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THE GLEANER

132 nd - YEAR

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Everyone gets to speak piece at Howick Ccl.

There was a general "clearing of the air" as councillors, the mayor and citizens each had a say at the January 9 Howick Village Council meeting about how the municipality is being run.

Councillor Bill Casement bluntly asked secretary-treasurer Jeannine Couillard why Trés-St-Sacrement still hadn't been sent a bill for its share of the topsoil added to the municipal park in the summer of 1993.

A bill wasn't sent in 1993, nor was the park improvement cost included in the 1994 account, Casement explained, adding that Howick residents are paying interest on borrowed money (\$100,000 for the new water lines) though notices for amounts owed to the Village have never even been sent.

When Casement refused to drop the matter without an answer from Couillard, Mayor Claude Jodoin intervened on the secretary's behalf and loudly retorted to Casement, "It will be done this week".

There was more than ample time to get a bill sent out, since the subject of sending the Parish a notice for the \$4,000 had been brought up at caucus meetings during the past six months, a municipal source later told The Gleaner.

Announcing that he was responding to "numerous complaints", Mayor Jodoin asked councillor Ricky Raithby to propose that only the mayor and councillor Jean Doré, who are authorized to supervise municipal employees, be allowed to talk to Village foreman Norman Bourcier when he's working. The motion was seconded by Robert Doré.

Objecting adamantly to what he called an "unconstitutional" resolution, Casement asked that each councillor be polled. The motion was then defeated.

see HOWICK page 2

Clamp-down on Tremus is closer in Hinchinbrooke

Hinchinbrooke has moved one step closer to stopping the "storage" of contaminated substances and household refuse on Tremus Industries properties.

According to a December Superior Court ruling, Tremus Industries has no "acquired right" to operate a recycling business at either the Gowan Rd. or the Athelstan property.

Hinchinbrooke secretary-treasurer Kevin Neal learned January 10 that Tremus Industries has been given 30 days to clean up household refuse stored at its Gowan Rd. site.

Tremus Industries has filed an appeal.

Garbage contractor
 Hinchinbrooke Council voted at its January 3 meeting to hire



Hail to the haggis

Haggis presenters at Huntingdon St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church during Saturday's Robbie Burns supper included (l-r) Bill MacMillan, Address to the haggis; Wanda Goundrey, piper; and Ewen MacMillan, bearer. Hidden in photo is Shonah MacMillan, translator of Address.

(Photo: V.F.)

Burns Night in Huntingdon highlights things Scottish

A festive Scottish air filled the basement of Huntingdon's St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Saturday evening, as over 100 people celebrated the January 25 birthday of Scotland's great lyric poet, Robert Burns.

Piper Wanda Goundrey led the

guests from the annex to the basement, and piped in the haggis, borne on a silver tray by the kilted Ewen MacMillan.

Bill MacMillan, in full Highland regalia addressed the Haggis in the famous words of Burns. (An English translation was provided by his daughter, Shonah, to the delight of the audience.)

After a great meal of all kinds of casseroles, Scotch shortcake and trifle supplied by the ladies of the church, the piper and the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns were toasted by M.C. Jon Proudfoot.

A 90-minute program of Scottish entertainment followed. Rev. Neil Wallace led off with "We a Hundred Pipers". Don Racine on violin, with Laurie Lapalme at the piano, got everyone in a festive mood with "Road to the Isles", "Miss MacLeod's Reel", and "A Scottish Chatish". Heather and Catherine Harper, who have a little Scottish blood in their veins, displayed some Scottish dancing.

Yvette Harper, a well-known local performer, sang two songs "Take Me Back," and "Road to the Isles".

A trio, of Sandy Baranowski, Shirley Wallace and Murray McCaig from the United Choir, sang "Ye Banks and Braes" and "Scottish Soldier", to an appreciative audience.

Jon Proudfoot recited his poem, "Robbie Burns Day," and also managed to sneak in the odd Scottish poem between acts.

Lynn Harper Welburn's fine singing voice was admired as she presented two songs, "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose," and "Dainty Davie," both by Robbie Burns. Lynn then joined her mother, Yvette,

see BURNS page 2

Huntingdon native named head of one Valleyfield RCMP office

Huntingdon native Sgt. Laurier Leblanc took command of the Valleyfield RCMP detachment this week. This office, located at 461 Dufferin St., concentrates on fighting the importing of and trafficking in illegal drugs in this region.

Sgt. Leblanc has served 24 years on the force, primarily in Montreal and the surrounding regions. His background includes general investigation, airport security, organized crime, and most recently coordinating divisional protection.

Seven RCMP personnel are posted in the region, which covers the

Tourism will be priority for Haut-St-Laurent MRC

This year could be remembered as "the year of the tourist" in the MRC Haut-St-Laurent, as the regional government invests in selling our region.

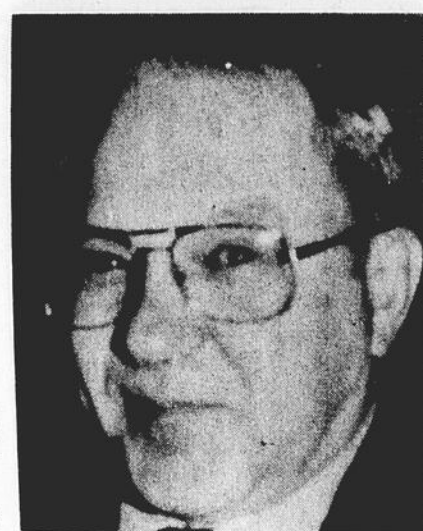
Using about two-thirds of its allocation of \$56,925 for business and projects development fund (for the Suroît), the MRC intends to invest about \$38,000 into the "Un vélo, une pomme" bicycle tour in hopes of drawing 3,500 cyclists.

Another \$3,500 is anticipated for a project initiated by the St-Amicet Chamber of Commerce, researching tourism development in the Haut-St-Laurent.

A new Suroît regional tourism office, located in Valleyfield, will open this year to guide travellers to local attractions.

Cyclists are coming

Huntingdon will be the departure point for up to 3,500 cyclists who will pedal down Valley roads and up to "apple country" in Franklin-



P-M PATENAUDE, MRC prefect.

Rockburn during September's *Un vélo, une pomme*.

As the main sponsor, the MRC is hoping its investment in the tour, will translate eventually into millions of tourism dollars spent here,

as newcomers introduced to the area make return visits.

Many Rte. 202 apple producers are also banding together to promote and market their farm products at competitive prices.

Railbed future

With news on the fate of the abandoned CN railway line in the Central Chateauguay Valley expected by May, groups and individuals with pertinent comments will be invited to a special meeting February 23.

All interest groups -- from recreation and service clubs to farmers and adjoining property owners, will be heard during the Ormstown meeting.

In April, the councils of the seven MRC du-Haut-St-Laurent municipalities affected (Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Ormstown, St-Malachie, Howick, Trés-St-Sacrement

see MRC page 2

Lavigne, Deslières launch pre-referendum campaign

Pro-separatist forces are rallying for the pre-referendum campaign in the region, with the announcement last week of February 15 as the approximate date on which the Montérégie Regional Commission on the future of Quebec will visit the Valleyfield and Vaudreuil sectors.

In a joint press conference in Valleyfield, local Bloc M.P. Laurent Lavigne and his PQ counterpart in Valleyfield, MNA Serge Deslières, called on the public to get involved in the PQ consultation process.

Those who don't get play an active role in the consultation cannot criticize decisions after they are

made, the two politicians said.

Citing the Bélanger-Campeau Commission as a precedent, they say the consultation process cannot be anything but beneficial, allowing a "popular dialogue" among people of differing points of view.

Rather than simply rubber-stamping government policies, the pair said they view the process as "a real exchange of ideas and questions regarding the future of Quebec". Pointing to a recent Léger and Léger poll indicating an approval rate of 58.4 per cent for the plan, they said that things are off to a good start for the proponents of sovereignty.

The Montérégie Regional Commission is headed by former Longueuil mayor Marcel Robidas, with ex-Quebec Liberal Party president Diane Viau and Verchères mayor Dell Dunn-Sénéchal as vice-presidents.

The Commission's Longueuil office may be reached at (514) 928-7643.

Meanwhile, a group of independence supporters calling themselves a "rainbow committee" plans to encourage grass-roots support for the sovereignty option.

