lake Mayor Richard Wisdom. "The bids were less than expected."

Originally slated at \$4.3 million, Wisdom said the lower accepted bid means some of the work expected to be done in 2007, such as paving and landscaping, will be done this year instead.

Work on the new building will begin on April 15 by a Drummondville

contractor, the name of which will be made public at the meeting.

The new community centre, which is to be completed by Nov. 15, will have 24,000 square feet of surface. On site will be all of Brome Lake's Community Services, along with a CLSC, family medical clinic, a community hall and meeting rooms.

The project has proven to be a true community initiative, with \$2.3 million raised through donations and fundraising events. The remainder of the cost will be covered by a grant from the federal and provincial governments.

Some 15 firms requested information, with nine of them finally making a bid. Wisdom said the bids were opened on March 8, in the presence of

the contractors. He said the winning contractor is aware of what they will be doing this spring, summer and fall.

But to make it official Brome Lake council must hold a special meeting. That will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Legion Community Centre on Tuesday, March 21.

That will be followed at 7 p.m. by a public consultation to make a series of minor changes to the town's zoning bylaws.

Town clerk Alain Roy said since the introduction of the Master Plan in 2003 a number of small discrepancies have cropped up. For the most part the minor changes will help put the regulations into context of the lo-

cations they represent, he said.

"There is nothing particularly political about the changes, but we must by law hold a consultation," Roy said.

Brome Lake council will go on the road next month, holding the first of its sectorial meetings at Prouty Hall in Bondville at 7 p.m., April 3.

The council will meet in a different sector every month through the spring and summer, with the East Hill meeting held in Knowlton.

Council meetings return to Knowlton for the winter months, by which time they should be held in the new community centre on Victoria Street.

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Coalition ready to fight until the end



PERRY BEATON/SPECIAL

S.O.S. Orford wants to pressure the Charest government to change its decision.

By Rita Legault
SHERBROOKE

A coalition of groups opposed to the amputation and sale of Mount Orford Provincial Park will hold its first public protest this weekend with a march organizers hope will send a clear message to politicians in Quebec City.

The march on Sunday afternoon is being organized by S.O.S. Orford, a wide coalition of environmental and citizen groups who argue the sale and further development of Mount Orford threatens the ecological and territorial integrity of the provincial park.

S.O.S. Orford was created last weekend at a meeting of various groups and individuals seeking ways to oppose the sale of the ski hill and golf course and the development of a condominium village at the base of mountain.

Members include the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Nature Quebec formerly known as the Union québécoise pour la conservation de la nature, the Conseil de l'environnement de l'Estrie, the Regroupement Orford pour un parc sans condos and more than 1,000 Quebec individual citizens.

"And the calls keep coming in," said S.O.S. spokesperson Gisèle Lacasse-

Benoit.

A longtime environmental activist and chair of Memphremagog Conservation Inc., Lacasse-Benoit said she is overwhelmed by the spontaneous support and offers of help the coalition has been receiving in the last week.

"Student federations, graphic artists, lawyers, real estate agents... we've been getting call from all kinds of groups and from all over offering to help."

Lacasse-Benoit said Sunday's march will depart from the Orford Township municipal hall at 1 p.m. The exact route marchers will take has not been determined yet and may depend on the size of the crowd.

Lacasse-Benoit said another demonstration is planned for Montreal on Earth Day, April 22. Other partners and actions will be announced at the group's first press conference this morning in Orford. There, the groups will unveil their new logo and strategy to force the Liberal government to back down on its plan to sell off a chunk of the provincial park.

S.O.S. Orford has launched a Web site where it will post a petition and inform members and other citizens of how to lodge an official protest with the Liberal government. You can visit at www.sosparcorford.org.

Workshops, conferences for book lovers

Cowansville's Sac à Mots used bookstore is hosting a series of spring workshops and conferences. All workshops are at Sac à Mots on Sundays, beginning at 1 p.m. All conferences are at the Cowansville CLSC on Sundays, beginning at 1 p.m.

WORKSHOPS

March 19: Book-making with Maaika Zuyderhoff. Create your own book in which you can store memories, secrets, calligraphy exercises, and photos.

April 2: Calligraphy with Joseph de Rijk. Rediscover the alphabet through this ancient art. Cost of materials: \$10.

April 23: Book restoration with Maaika Zuyderhoff. Ideal to help you repair a dictionary or a book with a broken cover. Personalize old books and make them more resilient. Cost of materials: \$7.50.

April 30: Creative journaling with Sylvie de la Chevrotière. Learn to express yourself through writing and drawing. Bring your own 8.5" by 11"

journal, or buy one on site for \$8.

CONFERENCES

March 26: Literature and architecture with Chantal Généreux. An introduction to Montreal architecture.

April 9: Literature and illuminated manuscripts with Chantal Généreux.

May 7: Literature and Music with Chantal Généreux. A brief study of Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*.

May 21: Literature and poetry with Nicole Racine. An introduction to love and chivalry.

Coffee will be served at the conferences. Donations are welcome.

Sac à Mots is located on the corner of Main Street and South Street in Cowansville. It offers a wide selection, and accepts donations, of English and French books (fiction, biography, classics, philosophy, religion, self-help, children's, science fiction, etc.), as well as CDs, videos, and puzzles. For more information, call 450-266-3766.

HISTORY:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

O'Boyle also said all his siblings were expected to be active in the church. He volunteered and helped one of the priests with services and mass.

"Father Fissette would give me a dollar for helping out," he said.

O'Boyle also went to St. Patrick's school and learned Latin for the church services.

"All the family belonged the St. Patrick's," he said.

Growing up in the 1920s and '30s, O'Boyle said Sherbrooke's Irish community was a very close-knit group and many parents instilled the same Catholic values in their children. He said families who didn't arrive at the church early had to stand.

"They stuck together," he said. "Can you imagine 600 people in that church?"

O'Boyle said the only time he missed a church service was when he joined the air force during the Second World War.

When O'Boyle married he brought up his four children much the same way he was brought up. His daughters and son were all baptized at St. Patrick's and they all attended St. Patrick's school.

But they didn't stay and neither did his siblings. The retired radio repair man is the last of his family living in the Eastern Townships.

"I was brought up here and wanted to stay," he said, noting he never misses a service at St. Patrick's.

The original St. Patrick's church in Sherbrooke was purchased from the local Methodist congregation in 1887.

The interior was damaged by fire in 1897 and the entire structure burned down in 1912. It was eventually rebuilt and adorned with stained-glass windows. The present-day St. Patrick's Church, located at 20 Gordon Street, was blessed in 1913.

Father Pierre Doyon said Irish eyes continue to smile in his church.

"When the anglophones come it's like a fellowship thing on the weekend," he said in his office in the rectory. "The church is smaller and the people grow close to one another."

Doyon, who taught at the Séminaire de Sherbrooke and served as a chaplain in the navy, has been presiding over St. Patrick's for the last 12 years.

This Sunday the church is preparing for its annual St. Patrick's Day service to honour the man who introduced Christianity to Ireland. He used a shamrock to explain the trinity — the father, the son and the holy spirit.

Doyon, 71, said the church hosts the ceremony every year and it includes mass and popular Irish hymns such as 'Bring Me a Rose' and 'When Irish Eyes Are Smiling.'

After the service, church goers are treated to traditional Irish stew and music in the church hall.

Irene McElroy, who coordinates the dinner, said a team of eight men and women will meet on Saturday to peel the potatoes and prepare the meet for the stew.

He said the diocese includes some 200 families and about 150 regular church goers, with slightly higher numbers during special services.

"People come here because they love it here," he said. "They could go somewhere else but St. Pat's is the right place to be."

Man arrested for calling spouse at shelter

By Stephen McDougall
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

A 24-year-old man from Quebec City is in custody after making repeated threatening phone calls to his estranged wife at a conjugal violence shelter, then brandishing an axe and fighting with two police officers when they tried to arrest him.

Dave Hunter was arraigned Thurs-

day at the Thetford Mines courthouse on two charges of criminal harassment against his wife and a shelter employee, one charge of hindering police work and one charge of assaulting an officer.

"He had made about 100 calls to the shelter wanting to speak to his wife and children," said Thetford constable Yves Simoneau. "But each call become

more threatening and it scared his wife and that of a shelter employee. That's when they called us in."

The TM police asked the Quebec City police to arrest hunter on Wednesday evening at his home on Ormiere Blvd. But when two QC officers showed up, Simoneau said Hunter resisted arrest by physically assaulting the officers then brandishing an axe to further

send them off.

The officers were able to subdue Hunter and brought him to the Victoria Centre police station that night. They were later joined by two officers from the TM force who transported Hunter to the Thetford Mines police station.

Hunter faces a bail hearing at the TM courthouse on Mar. 21.

Ouellet awaiting office space

Brome-Missisquoi MP off to slow start with no office in riding or Ottawa

By Joshua Bleser
KNOWLTON

It seems that newly elected Brome-Missisquoi MP Christian Ouellet is all dressed up with nowhere to go.

When a local newspaper tried to check in earlier this week with the Bloc Québécois MP who defeated Liberal incumbent Denis Paradis in the Jan. 23

election, the reporter was surprised to be greeted by Paradis' full voice mail inbox — this despite having obtained the telephone number of the new MP's Cowansville office from BQ headquarters in Ottawa.

By Wednesday morning, this kink had been smoothed out, and a receptionist was answering the phone at the number provided by BQ headquarters. The receptionist explained that Ouellet opted to keep Paradis' Cowansville number, "because so many people already knew it, and it was easier this way."

Ouellet's new Cowansville office, however, is not yet ready.

The MP's receptionist is working out of a temporary location, and she said they hope to move into the permanent office in the Goyer building (505 South Street, suite 203) April 1.

Adding to the rookie MP's woes is the fact that he has not yet been assigned an office on Parliament Hill. Since office allocations work according to seniority, the Parliamentary neophyte cannot simply move into Paradis' old digs; that office will go to someone with more experience.

"The way it works is the whips themselves get together and hammer it out, in an atmosphere of cordiality and civility,

as you can imagine," joked Collette Déry, the deputy communications director for the Speaker of the House of Commons.

With 67 new MPs and many returning MPs graduating to larger offices, "that's a hell of a lot of moving," Déry pointed out, adding that she's "not surprised" that Ouellet doesn't have an office yet. Déry did confirm, however, that nine or 10 MPs are moving into their offices every day and that March 22 (next Wednesday) is the last scheduled moving day.

"Everyone will have an office when the House re-convenes April 3," Déry said.

BRIEF

Soprano meets Baritone

Sutton's Salle Alec et Gérard Pelletier presents soprano Maya Christina Vuskovic and baritone Dominique Côté, accompanied by pianist Denyse Saint-Pierre, at Sons & Brioches this weekend.

Vuskovic has been performing with Théâtre d'Art Lyrique de Laval since 1997. She has played Mercedes in Bizet's Carmen and Cherubino in Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro. Vuskovic has also participated in Collette Boky's opera workshops at UQAM and performed as a soloist with the Outremont Vocal Ensemble.

Côté is a singer and actor best known for his role on the French-language television shows Emma and Jean Duceppe. Côté played Marius in the Montreal Symphony Orchestra's

production of Les Misérables and Ziggy in Starmania in 2001.

Saint-Pierre is a graduate of the Quebec Music Conservatory and UQAM.

She has been playing piano for 25 years and has performed in Canada, the United States, Switzerland, France, and Germany.

