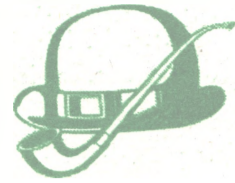


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Vol. 2, No. 8

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High School Teams from the Township's Entered in Provincial Basketball and Hockey Tournament at Howard S. Billings High School, Chateauguy



Cutting the ribbon center is alderman Steve Brisebois and to his left is Dr. Ken Robertson, Director General of the New Frontiers School Board; to his right, is the Mayor of Chateauguy Sergio Pavone.

On February 24 & 25 Howard S. Billings High School hosted the Provincial Basketball & Hockey Tournament the AAESQ Provincial High School Hockey Tournament. Team from Alexander Galt, Chateauguy Valley High School, Bishop's College School, Stanstead College and plus many others schools from around the province participated.

Honorary Chairman of the tournament Principal, Norm Woods, officiated at the ribbon-cutting for the opening of the tournament and the newly renovated Howard S. Billings's Gym.



Mr. Norm Woods
Honorary Chairman

Richmond Train Derailment, circa 1903

By: Bernard Epps



At ten twenty-five on the morning of Wednesday, August 31st, 1904, the special Grand Trunk excursion train from Montreal to the Sherbrooke Fair pulled into

Richmond. Conductor Norman Atkinson had running orders to wait for the No. 5 from Island Pond, a First Class train, but he had right-of-track over all others. He was scheduled to leave Richmond at 10:20, Windsor Mills at 10:40, Brompton Falls at 10:55 to arrive in Sherbrooke at 11:12 a.m.

Continued on page 3

St. Patrick's Day

The Tradition Continues

The Sherbrooke Rotary Club and The Leonard Clan join forces once more for the annual festivities. Again it will be at Restaurant Horace where owner Herve Demers has set aside twice the space we had last year, and he will be preparing a wonderful Irish Menu, served with a good Guinness, for both lunch and dinner.

Notaries Tom and Tim Leonard will be graciously offering their traditional Irish coffee.

That's Thursday, March 17th, 2005 at Restaurant Horace, corner of King West and Victoria, commencing at 4 P.M. (except for lunch 11h30 to 2h00 P.M.).

Meal tickets are available from Chairman David McNamara (569-4929), Herve Demers (820-1520), Tim or Tom Leonard (563-5211) or any member of the Rotary Club. Come and celebrate the "Great Day" with us, while encouraging the good works of Rotary.



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Coyote Bites Back

By Gladys Bacon

Recently I came across articles in the local papers vilifying coyotes and emphasizing the need to hunt them down. I have no problem with hunting when it is done in an ethical manner, but I find it completely offensive to justify this human behavior by demonizing any species. Governments use this tactic to justify going to war. Check out the U.S. justification for going to war on Iraq: weapons of mass destruction which were never found; the need to destroy a totalitarian regime, when friend and ally Saudi Arabia allows women almost no rights. Humans do not need to declare war on other species.

Any animal can be a danger to humans. There are more dog attacks on children than coyote attacks, or bear, or cougar or all three species combined. There is not a week where one cannot find an account of a child being mauled by a neighbor's dog or the family pet. When wild canines have become habituated enough to become a danger to humans, the causes can often be traced back to human behavior such as feeding the animal. Wild animals deserve to be respected for their wildness, without resorting to panicky fear.

Our cities contain all manner of wildlife: skunks, hare, squirrel, raccoons, bats, rats, mice and the occasional fox, as well as innumerable bird species. Any of these animals, and our pets as well, may harbor diseases such as rabies, lyme disease (white footed mice), mange and a host of exotic illnesses. It is highly questionable whether wild animals pass these diseases to our pets rather than the reverse. Coyote is a natural predator of many of the smaller nuisance species, especially rats and mice.

The assumption that coyote prey on deer is valid. What is in error is the assumption that coyote predation endangers the quality of deer for human harvest. Chronic Wasting Disease, related to mad cow disease, has spread from farmed elk and deer to the wild population. The obvious symptoms are obvious weight loss, excessive salivation, difficulty judging distances and drooping ears. Such symptoms may not be visible for years. How many human hunters can judge a deer is sick unless the symptoms are extreme? Wild predators such as the coyote have much keener senses to detect weak prey. Wild predators will not unnecessarily expend energy to bring down a healthy animal.

A hunter that uses all terrain vehicles and a pack of dogs to run an animal to exhaustion is hypocritical in denying the coyote its right to sustenance. Where is the sport in such hunting? There are few people today who actually provide food and clothing for their families from hunting. If hunting were such a necessity, humans would relearn to respect and care for the natural rhythms and balances of the Earth. Many wild animals have learned to live in balance with human occupation. It is time humans learn to live in respectful balance with wildlife.

Note from editor

I respect your opinion, although based on my personal experience with wolves, I disagree with your take on the issue. As many of the coyotes are cross bred with domestic dogs and I have seen the results of these animals after they have run down a deer (like a rag doll). Subsequently, the coyotes tear off the tendons on the back of their legs, leaving the deer to die a horrific death.

EDITOR'S CORNER



David Wright, Publisher/Editor
of the Townships

Its a newspaper that you are glad to see in your post office box.

*Morris & Ann Whiteway
Mount Pleasant, Ont.*

Enjoy very much, news from "The Hills of Home"

*Mr. & Mrs. Frank McVeigh
Scarborough, Ont.*

Born and raised on a farm in Coaticook. Paper very much enjoyed.

*C.T. Brennand
Ottawa, Ont.*

Enjoy reading the Township's Sun very much. You are doing a fine job. Keep up the good work.

*Sincerely,
Olive McCourt
Windsor, Ont.*

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The Richmond Wreck

Continued from page 1

He was already running a little late but he checked the register in station master Scully's office and saw that No. 5 from Island Pond, due at 10:15, was signed in and so he hopped back aboard and signalled his engineer, Eugene Schwager, to get Engine No. 879 rolling.

Charles Withrow was a telegraph operator. As soon as he noticed the special pulling out, he bolted from his office and raced down the platform after it, yelling and waving his arms. He was too late. The special picked up speed and rounded the bend.

Moments later, there came a rumbling down the tracks - a vibration that was more felt than heard - and the people in the station knew that something horrible had happened. They all went running down the line.