Spokespeople Guy Boutin and Murielle Lavigne told last week's press conference in Valleyfield that their group represents several regional organizations.

They called on Quebecers to put aside their specific interests in order to work together toward making Quebec a nation. The committee members intend to get in touch with voters "in all walks of life -- at work, at play and at school"; to encourage meetings and exchanges,

see LAVIGNE page 2



1940s nostalgia

"The Nightingales" entertain during Shoestring Theatre's recent production of "War Bonds" in Hemmingford. Shown, left to right, are Genevieve Aboud (Susie), Leah Ball (Ginette), Carolyn Kyle (Leslie), and Marlene Campbell (Laurie).

(Photo: D. Kerr-Sabetta)

H'ford musical production gets enthusiastic response

The Shoestring Theatre presented its latest musical to packed houses on January 20, 21 and 22 at St. Andrew's United Church Hall in Hemmingford.

"War Bonds" was a wonderfully nostalgic look back on an era when times were difficult and emotional. It was a time when people made their own fun, and families stood by each other.

During the early 1940s, families were waiting anxiously for news

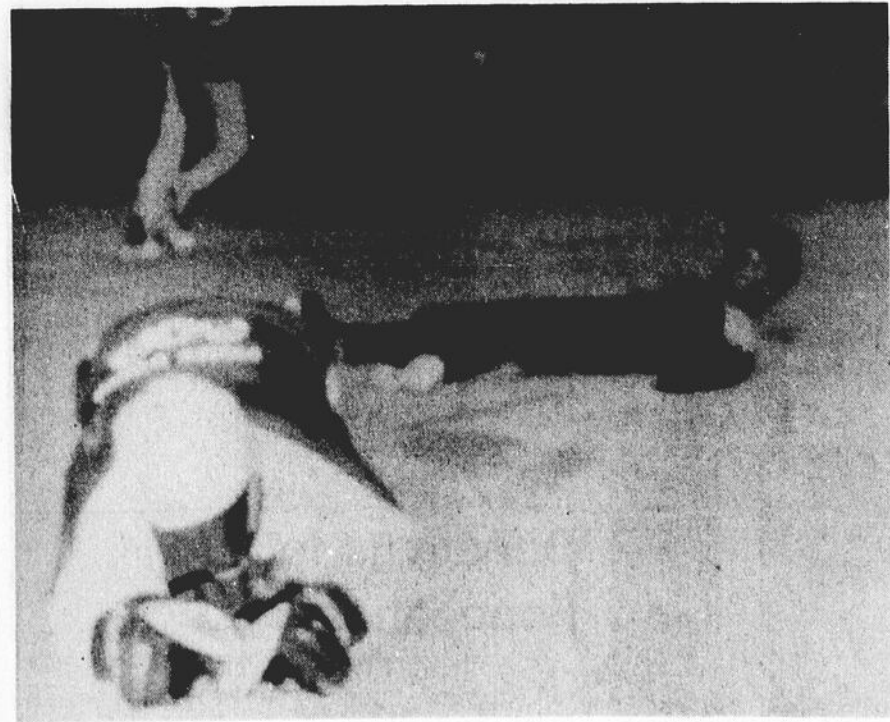
from loved ones overseas, and those at home often assisted in the war
 see H'FORD page 2



Carnival chess

The Ormstown Optimist Club's chess tournament held Saturday, Jan. 21 at the Recreation Centre, again proved to be a popular event with 58 youngsters participating. The first three finalists in each level will play in an upcoming zone competition: (Grade 2) Lance Bryson (pictured at left), Jean-François Gagnon, Audrey Laberge; (Grade 3) Martin Lalonde, Benoit Garand, Mathieu Landry; (Grade 4) David Reddick, Danny Laplante, Tim Hansen; (Grade 5) Danny Gauthier, Vincent Dandurand-Langevin, Miguel Bouchard; (Grade 6) Brodie Rember, Ryan McMahon, John Bryson.

(Photo: V.F.)



Whoops! . . .

The unexpected appearance of a photographer in front of these two Huntingdon Skate-a-thon participants was enough to throw them off their rhythm... and down they went for a little spill. However, they bounced up and continued merrily on to complete their turn on the ice. The Skate-a-thon raised over \$13,500. Please turn to story inside.

(Photo: V.F.)

This and That in Town

FRUSTRATION -- is the only polite word we can think of to describe our feelings over the past few weeks (since the Christmas break) as we struggle to get The Gleaner out to you in a tidy and error-free condition. We are trying to "break in" a new typesetting operation, which puts our pages together in Brossard, far enough away to keep us from having hands-on control of what goes where, and how.

WE KNOW -- that there have been glitches in recent weeks, and it bothers us just as much as it must bother you -- perhaps even more. To be fair, this firm has no experience with an English-language paper, nor with the larger broadsheet pages used by The Gleaner. So perhaps familiarity will help things get back on track. In the meantime, we apologize for any errors, omissions, or ugliness which may occur. Please bear with us; we're trying.

ONE GOOD THING -- we have noticed is that the photographs are coming out much clearer and better than before: credit where credit is due.

MEANWHILE -- we heard from Linda Glaude of the Communication-Québec office in Valleyfield, which sends along useful information for us to pass on to you. Last week we mentioned a booklet for seniors, and told readers to contact Communication-Québec to learn more. The trouble is, Linda tells us, we didn't give the telephone number meant for public calls: it is 370-3000, which has three lines available to enable people to get through more easily. Also, it's easy to remember, so please use this number whenever you call.

THE LATEST ISSUE -- of the Miner Institute Farm Report landed on our desk the other day. In it was an announcement that the Report will now be reprinted by the Quebec Farmers' Advocate, which reaches some 1,400 farmers across the province, most of the English-speaking. Ormstown's Hugh Maynard, QFA executive director, has made this sharing of information possible, and we're sure Advocate readers will enjoy Ev Thomas' publication. We know we've reprinted some good stuff from its pages in recent months, courtesy of Ev and his staff.

FROM THE C.L.S.C. -- in Huntingdon comes word that you can pick up a free Kino-Quebec card there, to help get you into the habit of healthful walking on a regular basis. A provincial survey recently found that walking is the favorite physical activity of 81 per cent of Quebec men and women aged between 45 and 64. The CLSC's Gisèle Martin urges area residents to think about walking more regularly, in order to enjoy health benefits, particularly in the areas of preventing cardio-vascular problems, bone and joint diseases, and mental problems. Walking is easily done just about anywhere, and best of all, it's free, she says.

IN HUNTINGDON -- an Open House will

be held at the Academy on Friday Jan. 27, from 10:30 a.m. to noon for all parents of preschoolers. Visitors will see both English and French classes in action, and learn about the school's programs and services, says principal Barbara Ednie.

THE NYLONS -- the well-known Canadian a cappella singing group, will appear at Cornwall's Aultsville Theatre (on the St. Lawrence College campus) on Sunday Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. For information contact Terry McRae at (613) 346-2622.

IN HEMMINGFORD -- outings for seniors have been scheduled by the local volunteer centre. The groups will travel by mini-bus to the Montreal area for a variety of attractions. In each case, departure time is 8:50 a.m. and the bus should be back by 3:30 p.m. The schedule includes: Place Ville d'Anjou on Tuesday Jan. 31; the Salon d'Habitation at the Olympic Stadium on Tuesday Feb. 28; the salon de la Femme at Place Bonaventure on Tuesday Mar. 21; and a shopping excursion on Tuesday Mar. 28. More information is available through Helene Mathys at the Centre. Call Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (F.E.)

THE NEXT CONCERT -- of the St. Lambert Choral Society will take place Saturday Feb. 11 at 8 p.m., and Sunday Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. at the St. Lambert Church, 41 Lorne Ave. in that town. Theme of the concert will be "Heart to Heart". Tickets will be available at the door. For information call (514) 671-2017 or 466-7270.

CHANNEL 57 -- the PBS television station in Plattsburgh, N.Y. is involving students in creating a publication about the Lake Champlain Basin. Students will work on-line with experts in various fields, and the finished publication will be distributed in parts on New York, Vermont, and Quebec. For more information contact Marie-Anne Azar at (518) 563-9770.

