

THE RECORD

THE VOICE OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SINCE 1897

Some not happy with minimum wage increase

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2010

St-Ferdinand crash victim identified

By Doug McCooeye

Authorities have released the identity of the elderly female driver who lost her life as the result of a car accident on rang 6 Street in Saint-Ferdinand on Tuesday afternoon.

Huguette Roberge, a 60-year-old Saint-Ferdinand resident, suffered fatal injuries after the car she was driving collided with a dog, causing her to lose control of the vehicle.

"The driver lost control of the vehicle and landed in a ditch that was about 15 to 20 feet deep," explained Surete du Quebec spokesperson Louis-Philippe Ruel in an interview with The Record on Wednesday. "The car flipped over and the victim was partially ejected and became trapped underneath the car."

First responders were quickly on the grisly scene shortly after the 12:25 p.m. crash, finding the woman in critical condition. Roberge was pronounced dead shortly after her arrival at an area hospital.

While authorities released the notice of her passing at around 3 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, her identity was not revealed until Wednesday, so that her family could first be notified.

No word on the status of the dog.

dmccooeye@sherbrookerecord.com

Lenn's yuletide light show



COREY BELLAM

The Mackeage family is drawing attention with a spectacular show of decorations on Carl Street in Lennoxville this holiday season. Eric, wife Donna, son Ryan and daughter Sarah also add a daily touch of season's music to the presentation. The Mackeages have been putting up the decorations for the past 10 years. "But every year, it seems to get bigger and bigger," Eric says. "It takes us about a week-and-a-half to do the setup and I credit my wife for her patience with me, because she's the one who handles the Hydro payments," he added, laughing.

Destination Sherbrooke to promote tourism

The City of Sherbrooke's newest organization now has a name.

Destination Sherbrooke, the new group meant to promote tourism in the city, will officially kick off its mandate at the beginning of 2011. The organization is combining three old city groups: CHARMES, Cité des rivières (the city's corporation), and Tourisme Sherbrooke.

In October, Cité des rivières was

given the responsibility of managing the new Sherbrooke convention centre, set to open in the new year. Destination Sherbrooke will simply take over these management responsibilities.

Based on a statement released by Cité des rivières this week, the new organization has two focuses: To promote Sherbrooke to the rest of the country as a viable option for outside businesses and national events, as well as protect-

ing and promoting the environmental efforts being made by the city.

The coalition was motivated in large part by cost-cutting efforts at City Hall. Mayor Bernard Sévigny who had a stated goal of reducing Sherbrooke's operating budget by three per cent across the board by the time the 2011 budget was announced.

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Everyone's in the spirit

Border Report, Pages 8, 9

School board needs to get rattled

Opinion - Page 5

Éva-Senécal Library celebrates 20 years

Twenty years ago yesterday, Eva-Senécal library, located at 450 Marquette Street, opened its doors to the public. This event would mark the beginning of a whole new era for this municipal service whose origins date back to 1868.

On December 22, 1990, the City of Sherbrooke inaugurated its new library, and renamed it in memory of a Townships literary pioneer, Eva Senécal, poet, novelist and journalist, born in 1905 and died in 1988.



Bibliothèque municipale Éva-Senécal

Municipalization the library came in 1954 as it became the Sherbrooke Public Library.

The Eva-Senécal library, wants to enjoy its 20th anniversary by inviting everyone to come and explore the amazing collections and resources that are available for the benefit of all Sherbrooke area residents.

Weather



TODAY:
SNOW

HIGH OF -2
LOW OF -4



FRIDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -12



CHRISTMAS:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -6
LOW OF -15



SUNDAY:
PARTLY
SUNNY
HIGH OF -8
LOW OF -13



MONDAY:
PARTLY
SUNNY
HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -10

The Scoop Mansonville Elementary School celebrates Christmas

Entering the school through the front doors and standing at the top of the stairs, I was immediately greeted by the sound of excited and happy voices coming from the hall below. It was the Mansonville Elementary School's Annual Christmas Dinner and Concert.

Held on Wednesday, December 15, this year's celebration had a special twist to it as all students wandered around the school in bright colored, animal print pyjamas that were all donated by the Hatley Store.

"The Hatley Store donated pyjamas for every student in both Mansonville and Waterloo Elementary schools," explained Principal Renalee Gore. "We are so thankful for the kindness shown by Hatley in donating these gifts as they add a special touch to our Christmas Celebration."

The gymnasium was buzzing with music and conversation as parents, students, staff and invited guests, shared in a wonderful Christmas dinner. The students then performed various Christmas Carols to entertain the crowd. Angels, shepherds, wise men and kings as well as Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus stood smiling as they shared in the spirit of the holidays.

PPO and Governing Board Chairper-



MABLE HASTINGS

son, Shawn Jersey joined in the celebration as he handed out shiny new snowshoes to all students and teaching staff. These snowshoes were purchased through funds raised by the PPO committee and are for 'in school' use of the students and staff during the winter months. Uniquely, as an extra incentive to encourage family outdoor together time, the PPO will be allowing the children and their parents to borrow the snowshoes on weekends. The smiles on the children's faces surely warmed the

hearts of the parents who worked hard to raise these funds.

As I left the school on Wednesday, a little boy ran on ahead of me. He politely opened the door so I could exit and with a smile, I kid you not, he called out,

"Merry Christmas to ALL and Happy Holidays."

I cannot think of a better way to end this article than to extend, to all of you, the words above, from the staff and students of the Little School with the BIG heart, Mansonville Elementary.

Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke

Until January 16, 2011, Melissa Doherty's works challenge the way we perceive landscapes. Instead of looking outward at deep, frontier space, as in the grand tradition of landscape painting, her paintings look down, or into, very shallow, introspective spaces. The aerial view reflects a notion of landscape where we are above it, increasingly unconnected and distanced from it, and often changing and rearranging it, as in an architectural model. Melissa Doherty graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Waterloo. Melissa was born in Chatham, Ontario and is based in Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario. The exhibition is organised by the Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke.

Until 9 January 2011: The exhibition Maurice Cullen and His Circle provides a unique opportunity to see works by Maurice Cullen (1866-1934) together with those of some of his contemporaries and the future generation of artists he inspired. Comprising nearly

forty oil paintings selected from the National Gallery of Canada's permanent collection of Canadian Art, the exhibition examines works by Cullen alongside those of his contemporaries, including such artists as James Wilson Morrice and William Brymner. The show also features works by artists whom Cullen was known to have influenced, including his stepson Robert Pilot and the then future member of the Group of Seven A.Y. Jackson. Many of the works selected for this show have not been exhibited publicly for almost two decades. This project has been made possible in part through a grant from the Museums Assistance Program, Department of Canadian Heritage.

Spaces and Landscapes: the Collection

Thanks to a grant from the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine, the Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke has been able

to undertake the renewal of its permanent collection. The exhibition allows visitors to appreciate the evolution of landscape art over time, from the panoramic views of earlier centuries to the dynamic concepts of contemporary art, and including the more personal vision of naïve artists. Many important artists are represented here, including some from our region, and representatives of the next artistic generation. A special place is accorded to our own landscape painter, Frederick Simpson Coburn.

Le Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke, supported by le ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine and by Ville de Sherbrooke, is opened from Tuesday to Sunday, from noon until 5 p.m. It is located at 241, Dufferin Street. Fees: 7,50 \$, adult; 6 \$, senior; 5 \$, student.

Guided tours in English or group tours, anytime but reservations are a must.

Ben by Daniel Shelton



LOCAL NEWS

"You can observe some people on the lake right now, and the ice is very tricky"

Too early to ice fish on local Lakes

By Doug McCooeye

Canada is home to some of the best ice fishing in the world. According to Ice Fishing Canada, our country has "the greatest number of people who participate in the wonderful sport of hard-water fishing."

One of these popular bodies of water is Brome Lake, in the Eastern Townships. Every winter passers-by can observe people on the lake, fishing away.

However, for Pierre Laplante, head of the First Responders for the Brome Lake area, some fishermen are a little too eager this winter.

"You can observe some people on the lake right now, and the ice is very tricky right now," he said in an interview with The Record this week. "Since Saturday we've had people walking onto the lake. It's very dangerous."

It is much too early to be ice fishing and people should wait at least until January to begin the season, explained Laplante.

Canada ice fishing recommends that people fishing alone should wait until the ice is at least four inches thick. For groups, it should be about eight inches thick, and if you want to drive a vehicle on the ice, it should be at least a foot.

The real danger is when a lake or body of water appears to be frozen, but it is not yet safe to walk on.

"(Brome) lake is frozen right now, but we haven't had a really extensive cold period yet, so the thickness of the ice isn't good enough," said Laplante. "The ice is very tricky right now, it's not solid."

But even at the peak of the cold season ice fishing is always dangerous, noted Louis-Philippe Ruel, spokesperson for the Eastern Townships division of the Surete du Quebec, in an interview with The Record.

"It's just a question of good sense," he said. "Don't go on the water, don't go



COREY BELLAM

According to Ice Fishing Canada, our country is home to more ice fishermen than any other country in the world.

near the water (when it's this mild). But it's always a danger. You take a risk no matter the ice conditions."

Authorities recommend never fishing alone and always having the proper safety equipment. Items like ropes and ice awls are a must for every hard-water fisherman.

Laplante remembers an incident from a couple of years ago when a person fell through the ice on Brome Lake.

"And that happened in February, so you never know when it could happen," he said. The person who fell through was rescued and survived the ordeal.

While Ruel could not recall any recent incidents involving people falling through the ice, the SQ spokesperson is adamant that winter anglers take the necessary precautions if they do choose to go on the ice.

"If you want to go on a river or lake,

you have to have the right garments on. Also, put a life jacket on. It could make the difference between life and death if you fall in."

For more safety information, visit icefishingcanada.ca.

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WIKIMEDIA

Minimum wage to increase 15 cents in 2011

By Doug McCooeye

The Quebec Labour Minister Lise Thériault announced this week that the province's minimum wage would increase by 15 cents, moving from \$9.50 to \$9.65 per hour as of May 1, 2011. Tip workers were also given an extra 10 cents to their pay scale, moving to \$8.35 per hour.

Quebec has increased its minimum wage every year now for the last four years.

Thériault put a positive spin on Tuesday's announcement.

"Since 2003, the minimum wage in Quebec has progressed more than 30 percent, going from \$7.30 to \$9.50 per hour," she said via statement. "During that same time period, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 13 percent. Considering the current economic situation that calls for caution and a job market that is still fragile, we never-

theless decided to increase the minimum wage to maintain the purchasing ability of low revenue workers."

Not everyone is happy with the Labour Ministry's announcement.

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Destination

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

According to the release, Destination Sherbrooke will be managed by Denis Bernier and presided over by Bernard Chaput. The rest of the administration team has yet to be named.