The three will perform extracts from operas and musical comedies this Sunday, March 19 at the Salle Alec et Gérard Pelletier

(4-C Maple Street). The show starts at 11 a.m., but doors open at 10:30 a.m. for tea, coffee, and homemade cakes. For more information, call 450-538-0486.

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March 29 - **Safety in the Home**
CSSS de Memphremagog: Paul Martel
Sûreté du Québec: Patrice Grégoire

April 5 - **Housing Options—when it's time to leave your own home**
CSSS de Memphremagog

April 12 - **Getting your Legal Affairs in Order**
Legal Aid: Louis Gauthier

April 19 - **End of Life Care**
Jo-Ann Jones, RN, M.Ed, Palliative Care Nurse Consultant

April 26 - **Planning for your Funeral**
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Community Forum

Selling Kandahar to Quebecers

A recent poll shows that a majority of Canadians now support sending troops to Afghanistan. The prime minister's stealthy visit to the Taliban hotbed of Kandahar appears to have reversed an earlier poll that suggested a strong majority of Canadians are not happy about the mission. Except in Quebec.

While the Angus Reid survey found 55 percent of Canadians are on board, the overall average is dragged down by the score of 43 percent support in Quebec.

Not to infer that Quebec figures excessively in Stephen Harper's strategic considerations, but certainly how Quebecers cotton to Kandahar is a factor to be considered as the Conservatives position themselves for a shot at a majority government.

Strangely enough, for a party coming to power bristling with an agenda of prickly social issues, it now seems inevitable that the first matter facing the

Conservatives when Parliament resumes next month will be Canada's role in the war on terrorism.

Whether or not Afghanistan becomes Canada's version of the United States experience in Iraq - a mission whose end game far outweighs the initial regime change for the level of mortal risk soldiers face - may shape the Conservative minority government agenda as much as the sponsorship scandal dominated Paul Martin's.

In that regard, it will be interesting to see just how far the Bloc Québécois is willing to go to press for a debate and a vote on Canada's Kandahar commitment. The party's defence critic, Claude Bachand, has called for such an open airing of the issue in the House of Commons.

Bachand told The Globe and Mail,



PETER BLACK

"the fact that decisions in Parliament are public gives a better understanding of all the issues of the mission to the whole population of Canada."

The Bloc, of course, is not in Ottawa to contribute to a meaningful debate on important Canadian issues. One assumes the party wants to use a debate on Afghanistan to undermine the striking gains Conservatives have made into Bloc territory in the province.

This tactic carries risks. The Bloc's exploitation of Quebec's apparent lack of enthusiasm for the Kandahar mission may revive stereotypes borne of previous conflicts. The ghosts of the anti-conscription struggle, for one example, haunt any discussion of Quebec's relationship with military endeavours.

Harper seems to be wise to this trap. His tough talk in Kandahar attempted to define Canada's mission in Afghanistan as a leadership role, not as a stooge of the Bush White House. This presumably plays well with people who abhor the U.S. war in Iraq, but feel

somehow differently about the motivations behind the war on terror in Afghanistan. A majority of Quebecers would fit into that category.

As the Kandahar action intensifies, as observers and analysts almost too eagerly say it will, the Conservatives might be keeping an eye on the calendar. Troops from CFB Valcartier are likely to be deployed to Afghanistan in the summer of 2007, which may or may not be just around the time the Conservatives may be itching for another election.

There is little evidence to suggest Quebecers were not supportive of Canada's last major military venture, the NATO-led effort to stabilize the Balkans. Quebec troops were among the 40,000 Canadian soldiers who played a key role in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the early 1990s. Twenty-five Canadian soldiers died in that conflict.

Harper's mission is to convince Quebecers they have just as much a stake in Afghanistan as other Canadians. To do so he may have to spend some of the surprising amount of political capital he seems to enjoy in the province.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Recognizing unsung heroes

DEAR EDITOR,

Increasingly, Bishop's University students provide our community with a body of capable, energetic, and enthusiastic volunteers. The Purple Letter Award was created in 1993 to recognize the "unsung heroes" in several areas of campus and community life. One of these areas is community volunteerism.

We would like to invite all members of the Sherbrooke/Lennoxville area to consider nominating Bishop's students who they feel have made caring and consistent contributions to the life of the community during this 2005-2006 school year.

Examples of community involvement might include Big Buddies, Frontier College, Women's Centre, Youth Centre, senior citizen homes, hospitals, etc.

Please submit a letter of recommendation outlining why your nominee deserves recognition by Monday, March 27. Letters should be sent to:

The Purple Letter Award
C/o Student Affairs
Bishop's University
Lennoxville, Qc. J1M 1Z7
Encouraging student volunteerism is a community investment. Thank

you for your participation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE STEVENSON
DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Investors will get the better of us

DEAR EDITOR,

Mont Orford is part of a global trend to cater to the affluent in our society and only investors see the need to create more capital, but when the tides are coming in not all the boats are rising with the water.

With the improvement to access roads and services, the public will have to contribute. Investors will point out all the tax contributions the development will bring, but regular citizens will have to pay more.

The oil industry is showing us how to make private capital out of public money. OPEC was created simply to control the flow of oil to realize maximum price. Converting public money into private capital is an investor's dream.

At Mount Orford, when all the denials are checked out and the dust is settled, it will be evident that the public's contribution will be needed to support investors - the goose that laid the golden egg.

FRED EICHENBERGER
West Bolton

THE RECORD

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What were you thinking?

DEAR EDITOR,

This is an open letter to Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec.

It is with considerable regret that I write to you. I wondered if I should address this letter to the Minister of the Environment, but it is obvious that the decision to sell Mount Orford was taken at the top.

This proposal makes it harder and harder for me to identify with the values of the Liberal Party. For many years I have found myself with no choice at a provincial election I am not a Quebec nationalist, so the Parti Québécois is out; I am not a born-again capitalist, so the Action Démocratique du Québec is out; however, this new leftist party is starting to look good. Of course any party opposed to the sale looks better than yours.

What on earth were you thinking? When our local péquiste MNA, Claude Boucher, starts making more sense than you, there is something very wrong with the government of Quebec.

Not so many years ago the Liberal Party promised support to those who fought against the Hydro lines that crossed the St. Francis River and disfigured so many farms and wood lots in Melbourne and the surrounding area. I guess nobody really expected a Liberal government to take down the lines once they had been built.

However, this decision of yours to sell Mount Orford to the highest bidder is surprising and disappointing because it is an even more vicious attack against the environment than the con-

struction of Hydro lines.

The previous PQ government at least used the ice storm as a pretense to build an unnecessary Hydro line that never did, and never would have, passed environmental protection laws.

Your decision does not even pretend to benefit the people. A group of entrepreneurs referred to in the popular press as the "gang de Sherbrooke" will make a killing, of trees and money. Some rich people, probably most from out-of-province, will purchase a winter ski chalet.

What is already becoming too developed will become a tacky outpost of corporate capitalism. An environmental park needs a buffer zone to protect it; this plan provides the exact opposite.

What kind of precedent are you setting? Why would anyone donate land or a building or other artifice to the province? The original donors valued Mount Orford. They did not envisage that it would be sold so that the money from the sale could be used to force small landowners adjacent to the park to sell their family inheritances so that it could expand away from its namesake, which would no longer even be a part of Mount Orford Park. What kind of precedent is this?

One of your ministers even sees fit to add an insult. She asks why the environmentalists, those miserable people who value nature more than they do a quick buck, do not buy the mountain from the province. The fact that it was given to the province by environmentalists in order for it to be preserved means that she is asking protectors of nature to buy it a second time. Funny that Mrs. Gagnon-Trem-

blay can not figure this out.

If this proposal somehow passes, then no land in the province is safe. Clear-cutting of publicly owned boreal forests in northern Quebec continues even though studies show we subsidize multi-national companies to such an extent that the government actually pays these companies to clear-cut our northern forests.

These attacks against nature are mainly out of sight; therefore, they are mostly out of mind. However, this outrage at Orford is taking place in our and your backyard.

I find it incomprehensible that a private request to exchange some swamp land for land at the base of the mountain is not rejected merely because of the precedent that it would set.

I am hoping that you can inform me that this was just a trial balloon and that no sale or exchange of land will take place. When the Hydro lines went through our land, I swore that I would never vote for a péquiste party led by Lucien Bouchard, not that I was going to anyway. I make an equivalent oath with this situation.

Compromises are necessary in politics, but everyone has a line in the sand that can not be crossed. Selling long-established park land jumps way over my line. If Mount Orford is sold, I will not again vote Liberal in a provincial election as long as you are leader of the Liberal Party.

I await your response,

RONALD EWING
Ulverton

KubKars are racing in Lennoxville

'Everyone can come and encourage the racers,' says Sylvester

By Jen Young

RECORD CORRESPONDENT

The races are on this Saturday, as scouts from the region will be putting their constructed KubKars to the track during the annual KubKar Rally held at the Lennoxville Amédée Beaudoin Centre.

The event is open to the public. In fact, Sawyerville group committee chair Doug Sylvester says the more the merrier.

"This is a great opportunity for parents to come and encourage their children," says Sylvester whose Sawyerville unit will be hosting this year's event. "It's also a good time for

the public to come in and find out more about the local units, and what they offer."

Kars will be registered at 11 a.m. and whistles will go at noon to commence a friendly racing rivalry between units throughout the district.

The event is free for spectators and proceeds from the canteen will be returned to the Sawyerville Boy Scouts Unit.

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ECONOMICAL ALTERNATIVES: 40 MODELS OF FAMILY COLUMBARIUMS WITH OR WITHOUT MONUMENTS.
SOME MODELS CAN BE ADAPTED TO EXISTING MONUMENTS.

26381

St. Patrick's Day 2006

Irish dancers can light up a room

By Claudia Villemaire
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

They seem to be transported. Arms lie quietly, face expressionless, they leap, shuffle, swirl and stamp, the speed, sound and precision of their feet seem-

Career



In the following text, the masculine form applies to women as well as to men. Bishop's University is situated on an attractive 500-acre campus in the quiet, bilingual borough of Lennoxville in the heart of Quebec's beautiful Eastern Townships. With excellent cultural and recreational opportunities and only 90 minutes from Montreal, Bishop's University provides programs to approximately 2100 full-time and 500 part-time students. We are presently looking for a:

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Salary scale (2005): 52 356\$ to 67 549\$

If you are the candidate we are looking for, please submit your curriculum vitae along with three references by March 31, 2006 to:

Claire Pelletier
Human Resources
Bishop's University
Lennoxville
Quebec J1M 1Z7

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www.ubishops.ca/hr

Please note that only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

ingly disconnected from their quiet body.

These are Irish dancers, sometimes in soft slippers, soundlessly skipping in a circle or doing an intricate series of pointed-toe steps in line. Other times, wearing the handcrafted tapping shoes whose toes and heels are entirely made of wood, the dancers once again skip into lines and circles, tapping and banging their toes, sometimes rising on those hardened toes to step across the dance floor in what is an infectious, joyous expression of happiness.

Irish dancing is almost as old as time itself. With roots in the ceremonies of the fabled druids, influenced by the Celts who arrived over 2,000 years ago, and later by the arrival of St. Patrick himself, this style of dance was already well established when the Vikings and Normans arrived bringing with them their traditional circle dance.

With the mystical qualities of Druid ceremonies forming the basis of this type of dance, the Irish adopted it as their own and soon, dancing, either solo or in groups with their clogs, had become a national custom.