HUNTINGDON FAIR -- will take place during a new summer time-slot: mid-August. The Fair Board's Tom Quinnell said this year's edition will be held August 18 - 20, rather than the last days of July.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD BANK -- operated by La Bouffe Additionnelle in Huntingdon, reported that the organization answered 351 requests for Christmas baskets or financial assistance, which served 435 adults and 385 children. In 1994, 265 emergency food baskets were provided and 4,241 dinners were served. Coordinator Pearl Gendron says the requests for help come daily; she hopes the donations can continue to supply the need.

A BREAK-IN -- at Huntingdon's Arthur Pigeon School occurred Monday night. Three area male youths (two minors) were arrested by Huntingdon Sûreté du Québec officers. The investigation into this break-in and others is continuing.

How does your garden grow? with Hannah Ridolfi

Domestic composting as a method to reduce waste disposal problems is not new. The conscientious gardener relies upon composting to help with cost reduction, soil enrichment, and a greater involvement in environmental and ecological concerns.

During the temperate months, composting maintenance is relatively carefree and controllable. But when temperatures drop and organisms controlling the conversion of waste to compost slow down to a halt, the gardener tends to abandon the compost heap for the winter.

There is, however, a way to continue with composting activity using the Red Wiggler Worm (*Eisenia foetida*) as an ally. This is a process known as "vermi" (worm) composting.

The daily castings (excreta) of a single *Eisenia foetida* are equal to its body weight, so 1,000 worms with families could convert one ton of organic waste into compost in one year. This little red

worm is a money-saving, ecologically and environmentally sound powerhouse.

Red Wigglers are litter dwellers and their natural home can be a manure pile or rotting vegetation. With the help of fungi and molds, the Red Wiggler will eat its way through decaying vegetation, transforming its food intake into rich compost.

Temperature and moisture control and adequate bedding, plus a good food supply are all that is needed to keep these creatures alive, well and working.

Since it is highly unlikely that the average gardener will have the need of one ton of compost per year, a more practical approach would be to acquire a worm bin or composter.

This container needs accommodation for both moisture and ventilation. Temperature ranges in which the worms are comfortable and perform well, are from 50 to 77 degrees F.

The container

should be shallow, but size is relative to the amount of food to be fed. Figure on half a pound of worms to one cubic foot of bedding, eating four ounces of food a day. Worms eat their bedding as well as food.

Therefore bedding is important, and must be loose enough to allow oxygen to circulate freely, a guarantee that odor can be controlled. The bedding should have a 50 to 60 per cent moisture content, which favors reproduction and allows the skin of the worm to remain moist.

Bedding must be digestible, as well as having water-retaining qualities. Suggestions for bedding include: shredded paper products (ie newspaper); leaf mold; peat moss, to mix with other bedding and for water retention.

The Red Wiggler, if exposed to light, wiggles frantically to burrow underground to escape from it. Breeding worms are hermaphrodites and can produce an egg capsule every seven to ten days containing an average of seven baby worms, which will hatch in approximately 21 days. There is no chance that

a healthy, well-fed population will diminish.

Information necessary to operate a composting unit successfully can be found in a book called "Worms Eat my Garbage" by Mary Appelhof (published by Flower Press, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49002 USA).

Closer to home, Wendy Gorchinsky, at (514) 485-1279, offers advice, plus worms and bins, and will even service your worms when the time comes to "harvest" your compost. Vermicompost from your worm bin can be used on seed beds, house plants, transplants and top dressing.

Castings should be diluted with other potting materials such as perlite, sand or peat moss as they sometimes contain too heavy concentrations of salt.

H. Ridolfi

BURNS ...

from page 1

with a duet, "Skye Boat Song," a fitting close to the program.

The audience led by Yvette and Lynn, enjoyed the Famous Scottish singalong, and closed out the evening with Burns' "Auld Lang Syne".

Carol Bye, organist at the United Church, and Scott Auchinleck of the Presbyterian Church, accompanied the singers on piano.

The evening was a great success, and organizers would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns live on in our community.

J. Proudfoot

VOTE ...

from page 1

and to provide "documentation, speakers and resource people" to interested groups.

Committee members from the Valleyfield area include:

Mario Thibault of the Suroit Central Council; Denise Boileau, Quebec Civil Servants Union; Alain Dagenais and Guy Boutin, Valleyfield Labor Council; Paul Dequire and Pascal Mathieu, Valleyfield Students' Association; Jocelyne Labossière, COFNQ; Lise Poirier, D'Main Women's Centre; Murielle

Lavigne, Valleyfield Women's Association; Serge Deslières MNA; Laurent Lavigne MP; Robert Ferland and Stéphane Aucoin of the CEQ teachers' union; and a representative of the Quebec NDP party. The group has an 800 phone line for further information and liaison purposes: 1-800-369-0191.

MRC ...

from page 1

and St-Jean-Chrysostome) are expected to make a decision.

The decision made by the majority of municipalities will be respected by the MRC, which then will negotiate with the railroad the ultimate fate of the line, MRC prefect Paul-Maurice Patenaude said.

Determining legal and financial responsibility for the St-Anicet pumping station for the LaGuerre waterway could be settled once the MRC municipal court is off and ruling.

The new municipal court is expected to be operational by June; one judge and a bailiff will be hired for the anticipated five to six sessions annually.

Current business With four local municipalities left in the lurch recently when their garbage contractor went out of business, the MRC created a board at its January 11 Mayors' Council meeting to study MRC garbage collection services and policies. Members will meet monthly for a year.

St-Malachie's trial collection of used-paint cans collection last fall was deemed successful and another

collection in the MRC is expected in 1995, Patenaude added.

The mayors' working-committee on the land management revision will meet for a caucus meeting January 30, to approve projects for 1995.

MRC urbanist Céline Lebel has recommended six projects, which will be reviewed by mayors Paul-Maurice Patenaude, (Dundee); Claude Jodoin (Howick); Jeannine Lavallée-Giroux, (Havelock); Claude-Gilles Pilon, (St-Anicet); and Denis Vincent (St-Chrysostome).

The MRC meets again February 13. (V.F.)

THEATRE ...

from page 1

effort by selling war bonds.

The musical was written by Ann DeCaen and directed by Debbie Gaese with musical scores supervised by Mary Aboud. As well, many people behind the scenes all made it possible; from the lighting, set design, and costumes, to publicity and many other details.

New faces in the cast proved every bit as capable as those who had been acting for several years, and a

new selection of songs were colorful, heart-warming and nostalgic.

After curtain calls and a standing ovation, Debbie Gaese presented flowers to Ann DeCaen and Mary Aboud. Debbie also received flowers from the cast and a special tribute was performed by Yervant Stepanian, Leah Ball and Leslie Campbell.

A French version of the play will be presented at the end of March in Sherrington, and another production is already in the works for early summer.

-D. Kerr-Sabetta

Simple security plans can help prevent crime



Crime prevention can be carried out in many ways. Our habits, attitude and ways can either allow or discourage opportunities for attacks or crime in general. Often, occasions seen as trivial can be release mechanisms for a criminal action.

In crime prevention, one must keep in mind that crime exists, and find ways to reduce opportunities. This must become a way of life.

At home

A home is the most common target for crime. The first principle of keeping it as safe as possible is discretion.

Being discreet about our plans, belongings and activities will avoid trouble for many of us.

Too many individuals like to show off their belongings. A person you confide in may merit your trust but can you trust someone who may just happen to be listening in? Will that person in turn repeat what was heard to someone else?

Locking doors

At all times, keeping all doors locked is the second rule to ensure your security. This is not to make one feel captive. On the contrary, it is a way of controlling "ins and outs" in your home. This good habit will reduce the risk of an undesirable surprise.

Investing in a good security system is recommended. In general, robbers work in the same way: with a screwdriver and pliers. They know the different qualities of locks on the market, and are aware of the relative value of each.

A good lock can annoy and delay a robber. Often enough, robbers faced with good-quality locks have been known to give up and go on to the next house. Investing in a superior quality lock can also avoid confrontation with an intruder in your home as you enter.

For more information: officer Alain Rouillier (264-5384).

-S.Q., Huntingdon and Ste-Martine offices

BMH Auxiliary reports rise in 1994 donations

The Barrie Memorial Hospital Auxiliary reports an increase in donations and a rise in membership over last year's campaign.

The 1994 membership drive in 11 Valley communities raised \$25,291.54 for the Ormstown hospital, compared to the previous year's total of \$19,706.40.