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TOM CAVANAGH

A serious critic of Pope Benedict

It was quite a hatchet job Michael McDevitt recently did on the Pope and Catholicism, and there is much you

cannot argue with: for instance the pedophile scandals. Furthermore, I could be viewed as an improbable candidate to write a reply since I have been a serious critic of Pope Benedict and his large retinue of bureaucrats. As a result I have been labeled a fallen away Catholic by relatives and letter writers. However, although I've thought about walking away I never have. In turn I have been asked

rather frequently how I continue to believe and attend mass in a Church that is so... so.. (here I grope for the word) misguided, close-minded, disappointing, short-sighted, misdirected? Take your pick. My short answer is that going to Church on Sundays and listening to the gospels will never do me any harm. Well, probably not. My answer lacks theological profundity but it satisfies most of my questioners who, after all, are not seeking final truths.

It would be impossible to try to minimize items McDevitt mentions like the Inquisition, religious wars, corrupt popes, etc Thomas Hardy's poem (written in 1925) shows both his disillusion and cynicism with Catholicism and religion generally - and our own.

"Peace upon earth was said. We sing it."

"And pay a million priests to bring it."

"After 2000 years of holy mass"

"We've got as far as poison gas."

I first encountered Hardy's poem in my twenties and it was a sobering experience indeed. But we can get beyond it. I cannot provide a full response to McDevitt or Hardy but some different observations are in order.

I knew some great priests over my short lifetime. (Garveys, Sullivans, Hickys, Leahys, Sheehans. etc.) My rage over the pedophile scandals will never abate entirely. But there were and always are good priests over my lifetime and over the centuries.

Pope Benedict represents an ongoing problem for me. Back in 2005 when he was chosen pope, I wrote an op-ed piece entitled "Valium Time For Catholics." I argued and hoped for an open, flexible, and forward looking Church to meet the challenges of our day. Instead we get busi-

ness-as-usual approach wrapped in a commitment to roll the clock backwards. The management style is brief and simple: "I give the orders. You obey." No thanks say I. Roll back Vatican II? Like Cyrano, again I say no thank you. Forcing submission through punishment worked in centuries past. Not so well today.

A valid theological case can be made for the laity having a meaningful role in matters of faith. The Church has never denied my right to heed my own conscience in addition to priestly authority. And to place my conscience first. This tradition goes back over centuries. The Pope and his satraps do not always get the last word. The birth control saga is a recent perfect example of what the previous sentence means in practice. Benedict's penchant for exercising power as he chooses without reference to the laity is so misguided. His conviction that rules made by men long ago are synonymous with the word of God is also shaky. I would start with papal infallibility. Remember those famous buzz phrases of years ago. "What would Jesus do?" "What would Jesus drive?" I wonder what Jesus would say about that infallibility power grab in 1870.

One cannot address all areas that support a review of Church governance and leadership. However, the place of women in the Church should be addressed. I sometimes find it hard to believe that the Catholic Church as an institution confines half the world's population to an inferior status. Unbelievable as it sounds the Church has even pronounced it a sin to think about a change in the status of women. To be more specific, only men are worthy and hence qualified to be priests. Does Pope Benedict assume that will continue forever? Can he possibly believe that? Will the next pope have similar convictions? It is certainly possible. (Think Canada's Cardinal Marc Ouellet as papal candidate. And be afraid. Very afraid.) The Church is run by men. Well-intentioned I suppose, but as Lord Acton once said: "Power corrupts." Yet let us not despair. Things change. Expect the unexpected. Who would have believed a black American president? They say the Kennedys had a plan for when Bobby would be president, - and Teddy too. Life is unpredictable. A woman pope? Maybe someday.

Back in 1962 Vatican Council II opened in the hope of integrating church teaching and principles within the changing modern world. Controversy was inevitable and expected. Today Pope Benedict's theological goal seems to bury the Vatican II initiative and ideals. I believe and hope he will fail in part because of the unpredictability of the world. And there is always the good news. Christ's message. Lots of good news. Catholicism has had problems but there is hope and time. Or so it appears to me.

McDevitt mentions lateness of the hour, and he is right but, to repeat, there is a place for confidence. Setbacks and disasters yes, but the inspirational message survives. It has never changed. And who knows. Maybe someday we'll get it right. I mean the message. Love thy neighbor. Do unto others. Food for the hungry. Drink for the thirsty. Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after justice. goes on and on. Encouraging stories. Like the one in Bethlehem. So Deck the Halls and Merry Christmas to all.

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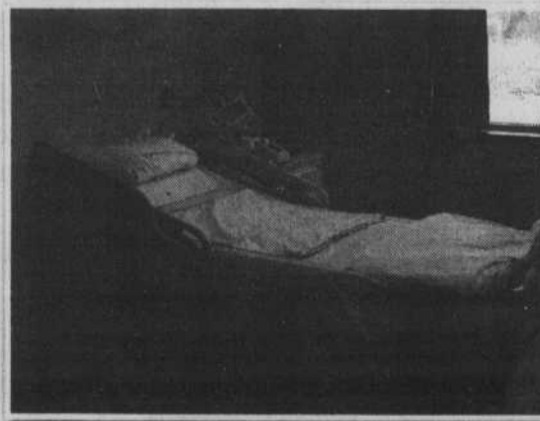
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Minimum wage to increase

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

Both Illusion-Emploi (a Sherbrooke-based non-profit organization that represents non-unionized workers) and the Association coopérative d'économie familiale de l'Estrie (ACEF) have characterized the increase as insufficient in recent reports.

In one online publication, ACEF coordinator Sylvie Bonin said that the increase does not meet the needs of the workers, adding that Quebec's minimum wage should be at \$10.69.

According to the Labour Ministry, 90 per cent of people earning minimum wage in August 2010 were working in the service industry, with a large portion of those people working in retail. Drastic increases in salaries (18.75 percent in the last three years) can create evident

difficulties for retail-based businesses.

However, despite the fourth increase in four years, The Quebec Retail Council says it is content with the Labour Minister's announcement, calling the increase "acceptable."

"(T)his decision by the Quebec Government is responsible and conforms to the socio-economic context inside which Quebec is currently evolving," said Gaston Lafleur, president of the retail council, via statement.

Thériault said that both the workers and the businesses are taken into consideration before the ministry makes its decision.

"When we increase the minimum wage, we are looking to increase the workers' revenues all while preserving

the competitiveness of our businesses," she said. "It's a complex exercise, because we want, on the one hand, to improve their financial situation and, on the other hand, support our economy and the jobs that are associated (...) it is possible to improve the situation of those who are most vulnerable while taking actions that favor the economic development of Quebec."

Ontario currently has the highest minimum wage in the country at \$10.25 per hour, with Newfoundland and Labrador and Nunavut coming next at \$10 an hour.

New Brunswick will see its minimum wage increased from \$9 to \$10 in stages through 2011. Nova Scotia increased its rate to \$9.65 an hour in October.

Manitoba recently increased their minimum wage to \$9.50, while Saskatchewan's sits at \$9.25.

Five provinces have minimum wages sitting at \$9 per hour or less: Northwest Territories (\$9), Yukon (\$8.93), Alberta (\$8.80), Prince Edward Island (\$8.80), and British Columbia (\$8).

All of the provinces have increased their wage rates at least once since 2008, save for B.C., which has not changed its minimum wage since 2001, a time when its workers enjoyed Canada's highest rate.

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OPINION

ETSB still good at platitudes

Doug Hooper

Having spent more than five decades in school either as a student or as a teacher, I find myself in the troubling situation of understanding very little of what goes on there. I don't think this is because I'm necessarily thick, although there are those who might characterize me that way. I think it's because the longer the institution of education survives as it is, the more it becomes concerned with its own survival. Because there are so many things wrong with the system, and because if taxpayers actually knew what was going on there would be a revolt, it sometimes seems as if school boards are intentionally trying to keep people in the dark.

There is the age-old, frustrating attitude of many administrators and others in authority, which suggests that parents and people not directly involved in the system can't possibly understand what the experts do, and they should stop trying. There's the annoying jargon of eduspeak that confounds even the most erudite among us. I used to use office memos as exercises for the correction of grammar. The kids loved it. Teaching is a subversive activity because if it weren't, nobody would learn anything.

The English language is a marvelous creation (I almost said "tool,"), and it is by far the most spoken language in the world, with the exception of Chinese - and there they have us beaten by sheer numbers. But for all its power and efficacy, the language will always fall short of expressing exactly what we feel. That is why there are so many different shades of meaning for the same word or expression: speakers throughout the centuries have tried to hone and perfect the language

to be sure to communicate concisely. Of course, this will always fail. It is simply a fact that a lexicon of symbolic expressions for thoughts and emotions will always be inadequate. For that reason, we should demand the highest level of articulate, erudite, informative speech from all our public officials, especially those entrusted with the education of our children.

Why is it then, that we tolerate and even revere speakers who dissemble with simplistic, ungrammatical, unoriginal and vacuous speech? When the laptop initiative began in the ETSB, the position espoused by the board was that it was a bold new educational initiative that would increase literacy and numeracy (we should have balked even there - numeracy? Even the American spellchecker on my computer knows that word doesn't exist) - and decrease the dropout rate.

There are a number of far less expensive initiatives that might decrease the dropout rate, but none of them has anything to do with learning, and sadly, neither do computers. And the fact that students stay in school is not proof that they're learning. Nevertheless, the initiative, which has cost the board untold millions and has not succeeded in what it set out to do, will not die.

The computers have died, and the board is now salvaging pieces of old machines to repair the newer ones, but that cannot last - eventually even these zombies will be scrap, and so the board returns to its proven methods by painting a rosy picture with platitudes and homilies.

Randolph MacLEAN, principal of ELS (Enhanced Learning Strategy), remote

schools and transportation services says, in a recent Record article, that parents can become part of a "purchase plan" to buy new machines. "For students in high school who will be going off to CEGEP or university in the near future, parents want technology that will transition with them," he said. (Transition, used as a verb, is very impressive, even if the sentence makes no sense).

No one has any idea these days, what the future holds, or what technology will come along to make laptops obsolete. Why then, are we fooled when officials tell us that computer literacy is a necessary skill for the future and must be taught in schools? Nobody can even say what computer literacy means! And nobody knows what skills might be important ten years from now - not that any of this has anything to do with education. It may have something to do with training. But let us save the training costs for the em-


ployers who will benefit from them and not expect taxpayers to foot that bill too.

I know a graduate from Massey Vanier who went on to earn a Software Engineering degree from McGill. He was recruited by Google to work at their California campus and subsequently he worked on a Google-based project in New York, which was bought out by AOL. One might think that this student was a model of the ELS. One would be mistaken. He graduated long before the ELS was even an idea, and his use of a computer at home was restricted to one hour a day. How did he learn so much about computers? He wanted to. It had nothing to do with schooling. It had to do with a desire to learn. Learning should be the key, not learning to be good at the use of some ephemeral technology.