By the end of the 18th century, dance masters were travelling across the land teaching the latest steps. By modern times, Irish dance schools had begun to spring up across the world.

The Richmond Irish Dance Troupe, now in its ninth year, is under the leadership of Eileen Moran of the Moran Academy in Montreal.

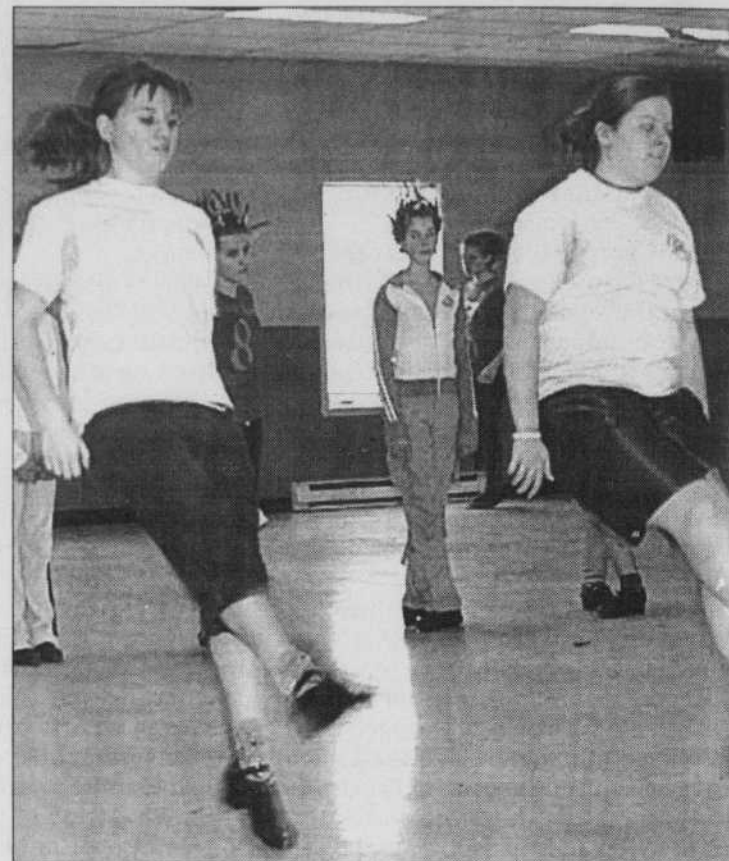
Watching a practice session for the uninitiated not only leaves one breathless but quite confused. Moran commands — "triple, triple, bang, bang," she calls and a line of her senior students with up to seven years of dancing behind them, follow her direction precisely, arms at their sides, faces calm, but not their feet.

Triple shuffles, kick back, bang forward, skip, kick forward, kick backward, bang, bang — they work up their line, pair off, travel forward, backward, feet a blur, bodies quite still. Only their masses of bouncing curls hinting at the energy that's being burned.

Practice last Saturday was a final exercise before dancing for the seniors at the Wales Home. Here we caught a glimpse of a finale which brings all the students together in one grand, banging line. We watched as the beginners skipped merrily around their magic circles, trying to remember to keep toes pointed and arms quietly at their sides.

Then the seniors ran through their dance, (and we really mean on the run and skip and kick and bang). The traditional Irish dresses, a complicated pattern of what could be Druid symbols, or maybe Viking or Norman or most probably Celtic, all painstakingly crafted by Joy O'Donnell, must be inspected. Shoes and slippers carefully stowed, curlers sticking up on some heads like colored spikes rechecked, everything must be perfect.

"We have come a long way from that first year," said Eileen Moran, taking a break between classes.



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE/CORRESPONDENT

Eileen Moran's Richmond Irish Dance Troupe will be busy entertaining a variety people this St. Patrick's Day weekend.

Moran travels from Montreal every Saturday from September to June to teach this enthusiastic group.

"I agreed to teach for two years and then decide if we would continue or not," Moran remembers.

Her first students didn't want to stop. Others showed an interest in joining and the school continued, now nearing the end of its eighth year. Now she enjoys one of the most dedicated groups around and is proud to show off the progress and levels of dance gained by several of her first students eight years ago.

"We begin with the little ones. As they learn, and when they've reached a certain point, Level 1, then we think about competitions."

Irish dance troupes are found around the world, in Great Britain, North America, Australia and South Africa. Huge competitions, called Feis (pronounced fesh) in Montreal and Ottawa attract up to 1,000 dancers from Canada and the USA. Here youngsters can, by winning, move up a level until, eventually, they are qualified to join the international competitions. Winners go on to a world competition always held in Ireland and always during the Easter season.

Originally accompanied by the Irish harp and/or bagpipe, the plaintive sounds have given way to fiddlers' jigs and reels. Now hundreds of ceilli (dances) and set-dancing, which may be traditional or could be newly developed by regional troupes or individuals, have gained a solid place in the world of entertainment through such productions as The Lord of the Dance, Feet of Flames and Riverdance, to name a few.

The Richmond troupe, already gaining popularity in the region, is supported mainly by the St. Patrick's Society.

"Of course, we have a special presentation ready for the banquet," Moran said. "And this year, for the first time, we'll present another show on June 3, closing another very successful year."

St. Patrick's Day 2006

Being green is about family, tradition

By Claudia Villemaire
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

Some folks call them the Main Street leprechauns. Known for their hijinks, more perhaps, than their business acumen at their hardware store, the O'Donnell boys, sons of Michael and Gemma of Richmond are part of a family steeped in the traditions and culture carried here from the Emerald Isle over 100 years ago.

"I remember doing the St. Patrick's walk with my dad," said Paul O'Donnell.

Paul is not quite 50, slim and trim with greyish whiskers. His brother and business partner Mark, a bit rotund with twinkling Irish eyes would better fit the leprechaun image, is 50. Both were quite willing to recall Irish celebrations when they were youngsters.

Always ready for a 'bit of mischief, the O'Donnell boys occasionally give a glimpse of a more genteel side as they remember their mother, a musician herself, from a francophone background, learning and teaching Irish bal-

lads to her family.

"She would play the piano and we, (five brothers and one sister) would gather around to sing the old songs — and although our first language was French, by the time we started school, we were singing in English."

The O'Donnell family attended the Irish catholic school. One can get a picture of the strength of the Irish community in this region looking at old school records. There were enough families to support such a school and of course, Irish culture and traditions were an integral part of the school program.

Some folks recall special projects, class presentations, celebrations, being tinged with a touch o'the green anytime during the school year, with a program of concerts, plays, parties and special prayers scheduled for St. Patrick's Day.

"This region was settled by a great many pioneers from Ireland, both

SEE BROTHERS, PAGE 10



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE/CORRESPONDENT

Paul and Mark O'Donnell have been celebrating St. Patrick's Day with interesting and fun costumes for years. As children, they learned and sang Irish tunes with their family.

Career

Career

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St. Patrick's Day 2006

Green auction a success once again

By Claudia Villemaire
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

There was artistry and tomfoolery, goodies, cakes, shawls and hats. There was beer imported from Ireland and plenty of Irish coffee available at the bar and when the Leprechauns had slipped back to wherever they go, organizers of the traditional Green Auction by the Richmond St. Patrick's Society began the task of recording another successful event and, of course, tallying the afternoon's proceeds.

By late afternoon, folks had settled into sandwiches and a bit of coffee. The money from the auction carefully counted, it was time to think about the corned beef and cabbage supper scheduled for early evening at another venue, now called Chez O'Diane's, another of the many events that mark Ireland's patron saint's special day in Richmond.

Auctioneer Brian Barrie, touched it seemed by the mischievous magic of the evasive leprechauns, quipped and cajoled a filled Legion Hall into digging deep in their pockets as items, large and

small and definitely green came by the table.

This event, now approaching its 10th anniversary is a major fundraiser for the Society, which supports the local Irish Dance Troupe as well as funding several scholarships to local students who wish to continue their education at CEGEP or university.

This past Saturday there were glasses, mugs, linens, lamps, potholders and table cloths, paintings and handcrafted wood pieces. High selling items at the auction were a bench and a child's table and chair set both carrying the bidding up to the \$300 mark.

Society president Bob Dalton was visibly pleased with the turn of events, expressing his thanks to Legion members and volunteers who worked so diligently to prepare for such an event.

"To each and every one who donated items, many made by themselves, a very special thanks. And of course, to all the folks who came out on a stormy day and helped with their purchases to keep the work of the Society on-going."



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE/CORRESPONDENT

Auctioneer Steve Barrier was adept at handling fine linens or wooden benches during a live afternoon tinged with Irish jokes, a wee bit o' teasing and plenty of goodwill.



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE/CORRESPONDENT

Richmond's popular Green Auction featured a variety of items, including this Irish Fairy doll.

BROTHERS:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 9

Catholic and Protestant. They were hard-working, determined people, but their penchant for warm-hearted fun and love of a good time carried them through some very tough times," Paul remarked.

The O'Donnell boys are well known for their unique appearances at various St. Pat's celebrations, but their participation in the annual parade has become legend. One year they turned out as Irish cops hauling their prisoner off to jail, complete with their shackled prisoner in striped prison garb.

"Oh I can't tell you what we're doing this year," Mark insisted. "But it'll be fun."

And that's the point. Hard times, back-breaking work, illness and accidents — those first pioneers put aside their troubles and let the Irish sense of humor and fun take over for a day or maybe two when St. Patrick's Day rolled around.

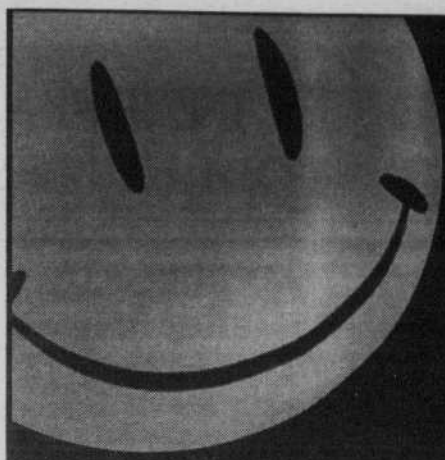
Songs about the Emerald Isle

brought a tear to their eye — quickly replaced by ballads that brought laughter back. 'Who put the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder' struck a chord with the many Murphys who settled here.

"Oh yes, when we were young it wasn't quite the celebration it is today," said Paul. "We walked to mass as a close-knit group, sometimes joined by the Knights of Columbus or other organizations. It was more serious then with perhaps a concert or a play at the theatre."

The banquet was a stately affair with guest speakers, singers and special presentations. There wasn't always a dance after either and most folks went home to prepare for the walk to church the next day."

Now, with participation from just about every organization, with local merchants decorating store windows and even shamrocks on the lamp posts and special sales and events all month, people who lay claim to an Irish connection come from every corner of the world, at least for these special days. And the O'Donnell boys are ready.