"The increase is due partly to the generosity of donors, who often make an extra contribution when they pay their regular membership fee, and also to the dedication of our canvassers and local captains," said campaign co-chairman Eleanor Finlayson of Ormstown.

"Each year, our volunteers seem to work a

little harder in support of the Barrie - and we hope this trend will continue."

A list of amount raised in the various communities follows:

TOTALS

Huntingdon \$7,539.50; Ormstown \$3,665.75; Howick, Aubrey, Riverfield \$3,410; St. Chrysostome \$3,041.25; Franklin \$2,355.50; Ste-Agnes-de-Dundee \$1,438.54; Hemmingford \$1,189; Dewittville \$513;

St-Antoine-Abbé \$1,039; Lacolle (special donation) \$1,000; Ste-Martine \$100.

Total canvass for 1994: \$25,291.54. Last year's canvass (1993): \$19,706.40.

-E. Finlayson

Donations to B.M.H. Foundation

The Barrie Memorial Hospital Foundation acknowledges with appreciation the following donations, received from: Thomas Hingston, Michael Keirans, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kierans, Mr. and Mrs. J. Oakman, August Schaefer. The following Memorial Donations have

been received: In Memory of: Mrs. Laura Anderson from Dr. Fred A. Horsley; Mrs. Alma Beauchamp from Adoris Beauchamp; Léo Chartrand from Mrs. Agnes Chartrand, Ericsson Communication see FOUNDATION page 8



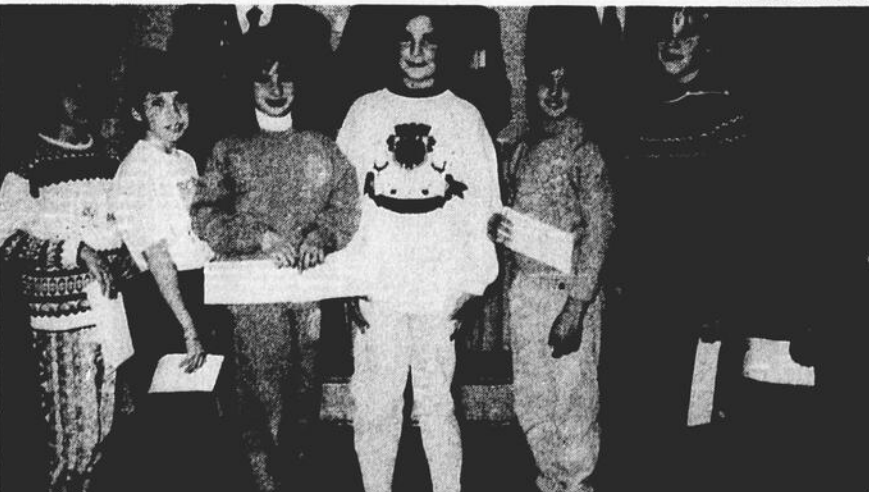
Howick 4-H trophy winners (left to right): Kevin McKell, Erika Stacey, Andrew Scoble, Janice Wilson, Shonah MacMillan, Daryl Wilson, José Kessler.

H'ford winners



Level 5 winners in the recent contests sponsored at Hemmingford Elementary School by the local Legion were (left to right) Melina Ward, Brendan Sisk (poster and essay), Stephanie Dauphinais, Reed Ellerton, Adriane Aboud, and Kathryn Ransome-Hodges (poem).

(Photo: F.E.)



Level 4 winners in the Legion contest for essays, poems and poster at Hemmingford Elementary School were (left to right) Lisa Kastelberger, Katlin Wallace, Melissa Patterson (poem) Bonnie De Caen, Estelle Tourret, Evelyne Bouchard, and Sarah Moore (poem).

(Photo: F.E.)



Level 3 pupils who won in the region Legion-sponsored contests at Hemmingford Elementary School were (left to right) Kevin McKough, Ashley Kyle, Emily Kennedy, Devin Sisk, Brittany Wallace, and Eric Bouchard.

(Photo: F.E.)

50-year pin presented at Aubrey-Riverfield W.I.

Laura Orr was given special recognition at the December meeting of Aubrey-Riverfield W.I. when she was presented with a 50-Year pin in appreciation of her long and devoted service to the organization.

Shortly after her marriage to Osborne Orr in 1940, Laura joined Aubrey-Riverfield W.I. and has been a member ever since, except for four years when she was in Montreal.

She received a W.I. Life Membership in 1972 for her contribution to W.I.

Joyce McKell, Past President and Laura's neighbor for many years, read the citation and made the presentation.

The December meeting held at the home of Betty MacFarlane took the form of a potluck buffet luncheon. Gifts for children, dry goods, and 14 quilts were brought in for community baskets that nurse Ruth Graham was preparing. A monetary donation was made to the Howick Elementary hot lunch program.

The annual meeting

was at Joyce McKell's home on January 19, which happened to be Betty MacFarlane's birthday. Good wishes were extended to her and Anna Widmer whose birthday had been two days earlier.

Patricia Robertson outlined the program for 1995 - 96. Conveners submitted reports and discussed ideas for the future. Plans were made for the sale of Hot Cross buns on April 11 during Easter Week. The spring cloth and clothing collection is set for April 17-24 with drop-off at 47 Colville, Howick (Tel. 825-2067).

The 1995 slate of officers for 1995 was named: President, Jean Furcall; Secretary, Joyce McKell; Treasurer, Violet Deschamps.

Conveners: Agriculture, Marjorie Templeton; Canadian Industries, Betty MacFarlane; Citizenship and Legislation, Patricia Robertson; Education and Cultural Activities, Gloria Peddi; Environment, Audrey Reddick; Home Economics and Health, Vernice Angell; International Affairs, Joan Poupart; Publicity,



Aubrey-Riverfield president Jean Furcall (left) presents W.I. 50-year Pin to Laura Orr.

Jean Furcall; Safety, Violet Deschamps; Practical Ideas, Laura Orr and Grace McWhinnie. Past-president is Joyce McKell.

Special guest of the afternoon was Risa Kumamoto, the charming young woman from Japan who is staying with Gloria and Jack Peddie. She gave many insightful comparisons between her country and Canada.

Risa like Canada - the friendliness of the people, the quiet and space of the countryside, the food. Especially she "loves" maple syrup.

We are glad that she will carry good memories of Canada with her when she leaves. While she is here, we can continue to enjoy her bubbly personality and charm.

-J. Furcall

Township raises tax rate for 1995

Hemmingford Township's 1995 budget calls for a tax increase, to \$.46 per \$100 valuation, up from the \$.42 rate for the last two years.

Of this \$.11 will go to pay for police services from the Sureté du Québec, making a total cost of \$93,371 for policing the Township in 1995.

The total budget of \$1,289,866 includes the cost of the planned new fire station (\$320,000, of which \$160,000 will be paid through a joint subsidy from the provincial and federal governments).

Government subsidies to the Township have been cut by \$30,000 for 1995, with reductions planned every year until municipalities carry the costs transferred to them under the "Ryan reforms" (for roads, police, etc.).

An annual subsidy of \$72,778 will be paid to the municipality for

another two years by Quebec, to replace the revenue lost from Parc Safari's amusement tax.

Road improvement and roadbed drainage are a priority, with \$360,000 budgeted. This is the largest expense foreseen for 1995.

Township residents will receive a summary of the budget along with their 1995 tax bills, which will be mailed at the end of February.

At the January regular meeting, council gave \$250 to each of the two preschool programs in Hemmingford, (Mrs. Joan Kyle's program at Hemmingford Elementary, and Passe Partout at the Ecole Langlois).

Municipal insurance policies were renewed with Hadley, Chartrand Insurance, a local company.

Accounts payable totalling \$540,072.26 were approved.

-F. Ellerton

Ormstown

by Jean McEwen • 829-2704

Ormstown

by Jean McEwen • 829-2704

Church news

When the members of St. Paul's U.C.W. met at MacDougall Hall on January 18 at 1:30 p.m., they were served dessert lunch by Joan Gosnell and Ruby Sproule.

Chairperson Shirley Sutherland opened the meeting, and a minute of silence was observed in memory of former U.C.W. members.

Devotions were conducted by Helen Nitsch and Edith Harvey, and consisted of readings and prayer. Hymns sung were "Let me be your servant" and "Give us laughter, O Joy of our Life".