"The two huge engines lay in a heap of scrap," reported the Montreal Gazette, "that of the special train with its front

in the barbed wire fence while the engine of No. 5, Montreal bound, lay at the same angle but more seriously smashed... The passengers who were not injured proceeded to the rescue of those who were pinned down in the passenger coaches. The worst scene presented itself on the special train. The baggage car was telescoped into the first passenger coach... In this coach most of the dead and injured were found, and it is a wonder that one escaped alive."

J.A. Denault was taking his two prize greyhounds to exhibit at the Sherbrooke Fair. Rip and Dolly Gray were in the baggage car and their master had just returned from that car to his seat when there came a crash and a rending roar. His feet shot out from under him and he was knocked cold.

When he came to his senses, he found himself helplessly pinned in the

wreckage with the cries and screams and groans of the injured all around. He heard a moan beneath him and realized he was lying across another man - one very badly injured. He was crying and shouting: "God! Take me out! I'm dying! Have mercy!"

The poor man struggled and fought desperately to get up but Denault pinned him down and was pinned down himself by the wreckage. He felt the struggles beneath him growing weaker and the shrieking growing fainter and, after a very long time, he knew the poor man was dead.

Those outside were working furiously away with crowbars, jacks, saws and axes and calling words of encouragement to those still trapped inside. When they reached Denault and dragged him out, his left arm was broken in three places and his right arm in two. There was nothing they could do for the

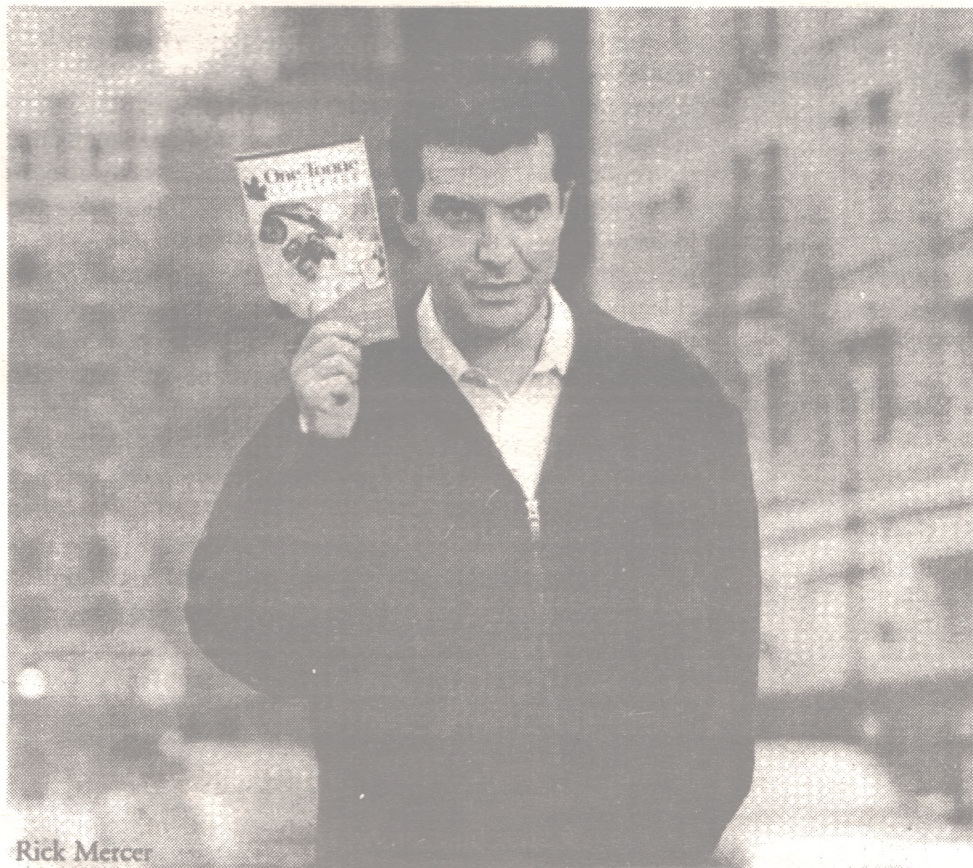
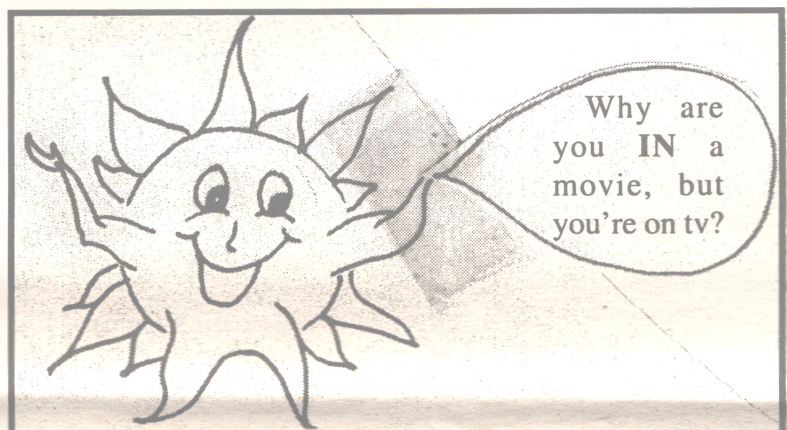
man they found beneath him. Rip, too, had been killed in the collision but Dolly Gray survived.

It was one of the worst accidents ever endured by the Grand Trunk. Nine people died and 25 were injured. An inquest was set up immediately to discover how it had happened, how two scheduled trains could run into each other head-to-head.

The engineers and firemen of both trains were called to testify - they'd set their brakes and jumped when they saw that a crash was inevitable - along with the

station master and the telegrapher. It emerged that there were two No. 5's scheduled that morning within the same half-hour - one in No. 2 District on its way to Quebec, and the other in No. 3 District from Island Pond to Montreal. Conductor Atkinson had apparently looked in the wrong register book in the station master's office and believed the track was clear.

It was an understandable and very human mistake. That was no consolation whatever to the friends and relatives of the dead and injured.



Rick Mercer

Every Canadian loves a challenge, right?