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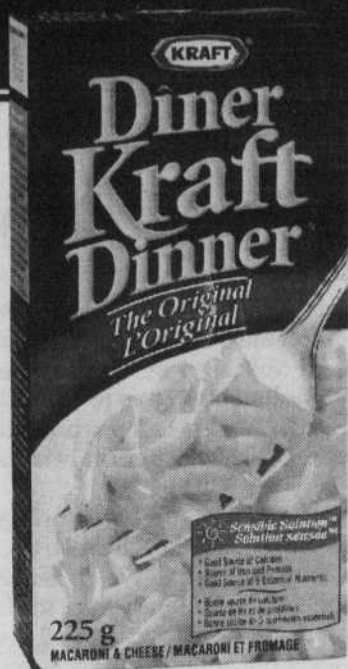
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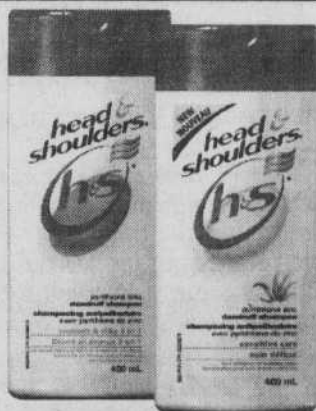


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THE RECORD Sports



INSIDE
Gold medalist
Jennifer Heil is
keeping active
after Italy
see Page 14

PAGE 12 FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2006

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Lori Gear remembers glory days

New coach building a winner at Colby College

SPECIAL TO THE RECORD
By Mike Hickey

When I was growing up January 1 was the ultimate sports day with American college football games beginning at 11 a.m. (and lasting well into the night) with several games being televised simultaneously on the major U.S. networks.

While a change in the selection and timing of bowl games has taken much of the aura of New Year's Day away, die-hard sports fans now look towards March Madness. More particularly, they look at the first two days of the NCAA men's basketball tournament, as it's the best in sports viewing and with good reason.

Starting at noon on Thursday and continuing until after midnight tonight, there is non-stop action as the 64-team field gets whittled down to 32 that will play again Saturday and Sunday.

The sudden-death nature of the tour-

namment and the unpredictability of college sports provide plenty of excitement. Throw in the mandatory office pool and even average fans find themselves mesmerized by the three-week event which ends on April 3 with the National Championship game.

While 64 teams vie for the men's title, the women's bracket will also have 64 teams who begin battle tomorrow. Their champion will be crowned April 4.

Much has been made of the Canadians who have played in past tournaments and while most of the focus on this year's players revolve around Canadian, men including Denham Brown of Connecticut and Pittsburgh's Levon Kendall, it is a good time to look at a former Townshippier who not only played in the big dance but was also a member of a National Championship team in her first year of university competition.

Lennoxville native Lori Gear was a standout at both Alexander Galt High School and Champlain College who played one summer with the Quebec Provincial Team and another season with the Canadian junior team under former

Bishop's head coach Wayne Hussey. She was heavily recruited by the University of Vermont and appeared destined to become a Catamount, but a trip to the University of North Carolina campus and the famous Dean Dome sold her on being a Tar Heel.

"Coming from Canada I was pretty naïve about how good American basketball was," Gear said Thursday from her office at Maine's Colby College where she is the head coach. "I wasn't aware of all the hype, the level of competition, how big basketball was at these schools and the pressure of playing at a big-time school.

"I thought I was as good as anybody and if I realized just how good these other players were I might have been intimidated."

But Gear was anything but intimidated and fought hard every day for playing time against players with more talent and experience. Despite being a rookie and the youngest player on the team, Gear received significant playing time in her first year, a season that ended with a National Championship title.

The final game was televised throughout North America. She only saw a minute or so of action in the championship game but was a more prominent member in two other NCAA appearances.

"When I think back to that first season it all seems so surreal," Gear said. "Now when I see other players on TV winning championships and celebrating — sometimes it is hard to believe that

was me at one time."

The Tar Heels played in the NCAA tournament three of her four years and the only time they failed to receive a bid was in Gear's junior season when point guard Marion Jones took a year off to concentrate on track and field and the upcoming Atlanta Olympic Games. The other two years North Carolina advanced to the Sweet 16 before being eliminated.

Gear, who was team captain in her final two years, said dealing with distractions during tournament time was difficult.

"Our coaching staff did a good job of shutting out a lot of distractions," she recalled. "We usually stayed at a different hotel and we always had good veterans who had the maturity to keep everyone focused. It was an exciting time, there were banquets at every round and that was fun but we always knew how to get back to business. We expected to be successful."

It was a magical time for Gear and now she wants to bring some of that magic to the White Mules.

"My goal here is to win a Division III championship and I told the school that when I took the job," Gear said. "The pursuit of goals provides great experiences for the players, including a lot of growing pains. In the end you look back at great memories."

Colby is a small Division III school with strong academic programs and a winning athletic tradition, although Gear has a formidable rebuilding job ahead. Division III schools are not allowed to give scholarships but Colby offers financial aid packages.

"We are in a good position to make it to the tournament in the future," Gear said. "This year, three Maine schools are in the tournament so there is no reason why we can't get there in a couple of years."

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JAY PEAK (VERMONT)

Snow, last 24hrs (Cm): 46
Snow, last 7 days (Cm): 48
Open Trails: 76/76
Lift Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MONT BELLEVUE

Snow, last 24hrs (Cm): 0
Snow, last 7 days (Cm): 5
Open Trails: 4/6
Lift Hours: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.

THE BALSAMS (NEW HAMPSHIRE)

Snow, last 24hrs (Cm): 10
Open Trails: 10 Lifts: 3
Lift Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MONT ORFORD

Snow, last 24hrs (Cm): 5
Snow, last 7 days (Cm): 15
Open Trails: 34/56
Lift Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MONTJOYE

Snow, last 24hrs (Cm): 0
Snow, last 7 days (Cm): 10
Open Trails: 10/27
Lift Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

OWL'S HEAD

Snow, last 24hrs (Cm): 10
Snow, last 7 days (Cm): 20
Open Trails: 35/44

Lift Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

BURKE (VERMONT)

Snow, last 24hrs (Cm): 3
Open Trails: 19/43
Lift Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SKI BROMONT

Snow, last 24hrs (Cm): 13
Snow, last 7 days (Cm): 15
Open Trails: 39/72
Lift Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.

SUTTON

Snow, last 24hrs (Cm): 12
Snow, last 7 days (Cm): 14
Open Trails: 40/53
Lift Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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SKIING

Heil refuses to slow down after Olympic glory

By Lyndon Little

Since winning the gold that kick started Canada's run of 24 medals at the XX Winter Olympics, freestyle skier Jennifer Heil hasn't stopped smiling — or winning.

The response of many athletes who had just hit the mother lode of medals would be to kick back and soak up the accolades of a grateful nation. Yet for Heil, it's been business as usual. And for the 22-year-old from Spruce Grove, Alta., that means winning events on the World Cup freestyle ski circuit.

Since Turin, Italy, the industrious Heil has won competitions in both South Korea and Japan to clinch her third straight overall moguls crown. That's great, but wasn't it at least a bit tempting to kiss off the rest of the World Cup campaign and go on one big post-Olympic bash?

"It's been a long season and I'm a little tired right now," admitted Heil Tuesday as she and the rest of the Canadian freestyle team arrived back in Canada to begin preparation for this weekend's finale to the World Cup season — the FIS freestyle World Cup finals at Penticton, B.C.'s Apex Mountain. "The Olympics were great, but the World Cup competition is a year-long thing, and finishing first again — and earning another Crystal Globe award — is an incredibly big honour."

If there's enthusiasm for this weekend's event in the voices of Heil and her teammates it's for a good reason. This will mark the first time the freestyle skiing World Cup finals have been held in Canada. For a weary band of international travellers, nothing could be better than to put a cap on the 2005-06 year with a home-country show.

What makes the finals different from a normal World Cup stop is that this is a limited field event. It gets underway with the half-pipe competition on Friday, continues

with the moguls on Saturday and concludes with Sunday's aerials. The moguls are restricted to the top 24 men and women on the World Cup standings. Saturday's aerials will feature just the top 20 men and women.

Heil — who grew up in a family of ski fanatics and "knew how to ski moguls before there was a sport of mogul skiing" — is in the enviable position of having her moguls' crown already locked up, something she accomplished with a win in Japan two weeks ago. But that doesn't mean she intends to mail in a performance at Apex.

"Hopefully we'll have a lot of youngsters out watching their first World Cup event," noted Heil. "You always hope your performance might inspire some of them to take up the sport. In addition, you just want to do your best."

So, has the fame of being an Olympic champion changed Heil, who still appears to exude plenty of that fresh "girl next door" charm?

"I'm not sure it has sunk in yet," said Heil, who had to calm her nerves on the first day of competition in Turin while she waited for the final jump before edging out Norwegian star Kari Traa for the gold. "Being Jennifer Heil, Olympic champion, may take a little getting

used to. But I think I'm a pretty well grounded person. I've got a lot of good people around me."

Her Olympic gold hasn't yet resulted in a big commercial windfall, although Heil is in the process of looking for an agent to handle any future offers. Her regular sponsors that include Canada Post and Aveeno Lotion are, of course, delighted with her success. And there's the possibility of a new, expanded deal with the Marmot Basin ski resort in the Jasper, Alta., area which she currently represents.

The good news, though, is Heil is fully committed to another four-year run in an attempt to defend her freestyle title here in 2010. About the only concession she's going to make to her hectic schedule — she's also studying for a bachelor of commerce degree at McGill University — is a plan to delay the start of this summer's normal training program by a couple of weeks.

"I think I'm going to take a little extra time off this summer," she says almost apologetically. "I'd like to go overseas and volunteer for something — like maybe teaching English or getting involved with the Right to Play program."

—CanWest News Service



CANWEST NEWS

Olympic Gold Medal winner Jennifer Heil hasn't slowed down a bit since returning from Italy.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Thirty years of Richmond figure skating

The Richmond Figure skating club Les Tourbillons's annual figure skating show is coming soon. It will be held Saturday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Arena P. E. Lefebvre, 800 rue Gouin in Richmond.

Tickets are already on sale with the members of the club committee. And also at the store SN Mode on main street in Richmond.

Ticket prices range from \$5 for adults to \$2 for children ages 6-12. At the door, the price is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6-12. Children age 5 and under enter free.

The theme for this year's show is "Celebrating 30 years Together". Our special guest this year is former Canadian Champion Jayson Dénomme, who originally hails from Asbestos.

Our skaters have practiced various routines using disco, rock and roll, hip-hop, etc. It will be great, come and join us to have a wonderful evening.

For more information, call Marianne Blom at 819-826-5693

Rodeo Fest is back at Mount Sutton

The Carlsberg Rodeo Fest is back again and it's guaranteed to be bigger and crazier than ever! The Rodeo Fest is a series of activities spread over three days, March 17-19. It's a lively, action-filled festival with something to appeal to

everyone.

It starts with an opening night at Camil on March 17. Participants get the chance to meet one another and to put everybody else in a great mood that lasts right through the weekend.

The competitions start on Saturday with the O'Neil Big Air for pros and amateurs in the Stade de Slalom trail. Those who execute the best stunts and impress the judges most will share a \$6,000 prize. To put a bit of humour in your day, the Babu à Planche team from Musique Plus will be there. You'll be able to join in and even participate to the last descente pas d'allure of the season!

Saturday night, the party moves on to the village at Camil for the Smith Best Trick competition. Whoever accumulates most the points with their tricks on the rail wins \$3,000. After that, a big party presented by O'Neil and Calsberg is waiting for you! Keeping with the rodeo theme, a mechanical bull will be there. The tougher ski bums can try it and whoever stays on longest wins a pair of skis!

To end the festival on a high note, Sunday features the Rossignol Slope Style competition in the Snow Park where you can win up to \$6,000. This competition, opened to everyone, is a series of obstacles, rails and jumps. Seventy-five people took part in this event last year.