Teaching students about their place in history and ways to adapt to change are the only "skills" they will need. Learning

is about creativity. If there's one thing institutions can't endure it's creativity. Creative people are unpredictable. Their ideas don't fit the accepted norms. They're often right, but there's no way to show why. And as Little Bill Daggit said about getting shot at, in Clint Eastwood's landmark film, Unforgiven, "That, flat rattles some folks."

Maybe we should start "rattling some folks" and demand some creativity from our school boards and politicians. Maybe we should measure their achievements by how creative they are in attacking problems and providing solutions. And maybe the way we measure their success should be by the clarity with which they express themselves. Maybe we should start to be very concerned when public officials believe that sound bytes, jargon and obfuscation are the way to succeed. Maybe we need to start asking a lot of embarrassing questions.



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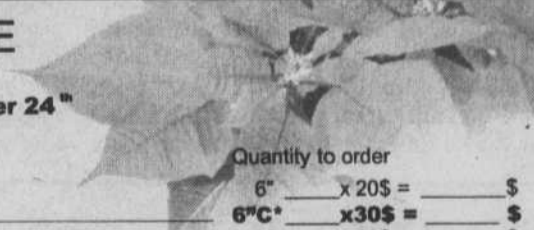
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EDITORIAL

The cowardice of our politicians and our own tendency to take the ostrich approach more than likely means that we will continue sailing into the iceberg with predictable results.



Mike McDevitt

Truth and consequences

Canada and the provinces have come under fire recently by the International Monetary Fund for failing to be honest about the true costs of our health care system in a report that claims that our current system is unsustainable. While the IMF can certainly not be counted among those institutions that view social programs in general kindly and has served to undermine much of the third world through its devotion to capitalism pure laine, in this case its criticisms perhaps should be taken seriously.

Canada has, on paper, one of the most generous and progressive health insurance schemes in the world, the story on the ground is stunningly different. Endless waits for crucial surgical procedures, for example have recently underscored some obvious problems, while the virtual impossibility of finding a family doctor has distanced a significant proportion of the population from those services that actually do exist. Fourteen-hour waits in 'emergency' rooms also tend to clarify the very real crisis we face. Our health care coverage may be universal, but if that translates into 'universally unavailable,' little comfort is provided.

During the last century, our ability to diagnose, treat and cure disease has expanded exponentially and modern technology and scientific knowledge continue to provide hope for millions of the afflicted. These advancements come at a considerable price as equipment and medication costs soar. In our attempt to keep everybody alive as long as possible, we are beginning to overburden a system that already accounts for an overwhelming proportion of our government budgets. As baby boomers age, this is only going to get worse as more and more of us enter our prime health care consumption years. Eventually, something has to give.

Government, of course, certainly lets us know that our health care costs are

extreme, but usually only in the context of justifying higher taxes, something politicians are increasingly loathe to do and medical politics often fails to take into consideration the burden some policies can place on the system. Something needs to be done and, more importantly, someone needs to have the courage to do it.

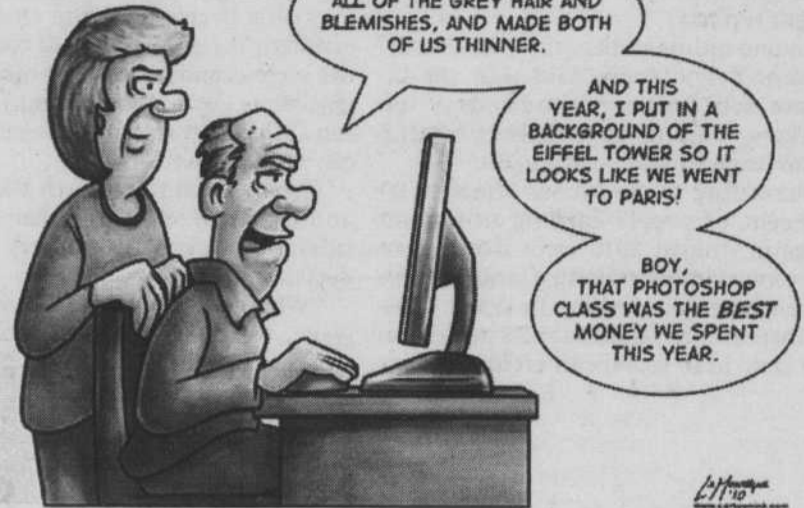
Here in Quebec, our government likes to boast about how progressive our system is and how everything from in vitro fertilization to abortion is subsidized by all of us. These may be justified inclusions, but they do come at a cost and increasingly it is one we can little afford. We are already the most highly taxed jurisdiction in North America and this fact tends to hold our economy hostage in many ways. The increasing demand for even more coverage - including prohibitively expensive medications - indicates that this problem is only getting worse and will eventually reach a breaking point, if it hasn't already.

While the IMF approach to government services may not be the answer to all of our woes, the need for honesty and forthrightness is indisputable.

Our politicians are aware that talk of looking closely into this issue is political dynamite and, as always in such cases, the preferred response is to delay and hide. Dealing with the reality will need to be job one.

Universal health care is a characteristic of this country of which we are most proud, surveys tell us, but if we fail to deal with the very real crisis we are in, it could become our greatest embarrassment. Unfortunately, the cowardice of our politicians and our own tendency to take the ostrich approach more than likely means that we will continue sailing into the iceberg with predictable results. We don't have enough lifeboats and some of us are going to drown. We owe it to ourselves to face the facts before we all do.

THE HOLIDAY E-CARD.



Letters

DEAR EDITOR,

A Christmas gift that leaves a bitter taste. Illusion-emploi responds to the announcement of Labour Minister Thériault over the minimum wage increase that will become effective on May 1, 2011.

We are very disappointed with the amount of the increase of the hourly rate of \$ 0.15. Until now, the government had made strides in the right direction with three consecutive increases of \$ 0.50 that had enabled the low income wage earners to keep their heads above water.

We want to stress the importance of conditions which respect human rights for workers. Income should help to people, who work full time get out of poverty and live in dignity.

At present, the minimum wage is insufficient to escape poverty for a person who works full time. The Quebec government must increase the minimum wage level. Our demand was for an hourly rate of \$10.69 in May 2010 (the amount will be higher in May 2011). We will still be far off the mark with an hourly rate of \$9.65.

The press release from the Minister noted that, with this new increase, a person who is employed 40 hours per week will earn, after taxes and transfers, 24.8% more than the low-income measurement. This measurement is set at an annual level of about \$14,000 U.S. dollars for a single person. The benchmark we use, and which is more realistic is the Statistics Canada Low Income measure. In this case, the threshold is set at over \$22,000 per year. The difference is considerable between the two references and this greatly affects the poverty statistics. It certainly serves our Government well to use the lower measuring figures.

Combined with inflation, the Charest government is clearly doing nothing to help.

MANON BRUNELLE,
COORDINATOR
ILLUSION-EMPLOI
TEL. : 819-569-9993.

DEAR EDITOR,

Just want to tell you how much I enjoyed your editorial on home invasion. People need to wakeup to this. As someone who's home was violated, I can tell you that you never feel safe again, and recently coming close to another bad experience has scared the hell out of me. The world is only getting worse, and worse as far as morals go, and if you keep slapping the wrists of people who do these things, it will only get more out of control. Thanks for speaking out for all of the innocent people who will be victimized if society sits back and does nothing.

Anna May Kinney
Bury, Quebec

THE RECORD

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COLUMNIST

I spoke not a word but left off cyber-work and knew in my heart, "Holy cow, what a jerk!"



ROSS MURRAY

At shopping I stink

This three nights before Christmas,

I should be out shopping,
Not watching the tree,
counting pine needles dropping.

The stockings are ready
for Christmas morn's filling.
The children all know
they'll be making a killing.

The gifts are all nestled
safe under the tree -
except for my wife's,
still not purchased by me.

For I am a moron
and she is a saint,
who's quite a good planner.
But me - well, I ain't.

When Christmas is nearing,
she's quick to attack
all the wish lists and queries;
she doesn't hold back.

Away to the outlets
she flies like a flash
and pays with her Visa,
though preferably cash.

The goons that stores hire to make shopping easy
are underpaid, surly and listless and sleazy.
You're looking and wondering which laptop to
buy,

they're dodging and snarling. "Who's serving? Not I."

With little old ladies so lively and quick
they'll be so darned rude it will make your heart
sick.

Yet quick like an eagle my wife makes her choice
and tallies and figures and says in full voice,
"Two iPods! One Barbie! Four undies and mittens!
On debit, on Visa, this toy cost a pittance!
From the top of the wish list, to the back of the
mall!

I've bought and I've bought and I've bought for
them all!"

As I sit and I think what my wife had to buy
when my only small obstacle
was, well - in short - I,
so clueless and hapless to know what to do -
buy some gifts for my wife.
But what? Wish I knew...

And then, in a brainstorm
I knew I'd buy time.
I pranced and I danced.
I'd go shopping online!

As I fired up Windows
and thought "Think like Mom,"
I signed in and logged into
Ebay-dot-com.

I was offered used furs and an elephant's foot
and some chimney-sweep garb stained with au-
thentic soot,
and bundles of baseball cards, five to a pack
that - transaction final - cannot be sent back.

My eyes how they twinkled! My mood grew so
merry!

Just thinking of gifts to my wife I would carry.
How droll to be making these last-minute scores,
Without stepping foot in those nightmarish stores.

The mouse in my hand I held tight as I clicked,
while I scrolled through the items like Cyber-St-
Nick.

I purchased white socks and some rum-flavoured
jelly,

James Bond DVDs and a wee British telly.

I was surfing and thrilled,
feeling just like an elf,
when I realized that - what!
- I had shopped for myself!

A rub of my eye
and a shake of my head
soon gave me to know
that I might be - quote - "dead."

I spoke not a word
but left off cyber-work
and knew in my heart,
"Holy cow, what a jerk!"

And laying my finger on
the shutting-down button
and hanging my head
muttered low, "I got nothin'!"

I sprang to the phone,
to The Record I'm pleading,
and quickly dictated this
poem that you're reading.

And so, here's a verse
for my wonderful wife:
At shopping I stink.
How 'bout I just write?

School News

Some holiday thoughts from St-Francis Elementary

DEAR SANTA:

Here at St-Francis Elementary School, we are preparing for Christmas. It never occurred to me the years before, but we look like we no longer have a school. Our teachers run an elves workshop!

Let me explain Santa.

We've been making Christmas cards for a fundraiser. We've held a Christmas concert for our school, the parents and the Wales Home here in Richmond. We made gifts for our family with our own two hands. We had a special turkey dinner, you came to see us, and teachers prepared special activities for us. We've collected a lot of food for the Christmas baskets and we are still working in our books in class.