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Soulmates, Karmic Partners & Twin Flames

By Kathleen Y. Rattigan

Our ultimate love goal is to rejoin with our perfect "other half." Follow me now into the mystifying realm of our journey to – and reunion with – the beloved of our heart and soul.

In our search for love, humanity constantly seeks the one that will complete them. Our first mistake is expecting the "other" to make us whole and bring the perfect happiness that we have been so longing for. Misunderstandings arise, expectations are unrequited, and in today's quick fix and instant imaging society, we often dump the relationship and move on, without realizing that we have wasted a golden opportunity for growth and spiritual awakening.

A very wise teacher from my past taught me a valuable truth that has proven itself over decades to be valid. Sun Bear, who was a Chippewa Medicine Man and sacred teacher said that anything new must pass the test of the four seasons before even considering it a permanent part of life, and this goes for everything we experience, be it a new relationship, friendship, job, or a new location.

However, knowledge is the golden key to freedom and understanding, and once we "know" who is a soulmate, a karmic partner or the sacred beloved one, our Twin Flame, we can consciously choose how our relationships will evolve.

While our ultimate love goal is to rejoin with our perfect other half, we first need to learn and grow with our soul mates. Soul mates are our companions along the way as we grow spiritually. They can be our best friends, our worst enemies, family members and lovers, bosses, or anyone who is involved in

our life for awhile. It is with our soul mates that we prepare for the reunion with our beloved. Why is this? Because it is with our soul mates that we are tested as to emotional and spiritual maturity. Do we respond with impatience and anger when things do not go our way?

Or do we allow the other their freedom of self expression, and understand that their actions are not being done to please or displease us – but are the acting out of a soul to the beat of their own personal drum. Some of my own soul mates have had me gritting my teeth in frustration as they acted out their dramas – but I well understood that my reactions were my problem, not theirs, and knew that I had to find the source of my irritation within my own personality. Once I "got it" I was released, freed from any unpleasant emotional responses and could even smile at what used to make my hair stand on end.

I believe that our soul mates are our spirit family. I can just see all of us over on the other side having a meeting and planning our life path as we prepare to incarnate. The person who is probably our best friend is laughing as she prepares to become a severe "irritant" in this life. We laugh hilariously together, thinking it will be so simple to pass this test – Ha Ha.

Karmic partners are those with whom we have unfinished business from other lives, and are usually very challenging relationships. A karmic partnership is often a love-hate style of relationship that must be resolved into a neutral or lovingly detached form of understanding, hopefully on both sides, but usually the more evolved

partner is the first to realize the culmination of the karmic situation. I am often asked to explain the difference between a soul mate and a karmic partner. One clear example is when one person cannot seem to drag himself out of a very unhappy relationship. He moans that he does not know why he stays, even though is often dealing with emotional and/or physical abuse. The simplicity of the lesson often eludes us because we feel that it is our destiny to be together, but often the only learning required is that we must respect ourselves enough to move away and leave the one who is hurting us.

A twin flame is our true other half – created in the beginning by Mother-Father God. At first a complete being, we then separated into the polarity of male-female, became complete unto ourselves, and thus began our exploration of duality.

We descended into form and began to forget our spiritual origins. I believe that the great love stories of our times, such as Anthony & Cleopatra, Romeo & Juliet, are examples of Twin Flames coming together and the power of their love entered the realms of legend. Such is the power of true love reunited, but the power of it can also cause empires to tremble.

In closing, perhaps the best love of all begins within. Until we truly honour and love ourselves enough to know we are worthy of only the highest and best, we continually seek outside for fulfillment. Once we learn that we can attract to us only that which we feel inside, then we begin the final journey, and learn to become love itself. This, I believe, is our destiny.

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Miracles & Mysteries


People come into your life for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Author Unknown

When you figure out which it is, you know exactly what to do. When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed outwardly or inwardly. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend, and they are. They are here for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up or out and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, and our desire fulfilled; their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and it is now time to move on.

Then people come into your life for a SEASON, it is because your turn has come to share, grow, or learn. They may bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it! It is real! But, only for a SEASON.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons; those things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person; and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life.

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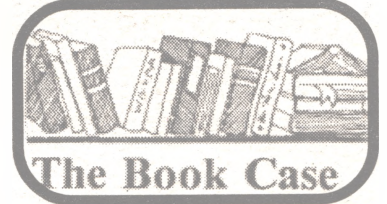
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A Meeting of the People, School Boards and Protestant Communities in Quebec 1801-1998. By Roderick MacLeod & Mary Anne Poutanen, McGill-Queen's University Press 2004

By: Peter Riordon

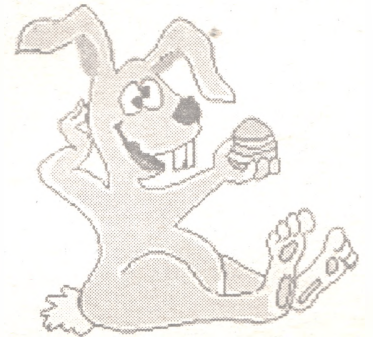
In the midst of the political turmoil that thundered into the lives of Quebecers in the latter part of the twentieth century, a few Protestant school commissioners arranged to set aside some funds in a trust to ensure that the proud history of Protestant education in la Belle Province would not be forgotten. The authors, with the aid of that trust, have painted a fascinating view of how the early settlers of British and American origins worked within their communities to ensure their children had access to education even when faced with great challenges. This is no chronological story. Rather it dips into history and picks out the vignettes about the local Board that hired a particular teacher who taught the community children while living in the garret over the classroom in the log cabin that served as both school and lodgings. It describes the entries in the old minute books relating the challenges of staffing, finding resources, setting and maintaining standards and eccentric personalities. We learn of the parts played by the community leaders, the various churches, the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning and, much later, the provincial government with the Parent Report and a new Ministry of Education in the 1960's. We gain insight into the Parti Quebecois efforts to abolish school boards and, when that failed, to create linguistic boards and how that eventually came about in 1998.

The authors have not told us the entire story. We do not learn about St. Helen's School for girls, run under the wing of the Montreal



conceived to be a best seller, those with an interest in English education in Quebec, it offers a delightful insight.

Reviewer Peter Riordon has served as a Commissioner with the Eastern Townships School Board and Director of the Quebec English School Boards Association for 25 years.