All the competitions are opened to skiers and snowboarders. To see the complete schedule and to get more details and an entry form, visit www.rodeofest.com or montsutton.com.

Church Directory


Anglican Church of Canada

ST. PETER'S CHURCH
355 Dufferin Street, Sherbrooke
(819) 564-0279
Rev. Dr. Patricia Peacock
Sunday
9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Anglican Church of Canada

 **ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH
LENNOXVILLE**
84 Queen St., 819-346-5564
www.stgeorgeslennoxville.com
Pastor: The Rev. Michael Canning
Sunday, March 19 Lent 3
8:00 a.m. Traditional Holy Communion
10:00 a.m. Family Worship


Presbyterian Church in Canada

 **St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church**
256 Queen Street, Lennoxville
Tel: 819-569-3100
Minister: Rev. John Barry Forsyth
Organist: Anthony Davidson
Sunday
10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School
**The Word of Grace
Radio Broadcast**
P.O. Box 404 Lennoxville Qc J1M 1Z6
Station CKTS/CJAD Dial 90
Sunday 8:30 a.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church

U.U. Church of North Hatley
35 Gagnon (corner Main), 819-842-4146
Rev. Carole Martignacco
Service: Sunday 10:00 a.m.

United Church of Canada

 **Plymouth-Trinity**
Dufferin at Montreal,
in Sherbrooke
346-6373
Minister:
Rev. Heather A.
MacDougall
Organist:
Leslie Young

Sunday Lent 3
10:30 a.m. Worship
Special guest: Alexandra Orr
Luncheon following worship



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Richmond Young Women's Institute

On February 6, 2006 members of the Richmond Young W.I. met at the home of Daisy McGee.

Our President Janet Banfill welcomed everyone and opened the meeting and we repeated the "Mary Stewart Collect".

The Roll Call was answered by ten members bringing in a souvenir from another province.

Our Secretary Rhoda Hudson read the minutes and Mona McGee gave the financial report and reported that she had given Christine Aspinal a gift for auditing our books.

Norma Knowles reported that she had given a sunshine basket to Connie and a plant to Lyla upon Lyla's move to the Wales Home.

Convenors reported about a lady being frauded that the county had decided not to do the cook-books, that children would have 90 min. more of classes per week and an article about the "Swingers Club" opening in Ascot.

A trip is being offered again this year, to Islands below Quebec City at a cost of \$159.00 bus, boat and meals included. Thank you notes were read from R.R.H.S., Le Rivage, The Shoebox for donations we had given.

Five members from our branch will attend the County meeting on March 18 at the United Church Hall.

Joyce conducted 2 contests as publicity convenor. Mona then Rhoda won the contests and a small gift was given to each.

The floating prize was won by Joyce. As there was no further business, Janet closed the meeting, monies were collected and everyone enjoyed lunch and social time. Daisy was helped by

daughter Debbie with lunch.

On Monday, March 6, 2006 members of the R.Y.W.I. gathered at the home of Marge Lancaster.

Janet Banfill opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and we repeated the "Collect".

Eleven members answered the Roll Call by bringing in a Maple Syrup Recipe. Mona McGee will compile these to fit into the Christmas Cook Book we had a couple years ago. Now we just need a and a pickle one to round out the seasons.

The minutes were read and approved. Rhoda read the dates of the Income Tax Clinics.

A notice was read concerning some meetings for seniors, one at the United Church on March 27, 2006 and one at the Legion on March 29. These are both English Speakers.

Mona read the treasurer's report. For convenor's reports, Norma Morin reported that Canada had won 24 medals at the Olymics.

Joyce Mastine read a little history about Mary Stewart.

Norma reported sending sympathy cards.

We were reminded about the County meeting that starts at 9:30 a.m., March 18 at the United Church Hall, Richmond.

Tea fees and monies for floating prize and AW were collected. Pat Henderson won the floating prize.

Janet closed the meeting and lunch was served by Marge. Then the visiting began.

Joyce Mastine
Publicity Convenor

Unity Lodge #8 IOOF

On February 15, 2006 members of Unity #8, Odd Fellows had the pleasure of putting on the First Degree for a new member of Knowlton #28.

N.G. Jeff Gautrey opened the meeting "in form" and welcomed everyone. Ten officers and 3 members of Unity #8 answered the roll call and we welcomed 13 visitors.

Brother Thomas Barton reported that Brother Jim Barton has to stay off his feet but is doing okay. Best wishes to Marj White who is in hospital.

We conferred the first degree for Larry Royea who had received the Initiatory Degree at Knowlton. He was instructed by Ed Copping who served as

N.G. for the degree. After this Larry was greeted and welcomed as a first degree member. It is hoped he will enjoy being an Odd Fellow. Other degrees will be conferred in April at Knowlton.

We all had enjoyed a delicious supper before the meeting and everyone thanked those responsible.

N.G. Jeff completed the meeting and wished all a safe trip home.

April 2 will be a brunch at the United Church in Lennoxville for the benefit of Camp Massawippi project. We hope to see a big turnout for this.

Publicity and Secretary
Ernestine Whipple

Founding Meeting held

COMPTON

The founding meeting of the Compton Pioneer Cemetery Committee was held at the home of Russell and Sue Nichols on March 11, 2006. The purpose of this newly-formed committee is to make sure that four old cemeteries (possibly five) in Compton Township do not become neglected, namely the Doak, Libbey, Carr and Kinney cemeteries.

Officers are as follows: President, Jim Bailey; Vice-President, Paul Enright; Sec-

retary, Sue Nutbrown; Treasurer, Russell Nichols.

Leslie Nutbrown kindly offered to do any research that is required to locate descendants buried in these cemeteries (if possible).

The members of this committee decided to meet once a year, the first Saturday in March, more often if necessary.

Following adjournment, refreshments and a social hour were enjoyed.

Sue Nichols

Military Whist Fundraiser

RICHMOND

Richmond District Girl Guides sponsored a Military Whist at the Legion Hall on Thursday evening, March 2. An enjoyable evening was held with 20 tables in play. At the end of the evening the table of Gordon Redburn, Rose Marcotte, Dorothy Lavigne and Donat Morin had the highest number of flags - 29. Close second high with 27 flags for Marcel and Suzanne Tremblay, Pauline Fecteau and Madeline Toulouse. Low score, 14 flags, went to Richard and Sharon McMorine, Ricky and Donna Weare.

With the Girl Guides having assistance from the Brownies, Sparks, and Pathfinders there were many prizes brought in and the following went home with a door prize: Rose Marcotte, Carol Boisvert, Michael Jones, Dorothy Lavigne, Glenna Cross, Matty Banfill, Catherine Cassin, Rose Oakley, Donat Morin, Geo Lancaster, Helen Jones, Jessica McMorine, Vickie Baldwin, Marge

Frazer, Madeline Toulouse, Kayla Lachapelle, Hughie Lancaster, Joe Bell, Shirley Smith, Zetta Olney, Joyce Mastine, Shirley Letourneau, Mildred Holliday, Robert Paquet, Mary Verhoef, Claude Letourneau, Marcel Tremblay, Fran Mastine, Grace Taylor, Pauline Fecteau, Doreen Waterhouse, Shirley Provis, Brooke Lachapelle, Marcel Langlois, Estelle Blouin, Sarah Fowler, Jeanine Lancaster, Ron Jones, Franklin Lancaster, Tina Weare and Marge Lancaster.

There were 6 special prizes. Three baskets of groceries were claimed by Jeannine Lancaster, Joyce Cinnamon and Sarah Ruck. Three baskets of fruit went home with Daisy McGee, Donat Morin and Brooke Lachapelle.

Thanks and appreciation to all for your support, for the prizes and food brought in and to the kitchen helpers who had lunch out when it was time to line up.

Mrs. C. McCourt

Death



MARSH, Wilma (nee Bartlett) - Passed away peacefully at the Knowlton House on March 13th, 2006 in her 79th year. Daughter of the late William Bartlett and Alma Paul. Beloved wife of the late Jackson H. Marsh and friend of the late Frederick Jones. She leaves to mourn her sons Shane (Diane), Richard (Patricia) and Jackson (Elisabeth), her grandchildren Robin, Thomas (Amanda), Erin, Zachary, and Anthony, her surviving sister Dorothy, as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends. Wilma is predeceased by her brothers Gordon, Reginald and Basil, her sisters Vera, Muriel, Ada, Eva, Marie, Alice and Pauline. The family wishes to sincerely thank the doctors and nursing staff of the BMP Hospital in Cowansville and the Knowlton House in Knowlton. A private interment of her ashes will be held Saturday, March 18 at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Brome Center Cemetery Fund (c/o Larry Frizzle, 225 Centre Road, Knowlton, Qc. JOE 1V0) would be appreciated by the family.

Card of Thanks

BLANCHETTE, Marjorie - The family of Marjorie Blanchette, who passed away accidentally on January 9, 2006, would like to thank everyone for their sympathy, cards and flowers. "Special thoughts of times together. Hold good memories that will last forever."

Lovingly remembered by her nieces, nephews, sister-in-law and brother-in-law. THE BLANCHETTE & ROSS FAMILY

Deaths

ROTHERHAM, Geraldine Deborah (nee Stairs) (1916 - 2006) - Passed away on March 13, 2006 at the Lady Minto Hospital, Ganges, Salt Spring Island, BC, in her 90th year. Beloved wife of the late Geoffrey Alexander (Hank) Rotherham. Much loved and respected mother of Tony and his wife Audrey of West Bolton, QC, Gib and Irene of West Bolton, QC, Judy and her husband Louis Adam of Crofton, BC and Arthur and his wife Amanda of Nanaimo, BC. Grandmother of Duncan, Tom, Janet, Michael, Alenka, Amie and Mariel and great-grandmother of Ella Poppy. She was educated at The Study and Macdonald College in Montreal. She was active in the Canadian Girl Guides. She was a dedicated gardener and artist. In 2004-5 Deborah published; 130 Wild Flowers of Quebec, illustrated with a collection of 59 original watercolours and descriptions of wild flowers done throughout her life. Deborah Stairs was born in Montreal, lived in Toronto, Aylmer, QC, Dartmouth, NS, the UK and Knowlton, QC. She died on Salt Spring Island but her heart remained with the wild flowers of Brome County in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Special thanks to Dr. Berg and the nursing staff at the Lady Minto for their care and respect for Deborah. The family request that there be no flowers but a donation to the Brome County Historical Society in Knowlton, QC, JOE 1V0.

SMITH, Margot (1930 - 2006) - Peacefully at her home in Knowlton, QC, on Tuesday, March 14, 2006, in her 76th year, passed away Margot Smith, beloved wife of Gil Smith. She leaves to mourn her sister Carola and her niece Margit, both from Germany also other relatives and dear friends. She was well known as the Bridge Teacher in Knowlton, QC and Myrtle Beach in South Carolina, USA. Condolences will be received from St-Paul's Anglican Church in Knowlton on Saturday, March 18, 2006 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., followed by the funeral service at 2 p.m. Donations can be made to the Cancer Research Society Inc., 1 Place Ville-Marie, suite 2332, Montreal, QC, H3B 5C3 would be appreciated (forms available at the church). Funeral arrangements entrusted to the Desourdy Wilson Funeral Home, 318 Knowlton Rd., Knowlton, QC, JOE 1V0 Tel.: (450) 263-1212, fax: (450) 263-9557, info@desourdywilson.com Dignity Memorial.