But you know what Santa? It doesn't feel like work because we are so happy. But still we are learning some very important things like: organizing our time, being efficient, working with others, sharing and helping the community and teammates, being proud and happy because of a job well done.

My teacher said to enjoy this time of our life because it's some of our best years. I think she's right.

Have a very Merry Christmas Santa and I hope we've helped you a bit this year!

ST-FRANCIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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The Border Report

"This starts off our fundraising campaign for the year in a big way, and Buzz will be recognized on our library wall with a granite plaque in his name..."

Buzzy Roy gives big to Haskell

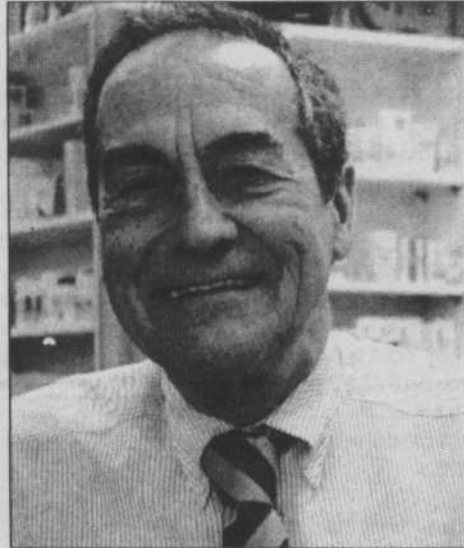
Matthew Farfan

Roland Roy, the affable owner of Brown's Drug Store on Main Street in Derby Line, Vermont, has decided to put his money where his mouth is in a very big way. Roy has made out a cheque to the Haskell Free Library and Opera House for \$5,000.

Roy — known as "Buzzy" or "Buzz" to his many friends and customers — has been active in this border community for years. He has served numerous terms as a trustee of the Village of Derby Line, and as a board member of the International Water Company, the international corporation that manages the drinking water supply for the communities of Derby Line and Stanstead, Quebec. Roy has donated to many worthwhile causes over the years. And he has served as a trustee on the board of the Haskell for several terms, including a spell as treasurer.

"I believe in giving to the community, especially if it's a worthwhile cause," he told the Record following the announcement of his donation. "And I know and appreciate what we have in this community with the Haskell."

Roy is also well aware of the fact that not many communities the size of Derby



MATTHEW FARFAN

Pharmacist Roland "Buzzy" Roy has made a very generous contribution to the Haskell in the name of Brown's Drug Store in Derby Line.

Line and Stanstead can boast anything like the Haskell.

"We are extremely lucky to have a library of this quality — not to mention the opera house. Serving on the board of the Haskell as I do, I have come to appreciate this institution even more. I can

also testify how much this library needs our help."

Besides being a pharmacist and community leader, Roy is also something of a local character. Earlier this year, he found himself becoming intensely irritated by the discourteous way that many local residents felt they were being treated by border officials and police. Taking the situation into his own hands, he decided to cross on foot into Canada three times in one day. Being a good, law-abiding citizen, he reported to Customs each time he entered Canada or returned to the US. The problem was, he dared to return to Vermont by Church Street, which Homeland Security now deemed a no-no.

But having crossed back and forth by Church Street all his life, Roy refused to see why he shouldn't continue to do so now. This was, after all, the friendliest border town in the world. On one of his trips home from Stanstead, he returned with a pizza. After his third trip he was immediately arrested and fined \$500. Not surprisingly, he contested his fine. And in a community that had long since run out of patience with what it perceived to be over-zealous border agents, he quickly became a folk hero. People all over Derby Line donned "Free Buzzy"

lapel pins.

So "Buzzy" Roy is not shy when it comes to standing up for what he believes in — whether it's crossing the border by Church Street with a nice comforting pizza, or giving his time (and now his money) to the Haskell Free Library.

Roy's donation comes at the perfect time. As most people know, the Haskell has been struggling. Thanks to the economy, the library's endowment has shrunk to the point where the institution has been operating with a deficit. The Haskell is appealing to nearby towns for help, as well as to patrons, businesses — anyone, in fact, who will listen. For 2011, an ambitious fundraising target of \$65,000 has been set.

Claire Roberts, who is president of the Haskell, said that she was "pleased and proud" to announce Roy's generous gift.

"This starts off our fundraising campaign for the year in a big way, and Buzz will be recognized on our library wall with a granite plaque in his name, as will anyone donating \$1,000 or more. We are very thankful and appreciate all donations in support of this special institution."

Storytelling, music, and puppets

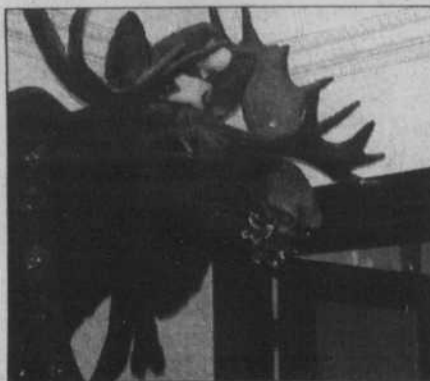


PHOTOS BY MATTHEW FARFAN

Claudette Picard and Papiloup (right) entertained kids at the Haskell last weekend.

Matthew Farfan

Storyteller Claudette Picard and guitarist-violinist Papiloup entertained kids last weekend at the Haskell Library, which has been festively decorated for the Christmas season.



Even the Haskell moose is in the spirit!

The reading room at the library was packed to capacity with young children and their parents as the Sherbrooke pair kept them entranced with a variety of Christmas-themed puppet shows and songs.

The puppet theatre itself was particularly beautiful, and the kids — especially the younger ones — really seemed to enjoy the show. The free show was part of the ongoing programming organized by the Haskell's Francophone section.

Fire department called to former convent

Matthew Farfan

The Stanstead Fire Department was called out in full force to the former Ursuline Convent on a snowy evening last week.

Concerned passers-by could not help but notice Stanstead's four fire trucks stationed outside the building, where they remained for several hours, hoses at the ready, and a full complement of fire fighters on hand.

Fire Chief James Runciman, however, told the Record that the incident turned out to be

minor, and apparently electrical-related, with no actual fire breaking out.

The former convent (or at least the south wing of the building) has been under renovation for the past several months. The building, which was constructed more than a century ago, is in the process of being transformed into a seniors' residence. Called Manoir Stanstead, it is slated to open for business this coming January — at least that is the date that has been most recently forecast for this oft-delayed project.



MATTHEW FARFAN

The fire department was recently called out to the former Ursuline Convent.

\$12 million in credit

Matthew Farfan

Although the total projected cost of the Pat Burns Arena, now under construction, is far below this amount, the town of Stanstead, at a special meeting last week, passed a motion expanding its line of credit with the Caisse Desjardins de Stanstead. That credit line, which will serve to finance the arena, will now be set at \$12 million. The interest rate will be 2.5 per cent.

Also at this special meeting, council passed a first draft of a future bylaw pertaining to the rezoning of a piece of town-owned land in Beebe. The land in question is the former Beebe industrial park.

In its more than twenty years of existence, the park has never been used by any industry, most new companies preferring to be located in the more convenient industrial park adjacent to Autoroute 55. And because the property is surrounded by residences, there has also been talk of potential noise problems should industries actually begin to make use of the site.

The Beebe industrial park has been the topic of discussion at various times over the years, most of it pertaining to the subdivision of the property into residential lots. A few years ago, a for sale sign was even placed on the site, but little interest was ever expressed by buyers. Now the town has begun the process that will ultimately lead to the rezoning of the site and its subdivision into smaller lots. A consultation meeting will be held after the new year.

And finally, the town has decided to purchase a used Ford truck from a town in the US. The truck is already fitted out as a fire department command centre, and it is in that capacity that it will be used in Stanstead. The total expense for this vehicle is \$16,500.

Christmas concert for seniors



JOSIANE CAILLET

Kids and their parents entertained local seniors last week at the CAB Rediker.

The Christmas time festivities continued last week at the Rediker Centre in Beebe. On Tuesday, and again on Thursday, the CAB held its regular "Health Days" for its French and English seniors groups. This time, however, there was something special on the agenda: a Christmas party!

Both seniors groups were entertained by the children from the CAB's Community Action Program for Children (PACE), a program that involves regular structured activities for young children and their parents. The kids, aged 0 to 5, came dressed in colourful holiday garb, and along with their parents, sang Christmas carols for the seniors.

Marie Chartier, who has two children in the program, even brought along her violin to accompany the youngsters. The seniors in attendance on both days seemed to thoroughly enjoy the entertainment, and sang along with the kids.

Following the carols, the seniors were treated to a delicious Christmas lunch, prepared by the staff of the Rediker Centre.

2011 Jeep Compass, finding its way



2011 Jeep Compass

By Brian Harper

Postmedia News
Jackson Hole, Wyo.

Would it have killed Chrysler to have found a venue just as rugged, but perhaps a tad milder and maybe just a bit less - how shall I put it - wintry? Perhaps something in a desert locale? But, no, Chrysler's Jeep division chose to unveil its 2011 lineup here, an area known for its skiing (that would be the famous Jackson Hole ski resort) and extreme mountain sports, appropriate for a brand known for its sturdy, go-anywhere-anytime four-wheel-drive products.

Well, mostly. Then there's the Compass, Jeep's attempt at a car-based, compact soft-roader that was designed to compete with the likes of the Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4 and numerous other rivals.

Its debut for the 2007 model year saw the Compass sharing its unibody platform with its tougher-looking Patriot sibling as well as the Dodge Caliber. Considered by some to be more of a crossover-styled wagon than an SUV, the Compass's fully independent suspension and front-wheel-drive version were both firsts for Jeep. But it was also the only model within Jeep's lineup with a four-wheel-drive system not "Trail Rated" for more extreme off-road duties.

The 2011 model year sees big changes for the Compass, with a bunch of interior upgrades, improved ride and handling characteristics, a substantial sheetmetal restyling that has the junior SUV emulating the look of the new Grand Cherokee and - finally shedding its wimp factor - an available 4WD system that's Trail Rated.

The powertrain, which the Compass shares with the Patriot, remains as before. The 172-horsepower 2.4-litre four-cylinder "World Engine" is standard on all models - Sport, North and Limited - and is paired with a standard five-speed manual. Available on the Sport and North trims is a more fuel-

efficient, 158-hp 2.0L four-cylinder, also mated to a five-speed manual. The optional transmission is a continuously variable unit, recalibrated along with the engine, says Chrysler, for better fuel economy as well as better passing performance.

In addition to the standard front-wheel-drive system, the Compass is available with Freedom-Drive I 4x4 and the new Freedom-Drive II Off-Road Package. The first is an available full-time active 4WD system with lock mode to handle deep snow, sand and other low-traction surfaces. The second includes a continuously variable transmission with low range (that engages when the off-road mode is activated), 17-inch all-terrain tires, skid plates, tow hooks and Jeep's Trail Rated badge, which means the ability to "handle moderate off-road situations that include steep grades, occasional wheel lift and rock or log climbing," says Chrysler.