The book was not



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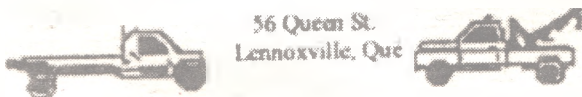


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Mid-Winter Merry Making

By: April Donnelly-Arthur

After the bitter cold of January and a taste of spring like weather, most of us are ready for new ideas to help enjoy indoor life - aside from the obvious benefits of central heating! February is the month we all look to as short, with thoughts of warmer April just around the corner. We will discuss some ways to enjoy every single one of those cold days and use them to their potential.

Our inspiration is Mother Nature herself, looking to the animal world and their habits when the great white north is cold and frosty. Two choices come to mind, either go south or brave the winter with a well stocked pantry and fine feathered friends.

Expanding on the first idea is simplicity itself-go south. As we get older the benefits of this option take on a whole new meaning. No need to go as far as Miami though, Plattsburgh, with an indoor pool will do just as well. An inexpensive week-end away can break up

the month and help put things in perspective. Keeping your jaunt within an hours drive will be a change of scenery without the hassle of a more distant destination. Tune into the intense beat of Latin/Cuban music and like Peter Pan "think happy thoughts", before you know it you'll be poolside. (Of course a trip to the Islands works too).

Another idea is to have a dinner party with friends. This is a good time of year to have something hot and spicy on the menu, perhaps Mexican food with Margaritas or that Thai dish you have been itching to try out. Getting together with friends and having lots of belly laughs is always a fine prescription for me.

Another option is a slumber party with your girlfriends. With giggling all through the night- who says sleep-overs are just for kids? A potluck supper takes the pressure off the hostess while ensuring a varied menu. Mid-winter merry making at its best!

For those of us with kids

in our lives winter inspiration is a must. If those kids are teens large amounts of food are usually involved. Like squirrels, we can use what is in our pantry from our fall stock up. Here are a couple of recipes that can involve the kids both in the preparation and enjoyment of.

1. *Homemade "Cracker Jacks"*

A candy thermometer is handy to have for this recipe to test the temperature of the syrup that binds the popcorn and nuts together.

- 4 cups popped corn
- 1 cup shelled peanuts
- 1 cup molasses
- 1 cup sugar

1. Mix popcorn and peanuts together in a large bowl.

2. Cook molasses and sugar together until the mixture reaches a temperature of 235 degrees on a candy thermometer. If you don't have a thermometer, test the syrup by letting some drop from a spoon into a cup of cold water. The syrup is done when it forms a thread as it drops into the water.

3. Pour hot syrup mixture over the popcorn - nut mixture and stir to coat evenly. Cool and break into chunks with a wooden spoon. Store in an airtight container, will keep for six to eight weeks. Enjoy!

2. *Creamy hot cocoa*

Make up a batch of this recipe and have it on hand for chilly days and nights.

- 2 cups instant non fat milk
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup unsweetened cocoa
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup miniature marshmallows

1. Stir all ingredients together and store in a tightly closed jar for up to two months

To use: Put 2 to 3 heaping tablespoons of the mix into a mug and fill with boiling water. Or for a richer drink, hot milk. Top with whipped cream and cinnamon or chocolate shavings for an extra special drink.

Cheers till next time, April

Here & There & Everywhere

If the test of a good piece of theatre writing is how long it provokes thought and conversation about it afterwards, Harry Stanjofski's screenplay *Here & There* takes the cake.

His latest offering takes you to an unnamed war in Eastern Europe (suggestive of the one in former Yugoslavia) then into the relationships of a very confused couple, Don & Fiona, who have fallen in love but only realize it after the circumstances have separated them. As Don travels to Canada and back to the Balkans to search for his love, he resumes relationships with past flames. Alas, the weakness of the flesh causes him to contemplate fidelity to his



proclaimed beloved for a maximum of 90 seconds before each dalliance. Fiona is just as bad, if not worse. Not only does she entice every man she meets into her bed, she chastises them afterwards for their stupidity. At least Don had the chivalry to place most of the blame on himself.

However, it is this incomprehensible conflict that keeps you guessing throughout the play and afterwards about the reasons for their actions. Thoughtful, witty dialogue and great acting made time pass unnoticeably, and before you could say "commitment

phobia" this 3-hour drama throws you back on the street more confused about the complications of men/women relationships than when you came in.

We all know someone who likes to "play the field", or maybe even been there ourselves. But what motivates the behaviour, and more interestingly, what causes it to change? While the answers are as different as each individual my theatre companion and I found ourselves still drudging up these questions days and weeks afterwards, commending Stanjofski for his evocative subject matter. The writer himself admits the story leaves many questions unanswered, and wonders if some are completely unanswerable. "Leaving the audience with a last image

that is unclear...well, it was the best I could do," says Stanjofski, who wrote the piece shortly after 9/11. "It's a war play. Like a lot of people, I was confused. A lot of things didn't make a lot of sense."

Currently staying busy as a part-time theatre professor at Concordia and vice-president and co-artistic director of Le Nouveau Theatre Anglais, you can also watch for more writing from

Montreal-based Stanjofski. He is in the process of writing two new plays, *In the Middle*, *In the Rain* and ...3...4 and has just received funding to develop a screenplay about fatherhood with Trevor Ferguson and Pan Bouyoucas. In the meantime he can be found acting this summer in *Un homme en taxi en vaut deux* in Ste-Agathe, the French version of *Run for Your Life* in which he appeared at The Piggery in 1990.

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'Home Matters' with April

April Donnelly-Arthur's writing/editing experience includes creator and editor of "The Frugal Forum", a newsletter devoted to Family, Frugality and Fun. She was also involved in the editing process at Rural Pathways, a newsletter that promoted the arts and culture in Quebec. She has created and taught many workshops, for children and adults primarily in the arts and creativity. April was involved in both the public and private sector in administration. Currently she is attending a 16 month course on Interior Decorating and Display.



More On Strix Nebulosa



By: Tom Moore

Not content with only a couple of rolls of film expended on the great gray owls, I've done my best to improve Kodak's sagging film sales by spending many more hours in observation of the rare visitor, blowing off many more exposures in all sorts of conditions, ranging from murky rain to clear and

ground. Although they appear large and bulky, their light weight (averaging less than 3lb) enables perching on incongruously small twigs and branches. Locating their prey by sound, the owl will glide down to the snow, plunging feet-first to impale the unlucky mouse or vole. During my observations, the prey was struck sharply with the beak and usually swallowed whole on the spot in the snow. The owl would then return to perch again, listening intently for its next course.