Death

WILSON, Marion (nee Sim) - Peacefully at the C.S.S.S. Memphremagog, Thursday, March 16, 2006 in her 91st year. Beloved wife of the late Russell Wilson. Cherished mother of Russell and Nancy (John). Loving grandmother of Erika (Serge) and Nicholas. Marion will also be very sadly missed by her sister-in-law Lucy Markwell as well as her nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. There will be visitation in the presence of the ashes at the Cass Funeral Home, 545 Dufferin, Stanstead 819-876-5213 / www.casshomes.ca on Saturday, March 18 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. followed by the service at 2:00 p.m. with Reverend Doreen Moffat officiating. Interment will be in Ruiters' Corner cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Wesley United Church, 65 Principale, Stanstead, QC, JOB 3E5, would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Card of Thanks

ROSS - I would like to thank everyone who sent get-well cards, flowers, gifts and prayed for my recovery following my accident on January 9, 2006. It was very much appreciated. A special thanks to everyone who helped me at the scene of the accident. There are no words to express my gratitude. God Bless all.

JACQUELINE

In Memoriams

BRYANT (True), Kathleen - In loving memory of a dear mother and grandmother who passed away March 19, 1994.

*You gave us all you had to give
However great or small,
But most of all you gave us love
The greatest gift of all.*

Lovingly remembered,
NANCY & ED
ALLAN & CHARLES
(grandsons)

BRYANT, Gordon and Kay - In loving memory of our parents and grandparents. Dad passed away on April 8, 1992 and Mom passed away on March 19, 1994.

*Loving memories never die
As years roll on and days pass by,
In our hearts a memory is kept
Of the ones we loved and will never forget.*

Lovingly remembered by
LEE, GEORGE
AND FAMILY

Have you thought of including a gift to charity in your will?



Questions & Answers about grief recovery*

Q. My 17 year old son died of leukemia. Why doesn't anyone speak of him? Friends, people at church, even relatives act as if he never existed. What can I do?

A. Your family and friends probably think they are doing you a favor. They don't want to upset you by bringing up such a painful subject as your terrible loss. Take responsibility for the silence of others by making your needs known. You could say, "I really need to talk about John sometimes. I hope you aren't uncomfortable with that." This brings out your desire to speak of him. As soon as you can talk about him comfortably, most others will follow your lead.

* Questions asked during bereavement classes are answered here by the editor of *AfterLoss*, the monthly grief-recovery HelpLetter. For your free copy of *AfterLoss* or one of our other helpful booklets about grief recovery, please write, call or stop by.

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Please Note: All of the aforementioned (except death notices) must be submitted type-written or neatly printed, and must include the signature and daytime telephone number of the contact person. They will not be taken by phone.

DEADLINES FOR DEATH NOTICES:

For Monday's paper, call **819-569-4856** between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday.

For Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday's edition, call **819-569-4856** or fax **819-569-1187** (please call to confirm transmission) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the day prior to the day of publication. The Record cannot guarantee publication if another Record number is called.

It's time for her to get it together

Dear Annie: Last year, after a bitter divorce, my husband's sister and her children moved in with us. "Betty" promised she would get a job as soon as the kids were settled. Of course, once school started, Betty felt she couldn't work because the kids were in a new school and she wanted to be available if the school needed her.

Betty's ex-husband sends child support and pays the health and car insurance bills. I don't know how much money my sister-in-law receives each month, but she says she is unable to af-

ford a place of her own. Meanwhile, the kids have and do

whatever they want. They are spoiled brats who never lift a finger around the house. Betty used to help out, but now is "too busy with the children" to do anything at all.

It has been a long year, and I miss my privacy. My husband feels the same but says he can't ask his sister to leave. We talked with our pastor, who suggested we give Betty a timeline to find her own place and tell her we'll help her reach her goal.

I'm afraid Betty is just too comfortable with the living arrangements and in no hurry to leave. What should we do? Is there a support group for a family that is being taken advantage of? — Stressed-Out Sister-in-Law

Dear Stressed Out: Betty may have been overwhelmed after the divorce, and your home provided a refuge, but after a year, it's time for her to get it together. The current arrangement is not healthy for her children. They need to

Annie's Mailbox

see their mother as a strong, independent woman.

Your pastor gave you good advice. Help Betty look for a job, after-school day care for her children and an affordable apartment, and tell her you expect them to be in their own place within the next three months. In the meantime, assign chores for everyone in the house. Your place needs to be a bit less cozy.

Dear Annie: I need advice on how to get the law changed for fathers to have some kind of say on how their kids live.

My ex-wife left me, taking our four children and moving in with an abusive man who has hit her several times. He also is physically abusive toward my kids. I know he spanked my 3-year-old daughter until my ex intervened and pulled him off.

Social Services has denied me help, and the police act as if I'm some sort of criminal for wanting my children out of that environment. Can you offer me any assistance? — Stuck in Biloxi, Miss.

Dear Biloxi: We aren't sure why neither the police nor Social Services has been helpful, although we would imagine Social Services has been inundated and understaffed since Katrina. Please try the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse (www.mscca.com) serving

southern Mississippi, at 3201 D Ave., Gulfport, MS 39507. It's now up and running. Someone there should be able to advise you about available resources in your area.

Dear Annie: This is for "All Cleaned Up in Montreal," who asked if it was a compliment when someone told her she "cleaned up real nice."

I used to be a waitress at a truck stop. One day, I attended a fancy wedding. As I was leaving the reception, a man looked up from a table across the room and said hello. It turned out to be the bread deliveryman from the truck stop. Then he added, "You look nice with clothes on." Everyone gasped and started laughing. I have never seen a man with such a red face. He explained that he meant regular clothes instead of my uniform.

I still smile when I remember the incident. — F.

Dear F.: We're smiling, too. Thanks for a good chuckle.

Annie's Snippet for St. Patrick's Day: For each petal on the shamrock, this brings a wish your way — good health, good luck and happiness, for today and every day.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column.

Nifty Nifty Look Who's 50!! on St. Patrick's Day!



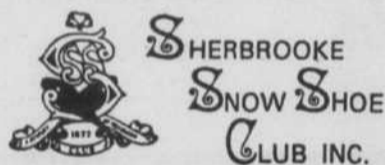
Jo-Ann Patricia

Nifty Nifty Look Who's Fifty



Happy Birthday
Wendy

St. Patrick's - Spring Celebration on March 25



Please note that in our write-up published in The Record on March 16, it was mistakenly written that the final celebration for the St. Patrick's-Spring Celebration would be held on March 18. It will actually be held at the Clubhouse on **March 25** from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome.

Cec apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.



Happy
Birthday
Jo-Ann!

from all of us
at:

THE
RECORD

Lennoxville Rifle Club News

There's a social side to the Lennoxville Rifle Club on Beattie Street that many people may not have heard about. Of course shooting members have always gone there regularly for target practice.

Every second Saturday night there's an old time dance and everyone especially enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day dance on March 11. The hall was Irishly decorated for the pleasure of all who waltzed or fox-trotted or squared-danced around the floor. At many dances when the music is often supplied by John Foster and Harold Nutbrown, stately old novelty dances such as the Rye Waltz, the heel and toe polka,

and the Berlin add to the fun of the evening.

Most people stay for the choosing of door prizes as well as for sandwiches, doughnuts and coffee or soft drinks. At the St. Patrick's dance many generous people had contributed interesting items for the door prizes for at least thirty lucky winners.

The next dance will feature first a pot-luck supper,

which is always popular and delicious.

Watch for more information on the mid-April dance which will feature a show of hooked rugs done by Mary Rasmussen's rug-hooking group from North Hatley, and Bluegrass and Gospel Music by Carlyse McBurney's Last Chance group.

At the annual meeting in February the officers and directors were elected for the coming year. The president is now Elmer Andrews, the secretary is Richard Goodhue and the treasurer is Robert Woollerton.

At the same meeting plans were made to increase and enhance the traditional Monday Crokinole nights where at one time it seemed to be men only. Women have been attending for at least three years and now the club hopes that more people will come to not only play crokinole, but cards and other types of games as well. Country music is often provided to create a really pleasant toe-tapping atmosphere. People who come regularly may wish to pay the annual membership, while others will prefer to pay the small fee at the door.

In a world that is increasingly stressful, it is important to nurture the values of good fellowship and healthy recreation in a smoke-free environment.

For further information about the social activities, telephone Stan Brown 562-6261; for target practice information call Edson Warner 565-9309.

Submitted by
Joyce Booth

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today's clue: H equals P

"HMG OX EFEIBVOX PX GBS IHEG, OXA RPM WOX OKZORI LSG OXPGBSF EFEIBVOX GP GMFX BEV." - EFEIB-JPFX LSPFLS JSFXOFA IBOZ

PREVIOUS SOLUTION - "When in doubt, sing loud." - Robert Merrill "It's OK if you mess up. You should give yourself a break." - Billy Joel

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CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today's clue: O equals C

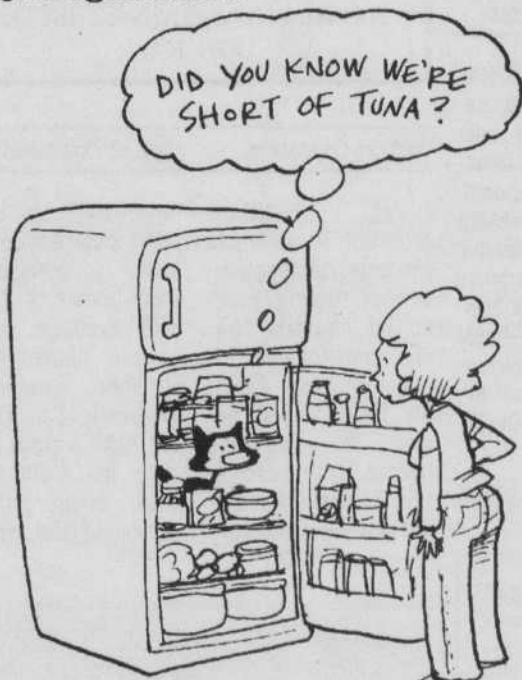
"ZGPPMGIUN GPU BMTU RMUEN. EYUK OGA VU PDMAUR VK YGLMAI G BMEEBU RMNY SA EYU NMRU." - UGPB JMBNSA

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION - "Put an Irishman on the spit, and you can always get another Irishman to turn him." - Irish-born George Bernard Shaw

KIT N' CARLYLE

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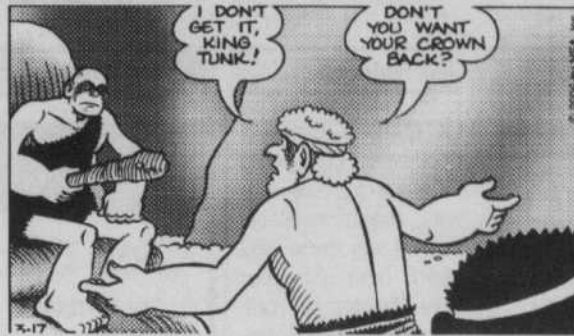