The roll call was answered by "What I wish for the New Year".

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Peer-group programs positive step at C.V.R.

Last year a group of CVR teachers attended a workshop, led by The Freedom Group of Montreal, in Jay. They wanted to learn more about Peer Mediation and how such a program could be implemented at CVR. The group came back feeling positive, and eager to share their vision with the rest of the staff and students.

By the end of June, a core group of 10 staff

members and 14 students was formed.

Another workshop was scheduled in November so that the newest members could begin to learn the techniques of mediating conflicts among their peers. The experience of working together over the two-and-a-half days was exhilarating for participants who then returned to the real world of classrooms, bells and homework.

mework.

Peer Helpers
Another project initiated this year has been the Peer Helper Program.

These students with a variety of concerns and/or difficulties. Their roles will be diverse and may include acting as mentor, tutor, or buddy to another student. They will also be involved with the spring orientation of Grade 6 and 6+ stu-

dents when they visit CVR.

CVR's Peer Mediation and Peer Helper programs are holding a craft fair as a fund-raising event of Saturday March 25, at the high school. Applications are still available for those who are interested. For more information call Laurent Small at 829-2381.

-L. Small

P. Derry

Birthday Party

Congratulations to Miss Marion Swan who celebrated her 86th birthday on Monday, Jan. 16.

Her first greeting came from the Quebec eyeopener C.B.M. Radio 940 at 5:30 a.m.

Some friends gathered for tea in the afternoon and she received several phone calls, some from folks alerted by the radio broadcast.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of the late Mrs. Viola MacGeorge and also to the families and relatives of the late Mrs. Elva (Ness) Armstrong of Lachute; the late Mrs. Lillian Chisholm, the late Mrs. Pearl Kerr; and the late Carlyle Dickson.

THE FUTURE OF QUÉBEC STARTS IN YOUR MAILBOX.

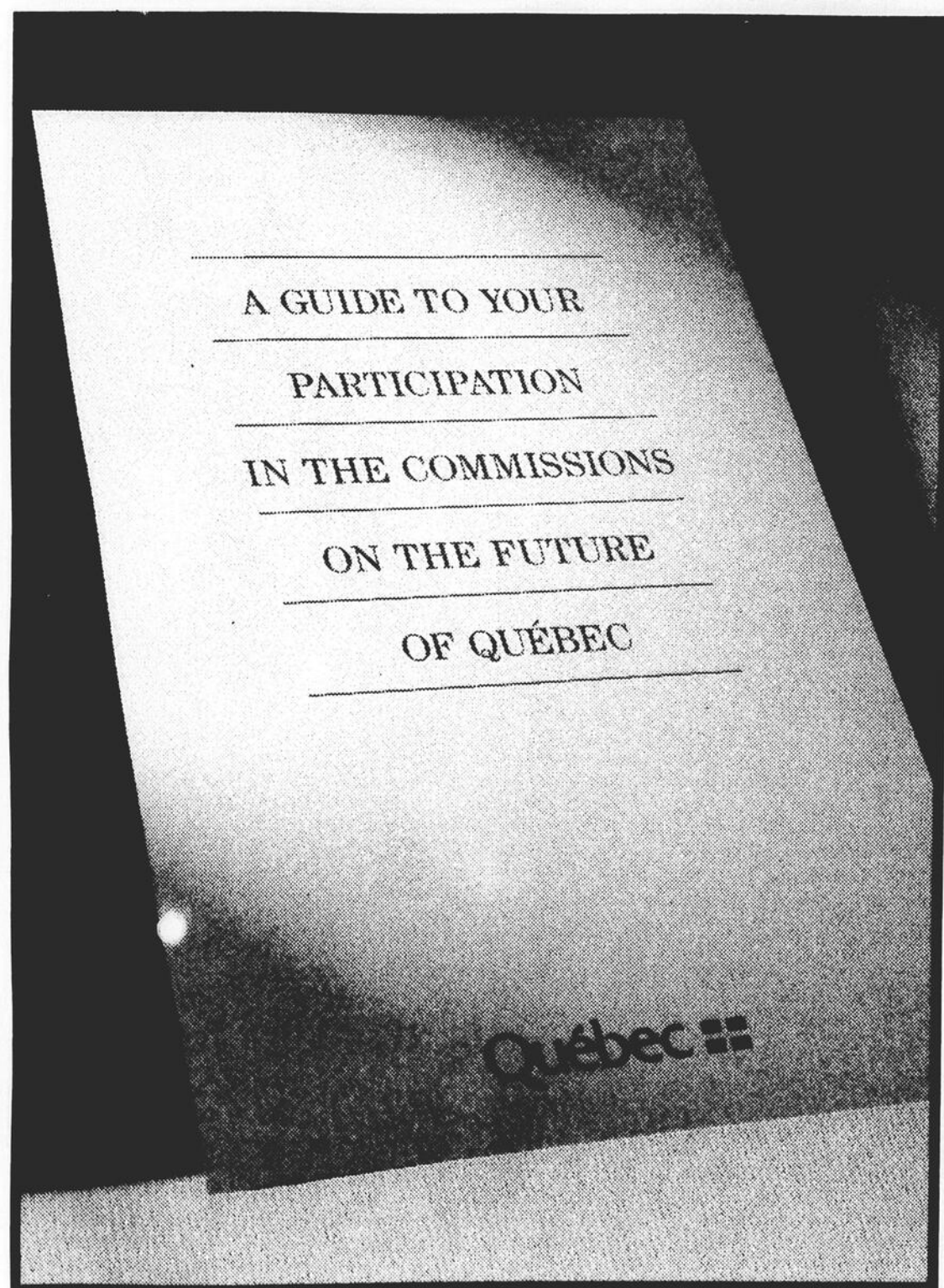
You recently received, or will soon be receiving in your mailbox, a copy of the *Guide to your participation in the commissions on the future of Québec*. In it, you will find definitions of the articles in the *Draft bill on the sovereignty of Québec*, and the official position of the political parties represented in the commissions.

You will also find information on how you

can participate in your regional commission. Take the time to read through the Guide; you'll see that every effort has been taken to ensure that all Quebecers have a say in the future of Québec.

Please speak your mind, we want to hear from everyone.

To reach your commission, call toll-free: 1-800-381-2425.



Gouvernement du Québec
Ministère du Conseil exécutif
Secrétariat national des commissions
sur l'avenir du Québec

THE GLEANER
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Editorial

AND SO IT STARTS

Last week the pre-referendum campaign got its official send-off in Valleyfield, with a press conference held by Bloc MP Laurent Lavigne, who has the Chateauguay Valley as part of his riding, and PQ MNA Serge Deslières, who does not.

The two government representatives have teamed up to share an office in that city, and are operating jointly to promote the pro-sovereignty position espoused by both their parties.

Conspicuously absent from the list of union representatives and heads of various other groups who have styled themselves a "rainbow committee" to promote separation was anyone recognizably from our own area. Our MNA, Liberal André Chenail, so far has been silent on the PQ's plans for the referendum process, in line with his party's official position.

This leaves many of us, especially anglophones, feeling rather rudderless as the brouhaha of the

separatist campaign grabs media attention.

This too will pass: there's a lot of water to go under the bridge before any decisions are made. The coming months will see some interesting discussions, no doubt, and not only those taking place under the aegis of the PQ's carefully organized strategy. There will be other platforms for people who don't feel comfortable with this highly choreographed routine. And maybe some more opponents of sovereignty will find it in themselves to hold up the other side of the argument, even within the confines of the Regional Commissions and rainbow committees.

At the end of the road, however, is the bottom line -- the vote. And on referendum day, the ballot of the silent but thoughtful individual, of whatever political persuasion, will carry the same weight as that of the prominent political activist.

(J.T.)

GLEANER ARCHIVES...

120 years ago

January 28, 1875

The new piano for the Academy, a very fine and expensive instrument, has been received from Montreal...

Cornmeal, heated and placed in bags, is recommended as a substitute for hot-water bottles and such-like appliances for restoring warmth to the sick. It is said to weigh less, retain heat longer, and does not chill when cold.