The scientific name, *strix nebulosa*, is well chosen, translating as misty or foggy owl. The bird's coloration seems to vary in an almost chameleon-like fashion depending on the light, time

Studies indicate that great gray owls are somewhat nomadic, nesting in areas which provide an adequate food supply. Nests are frequently not reused and birds forced far from their original territories have been observed to nest as far as 500 miles from their original breeding site. Perhaps an eastern population may develop in Ontario and Quebec as an outcome of this year's irruption.

Should you wish to travel a little to see these

impressive birds the locations of daily sightings may be tracked on the internet.

Quebec:
Les Oiseaux
Rares du Quebec

Ontario: Ontario Birding

By plugging these titles into Google the web sites

may be found and quite precise daily locations of sightings is available. Care must be taken, however, to observe at a distance so as not to stress the owls.



MOORE NATURE PHOTO



MOORE NATURE PHOTO

cold. Since this winter's invasion is repeated only every decade or so I figured I should go all out. And besides, with this winter's weather in the Townships, many normal seasonal activities have been on hold awaiting a little snow. You can only cut so much wood!

Great gray owls hunt mostly from a perch, often only 5 to 10 feet above the

of day, and surroundings. In addition, the young birds appear more gray due to downy feather-tips while the mature birds are much browner (at least in bright light). Ornithologists contend that relatively few young birds are present in this irruption, perhaps as a result of poor food availability in the home territories.

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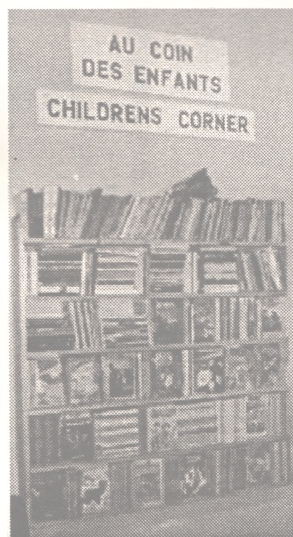
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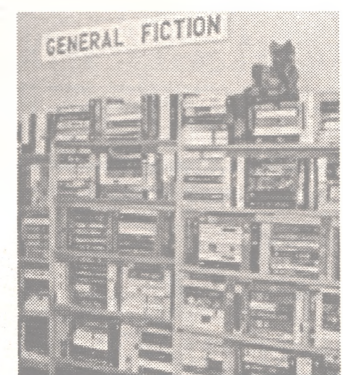


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RICHMOND'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY IRISH EVENTS

Green Sale - Everyone is invited to the Green Sale, to start off the March activities. It will be held at the Richmond Legion on **Saturday, March 5th, starting at 14:00**. There is much preparation underway, gathering and making items for the sale. Brian Barrie, most certainly will be up to great form! For further information, please contact Elsie Kerr at 826-3284. Sharon Shaw is hoping that the famous green purse makes a comeback!

Corn Beef Supper - Later on in the evening of **March 5th**, the annual corn beef supper will take place. Tickets cost \$ 12:50. Contact Bob Dalton at 826-2434 by Feb.28th. It is a BYOB

Banquet - The banquet will again be held at the Centre Ste. Famille, on **Saturday, March 12th at 18:30 PM**. The Irish dancers will entertain us with new dance steps and Frank McGregor will play for our sing-along. Bob Patrick, will again be providing the music for the evening. Rev. Andy O'Donnell, the new Anglican Minister in Richmond will be our guest speaker. Tickets are \$17.50 for adults and \$ 8 for children age 12 and younger, and will be available from **Marge Lancaster (826-2760)** Tickets must be purchased by **Wed., March 9th**.

Mass - Father O'Houde has extended a warm welcome to the St. Patrick's Day mass at Ste-Bibiane's Church on **March 13 at 9:00 A.M.** The choir will, once more, be performing our favorite Irish songs and hymns. The program is put together by Sister Belair

Paddy's Day Celebration - On the 17th, the **Grand Central Hotel** will be serving green beer all day with a Happy Hour from 5:00 - 7:00 P.M... Bob Patrick will be playing Irish music.

Social Gathering - Everyone is invited to the Legion's, **St. Patrick's gathering on Friday, March 18** beginning at 3:00 P.M. Frank McGregor, will once more lead the sing-along! Gary Pollack will keep things running smoothly.

Concert - All are invited to the Centre d'Art, 1010 rue Principale N. Richmond on **Saturday, March 19, at 20.00**. Their website is www.centredartrichmond.ca. "TRISKELL", a down East group, will provide the evening's Celtic entertainment. Tickets may be reserved at 826-2488 (\$18.00 for adults, \$14.40 for St. Pat's members and \$9.00 for youth, 16 and younger).

Parade - The annual St. Patrick's Parade will be on **Sunday, March 20**, beginning at 2:00 PM from Le Tremplin School and then proceeding along the green-lined route! Anyone wishing to be part of the parade will be welcome and should contact Paul or Mark O'Donnell at 826-2535. After the parade, participants are invited to a reception at the Legion. The Grand Central Hotel will also be featuring Irish entertainment.

All the Best for St. Patrick's Day

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RICHMOND'S IRISH MESSAGES

IRISH HISTORY by Peter Southam

I am now beginning the last stage of research for the book. I am writing on the history of the Irish of the Richmond area. This will involve interviews, which I will conduct over the spring and early summer, with people of Irish ancestry who live or have lived in the area around Richmond, including Maricourt (Ely), South Durham, L'Avenir, Kingsey, Tingwick, Windsor, Bromptonville and places in between. I will be asking people to share with me memories of family and daily life which have been passed down to them by their parents, grandparents and friends. I have quite an extensive list of names of people I plan to contact but I also welcome any suggestions of people who would be interested in sharing their knowledge of Irish heritage. My email is:

Peter.Southam@USherbrooke.ca

Editor's note. Peter mentioned that on June 1, 2005, he is planning on taking a 6 month sabbatical in order to finish the project.