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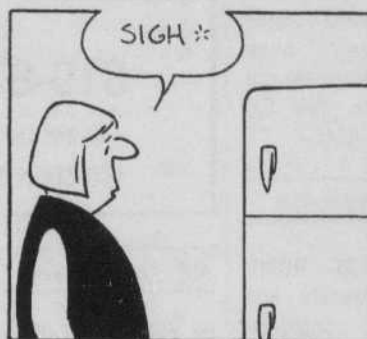
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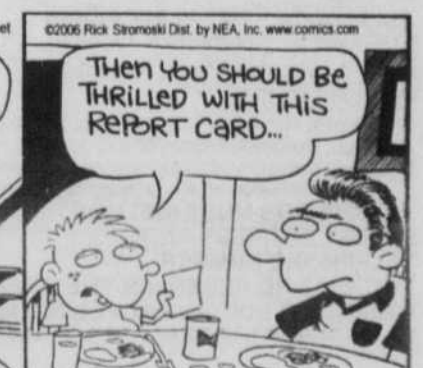
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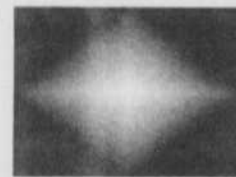
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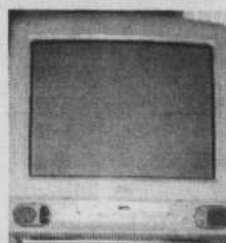
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- ESCAPE XLS, V6, auto., 4x4, remote, grey, 49,000 km.
- ESCAPE, V6, auto., 4x4, XLT, black, 59,000 km.
- 2002 RANGER EDGE SC, 4x2, man., 4L, air, cruise, yellow, 66,000 km.
- ESCAPE XLT, V6, auto, 4x4, black, 40,000 km.
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295 Trucks For Sale

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440 Miscellaneous

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Richmond Hill W.I. hold February and March meetings

The February meeting was chaired by co-President, Edna Smith, on the 7. She opened the meeting by thanking Edith Farant for hosting the meeting and led us in the Collect. The Roll Call was answered by six members and it was noted that three members, Edna Smith, Pearl Kydd and Jean Storry, had perfect attendance.

The minutes of the December '05 meeting were read and approved. Arising from the minutes, Jean Storry reported having taken the donation to l'Escale, together with other articles, on December 15. She was accompanied by Fran Dewar. She also reported buying Christmas gifts for our three members in the Wales Home and had delivered them on December 22.

The financial report revealed that we have a favourable cash and bank balance. Much correspondence was read, mostly thank you's for donations. A letter was read from member, Annie Healy, who is on the Board of Directors of F.S.N.A. She warned us of many who wish to take advantage of charitable organizations and the danger of losing any cash balance that we hold in our account and she suggested that we protect it by having a proper budget in place.

Edna Smith brought up the Richmond County Annual Meeting on March 18. It was noted that there would be only two members attending. She also circulated two write-ups concerning our Branch and Hall and Lois Enright suggested these be photocopied and put up in the Hall and also into the album.

Reports from Convenors were called for. Agriculture, Edna Smith, advised us that Teflon is being banned. Health & Community Living, Lois Enright report-

ed on the importance of Omega 3 in our diet and Donna Coddington spoke of the increase in English services in our hospitals. Education & Personal Development, Edith Farant, pointed out that there are many dangers in the translation contained in our weekly circulars.

It was moved by Donna Coddington and seconded by Lois Enright that we each pay this year's annual fees.

Planning of the March meeting, to take place at the Wales Home on Tuesday, March 7, followed.

We had received the information regarding this year's W.I. trip. We will possibly have only one person interested.

It was moved by Jean Storry and seconded by Donna Coddington that we give \$20.00 donation to the St. Francis library to purchase books, in lieu of a gift to the three members with perfect attendance.

The co-President, Edna Smith, announced the meeting closed. Edith Farant led us in a mini-auction of the sale articles brought in by members, raising a few laughs and a few dollars as well.

We adjourned to the dining room to enjoy a bountiful lunch and lots of interesting conversation before wading out into the drifting snow to head home.

...

It may have been a couple of days late, but the Richmond Hill Women's Institute March meeting was finally held on Thursday, March 9, on the 4th floor of the Wales Home, with Bernice Beattie as our honorary hostess.

Co-President, Edna Smith, opened the meeting by thanking all for coming and we repeated the Collect in unison. Roll call found seven members present,

with four guests, Connie Whittingham, Florence Blanchard, Nellie Davidson and Lila Beattie. Our three members who live at the Wales Home, Bernice Beattie, Eurith and Elaine Mason, then paid their dues. Bernice made a generous donation to the Branch.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. A brief financial report was given and all correspondence was read. Lois Enright moved and Gail Long seconded that the bills be paid. Jean Storry reported that Noreen Brown said how pleased Gary had been to receive our card. Jean also reported that Elaine Mason had given us several articles that we could use as we saw fit.

Reports from Convenors were asked for. Agriculture, Jean Storry, reported about used eye glasses being taken to third world countries. She also mentioned an enterprise in Sherbrooke that is using corn, sugar cane and potatoes to produce biodegradable disposable dishes. Lois Enright, for Health & Community Living spoke about Avian flu and pointed out that you can't get the

flu from eating chicken. Pennies for Friendship were collected. Edna Smith asked for names of those attending the planned information session at the Legion on March 29. Two members were already registered through a Church, so two others would be listed there, also. Connie Whittingham then announced that she wished to become a member of our Branch again and she was warmly welcomed. Connie had been a member many years before.

There being no further business, the Co-President adjourned the meeting. We prepared to enjoy some interesting games of Bingo, the numbers being called by Lois Enright. The prizes were gaily-wrapped packages, which were eagerly sought by the winners. Once all the prizes had been won, we enjoyed some hot tea and an assortment of cookies. Many of our friends from the Home went back to their rooms with a few extra cookies for later.

Submitted by Jean Storry,
Publicity Convenor.

Stanbridge East W. I. meeting

Eight members of Stanbridge East Women's Institute gathered at Erma Ten Eyck's on Ten Eyck Road on March 2, 2006, at 11 a.m., for their regular meeting. President Dianne Tait welcomed everyone and thanked Erma and co-hostesses, Pearle Yates and Patricia Vokey. Patricia could not attend but had sent her regrets and food contributions for lunch. The meeting opened as usual and with the singing of the Hymn of all Nations.

Roll Call: Pay ten cents for every inch of your waist, proceeds to go to F.W.I.C. fundraiser. Some members thought this request was insulting. No measurements were taken and from the amount of money turned in we are all elves. We will continue next month and if necessary make a donation. I guess the bottom line is you don't mess around with a woman's age or the width of her waist. Only waist lines smaller than 20 inches are worth talking about.

Barbara Harvey, our new Sunshine convenor was with us and the card list was brought up to date. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The date of the Missisquoi County semi-annual meeting will be September 27, 2006. Place: Anglican Church Hall in Stanbridge East. Time: 9:30 a.m. Early bird. 10 a.m. - meeting.

The treasurer's report was given and showed a respectable balance. There were two small bills and it was moved by Barbara Harvey and seconded by Jean Cogswell that they be paid. This motion was carried.

Our President gave us some information from the Gazette about common house plants and how deadly they can be. The article was called "A Garden of

Deadly Delights." Dianne Rhicard passed out cards to be signed and sent to our Prime Minister concerning the use of Terminator seeds. These are hybrid seeds that produce fruits and vegetables but do not produce seeds or, if they do the product is a mutation. Information was offered where seeds could be bought that were not genetically modified.

Stanbridge East W.I. is celebrating 85 years and a committee consisting of Dianne Rhicard, Mary Boomhower and Dianne Tait will be organizing any activities pertaining to this. The other branches in Missisquoi County have anniversaries to celebrate as well and we do not want to conflict with theirs or steal their thunder. Dianne Rhicard suggested that we make a calendar for our 85th Anniversary and she showed an example. No! We are not posing nude!

Betty Perry arrived at lunch time and after Grace everyone enjoyed Erma's lasagna and Pearle and Patricia's salads and desserts.

The meeting resumed with Jean Cogswell giving us the program for Health and Community Living. Here again an article in the Gazette concerning bird flu and whether boycotting fowl would actually be beneficial in preventing an outbreak was discussed and statistics given. It stressed the necessity of being sure that everything was properly cooked.

Happy Birthday was sung to Erma TenEyck and Mary Boomhower. The travelling bag was won by Pearle Yates and contained a supply of goodies for a gardener. Announcements were made and the meeting adjourned.

Stanbridge East Women's Institute
Pearle Ingalls Yates, Secretary

Golden Age Club news

MANSONVILLE

We gathered at Soleil Rouge for dinner on Tuesday, Feb. 28. Our choices were soup or juice, meat balls or roast beef, tea or coffee and our usual array of desserts. Derrell Smithers is home from Knowlton House and joined us today for lunch. Derrell has been in hospital, the Foyer at Sutton and Knowlton House he had an accident with his foot and this has given him a real bad time. Another member, Bertha Smithers has been in the B.M.P. Hospital. I hear that she is back at Keyworth's and Roseleen George's. Friends wish them both a speedy recovery.

Sympathy is extended to Eileen Eldridge and family due to the death of her husband Garth. He too was a patient at Knowlton House.

Edmond Ducharme won today's half and half game. "500" winners were Edmond and Lana Lane.

Door prizes were won by Edmond Ducharme, Rita Marcoux, Dorothy Woodard, Juliette Laliberté, Greg and Marian Gauvin and Jackie Jersey.

Game winners were J. Jersey, R. Mossa, D. Woodard, J. Laliberté, M. Gauvin and Mr. Lucille Lalonde. Mrs. Lalonde joined the club today.

...

We met at Soleil Rouge on Tuesday, March 7th. We had a choice of spaghetti or roast beef, for our dinner, with the usual choices of soup or juice and desserts.

We signed a get well card for Bertha Smithers. She has been in the B.M.P. Hospital.

Edmond Ducharme won today's half and half game.

Door prizes were won by Dorothy Woodard, Jackie Jersey, Juliette Laliberté and Rita Marcoux.

500 winners were Greg Gauvin and Edmond Ducharme.

Game winners were Dorothy Woodard, Jackie Jersey and Rita Mossa.

I forgot to mention George Hamelin and his son Gilles, had dinner with us and George came to the hall after dinner.

Rita Mossa

North 03-17-06			
♠ K 9 7			
♥ J 4			
♦ K 6 5 2			
♣ A 10 6 3			
West	East		
♠ 4 3 2	♠ 10		
♥ A 8 7 3 2	♥ K 9 6 5		
♦ J	♦ A Q 10 9 7 4 3		
♣ Q 7 5 4	♣ J		
South			
♠ A Q J 8 6 5			
♥ Q 10			
♦ 8			
♣ K 9 8 2			
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♣	4 ♦
Pass	Pass	4 ♠	All pass
Opening lead: ♦ J			

Friday, March 17, 2006

From a double minus to a double plus

By Phillip Alder

To balance the books after yesterday's column, here is a double game-swing gained by the New Zealand women's team against France, the eventual winners, at last year's world championships held in Estoril, Portugal.

Against four spades, the French West led her singleton diamond, East winning with her queen and returning a low diamond. South ruffed high, drew trumps in three rounds, and cashed the club king. When East obligingly played the jack, South ran her club nine to hold her losers to two hearts and one diamond; plus 620.

At the other table, the New Zealand West overcalled one spade with a gossamer-thin two hearts. North made a negative double, and East jumped to four hearts. South continued with four spades, but East pushed on to five hearts. North doubled this in the pass-out seat.