The Compass's exterior revisions are striking, as if Chrysler has decided to exorcise the previous version's cutesy, somewhat ungainly persona and replace it with something decidedly more serious. Gone are the big, round headlights, Wrangler-like toothy grille and turn signals integrated into the big flared fenders. A new hood with a subtle power bulge, new front fenders, new fascia and new headlamps as well as a new smaller and wider grille with the traditional seven slots project a more sobering and sophisticated appearance.

Lighting is improved with the use of quad reflector headlamps and the fog lamps are now high-output projector lamps. At the back, a new rear fascia, new body-colour rear spoiler and subtle touches including new LED tail lamps and, on the topline Limited, bright trim on the step pad and a chrome exhaust tip embellish the Compass. Standard wheels are 17-inch aluminum rims, with 18-inch aluminum or chrome-clad wheels on the Limited.

The cabin is as substantially revised as the exterior, with Chrysler taking to

heart criticism regarding the previous Compass's cheap and plasticky materials. Upgrades include new soft-touch front-door trim panels with a padded upper surface, new centre armrest, a new three-spoke steering wheel with integrated controls, new cloth interior with premium cloth bucket seats in the front, standard cruise control on all models and new backlighting of door switches, door locks, windows and power mirror controls. The end result of all this and more is a refined SUV that is closer to the Jeep heritage than its predecessor.

I drove a U.S.-spec Latitude version (approximately equivalent to the mid-level North) with the 2.4L engine, CVT and Freedom-Drive I drivetrain.

While no road rocket - and keeping in mind that at Jackson Hole's elevation (about 1,900 metres above sea level), the four-cylinder is putting out less than its advertised 172 hp - it has enough oomph to keep up with all the other 4x4s and all-wheel-drive vehicles (and they are in the majority) plying the roads. More impressive was the drivetrain's level of grip on roads that ranged from centre bare to snow-covered and slick - and that was with all-season tires, not winter rubber. When the going got particularly slippery, I engaged the lock mode and the Compass tracked beautifully.

Equally as spectacular was the cabin's new-found comfort as well as its quietness, which is as good if not better than anything in the segment.

It was always too easy to criticize the old Compass as a case of too little too late. While the latter is still problematic for Chrysler, the former has been addressed - the 2011 is no longer the little Jeep that couldn't.

Compass models start at \$18,995 for the base 4x2 Sport and \$21,195 for the 4x4 version. They will be arriving at dealerships shortly.

Postmedia News
bharper@nationalpost.com

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Local Sports

As one gets older, and sometimes wiser, there comes a realization that giving is far more rewarding than receiving.

Santa brings cheer to those far and near

By Santa Claus
Special to the Record

As I have mentioned in previous years I am a believer in Christmas, its spirit of giving, family get-together and all its traditions that make it a special time of year. I want snow on Christmas Eve, real Christmas trees, church services for those who believe and a steady diet of movies that remind of a Put on Miracle on 34th Street (original version only), A Christmas Carol, It's a Wonderful Life and of course Going My Way, and I am a very happy camper. I have no pretensions that for many people, Christmas and its accompanying feasts are merely vacation days and a chance to rake up some nice gifts.

And that is fine but for me it remains something different, a connection to a different time and place. A personal Christmas tradition of mine is to shed a few tears at the end of Going My Way when the St. Dominic's choir begins to sing TOO-RA-LOO-RA-LOO-RAL and I do so unabashedly.

As one gets older, and sometimes wiser, there comes a realization that giving is far more rewarding than receiving.

With that in mind here are some Christmas presents from Sports Santa.

A weekend retreat for **Jack Todd and Don Cherry** so they can spend some quality time discussing the finer nuances of hockey and politics.

A final retirement, this time for keeps, for future hall-of-famer **Brett Favre**. The spirit is willing but the body isn't and it is time to move on.

A few mistake-free games for Montreal Canadiens rookie defenceman **P. K. Subban**. Subban has future greatness stamped all over him but he needs to regain his confidence and swagger.

A good savings plan for **National Basketball Association and National Football League players** as the two leagues head for a possible lockout season that would leave hundreds of millionaire athletes unemployed.

And now for those closer to home;

Andy Elliot - a long, prosperous and fruitful retirement as the longtime teacher, coach and mentor leaves Stanstead College "into that great unknown called retirement." Andy is a class act who, like so many other high school coaches, served an invaluable role to the young athletes under his charge.

Bob Halsall - a winning streak for Halsall's beloved New York Rangers. The Blueshirts are on pace to make the playoffs, although a long post season run is unlikely, but hope springs eternal for Galt's popular activities coordinator and assistant hockey coach.

Steve Zatylny and family - peace and fond memories for the entire Zatylny family during this holiday period as they spend their first Christmas without their patriarch, John Zatylny.

Eddie Pomykala - a New England road atlas and GPS system so that he can properly navigate the back roads of New England in search of students for Bishop's University.

Ralph McCully - two Montreal Canadiens flags to adore his Ford. The flags will complete McCully's Montreal memorabilia, which includes Montreal-crested sweater, gloves, toque and underwear. And while Santa is at it, perhaps he could throw in a few wins in Florida next week.

Tony Addona - a brand new shovel so the Bishop's University athletic director can jumpstart the ground breaking of the school's new 30-million dollar athletic and recreation facility.

Marge and Stewart Gear - a winter

cottage in Burlington, Vermont so they can see daughter Lori's Vermont Catamounts women's basketball team play on a regular basis and also baby-sit their two grandchildren, Jackson and Allie.

Stephanie Kay - a great regular season and a playoff run for Kay's new employers, the Toronto Blue Jays. The former Massey-Vanier female athlete of the year has had a meteoric career in sports management since graduating from Concordia University. She began her career as an intern with Basketball Canada, moved to event management with the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts and recently accepted a position with the major league baseball club.

Rod Gilpin - a win later next week when the Bishop's Gaiters play in the *Classique de Carabins* in Montreal. The win would not only snap a 0 for 19 slump, but also give the Gaiters much needed momentum for the second half of the Quebec University Basketball League season.

Glen Faucher - a belated photo credit for an excellent action picture of Jean-Michel Gosselin that appeared in Tuesday's Record. Faucher taught Gosselin at Sherbrooke Elementary School.

Stephan Lebeau - a few more talented hockey players as the Bishop's College School Bears continue to rebuild the school's hockey program. Lebeau has coached the Champlain Cougars, Victoriaville Tigers, Magog Cantonniers and BCS teams following his retirement from professional hockey and returning to the Sherbrooke area and has done a great job at each stop.

Leroy Blugh - a strong recruiting year for the Bishop's University football coach. The Gaiters are losing several key veterans from their 2010 playoff squad and need to continue the strong recruit-

ing classes of the past few years.

Dave McBride - Santa has trouble finding the perfect gift for the man that seemingly has everything, but on closer inspection the workaholic Directory of University Advancement and former university basketball all-star could use two weeks at a Caribbean resort with his lovely wife Ashley.

Brent Loach - a speedy recovery for the former Alexander Galt/Champlain College basketball star who suffered a brain injury and is now recovering in the Townships.

Gord Smith - the Eastern Townships' most eligible bachelor - a year supply of Skippy All-Natural Smooth Peanut Butter. The behind-the-scenes man at Bishop's University's Price Center handles every task, big or small, with efficiency.

Bob Kay - a state-of-the-art Fox 40 whistle - the longtime coach at Massey-Vanier High School has moved to the other side in his retirement days and is now refereeing. While we are at it perhaps we could give Bob some extra patience to deal with coaches who question officials' calls.

Finally I would encourage everyone to say a few prayers for **Tony Proudfoot and his family**. As a football player he harnessed his athletic ability with savvy play and unrelenting effort. As a teacher and coach he combined his intelligence and dedication to help others. It is as a person that Proudfoot has really shined, particularly in what could have been his darkest moments. He fought his toughest battle, one he could not win, with class and dignity. He also taught us how to handle adversity and it is an invaluable lesson. God bless.

And to all a Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a happy and prosperous 2011.

The Harfang Bantam AA ready for the big day

By Michael Innes

Boxing day for the players of the Harfang Bantam AA hockey team will be a big and important one. They will not be out shopping for the latest MP3 player or Play Station, but will be getting ready to face off against the Russians at the 29th edition of the Sherbrooke International Bantam Tournament.

Last year the Harfang made it to the big final in the AA class, surprising just about everybody but dropping the game to the Prédateurs du St-Laurent. This year's edition of the team is much smaller but full of talent and hopes to make it to the grand final. With eight rookies in the lineup this year they have little experience in a tournament like this one.

"We can count on five veteran players, and a total of 11 that have experience in the tournament either in the CC, BB or AA class," said head coach Jean-François Grégoire minutes after practice earlier this week. "Our team is much younger this year but full of talent, we only lack on experience."

We may be smaller than last year but we make it up with our talent," said Frédéric Aubé, who took part in the tournament last year. "Our preparation over the past weeks has been for the tournament. We know that the Russians don't like to be checked, we are faster and have worked on different aspects of the game."

Grégoire will have to control his players who are excited about playing in the tournament.

"The move from Eugène Lalonde to the Rock Forest arena because of the blue-collar strike can be an advantage for us. Instead of playing on the large rink we will play on a smaller one, we have a fast team that can play physical," said Grégoire, who has experience with European hockey. Grégoire played in several tournaments as well as playing pro.

"I have played with them and I have played against them and my experience should help me with my team."

Grégoire is a little disappointed with the organizers "We start out with two big games in two days. We play the Russians on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. before playing Belle Tire from Detroit on Monday at 6:15 p.m., both games are at the Rock Forest arena" said Grégoire.

Tuesday will be a big day for the young players with two games to finish the preliminary round. The first one is set for 11:45 a.m. against the Seigneurs de Milles-Iles before facing off against the Huskies of Abitibi-Témiscamingues Ouest at 7:30 p.m.

The Harfang are on a roll right now with seven straight wins. The tournament gets underway at 12:30 p.m. on December 26 at both the Rock Forest and



Left to right, Frédéric Aubé, coach Jean-François Grégoire and Gabriel Fontaine.

Bromptonville arenas.

Grégoire has only one request for fans.

"It's the same thing every year. The main attraction is the Russians and fans always support them. It's kind of insulting to see fans support the other team. If it's the same this year we will just use their support to motivate ourselves even more," said Grégoire.

MICHAEL INNES

DR. GOTT



Hyperkalemia puzzles reader

By Peter H. Gott, M.D.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please explain to me what causes high potassium levels. I have been diagnosed with high potassium, but don't know exactly how high it is or the cause. When I watched my diet, the levels came down.

DEAR READER: The technical name for high potassium is hyperkalemia. Normal readings are between 3.6 and 4.8 milliequivalents per liter (mEq/L) determined by simple lab testing.