IRISH DANCERS by Lyne Duval

Last Oct. the Irish dancers began a new year, returning to the Centre St. Famille. Once again at their 7th Christmas performance on Dec.4 at RRHS, the audience was well-entertained. Despite another show in town at the same time, there was a big crowd to witness the energy of the young and seasoned performers.

The classes resume Feb 5. In the next few months, besides their classes, they have been be involved with several local functions such as participating in the Tsunami relief benefit show at RRHS on Feb.4, and performing at the Wales Home and the Foyer de Richmond. In March they will be dancing at the St. Pat's banquet and participating in the Parade. In May, there will be the usual competition at the Feis in Montreal.

The dancers are fortunate to have devoted teachers, who also enjoy the activity. New dancers are most welcome!





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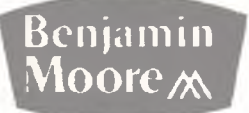


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Please email your questions to: townsun@abacom.com or write Ask Rose c/o The Townships Sun, 7 Conley St., P.O. Box 28, Lennoxville, Qc. J1M 1Z3.



Dear Rose:

Next door to me lives my personal "hell on earth." She never minds her own business, is watching everything we do, and I have even seen her using binoculars to watch the neighbors down the street. As soon as I leave my house, she runs out and catches me before I can leave and then proceeds to inform me about what everyone is doing. I have seen her do this with other neighbors so I know she is also reporting on the movements of my household.

I do not want to be rude with her, and she is not breaking any laws. I even feel sorry for her because she obviously is very lonely, but I am now reluctant to go out the front door of my house because of her.

Can you help? Just sign me – Fed up.

Dear Fed Up:

At this point clear communication with this neighbor is needed. The only way to resolve this situation is a one on one meeting with her. I know you do not want to be rude with her, but she needs a lesson in appropriate manners. Obviously, she is being shunned by the neighborhood and she is desperately trying to get involved in your lives in this way.

Invite her out for coffee somewhere and lay it on the line. This is a time for honesty with kindness, but firmness. Let her know her actions are invading the privacy of her neighbors and no one appreciates her nosiness and gossiping. Perhaps you could help her find another way to be socially active. Find out about volunteering in your area, or church functions, or group clubs. Hospitals always need volunteers and so do many organizations. She needs to feel a part of society and perhaps you are the one to help. Good luck dear.



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IRISH EYES WILL BE SMILING ON THE CHATEAUGUAY VALLEY MARCH 12th



Chateaugay & Valley Irish Heritage Association will host the first annual St. Patrick's Day Parade



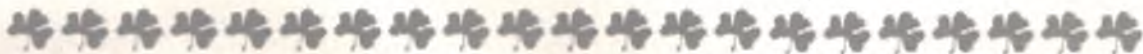
This year will see the first St. Patrick's Day parade in the Chateaugay Valley. This all came about when the Chateaugay Irish Society, which has been in existence since 1963, changed to the Chateaugay & Valley Irish Heritage Association, to get the whole Chateaugay Valley involved.

In the past 13 years, Chateaugay has won 9 awards in the Montreal Parade.

This year's parade will take place in Chateaugay on March 12th starting at 1:30 p.m., one day before the annual Montreal St. Patrick's Parade and eight days before Richmond, Quebec's St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 20th. (see web site for more info. www.townshipsheritage.com/Eng/Org/Other/OHO_stpatricks.html).

The Grand Marshall for Chateaugay's first parade is Mr. Robin Burns who is the owner of Itech Hockey Equipment and former Pittsburgh Penguins hockey star. His cousin - National Hockey League coach Pat Burns - will be the chief reviewing officer; health willing. The Burns Clan have been part of the Chateaugay area (Woodlands area) better known today as Ville de Lery. Robin was also a player with the NHL.

The parade will form up on Craik street and there will be several marching bands; one from New York and one from as far away as St. Hyacinthe. In addition there will be many local sports, schools and community groups marching.



Chateaugay's St. Patrick's Day executives and the Parade's Queen, Devon Warnock, Father and Mother



From left to right, Edgar (Fred) Applebee, President; Gary Warnock VP; Devon Warnock Quenn; Melanie Warnock, mother of the Queen; Ernie Presseau, Parade Director;
Missing from picture, Doug Mckinnon, Treasurer; James Conway, PR and Advertising; Tom Fisher, Fund Raising



Grand Marshal, Robin Burns, congratulating the Queen of the Chateaugay St. Patrick's Day Parade Devon Warnock, second from left and Erin Keenan, first left and Ashly Neuman, right

For further information, please contact Ernie Presseau at (450) 691-1012; Fax (450) 691-1885 or e-mail: Parademan2002@hotmail.com



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The Coyote! Spirit of Scourge of the Wilds (Part 2)

By: John A. Viau

There are three basic methods for hunting coyotes. Number one is taking them as a target of opportunity and this is being done more and more by rabbit and deer hunters who come across Mr. Coyote while out after bunnies or whitetails. This does produce the occasional coyote pelt, due mainly to the great increase in coyote numbers in our fields and woodlands over the past decade.

The second hunting method is calling them into range with a mouth blown call which imitates the screaming of a mortally wounded cottontail rabbit or snowshoe hare. Once you've mastered the art of calling coyotes, this can be a very effective way to hunt them.

I prefer to call coyotes in mid to late winter when the population of hares and cottontails are at their lowest ebb. Low prey populations, coupled with cold winter weather means that the coyotes must forage more to get their daily intake of red meat and they're more likely to respond readily to a well blown predator call. My personal favourite for calling coyotes is an Olt's Model T-20 Fox-Coyote call.

Some of my most memorable hunts have been from some of the same tree stands that I hunt deer out of. Being above the coyotes decreases your chance of being sighted or scented and also gives you a much better field of view in which to spot incoming coyotes.

Full camouflage is absolutely essential, right down to gloves and a face mask and also wrap your gun with camouflage tape. In winter be sure to wear snow camouflage clothing (white with subtle shades of brown mixed in) and don't move or fidget around while you're

waiting for a coyote to respond to your calling. Dress warmly in layers of clothing, if you are cold you'll be unable to remain still for even short periods of time.