Since the New Year we have had a constant succession of storms and extremely cold weather... frequently the east and west roads have been impassable... the Caughnawaga stage, which, despite the storms, has made all along most excellent time, could not get farther than Durham [now Ormstown], while the Hemmingford mail did not start. From Dewittville downwards there is a great scarcity of water. A thaw would be acceptable alike to mill-owners and farmers.

We do not understand how the English-speaking people of this Province can regard with such complacency the doings at Quebec... members of our local house voting unanimously in

60 years ago

January 23, 1935

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES TWO YEARS EXCEEDS \$16,300

The present council of the Town of Huntingdon is to be congratulated on the present financial condition of the Town. Very few towns the size of Huntingdon in Canada can boast of owing the small sum of \$30,000 in bonded indebtedness and a very favourable amount of cash on hand with which to carry on until the next tax levy... The policy of the council during the last two years has been to cut operating expenses to a minimum yet run the town efficiently...

THIEVES BUSY...
We have two policemen patrolling the business section of the town but what we need now is a clothes line cop... While stealing clothes off clothes lines has always more or less prevailed in town, nothing much has been heard about it until recently when some sneak thief resumed operations in this respect. The thief... visited the clothes line of hard working, honest and respectable family and removed a pair

30 years ago

January 27, 1965

THIRD ANNUAL CARNIVAL AT DEWITTVILLE SUCCESSFUL EVENT

... under the auspices of the [Dewittville] Women's Institute... sold hot dogs, hot chocolate and coffee... Stanley Currie provided a record player and loud speaker attachment, making it possible to have a background of lively music for the occasion. The costumes were colorful and varied, showing ingenuity and creative ability on the part of the participants... took part in this annual winter frolic from "King Tut", the Egyptian Mummy... Winners - 5 years and under, Mark Léger; 6 and 7 years, Bob Ruddock; 8 and 9 years old, Patsy Greenbank; 10 and 11 years, Sydney Kyle; 12 and 13 years old, Susan MacIntosh and Gail

of men's overalls, a couple of flannel shirts and some feminine apparel...

TRYING TO CONTROL REVOLVER OWNERSHIP

Local persons who have pistols or revolvers in their possession are advised to register them at once with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police... all persons caught with them are liable to a fine of \$50 and costs, imprisonment on default up to a period of 20 days or both. This is a move on the part of the Federal Government to secure some control over ownership of these deadly weapons.

HIGHWAY TO CITY HAS A TOLL

Apparently few interested, for only two or three persons were present to attend a meeting... to discuss keeping winter roads open. Arrangements had scarcely been completed with Ste. Philomene when the snow plow proprietors lacked funds to carry on... toll gates have been erected where all motorists will be required to pay before passing. Passage, of course, is allowed horse-drawn carriage vehicles, free.

Elliot...

FOUR CARS PILE UP NEAR HOWICK

A car-accident at the gateway to Keith Morrison's home on Riverfield Road, involved at first Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Howie and two children from Chateauguay and John Brown from near Howick. John went to the Morrison home to call the police and before he returned, Jop Matthews, Fertile Creek, arrived to make a second call, as his car had made it a three-car accident. While they were telephoning, John Smith, Ste. Chrysostome, added his car to the pile-up, the fourth and final car. A lot of damage was done to the cars. The roads were very slippery and the whole accident happened within minutes.



Letters

H'don residents clarify issue of business permit

In regard to your front page article last week, "Council changes its view on permit," we would like to point out a few facts.

Council did not change its view and agreed with our contention from the beginning.

It was the building inspector who refused to issue the permit and

told council that the request was for a gymnasium, when in reality it was for a health club.

At a following meeting on January 11, the mayor and the councilors present objected to his refusal but the inspector stonewalled in what we consider an arrogant way, dismissing all the facts in

favor of granting the permit.

At the special meeting of January 16, the vote was unanimous in overruling Mr. Perreault.

We would like to clarify this so the blame is put where it belongs.

-Isabelle and George Zeldenrust

La Bouffe helped many to brighter Xmas, with help

The Christmas campaign of La Bouffe Additionnelle got off to a slow start this year, and I can tell you that the ordering of the foodstuffs for the baskets was done with a lot of faith in the people of the Haut-St-Laurent.

Once again our faith was justified: we did it, thanks to our schools, churches, community groups, the Montreal Gazette

Christmas Fund and all our friends, old and new, who dropped in with their cheques in hand. Wendy and Sherley worked hard to see that the children received something special (a total of 169 children visited Santa at 5 Prince St.).

Monique, Ruth and Iris in Ormstown co-operated with Louise and her supporters in St-Anicet, and volun-

teers came in to wrap gifts, fill the baskets and do the deliveries. Without the help of all these people we would have not succeeded. We thank everyone and extend best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 1995.

-Pearl Gendron, Co-Ordinator La Bouffe Additionnelle

Howick 4-H Club presents trophies, awards at dinner



Howick 4-H president Daryl Wilson presents Robert E. Ness with hand-made shelf.

The Apple Chalet of Connie and Clairmont Faillie of Franklin Centre was filled to capacity for Howick 4-H's annual banquet in November.

Daryl Wilson, the President welcomed everyone and following the meal, introduced the head table: Nancy Cameron (Fieldperson); Nancy Greig (Director QYF); Dan Brown (new President); Elen Cameron (Ormstown Co-President); Shonah MacMillan (Secretary); Huntingdon President Tiffany McNaughton; and guest speakers Phillip Rember and David Furey, who travelled to Africa this past summer.

Shonah MacMillan thanked the speakers and presented them with a gift of maple products.

Trophies were handed out: Elm Barr Farms Trophy (Highest Score in Cattle Judging)-Jesse Kessler; Walter Parker Trophy (Jr. Showmanship)-Janice Wilson; Bruce Templeton Memorial Trophy (Intermediate Showman)-Kevin McKell; Burnside Trophy (Sr. Showmanship)-Serge LaForet; HTB Trophy (Holstein Championship)-Erika Stacey; Jersey Championship, Brent Chisholm; Ste-Martine Inseminators Trophy (Best Group)-Chad McKell; Joan Ness Memorial Trophy for Outstanding Dedication, Daryl Wilson;

John Brown Annual Perseverance Award, Shonah MacMillan; Best Handicraft

Display, Andrew Scoble.

Over the years, Robert E. Ness has done a great deal for the club, hosting Achievement Day and acting as Leader.

In closing, Daryl passed the gavel to Dan Brown and thanked all members, parents and leaders for their support. He then presented Daryl with the President's Pin.

-Daryl & Janice Wilson

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Assistant Director
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generous donation of
\$1,925.00
To all of our community supporters a
sincere "Thank-you" for your generosity and continued support

Births and Deaths

Cards of Thanks, In Memoriams, Marriage Notices, Engagements, Announcements.

BIRTH

MACFARLANE-MASON - Brian and Holly are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Julie Marie, born at the Barrie Memorial Hospital on January 23, 1995 weighing 8 lbs 4 oz. A little sister for Dale and Rachel. Proud grandparents are Betty MacFarlane and John & Rosemary Mason. Eighth great-grandchild for Everett & Mona Mason.

DEATH

DUPUIS, Lucile in Trout River on December 25, 1994, at the age of 76 years, passed away Mrs. Lucile Dupuis, wife of M. Réal Racine. Besides her husband, she leaves to mourn her children Lionel (Helen Lorange), Marie-Claire (Réal St-Onge), Jules (Christiane Bélanger), Pierre (Henriette Lorange), Claude (Lorraine Leblanc), Rachele (Jacques Lalonde), Jacques (Irene Starnes), Jocelyne (Yvan Lalonde), Luc (Mariette Deschamps), Daniel (Victoria Groleau), many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Visitation took place on December 28 at Rodrigue Montpetit & Fils Funeral Home. Funeral was held on Thursday December 29 at 11am, in the Ste-Agnès-de-Dundee Parish Church. Interment at the Parish cemetery.

My sincere thanks to all friends, neighbours and family for the cards, gifts, phone calls and flowers on the occasion of my 90th Birthday. It was nice to see everyone and have a good visit.

Bert Rennie

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Krotecki and the nurses of the second floor at the Barrie for the excellent care I received during my stay in hospital. I also want to thank all the wonderful friends and neighbours for so many acts of kindness to me during my illness, I am deeply grateful to them all.

Irene Wilson

A sincere thank-you to all who sent cards and letters to Judith Martin during her illness and to all who sent expressions of love and sympathy to the family and I.