The most common causes are related to the kidneys and include either acute kidney failure or chronic kidney failure. Less common causes are type I diabetes, the excessive use of alcohol, Addison's disease, ACE inhibitors, red-blood-cell destruction, NSAIDs and an excessive use of supplements containing potassium. Let's hit on these briefly.

Kidney failure is the inability of the kidneys to function properly. Acute failure is marked by low amounts of urine with a rapid buildup of nitrogen waste in the blood. Causes include acute infection, a blocked urinary tract, injury, burns and other causes.

Chronic failure can be the result of many diseases.

Type I (insulin-dependent) diabetes is caused either by failure of the pancreas to release adequate insulin into the body or by a defect in the portions of the cells that accept the insulin.

Excessive alcohol consumption or drug use can cause a breakdown of muscle fibers, resulting in the release of potassium into the bloodstream.

Addison's disease is caused by partial or complete failure of the adrenal gland, which is responsible for many bodily functions. Causes include infection, bleeding into the gland and tumor.

ACE inhibitors are drugs prescribed for several purposes, one of which is to lower blood pressure readings. Unfortunately, some individuals with renal artery narrowing can experience a worsening of kidney function.

Red-blood-cell destruction can occur because of a number of conditions and diseases. This autoimmune disorder can either be inherited or acquired.

NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) are available over-the-counter for control of headaches, mild to moderate pain from exercise such as gardening or sports injuries, fever, menstrual cramps and more. Examples include aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen. If you are consuming NSAIDs, speak with your physician regarding other options.

Potassium deficiency is rare with a balanced diet, but excesses are certainly a possibility if supplements are taken. Average intake for individuals 10 and over is 2,000 mg. or 51 Meq per day. This essential mineral is readily available in many foods, including salmon, cod, chicken, broccoli, peas, tomatoes, lettuce, spinach, potatoes and potato skins, apples, avocados, bananas and a great deal more. Potassium regulates acidity, water balance and blood pressure. Not all vitamin supplements contain potassium so label reading is vital. Should you be on a supplement and consume a regular healthful diet, this alone might be the cause for your hyperkalemia.

If you don't consume additional potassium, speak with your physician to rule out other possible causes.

To provide related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Vitamins & Minerals." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed stamped No. 10 envelope and a \$2 check or money order to Newsletter, P.O. Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092-0167. Be sure to mention the title or print an order form off my website at www.AskDrGottMD.com.

Dr. Peter H. Gott is a retired physician and the author of several books, including "Live Longer, Live Better," "Dr. Gott's No Flour, No Sugar Diet" and "Dr. Gott's No Flour, No Sugar Cookbook," which are available at most bookstores or online. His website is www.AskDrGottMD.com.

This poem was read by the Reverend Allan Gault at the Carols and Lessons Service at Trinity Anglican Church, Cowansville on December 12, 2010

*T'was the month before Christmas
When all through our land,
Not a Christian was praying
Nor taking a stand.
See the PC Police had taken away
The reason for Christmas-no one could say.
The children were told by their schools not to sing
About Shepherds and Wise Men and Angels
and things
It might hurt people's feelings, the teachers
would say
December 25 is just a "Holiday".
Yet the shoppers were ready with cash,
checks and credit
Pushing folks down to the floor just to get it.*

Hatley United Church news

The members and friends of the Hatley United Church have spent a joyous Advent Season under the leadership of Rev. Mead Baldwin.

On Friday, December 17, approximately 30, ages 1 1/2 years to oldtimers, spent the evening walking from house to house, ringing door bells and singing Christmas carols and winter songs to those who appeared in windows and door ways. Thank you to everyone who gave us such "warm welcomes". We gathered at the vestry to enjoy "snowman soup" and cookies later.

On Sunday, December 19, the Hatley Board of Stewards cooked and served a "Bethlehem Brunch" to members and friends following the Church service. During the service, the traditional Christmas story was presented by our enthusiastic Sunday School children. This heartwarming service was filmed by a Provincial Government Heritage Society, and will later be available at their website.

Several weeks ago, Rev. Mead introduced to us an exciting adventure of "secret pen pals", a wonderful way to share letters between Sunday School children and members of the congregation. Each participant chose a name for themselves and our mail man, Mead, paired us up. Letters were written each week and we "set out" to guess who our pen pal was. The time of revelation took place immediately following the Church service and before the Bethlehem brunch. Many surprises and much joy to find our secret friends. Thank you Mead. What a wonderful way to interact with everyone interested in participating.

We, of the Hatley United Church, wish to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a blessed, healthy New Year.

Submitted by
Dorinne McIntyre

Xmas Poem

*CDs from Madonna, an XBOX, an I-pod
Something was changing, something quite odd!
Retailers promoted Ramadan and Kwanzaa
In hopes to sell books by Franken and Fonda.
As Targets were hanging their trees upside down
At Lowe's the word Christmas-was no where to be found.
At K-Mart and Staples and Penney's and Sears
You won't hear the word Christmas, it won't touch your ears
Inclusive, sensitive, Di-ver-si-ty
Are words that were used to intimidate me.
Now Daschl. Now Darden. Now Sharpton, Wolf Blitzen
On Boxer, on Rather, on Kerry, on Clinton!
At the top of the Senate, there arose such a clatter
To eliminate Jesus, in all public matter*

In Memoriam

SCHINCK - In loving memory of a dear mother, Margaret (December 23, 1995), sister, Sheila (September 25, 1976) and father, Gaston (October 25, 2004).

THE CHRISTMAS CANDLE

*Another cold, snowy December morning
With Christmas quickly approaching
A Christmas candle stands alone on a window sill, somewhere
Its flame flickers brightly
Through the frosty, glass pane
Casting a soft, gentle glow on precious memories of Christmas Past
Suddenly one or more empty chairs at the family festive table appear,
A solemn, empty feeling filling the room
Another flicker of light
The Christmas Candle burns steadfast
Illuminating the room and occupants
Engulfing the sadness and sparking the magical feeling of Christmas
At once remembering the birth of our Lord.
Jesus Christ
Providing courage and hope to those here
Remembering and honoring the ones who cannot be
Knowing that the chairs are empty no longer
For they that are in Heaven are too kneeling before the crib of Jesus
Wiping the tears from one's eyes
To share in the joy & magic that is Christmas.
"We keep those precious memories of loved ones in our hearts,*

We keep their hearts in our hearts".
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RATES and DEADLINES: ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

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Text only: 34¢ per word. Minimum charge \$8.50 (\$9.69 taxes included)

Discounts: 2 insertions or more: 15% off

With photo: additional \$18.50. **DEADLINE:** 11 a.m., day before publication.

BIRTHDAY, ANNIVERSARY & GET-WELL WISHES, ENGAGEMENT NOTICES:

Text only: \$7.00 (includes taxes)

With photo: \$20.00 (\$22.79 taxes included) **DEADLINE:** 3 days before publication.

WEDDING WRITE-UPS, OBITUARIES:

\$19.50 (\$22.22 taxes included) **WITH PHOTO:** \$29.50 (\$33.62 taxes included)

Please Note: All of the aforementioned (except death notices) must be submitted typewritten or neatly printed, and must include the signature and daytime telephone number of the contact person. Can be e-mailed to: classad@sherbrookerecord.com - 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) or e-mail: production@sherbrookerecord.com 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.

Submitted by Evelyn Beban Lewis

TOWNSHIPS' CRIER

DANVILLE

The Royal Canadian Legion will hold a New Year's Eve Party, December 31, 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Entertainment with Buckshot. Buffet included. Only 150 tickets. Reservations necessary! 819-839-2581 or 819-434-1005.

MELBOURNE

Come and help us celebrate the birth of Christ on Friday, December 24 at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Route 243, Melbourne.

LENNOXVILLE

The MS Branch 2000 invites you to stop by Proviso in Lennoxville at 169 Queen on Thursday and Friday, December 23 & 24, to buy their "Candle of Hope", \$5.00 or give any donation possible. The MS

Branch 2000 successfully made a huge difference in the life of "Our Debbie" who had her CCSVI Procedure last November. It was through your generosity this was possible. The public made her dream come true. Thank you so much. We are wishing you a very Happy Holiday Season. God Bless you. The "Candle of Hope" will help send Lee Aulis, the Branch President, for this treatment. Lee is slowly watching helplessly MS take control of her life. Money sent to the MS Society through the mail is not used for Direct help, we are not part of this Society. Please help. Your donation is our only hope.

COOKSHIRE/BURY

December 24: Christmas Eve services with Holy Eucharist for the Parish of Eaton-Dudswell-Victoria will be celebrated at St. Peter's Church, Cookshire at 2 p.m. and at St. Paul's Church, Bury at 4 p.m. with Canon Harold Brazel and the Rev. Wanda Dillabough. At 7 p.m., a service of Carols at St. Lawrence Church, Lawrence, led by William Lyon. All are

welcome.

SHERBROOKE/LENNOXVILLE

Holy Communion Family Service Christmas Eve celebration. All are welcome to come celebrate the Feast of the Nativity, 4 p.m. at Church of the Advent, 473 Bowen St. South, Sherbrooke and at 7 p.m. at St. George's Anglican Church, 84 Queen St., Lennoxville. The Venerable Dean E. Ross officiating. "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given", Isaiah 7:14.

SOUTH DURHAM

Carol Service at South Durham United Church on Thursday, December 23 at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome.

LENNOXVILLE

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 256 Queen Street, Lennoxville. Worship Service on December 26 at 10:30 a.m. - the first Sunday after Christmas and the last of the passing year. Everyone is welcome!

LENNOXVILLE

Christmas Eve Worship Service in St. Mark's Chapel, Bishop's University at 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

SHERBROOKE

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch #10, 971 Galt. St. East, would like to take this time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Also, there will be a New Year's Eve party with music by Guy and buffet at midnight. For reservations, 819-563-4944.

...
This column accepts items announcing events organized by churches, service clubs and recognized charitable institutions for a \$7.00 fee, \$10.00 for 2 insertions of same notice, \$13.00 for 3 publications. Maximum 35 words. If you have more than 35 words the charge will be \$10.00 per insertion. Requests should be mailed, well in advance, to The Record, P.O. Box 1200, Sherbrooke, Quebec, J1H 5L6, be signed and include a telephone number and payment. Telephone requests will not be accepted. Admission charges and trade names will be deleted. No dances.

Saving a Son and a Marriage

Dear Annie: I've been married to a wonderful man for 26 years. We are compatible in every way except when it comes to my 28-year-old son, "Jeremy." Jeremy has epilepsy, diabetes and a host of other problems. Recently, the two of them had a terrible fight. Jeremy put all of his belongings in a bag and left. We had no idea that he was simply camping out in our backyard.