I blow my call in a series of 12 to 15 cadence squeals and wails lasting about a minute - wait a few minutes and repeat the whole procedure. Some times the coyote will rush in at a fast trot or even a full run, looking for a fast meal. But at times he will sneak in as slow as

to call I wait at least a half an hour before I decide to change locations. If it is not too cold I will even wait as much as a full hour before moving on to a new calling site. After 15 to 20 minutes I'll call again but only 3 or 4 times and with less vigour than at the start.

One little trick I find works well for me is to save the skins from recently killed rabbits and lace them around my boots, letting them drag in the snow a bit when I'm walking into my stand. This



death, alert and on the lookout for trouble. Often the coyote will first appear upwind from you and then try to work his way downwind of you before he comes in. If you're using a good flat shooting varmint rifle and you think he is in range then try and bag him before he does this.

Anytime I set up and start

helps mask my scent to a certain degree when I'm on my way to your stand, and also when I'm in position and calling. This also ties in with the fact that the coyote is coming in looking for a rabbit and that's just what he is going to smell. The coyote is plenty smart so I've got to be just a little bit smarter!

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The final and most productive method for hunting coyotes is running them with dogs. Every chance they get

twisting and winding course.

Doubling back often and crossing its' own trail to confuse the dogs, sometimes

year were infected with mange and that makes the pelt worthless, because the fur comes off in handfuls on mange infected coyotes.

About a month back they shot a coyote with an advanced case of mange that was in such bad shape that it had no fur at all on its tail or hardly anywhere else on its entire body. The poor creatures' ears were frozen and its skin was black in several places where it had been frozen. Bob said it was like a walking death. In this case the hunters did the animal a big favour when they put it out of its misery.

A local veterinarian informs me that mange is caused by a mite that burrows into the skin and is quite contagious. In winter the disease is often fatal because the infected animal will often literally freeze to death because of hair loss. Domestic dogs and other wild canines such as foxes can also contract mange when they frequent the same area used by coyotes.

Bob tells me that he believes the coyote population should be kept under control by hunting and trapping to help prevent the spread of mange and rabies and also because of the fact that coyotes prey heavily on deer fawns in the spring. Coyotes have their pups at about the same time that deer are dropping their fawns and the fawns are often taken by coyotes to feed their hungry pups.

In winters when there is a lot of snow coyotes also take a substantial number of adult deer as well. When snow is deep and we have a warm spell causing a crust to form, coyotes can run on top of the crust, while deer, with their sharp hooves, break through, floundering in snow up to their necks.

The coyote chase the deer constantly biting at the deer's hams and back legs until they

a coyote will cover as much as 30 miles in the course of a hunt and the hunters won't even get a glimpse of their quarry.

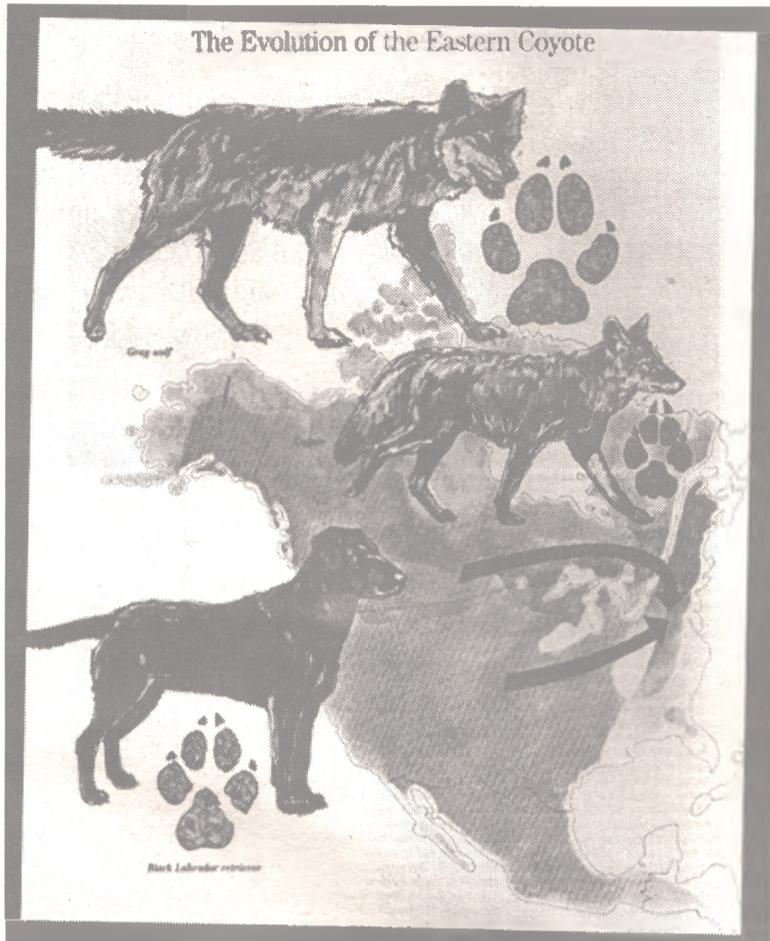
The secret of success is being familiar with the terrain you're hunting and having hunters posted at openings where the coyote is likely to cross during the course of the chase.

Bob tells me that his group this season only bagged about 30% of the coyotes they jumped. Their season long take so far is 21 coyotes and 5 red Fox.

The group hunts with a wide variety of firearms: 12 Gauge Shotguns loaded with Buckshot, 22-250, 223, 243, as well as a few deer rifles. They limit the rifles to situations where there are no habitations and are always sure of their backdrops.

Coyote fur has ranged in price from a high of over a hundred dollars to the current price of from \$20.00 to \$45.00 Canadian funds.

Bob tells me that some of the coyotes they bagged this

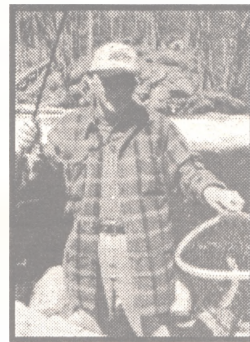


Bob MacGregor and several of his buddies from Hinchinbrook, Quebec are out running coyotes with their dogs. They hunt all over south-western Quebec and often team up with a group of hunters from Northern New York State and run their dogs in the northern tier.

Their combined dog pack numbers usually around fifteen hounds, consist of Redbones, Walkers, Black and Tans, Blueticks, Redticks and a few of mixed ancestry.