Ruth Bryson

CARD OF THANKS

The local Huntingdon Volunteer Firemen would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their encouragement and support which made the annual hockey match against CFCF "No Stars" so successful. This year's event raised \$1,925.00 which has been donated to "Residence Elle". A warm thank-you to our CFCF friends, these players are wonderful people and their participation in the event is one of the high-points of the firemen's hockey club calendar. The firemen would like to thank the following local groups, organizations and individuals: Royal Canadian Legion Br 81, Auto-bus Roland Leduc, Mr Claude Racine, Ms Shelley Maither, Lawrence Prevost, Billy K of the WNVN Radio Station in Malone, Donnie Tremblay, Gordie Duke, Steven MacDonnell and the Little River Mohawk Band. Again, our great thanks to everyone - and if you missed this year's game - See you next year!

Where you have walked sunlight shines
Your Golden smile people find
Within their hearts the Angels sing
That Barney to the whole world, love he does bring

Your games for hours we sat and played
Nintendo, Sega, Trouble, Old Maid,
Down the card you laughed then laid
And with that sweet smile you had
You said no matter who won, you were glad

So dear brother my hidden tears will never stop.
For in heaven or on earth our soul will never part
I love you now, from first to last
For your presence in my heart will never pass.
With all my love your Brother David.

Shirley Borland and family

The family of the late Pearl Kerr wish to express their heartfelt thanks to family and friends for cards, phone calls and expressions of sympathy. A special thanks to the staff of Centre d'Accueil for their kindness.

CARD OF THANKS

To all our wonderful neighbours and friends who have helped and given us support during this time of the loss of our son and brother John Lunn. We extend to you our love and heartfelt thanks.

Mary, Charlie and David Lunn

In memoriam

TOLHURST, Nellie - Passed away January 26, 1988.

Time may pass, but loving memories stay in our hearts.

Always loved, her family

An Ode to Barney, (John Lunn) My Brother and Friend
Along life's road we fought and played
But your laughter, joy and smile you'd always lend
So our love for each other forever stayed.

I pray dear brother from my heart
Your journey's end is but a start
Upon God's wings you fly like a lark
Never more to see night's lasting dark.

Where you have walked sunlight shines
Your Golden smile people find

Within their hearts the Angels sing
That Barney to the whole world, love he does bring

Your games for hours we sat and played
Nintendo, Sega, Trouble, Old Maid,
Down the card you laughed then laid
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So dear brother my hidden tears will never stop.
For in heaven or on earth our soul will never part
I love you now, from first to last
For your presence in my heart will never pass.
With all my love your Brother David.



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Legion District plans several major events

1995 is the 50th anniversary of the W. II Armistice, and Legion District 13, Chateauguay Valley, will commemorate the occasion with a celebration on May 13 at Mohawk Branch 219 at Kahnawake.

The day will include a parade to the cenotaph with color parties, marchers, and bands from all district branches, followed by a punch party and supper. A guest speaker will be followed by the Mohawk Dancers, a sing-a-long and more. Committee members are looking forward to support from all District Legionnaires.

DISTRICT CRIBBAGE:

District cribbage will be held at Beauharnois on February 11. Registration will start at 11:30 a.m. for all members, affiliates, and guests. Contact your branch sports officer or call Ed Leaman at 264-3047 or 256-5289.

man at 264-3047.

DISTRICT CURLING:

District curling on March 4 will be at Huntingdon Curling Club, with supper at the Huntingdon Legion Hall. Maximum number of teams will be 16, on a first-come, first-serve basis. This event is open to all members, fraternal, and Ladies' Auxiliary members. All prizes will be cash. Enter teams by contacting your sports officer or call Ed Leaman (264-3047) or Raymond Stonehouse (264-5289). Deadline for registration is Monday, Feb. 27.

The next District Meeting will be held at Branch 62, Valleyfield on February 18, at 1400 hours.

District members mourn the loss of Past District Commander Alvin Watterson of Branch 108, Chateauguay. Al was District Commander from 1972 to 1976. He will be missed by all who knew him. Officers and Members of District 13 send deepest sympathy to Lorene and family.

-Raymond Stonehouse
District Commander

Franklin Women's Institute

The annual meeting of Franklin W.I. was held at the home of Gertrude Money Penny on January 5, with 11 members answering Roll Call by paying one cent per pound of their weight.

Annual fees were paid and a new member, Mrs. Minnie Mordock, was welcomed.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of John Lunn and Bernard Yelle.

The new slate of officers is: Past President, Mrs. Isabel Sutton; President, Mrs. Patricia Ocenaz; Vice President, Mrs. Alice Leahy; Secretary, Mrs. Muriel Sutton; Treasurer, Mrs. Therese Watt.

Conveners: Agriculture, Vonnice Ste. Croix; Canadian Industries, June Orr; Citizenship and Legislation, Muriel Frier; Education and Cultural Activities, Mariette Faillie; Home Economics and Health, Mary Lunn; International Affairs, Isabel Sutton; Card Convener, Mary Lunn.

A sympathy card was signed and sent to the Lunn family, and three Life Memberships were proposed.

Convener's reports

Muriel Frier (Citizenship and Legislation) reported Revenue Canada has set up toll-free numbers offering general information or assistance in claiming capital gains exemptions. The numbers are 1-800-959-8281 (English) and 1-800-959-7383 (French).

International Affairs: Isabel Sutton who read that more than 300 bears have been killed on Florida highways since 1976. Officials plan to build a culvert under one two-lane highway, with mile-long fences on both sides of the road to "funnel" bears into it. -Muriel Sutton

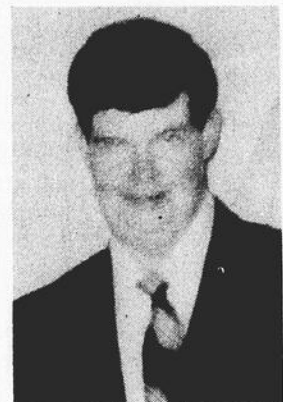
Rockburn's John Lunn mourned by community

The Rockburn community as well as many people from all over the Chateauguay Valley were deeply saddened by the news that John Lunn had passed away suddenly in a hospital in Ocala, Florida, on New Year's Eve.

John was born in Centreville, N.B. on October 2, 1952.

He leaves to mourn his parents, Charles and Mary Lunn; his brother David; and his grandmother Mrs. May Gallagher, aged 101, who resides in a nursing home in Centreville, N.B.; as well as many other relatives.

Memorial service
A memorial service was held Saturday Jan.



John Lunn

14 at the Sharpe Funeral Home at Franklin Centre.

Rev. John McPhadden of Rockburn Presbyterian Church, Rev. Gabor Nitsch of Franklin United Church, and Rev. Leslie McAusland of the Church of the Nazarene officiated.

ated.

Organist Carol Bye played soft music throughout the visitation while mourners packed the funeral home.

The service included prayer, scripture readings and special music. Liz Morgan sang "What a Day That Will Be"; "Because He Lives"; and "On the Wings of a Dove".

John adored country music, and his favorite star was Box Car Willie, whom he had the pleasure of meeting at his theatre in Branson, Missouri, when he traveled there with his mom and brother David on a tour organized by Florence McNaughton in 1993.

Recently, (on October 2) friends and neighbors held a special party for John on his 42nd birthday. The Rockburn Hall was filled with folks from near and far for a potluck supper, and the Sutton family played country music later in the evening. This was one of the happiest times in John's life.

John's family is grateful to all who have supported them in so many ways through their bereavement.

Burial of John's ashes will take place in the spring in the family plot in Centreville, N.B.

-D. Farquhar

At Hemmingford, W.I. plans seniors' luncheon

A wintery January 11 saw Hemmingford's W.I. members gather at Margaret Keddy's home.

Christmas Cheer boxes had been distributed in December and thank-you notes were read.

Special dates ahead are: County Card Party - April 11; Annual County meeting - April 28; Annual QWI meeting - May 18.

Plans for publishing a cookbook are underway and copies should be available for sale by spring.

The annual meeting included, 1994 reports presented by: Treasurer, Edith Fisher; Secretary, Jean Norman; Agriculture and Environment, Evelyn Davis;

Canadian Industries, Kay Orr; Citizenship and Legislation, Enid Thompson; Cultural Affairs, Ina Clelland;

Education, Anne Robertson; Home Economics and Health, Gloria Cookman; International Affairs, Pat Yellenik; Publicity, Jolene Robinson;

Safety, Florence Ellerton;

Special Committees (Cards), Pearl Baskin; President, Carol Petch.