In the middle of the night, we heard a noise and a loud scream. Jeremy had had a severe epileptic seizure, and we called 911. The paramedics noticed he had written on his hand, "Do not revive." We later found out he had tried to commit suicide by swallowing three bottles of pills.

Jeremy has not been a perfect son. He has lied to my husband and stolen minor things. My husband wants him gone, but he knows I won't kick him out when he has so many medical problems. Instead, my husband now refuses to have anything to do with him. He hasn't spoken to Jeremy in two days, and he's also becoming rather cold to me.

I cannot choose between my husband

and my son. I love them both. And strange as it seems, Jeremy says he loves his stepfather and has apologized for all his past mistakes. Do you have any suggestions? — Hurting Mother

Dear Hurting: We understand your concern for your son, but unless Jeremy plans to spend the rest of his life with you, he needs to learn how to manage his various illnesses and become more independent. You should not be taking over responsibilities that he can handle for himself. The two of you can contact the Epilepsy Foundation (epilepsyfoundation.org) at 1-800-332-1000 and the American Diabetes Association (diabetes.org) at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) and ask for assistance. Talk to Jeremy's doctor about his depression. He should look into his eligibility for disability programs. This is the best thing for Jeremy — and incidentally, for your marriage, as well.

Dear Annie: I will never look at my driver's license the same way again. Two days ago, my nephew received a heart

Annie's Mailbox

transplant and a renewed chance at life.

Now when I look at my driver's license, the words "organ donor" proudly shine out at me. I hope someday my death will give another person a chance for life, as one family unselfishly did for my nephew. I want to say to his donor family that even though the recipients of your generous and ultimate donation appreciate their great fortune, we also grieve for your loved one. Your family will always be in our prayers. Thank God for your generosity. — Toledo, Ohio

Dear Toledo: Thank you for your poignant reminder of the good that each of us can do by becoming an organ donor. Those who are interested can also contact the National Kidney Foundation (kidney.org) at 1-800-622-9010 or the Health Resources and Services Administration (organonor.gov) at 1-888-ASK-HRSA (1-888-275-4772).

Dear Annie: I didn't like your answer to "Gagging in California," who couldn't stand to be near smokers because of the

odor. You said to be honest about why she was avoiding someone. You're wrong. Smokers would not prefer to know why someone is moving away from them — that would be embarrassing and hurtful.

Anyone who is offended by an odor should politely make an excuse to move away, but should never tell the smoker that they smell. That would be rude, unnecessary and not appreciated. — Still Smoking

Dear Still: You seem both hypersensitive and defensive. We did not tell "Gagging" to inform smokers that they smell. We said it's better to tell them you have a tough time breathing around smokers than to simply avoid them and not say why. That would be not only dishonest, but hurtful, especially if the smoker is a close friend or relative.

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

The Cock-A-Doodle News from Order of the Eastern Star

Worthy Grand Matron Fabienne Winter and Worthy Grand Patron Eric Sanborn picked the title of Cock-a Doodle News for their newspaper. They both admitted to being very busy since taking office, especially in Installation meetings in the various chapters. They also congratulated their Installing Teams for jobs well done with great pride. Shawville Chapter #50 initiated three new members at its meeting on November 20. The evening finished with a meal of pea soup and hot smoked meat with salad. On December 11, Fidelity Chapter in Pierrefonds will be celebrating with a wonderful turkey dinner to which all were invited. It was hoped that the weather would remain good so that they could attend all chapter meetings, especially those celebrating Christmas and wished the members joy, health, peace and unity at this time of the year and for the year to come.

Tink's Tank - Westmount Chapter #9 welcomed the Worthy Grands to their installation on November 25 and also voted on two new members, who will be initiated on January 27. The meeting on December 9 will be a Christmas celebration

with a special dinner: Cowansville Chapter #17 celebrated its 88th birthday and welcomed the Worthy Grands to its Installation on November 22. The B.M.P. Hospital was pleased with the donation received from the sale of 280 travel pins, received from members, at Brome Fair. Sister Brenda Stone received her Aunt Beverly's 35 year pin, Worthy Matron Donna and Worthy Patron Bryan Mitchell chose Palmer Cox for their theme this year. A new member was voted on at this meeting and will be initiated with the degrees at the December meeting: Friendship Chapter #15 had its Installation on November 23 and enjoyed refreshment following the meeting. They will enjoy the celebration of Christmas at the December 21 meeting when a gift exchange will take place from ones placed under the tree: Victory Chapter #34 held its installation on November 5. The December 3 meeting will also be a Christmas celebration with gifts under the tree: Cookshire Chapter #46 had its Installation on November 24 followed by a social hour and will hold its Christmas party on December 15 when an exchange of gifts and a Pot Luck lunch

will take place: Shawville #50. Charter member Sister Ann Riddell's funeral was held in London, Ontario. Brother Art Shore P.G.P. and Sister Betty Shore W.M. were able to attend. They also hosted a very successful Barbecue this past summer and raised \$200 for the dialysis unit in Shawville Hospital. Sister Bea Hooper opened a massage business in September. On November 20 the chapter initiated three new members.

Congratulations to the following - 65 year pin Marjorie Sellers #9 and Isabel Armstrong P.M. #35; 60 year pin Bernice Grant P.M. #45, Jean Mason P.M. #45, Patricia Richards P.M. #45, Patricia Dinning P.M. #46, Patricia Rowland P.M. #46; 50 year pin Charlotte Wescott P.M. #2, Ethel "Gloria" Bell #9, Franklin Shaw P.M. #17, Catherine Orr #34, Elsie Gordon P.M. #50. The winners of ESTARL (Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership) John Melbrew (3rd award) sponsored by Friendship Chapter #15 and Johanne Gendron (2nd award) sponsored by Lake St. Louie Chapter #45.

David Sherk P.P. #55 thanked Sister Beverly Sanborn for appointing him Grand

Representative to Oregon, when she was Worthy Grand Matron. He has had a great friendship with his counterpart Hazel Harrison, who informed him in the spring that she was getting married at the age of 91. Congratulations.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Brother Nick Samalack P.G.P. who passed away on November 8 and to Brother Fred Burns P.G.P. on the death of his sister Mary Ardelle Burns-Scott on November 29.

Happy Birthday to the December Sisters and Brothers living locally - Catherine Lawrence #35 (3rd), Elsie Page #35 (3rd), Donna Mitchell #17 (20th), Russell Lawrence

#35 (31st) and O.E.S. Anniversaries Locally - Mabel Brown #17 (1938), Isabel Armstrong #35 (1945), Helene Lengacher #35 (1962), Florence Jenne #17 (1972), Bryan Mitchell #17 and Donna Mitchell #17 (1984), Celina Lengacher #35 (1990).

Wishing you the Merriest of Holidays and the Very Best in the New Year.

Star Love until 2011
Evelyn Beban Lewis
(Publicity)

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: U equals W

"YBBVZMO LNFDB FT FJS LNFDBL
KMS LNKDL, OBRZMO BABM KMS
FMB-PVVZMO, KJUKIL HKYBL IFP
JBLL RCKM IFP KDB." - HKJNFJH
TFDWBL

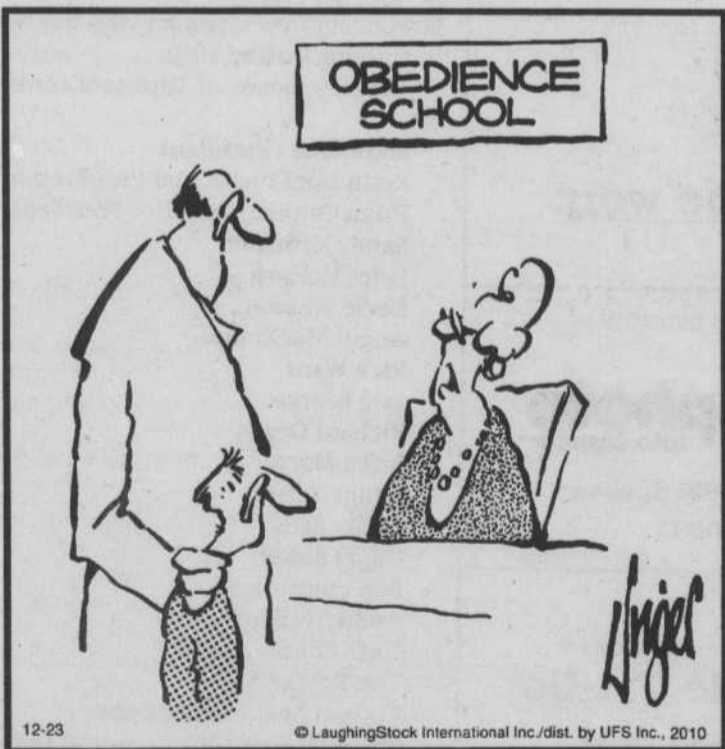
PREVIOUS SOLUTION: "Life, as I discovered, holds no more wretched occupation than trying to make the English laugh." - Malcolm Muggeridge

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KIT N' CARLYLE



HERMAN



"We only do dogs."

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THE BORN LOSER



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REQUESTING MUSICIANS for atmosphere for Christmas day, December 25, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Price to be discussed. Call 819-563-1324.

THE RECORD is looking for part-time evening workers to insert newspapers. Must be in good physical condition and have own vehicle. Call 819-569-9528 and leave message or email: accounting@videotron.ca. Only people selected for this job will be called back.

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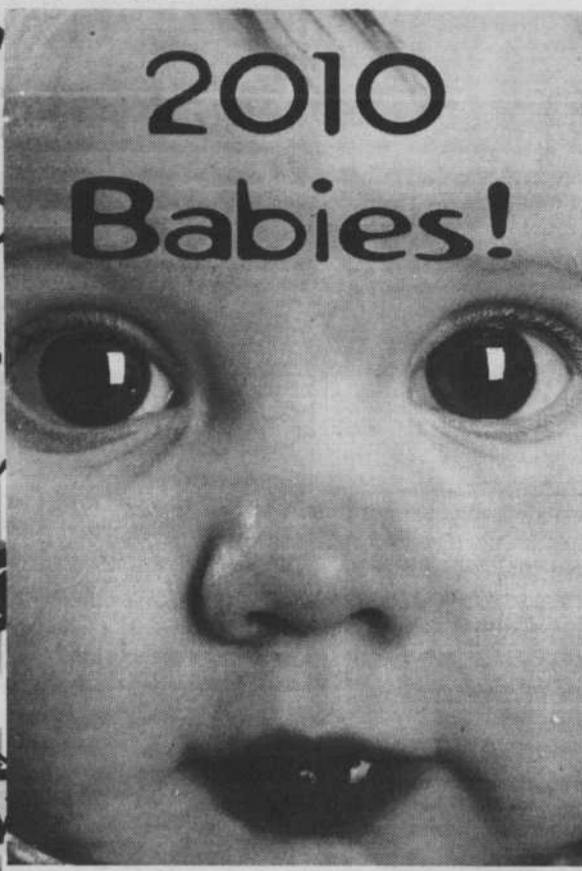
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Proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, show off your pride and joy in our "Babies of 2010" edition of **The Record** to be published on January 14, 2011. Although all babies are welcome and will be featured in our special issue, only those born in 2010 will be considered for a 2010 photo and story (randomly selected for this honour).