They set out at dawn in four wheel drive vehicles and drive the back roads until they spot a coyote track. If the track is old or there's a bit of frost or fresh snow on it they'll release an older, more experienced dog to sort out the track. When the old strike dog scares the coyote up, they'll release a bunch more dogs to join in the pursuit.

Sometimes the chase will last from sunrise till long after sunset with a wise old coyote leading the dogs on a



Townships Outdoors

by

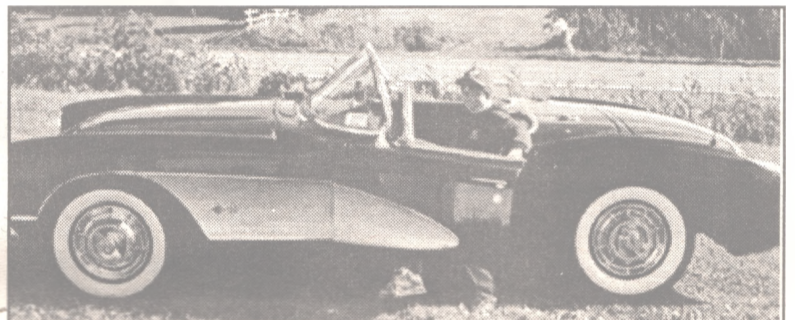
John Viau

hamstringing the deer then they proceed to eat it alive until the deer dies. It makes a disgusting scene and anyone who has seen it happen or read the evidence in the snow, will not be too fond of coyotes.

Please let me state in closing that I do not advocate the total elimination of coyotes and I enjoy listening to their eerie howls on a frigid winter evening. But if we don't keep them under control, we will be over run with both

coyotes, mange, rabies and other diseases. And there will most certainly be a severe decline in the deer population.

One last word: As much as the coyote's howl brings a tingle to my spine, this is nothing when compared to what a young whitetail doe, heavy with fawn, must experience as her nervous ears pick up the dreaded h o w l .
HAAAAWAAAOOOO.



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English Community News

For our non-profit organizations of Quebec

Sherbrooke : The women of Plymouth-Trinity United Church are holding their annual Shamrock Salad Buffet and Sale in the church hall at 380 Dufferin St., on Saturday, March 12 from 3-6 p.m. Cost : \$7.00. Menu will consist of a variety of salads, devilled eggs, baked beans and brown bread, rolls and squares. There will also be sales tables of home-baking, handicrafts, novelties, jams and pickles. Everyone welcome !

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**Interested persons must register before
March 31, 2005**

CFUW Sherbrooke & District will hold their general meeting on Tues., March 22 at the Faculty Lounge in McGreer Bld., at Bishop's University. The public is invited to attend at 7:45 PM to hear about the Mae Sot Education Project.

Pre-Easter Supper



**Saturday
March 19TH 2005
6:00pm**

Everyone Welcome !

**Army Navy Air Force Unit 318
(300 St-Francis St. Lennoxville)**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION Tuesday, March 8 at the Lennoxville Community Centre, 10 Depot St. Lennoxville.

The evening will start with a silent auction at 5:00p.m. If you have any items to donate please bring them to the Lennoxville & District Women's Centre at 257 Queen Street, Lennoxville before March 8.

This year, in collaboration with Eastern Townships Women (ETWOM) and University Women's Club (Sherbrooke and District) the funds raised will pay a year's salary for a teacher in Afghanistan.

Our goal is to collect \$750 CDN to meet this commitment.

Supper will be served at 6:00 p.m. followed by a talk on Sharia Law (traditional Muslim, music and skits. at 7 p.m.

Tickets are available at the centre. Please phone in advance to reserve your place:
(819) 564-6626.

Price for member \$10 and for non-members \$15

If you cannot come to the supper but would like to attend the evening entertainment, you are welcome to join us.

We would encourage you to leave a donation at the door.

Bishop's Drama Presents

William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*

Shakespeare's 12th Night tells the tale of twins separated by a shipwreck, of unrequited love, and of three party animals determined to live life to its fullest despite the opposition of the stage's most renowned puritan, the self-adoring steward, Malvolio.

March 10th-13th, 2005 at Centennial Theatre (Bishop's University). Tickets are \$8. Curtain up at 8:00p.m. Running time is 2 hours with one 15 minute intermission.

For more information or tickets, call

Prof. George Rideout: (819) 822-9600, ext. 2389 or
Annie Duriez: (819) 564-0409

LENNOXVILLE- ASCOT HISTORICAL MUSEUM SOCIETY

The current Lennoxville-Ascot historical and Museum Society exhibit, Books from our Past, features a sampling of books from local area homes and schools, as well as some relevant toys. This is a show for the whole family. Thursday to Sunday 1:00 - 4:30 until May. Second floor Uplands, 9 Speid, Lennoxville. (819) 564-0409

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Diplomate of the American Board of OB-GYN

**Ben
Dover
says.....**



Grandma's Apron

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a holder for removing hot pans from the oven; it was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears.

From the chicken coop the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came those old aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids; and when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms.

Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow, bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and

kindling-wood were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled it carried out the hulls.

In the fall it was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees. When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds.

When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out on the porch and waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields for dinner.

It will be a long time before anyone invents something that will replace that old-time apron that served so many purposes.

**Remembering our
musical past.....**



The 'Sam Hopper and his Hoedowners' musical ensemble included his wife, Aveline, pictured above. Aveline not only was the piano accompanist, but those who were involved in the monthly taping of the radio shows at the Hopper residence well remember her extravagant lunches that inevitably followed the recording sessions.



Government of Canada

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Important Notice to Employers

Need summer help? Hire a student!

The Summer Career Placements initiative, a key element of the Government of Canada's Youth Employment Strategy, provides wage subsidies to help employers hire students for 6 to 16 weeks during the summer. Private, public and not-for-profit employers are invited to submit their application by:

Friday, April 1, 2005

This initiative aims to provide students with work experience related to their field of study. Applications will be assessed based on the eligibility criteria, regional and local priorities, the quality of the work experience offered, as well as budget availability.

To apply or to find out more about this initiative, please contact the nearest Human Resource Centre of Canada or call **1 800 935-5555**.

Or visit www.youth.gc.ca and click on *Employers*.

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