North led a trump, usually the best lead against a high-level sacrifice. Here, though, it was a disaster. (If North leads a black suit, the defenders can triumph.) Paula McLeish, the declarer (West), played as if looking through the cards. She won with her heart ace, overtook the diamond jack with the dummy's queen, cashed the dummy's heart king and diamond ace, then ruffed a diamond in hand. She now exited with a club. The defenders won, cashed their spade trick, then exited with a spade. West ruffed on the board, trumped another diamond in her hand, returned to dummy with a spade ruff, and ran the diamonds. West lost only one spade and one club. Plus 850 gave New Zealand 16 international match points.

Your Birthday

Friday, March 17, 2006

Old hopes could be revitalized in the year ahead, and several new interests will be stimulated as a result, making for some exciting times ahead for you. Your long-time desires will now have a good chance of being fulfilled.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Several important and practical objectives you've been working on can be slightly advanced, but it's going to take dedicated effort to attain even that. Things may come hard right now. Get a jump on life by understanding the influences that are governing you in the year ahead. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — If you feel inclined to gamble, gamble on your own expertise and talents. There are no free rides, and things aren't apt to work out too well when predicated on luck.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Be advised that you're going to need a feather-like touch in handling abrasive domestic situations. If you're too stubborn, stern or heavy-handed, it'll create additional problems.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Try not to take yourself or events too seriously or you'll make yourself miserable. Appraise developments realistically, but don't treat small molehills as if they were mountains.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — It behooves you today to put up a protective shield in your commercial or financial dealings. Also, don't deliberately take advantage of the other guy, but do protect your interests.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — There's a strong possibility you will be confronted by some kind of unexpected challenges. If you are, stiffen your back and dig in because only extra effort succeeds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Even though you won't have total control over a disturbing situation that causes you some concern, if you remain harmonious with the others involved, you'll lessen its effects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — An old project you've been nursing along for some time should not be allowed to suffer because of your interests for something else. For best results, give equal attention to each.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Conditions that have a direct influence on your reputation and acceptance are in a rather delicate balance. If you're considerate and sincere toward others, you should be able to slither by.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Be open-minded and tolerant regarding the views and opinions of your associates. But, by the same token, don't discount knowledge you've acquired. Show an appreciation for both.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Speak up today if you want to recoup what is owed you by another. This person isn't apt to feel inclined to make the initial move. Even repayment is iffy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Someone with whom you share a common objective might not be as speedy as you are. Let this individual move at his/her pace because if you wait, you'll both lose out.

Saturday, March 18, 2006

You might be exposed to some of life's bigger competitive developments in the year ahead, but you'll handle them masterfully. Others will see you as an intelligent competitor, and they will end up admiring your enterprise.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Before making any promises to others today, be sure you're capable of delivering what you say you can. You won't look good if things go wrong and you can't come through for them. Know where to look for romance, and you'll find it.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Assistance from others upon which you have been counting isn't apt to come through for you today, due to unforeseen circumstances. Whatever you had planned will have to be done alone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Getting all of the family to pull together for the purpose of accomplishing a project could be far more difficult than you anticipate. Everyone seems to have his/her own plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It's not unusual for you to enjoy conversing with everyone within earshot, but today this could interfere with your productive desires. If you're too distracted, you'll not get anything done.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Be extremely selective of the types of persons you choose to run around with. If you decide to be with a lot of free spenders, be prepared to blow far more money than you should.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Although you may not intend it, you could come off being a trifle too dictatorial with others. You may falsely think you're being impressive, but sadly you'll be anything but.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Associates will have a difficult time attempting to live up to your standards and expectations today. Unfortunately, you could have a tendency to lead by demands, not examples.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Strive to be totally open about your intentions and methods of doing things when managing the resources of others. If you are not, you could easily be misunderstood.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You tend to be a sharing and giving person under most circumstances, but today, for reasons known only to you, your focus may be more on yourself. Others could find you too self-serving.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Failing to yield to your better judgment will make you your own worst enemy today. What you do to yourself will be far worse than anything the world might throw at you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't get angry at your friends if you decide to do what the group has planned and then end up spending far more than you can afford. It's up to you to know when to call it quits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Even though you may be passionate about your goals and how you plan to achieve them, it would be far better if you keep it to yourself. Someone could trip you up, especially if you tip your hand.

Sunday, March 19, 2006

In the year ahead, there should be a marked improvement in both your material and social well-being. You're apt to find the types of friends you've always wanted, and you should be able to get many of the things you've needed.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Although it may not necessarily be visible to you, there is a shift in financial trends, which could affect you personally. Nevertheless, it will eventually prove profitable for you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Do not treat lightly the making of plans and laying out a blueprint concerning your work. If your foundation is properly engineered, what you do now could brighten your job later.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — This could be both an unusual and beneficial day for you, especially where teaming up with others is concerned. You have the ability to attract essential elements that will enhance these arrangements.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Your charisma is blossoming at this time, and others tend to enjoy being around you. Your appeal is that you make everyone you're with feel special.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — This could be a red-letter day for you, where your goals and ambitions are concerned. Something momentous might develop today that will have long-range and favorable implications.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Arrangements you make or plans you begin to develop will have a better-than-average chance of success. Develop your bright ideas, and be sure to do something about them.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a good day to modify, change or discard methods or techniques that have thus far not lived up to their potential. Use your reasoning skills to make the necessary changes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — You are now in a cycle where you should be able to derive far more benefits from partnership situations. There are two alliances in particular to which you should pay attention today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — There are excellent opportunities around you today from which both profit and personal gain can be derived. Study things both at work and home to figure out how to bring this about.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Starting today, conditions that pertain to your personal interests could be making a favorable shift. It is a cycle where you can be very fortunate in important social situations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A pleasant surprise might be in store today, pertaining to something you felt was long overdue. When it begins to pay off, it may start with a trifle but soon become a steady flow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — You could be inspired and motivated today by an unscheduled development that will instill you with fresh hope for the future. If it is right for you, you will find yourself reacting instinctively.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS

- 1 ___ and bounds
- 6 1989 Nobel winner
- 10 Try out for weight
- 14 Skirt or duck
- 15 Marsh bird
- 16 Arab leader
- 17 Samantha Taggart of "ER"
- 20 Water/wine transition
- 21 Punches
- 22 Little bits
- 23 ATM maker
- 24 Anear
- 25 Boiling pot
- 26 Godlike
- 28 Wickedness
- 29 Common Market abbr.
- 30 Spore nursery

- 31 Nitwit
- 33 Formerly, formerly
- 34 Cote de Pablo of "NCIS"
- 37 Italian fascist
- 40 Helps out
- 41 Judgments
- 45 Hydrocarbon suffix
- 46 Pack animal
- 47 Star in Aquila
- 48 Abrasion
- 50 Fixative
- 52 Neckline shape
- 53 Graff of "Mr. Belvedere"
- 54 3rd baseman Rodriguez
- 55 Puerto ___
- 56 Dr. Albert Robbins of "CSI"
- 59 Work for
- 60 See: Lat.

- 18 Classy
- 19 Claim on income
- 24 Unless, in law
- 25 Dnieper port
- 27 Bomb detonator
- 28 Hot tubs
- 31 Lecture platform
- 32 Fluky
- 33 Put in other words
- 35 Flower holder
- 36 Like a couch potato
- 37 Hankerings
- 38 Expose, as a cover-up

- 39 Parts of brains
- 42 Sturgeon roe: var.
- 43 Man's bar?
- 44 Iris rings
- 46 Mimic
- 47 BMW rival
- 49 In regard to
- 50 Test score
- 51 Paramour
- 54 Mine entrance
- 55 Korean leader Syngman
- 57 VCRs' go-withs
- 58 Dawn moisture

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

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B	I	O	S	D	A	R	T	S	N	E	E	R

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 - 2 Manifests
 - 3 Of mystic Hinduism
 - 4 Caribbean taro
 - 5 Yellow or Red
 - 6 Diet guru Jenny
 - 7 Third of nine
 - 8 Tupperware pieces
 - 9 Pub brew
 - 10 Spartan serf
 - 11 Energy source
 - 12 Concerts' last selections
 - 13 Divide into three

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By Mike Van Blaricom 3/17/06

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- 54 Indian instruments
- 56 Ending of a belief
- 57 Spirit in "The Tempest"
- 59 Artifice used to gain an advantage
- 61 Compartment in a sleeping car
- 63 Abstruse

- 13 Maiden
- 14 Underhanded
- 20 Fusses
- 24 Orlop, for one
- 27 "We the Living" author
- 29 Trigonometric function
- 32 Stead
- 34 Slippery catches
- 36 Fires
- 38 Contest at law
- 39 Untied
- 40 Coarse undergarment fabrics

- 42 Scotland's emblem
- 43 Most trendy
- 44 Fly high
- 46 Sacred beetle
- 47 Dawn goddess
- 48 Arrest record
- 50 South African stockades
- 53 Big rigs
- 55 Mall or mine preceder
- 58 Son of Leah
- 60 Skin problem
- 62 Soak up rays

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Friday's Puzzle Solved

- 64 Advents
- 65 Doorway header
- 66 Nursery piece
- 67 Exceeds the limit

DOWN

- 1 Room screens
- 2 Financially rewarding
- 3 Having pertinence
- 4 Mosque leader
- 5 Malicious language
- 6 Draw into contradiction
- 7 Head-swelling experience
- 8 Feeling of discomfort
- 9 Aged, old-style
- 10 Repeated rhythmic phrase
- 11 Sanction
- 12 Tenants' contracts

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By Matthew Higgins 3/18/06

St. Patrick's Day about pride, fun and friends

By Claudia Villemaire
RECORD CORRESPONDENT

Once again, they answered the call. Irish folk, some genuine, others claiming their attachment, either physical or imagined, turned out for the traditional St. Patrick's banquet

in Richmond this past Saturday.

Shamrocks and Irish greetings were the order of the day as old and young sat down to a feast of roast beef with all the trimmings, homemade pie and the usual warmhearted mix of blarney and serious moments.

University describing the unbelievable economic growth Ireland is enjoying.

"From an unemployment rate of over 15 per cent in the 1980s, Ireland today has increased productivity, reduced inflation and boasts of an unemployment rate that hovers around four per cent," he said, adding their gross national product is more than double Canada's with a population of just over four million.

"If you haven't visited the Emerald Isle for 15 years or so, you will find a completely changed, bustling economy, quite a contrast from former years. Now this country is welcoming immigration, the exact opposite of what the history books have recorded until recently."

Glasses were raised to sister societies, Canada, the Queen and of course, to the Emerald Isle. The evening rounded out

with old time music by The Castaways.


Festivities are well started in Richmond where the Irish tradition of parties and concerts began with a story-telling session last week, and reaches a peak on March 17 with parties that will most certainly endure all weekend long.

The crown jewel in celebrations in Richmond is the St. Patrick's Day parade, scheduled for Sunday, mustering at 1:20 p.m. at Le Tremplin school yard, setting out at 2 p.m. down the usual route of 6e Avenue, Craig, Main, Fair, Gouin and back to the school yard.

Organizers are promising this will be the biggest and best parade ever seen. Receptions at the Grand Central Hotel and the Legion Hall on College St. will warm up spectators and participants immediately after.

Supper guests were treated to jigs and reels danced in the traditional Irish style by Richmond's own Irish Dance Troupe, with guest speaker Vince Cuddihy, retired economics professor from Champlain College and Bishop's

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CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE/CORRESPONDENT

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Have a good St. Patrick's Day!

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