Mail a photograph of the baby with: baby's name, birthday, parents' name, hometown and **10 words** describing the little tyke, along with \$20. (taxes included), daytime phone number and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to **The Record** at 1195 Galt St. East, Sherbrooke, QC J1G 1Y7 OR 5B Victoria St., Knowlton, QC JOE 1V0 or e-mail: classad@sherbrookerecord.com with Visa or MasterCard for payment.

Deadline: January 7, 2011.
 Published on January 14, 2011

Prizes to be won:

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THE RECORD

Stanstead County Agricultural Society holds annual meeting and banquet

On December 4, 2010, the Stanstead County Agricultural Society held their annual meeting and banquet at the Legion Hall in Ayer's Cliff.

We were honoured to have as our special guests Mrs. France Bonsant, member of the House of Commons for Compton-Stanstead, her husband Mr. Serge Guimond; Mr. Pierre Reid, member of National Assembly for Orford, and Mr. Alec Van Zuiden, Mayor of Ayer's Cliff.

This year's meeting was a very special occasion as we celebrated the retirement of our long time secretary Mrs. Janie Webster after 23 years of devoted service to the Ayer's Cliff Fair. Janie was thanked by the Board of Directors and presented with flowers as well as a painting of herself and her beloved dog Sue-Sue. In the painting, Janie and "Sue-Sue" were surrounded by scenes of the Fair. The painting was crafted by Mr. Trevor McKinven of North Hatley. Mrs. Bonsant presented Janie with an official bottle of House of Commons wine. Janie graciously thanked everyone and expressed that she feels that she is leaving "her baby", (her pet name for the Fair) in the very capable hands of Jennifer Bowen, our new secretary who has been in training during 2010.

The new Board of Directors consists of:

- Steve Brus - President
 - Keith MacDonald - 1st Vice President
 - Brian Conner - 2nd Vice President
 - Sandy Johnston
 - Peter McHarg
 - Leslie Webster
 - Angus MacKinnon
 - Rick Ward
 - Lyle Roarke
 - Richard Dezan
 - Jason Morse
 - Janine Smith
 - Andre Brus
 - Cindy Bowen
 - Ben Cunnington
 - Andre Veilleux
 - Dean Young
 - Tim Roarke
 - Colleen Keet - Ladies Dept.
 - Tricia McDaid - Horticultural Dept.
 - Jennifer Bowen - Secretary-Treasurer
- Plans are already under way for the upcoming Fair on August 25-28th, 2011 and along with the help of all of our volunteers who make it possible to hold our Fair, we hope for a successful 166th edition.

Submitted by
 Jennifer Bowen

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
 The Record classified hours during the holiday season.

Friday, December 24:
 8:30 a.m. to noon

Monday, December 27: closed

Tuesday, December 28:
 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, December 29:
 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, December 30:
 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, December 31:
 8:30 a.m. to noon

Monday, January 3: closed

Tuesday, January 4:
 back to normal hours

The deadline for classifieds will be **11 A.M.** instead of 12:30 P.M. during this period.

Thank you.

I wish to take this time to wish you all a very joyous and safe holiday.

Janet Daignault,
 Classified Advertising.

Your Birthday

Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010

Someone who believes in you will put you onto to something of significance that could turn out to be impressive. It is likely to be a project that neither could do without the other, but which teamwork will render a success.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - You'll deliberately make it a point to draw out others in order to make them feel important, and that's why friends will be thinking you're a pretty nifty person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) - For those of you who have merely been killing time, come out of your playpen, turn off the TV and do something constructive. You'll feel a lot better about yourself when not goofing off.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) - Instead of spending all your time in your office or home, plan to get outside and see the world around you. Even just running errands will refresh you quite a bit.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) - Your perceptions regarding the desires and requirements of the public will be right on target, so if your work requires you to deal directly with the hoi polloi, go ahead and make your points.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) - When involved with others about doing something new, let them do the brainy stuff while you handle the brainy parts. It could be a perfect match, if everyone does his/her part.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - You could be a bit luckier than usual in your ma-

terial interests, in a couple of ways: you might receive an early Christmas gift, or a bonus could be in the making.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - There isn't likely to be anything more important to you than having the mobility and freedom to do what you want. Avoid involvements that would limit your independence, if you can.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - In most cases, it is foolhardy to depend on a hunch or an intuitive feeling when it involves something important. However, at this point there's a good chance that your impression could be right on the money.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Taking some kind of recreational break could do you a world of good, even if it is just a short timeout from work. It'll serve to refresh you and give you what you need to finish the job at hand.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - There is a good chance a new responsibility will be dumped in your lap. Do your best, because others will be observing how you handle things in hopes you can fit into a larger position.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) - You're likely to have more energy than usual, which is good and bad. If you eschew activity, it'll put you in a bad mood. Keeping busy, however, will serve to inspire you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) - Friends and associates are likely to be looking for ways to repay all that you've done for them in the past. Your prior good works will be returned to you twice over.

Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010

The full deal can be misleading

By Phillip Alder

John Maynard Keynes, an English economist who pioneered full employment, said, "The long run is a misleading guide to current affairs."

Bridge deals can be like that. You take the percentage play and it loses, whereas an inferior line would have worked. You know that in the long run you will be a winner, but the current loss on the scoresheet or lightening of your wallet hurts nonetheless.

In today's deal South is in five clubs. Will he make it after West begins the defense with three rounds of spades?

Anyone who glances at all 52 cards will answer in the affirmative, claiming it is trivial. But in the real world, with the defenders' hands hidden, it is easy for South to fail if West is awake.

North made a negative double, promising four hearts. His second-round three-spade cue-bid asked South to convert to three no-trump if he had a spade stopper.

When West led the spade ace, East played his 10, starting a high-low (echo) to show his doubleton. West cashed the spade king and continued with the spade queen. What did South do now?

Needing the rest of the tricks, declarer trumped with dummy's jack. Then he played a club to his ace, but West smoothly dropped the queen. Thinking that was a singleton, South led

		North 12-23-10	
		♠ 9 5	
		♥ A K 7 4	
		♦ K 10 9 3	
		♣ J 4 3	
West		East	
♠ A K Q 7 6 2		♠ 10 4	
♥ J 9 8		♥ 6 5 3 2	
♦ J 5		♦ 8 7 6 4 2	
♣ Q 10		♣ 6 5	
		South	
		♠ J 8 3	
		♥ Q 10	
		♦ A Q	
		♣ A K 9 8 7 2	
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1 ♣	1 ♠	Dbl.	Pass
3 ♣	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	5 ♣	All pass
Opening lead: ♠ A			

a heart to dummy's king, then played a club to his nine. Imagine his chagrin when West produced the 10.

This was an example of playing the card you were known to hold. When East didn't overruff dummy's club jack, West was marked with the queen.

CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Ptolemaic constellation that is now divided into Carina (the keel), Puppis (the poop deck) and Vela (the sails)
- 5 Utter
- 10 Exxon forerunner
- 14 Miller's product
- 15 Grade leader?
- 16 Peak
- 17 West Point team
- 18 Mountain nymph
- 19 Hammock support
- 20 Seasonal cheeses?
- 23 Place purveying potent pints
- 24 Grab from the shelves
- 25 Miller's salesman
- 27 Dickens's Heep
- 30 Fried chicken piece
- 33 Klutzes
- 36 "What's cooking?" elicitor
- 38 Race with batons

- 39 Finance major's deg.
- 40 Fuming
- 42 Sitcom planet
- 43 Pooped
- 45 Con __: briskly, on scores
- 46 Wheelbarrow feature
- 47 Empathize
- 49 Gallery events
- 51 Troll
- 53 Peak
- 57 Feathered runner
- 59 Seasonal seasoning?
- 62 Put down
- 64 "__ under pressure": guts, to Hemingway
- 65 Potent pints
- 66 Japanese soup
- 67 Retirement plans, informally
- 68 Kids' new block since 1958
- 69 Foreshadowing
- 70 "Cats" poet
- 71 Musical syllables

- 28 Sixth-day creation
- 29 Seasonal rooftop noises?
- 31 British nobleman
- 32 Kid
- 33 "Rubáiyát" poet Khayyám
- 34 One-time pal of Baker and Charlie?
- 35 Seasonal costume?
- 37 Pianist Laredo
- 40 Like trailers on the road
- 41 Ottoman
- 44 "At Seventeen" singer Janis
- 46 Cloverleaf cover
- 48 Political refugee
- 50 Cleverness

- 52 Join
- 54 Tippecanoe's partner, in an 1840 campaign
- 55 Last in a series
- 56 Sonoran smackeroos
- 57 Saint with a fire
- 58 Hurt severely
- 60 "Mon Oncle" director
- 61 Nymph who loved her own voice
- 63 Put on

H	A	S		S	L	O	S	H		A	M	P	U	P	
I	D	I		H	I	D	E	O		V	O	L	G	A	
G	O	E	S	O	V	E	R	T	H	E	W	A	L	L	
H	U	G	H			B	T	E	N		Y	I	P		
S	T	E	A	M	Y			U	R	G	E	S			
				H	E	A	R	T	B	R	E	A	K	E	R
S	O	B		S	L	U	R			R	O	B	E		
W	E	A	T	H	E	R	A	D	V	I	S	O	R	Y	
I	N	R	E			L	E	O	S		L	O	S		
T	O	R	T	I	L	L	A	F	L	A	T				
		A	S	C	I			S	T	R	A	P	S		
T	E	C		E	L	O	I			I	R	A	E		
B	L	U	N	T	I	N	S	T	R	I	N	E	N	T	
S	A	D	I	E		E	L	I	O	T		N	E	U	
P	L	A	N	A		L	E	M	M	E		A	L	P	

Down

- 1 Stockpile
- 2 Old air fare?
- 3 Kind of ray emitted by a supernova
- 4 Greek mount
- 5 Venomous arachnid
- 6 It may be medicinal
- 7 Nuke-testing dept.
- 8 Much modern business
- 9 Continue the journey, oater-style
- 10 Corrode
- 11 Seasonal smoked salmon?
- 12 Dated
- 13 Paired pullers
- 21 Ger. setting
- 22 Blue toon
- 26 Dating concern

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
14					15						16				
17					18						19				
20					21						22		23		
24									25		26				
					27			28	29		30			31	32
33	34	35			36			37			38				
39					40					41			42		
43				44				45					46		
47							48		49				50		
					51				52				53		
57	58						59			60	61				
62					63			64					65		
66								67					68		
69								70					71		



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