Anne Robertson presented the new slate of officers for 1995. Changes for the new year will be: Past President, Carol Petch; President, Margaret Keddy; 1st Vice President, Florence Ellerton; Safety, Gloria Cookman.

New president Margaret Keddy then assumed office for the new business.

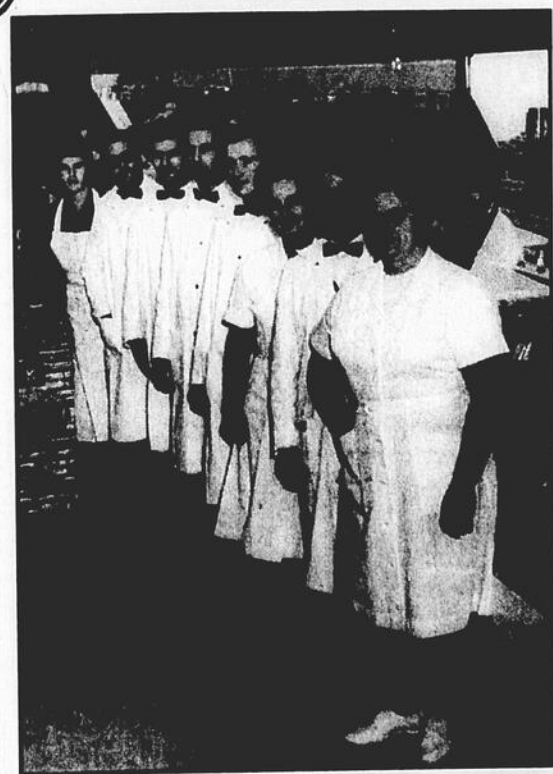
A luncheon will be

served for all interested seniors on Tuesday Jan. 31. Members will make casseroles and cake.

A tentative outline of programs for the year was presented - another busy year is scheduled. Possible tours and trips were also discussed.

Roll Call asked for information on ACWW, an 8,000,000 members worldwide organization.

-Jolene Robinson

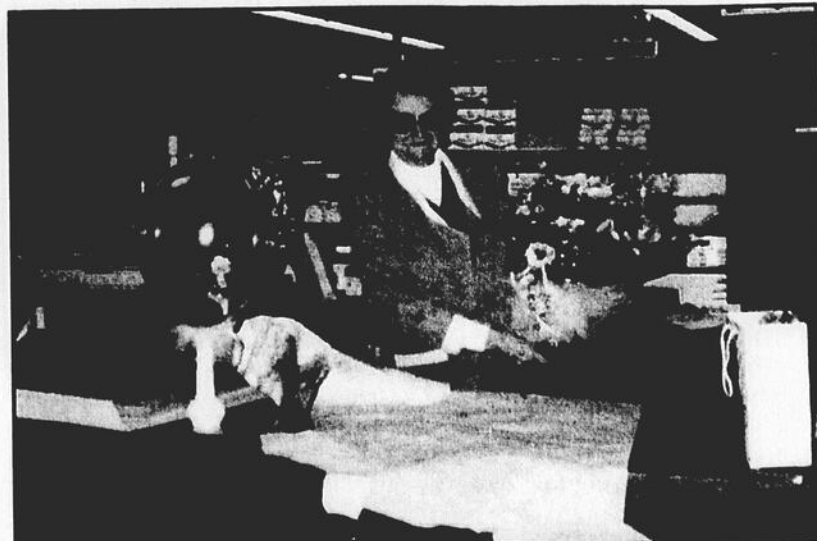


1961 - Lucienne Bolduc, Camille, Marie-Ange and Tancrede Boyer. Halce Allen, Pierre and Jean-Denis Genest and Rejean Reid.

Saturday December 31st 1994 was not only the end of the year but also the last day of work for Lucienne. Hired on

August 1st, 1960 by Camille and Marie-Ange Boyer (parents of Tancrede), Lucienne has always, by her honesty, perseverance and good humour, created around her a pleasant atmosphere for everyone. Management and staff wish Lucienne the best of luck, happiness and good health to enjoy a well deserved retirement.

IGA
T. BOYER Inc.
wishes to thank
Lucienne Bolduc
for 35 years of dedicated services



1994 - Lucienne Bolduc on her last day of work Saturday December 31st.

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMISSION DE LA MONTÉRÉGIE SUR L'AVENIR DU QUÉBEC

Public notice is hereby given that the Capital Commission on the Future of Québec has been given the mandate to:

- hear the people and groups that wish to express their views on the Draft Bill on the Sovereignty of Québec, on the feasibility of achieving sovereignty and on any other possible future for Québec proposed officially by a political party represented on the Commission;
- receive the suggestions of people and groups on the wording of the Declaration of Sovereignty that will become the Preamble of the Draft Bill on the Sovereignty of Québec;
- receive the comments of people and groups on the best circumstances in which to hold a referendum on the future of Québec;
- provide information and encourage discussions among participants on any matter within the scope of the mandate of the Commission.

The Capital Commission on the Future of Québec will begin its public hearings and discussion forums on February 6, 1995.

Any person or organization that wishes to submit a brief or any other written document and/or be heard must register with the Secretary of the Commission. Two copies of the brief on paper 21.5 cm by 28 cm (8 1/2 inches by 11 inches) should be submitted.

Please address briefs, correspondence and requests for information to:

**Commission de la Montérégie
sur l'avenir du Québec**
201, place Charles-Lemoyne, bureau 2.01
Longueuil (Québec)
J4K 2T5
Tel.: 1 800 381-2425

Notice published by the Secretary of the Capital Commission on the Future of Québec.

Louise Prévost
Secretary

Itinerary of the commission

Longueuil	February 6
Longueuil	February 7
Varenes	February 9
Boucherville	February 10
Beloeil	February 11
Laprairie	February 12
Valleyfield	February 14
Vaudreuil	February 15
Saint-Hyacinthe	February 16
Saint-Hubert	February 17
Farnham	February 19
Granby	February 20
Sorel	February 21
Saint-Jean	February 22
Saint-Rémi	February 24
Brossard	February 25
Châteauguay	February 26

Québec

Clean Sweep

Curling news
around
the Valley



The annual Farmer's Bonspiel at Ormstown last weekend was won by the combined Howick-Riverfield team.

They beat out Shawville to take the Pillsbury Trophy, presented in memory of the late Archie Borland. The winning team, made up of Ken McRae, Morris Craig, Ron Ness, and Scott Templeton, played consistently right from the start. In their matching white jackets, with the Pillsbury logo, the team seemed the obvious choice to win. After all, didn't the "good guys" always wear white in the movies?

Teams from Maxville, Lancaster, Alexandria and more, will be showing up in Ormstown this weekend for "The Steer". This invitational Bonspiel will see competition from some excellent curlers. Saturday night a roast beef supper will be served, (from 5 to 7:30 p.m.) and all members are heartily invited to attend. Music will be provided and a great time should be had by all. Why not bring a friend? In keeping with the "Steer" theme of the event, fist prize will be a cooler, stocked full of prime beef, for each player on the winning team.

The Huntingdon Ladies' Bonspiel, famous for delicious deserts, is being held this weekend. Teams from all over will be enjoying the great hospitality and fine curling that Huntingdon always provides.

The Canadian Senior Men's and Women's Championships will be televised on TSN (for those who get it) January 29.

A team from Dollard-des-Ormeaux beat the Whitehorse team,

as the Seniors got started this past weekend in Saint John, N.B.

What's the best way to hold your broom when delivering a rock?

This question came up the other day while curling. The person had finally got rid of his old corn broom in favour of a push broom. However, he was not sure whether to have bristles on the ice when throwing, or turn it over and have the wood side down.

Well, asking me was probably his first mistake; anyone who has seen me curl knows my style leaves a lot to be desired! I did find an answer to the question though. According to "Curling News" magazine, "The Basics of a Proper Delivery," are as follows, in regard to the broom:

"The head of the brush should be slightly ahead of the sliding foot, and resting on the ice. The wooden side of the brush head sliding on the ice produces less friction than if the brush hairs were in contact with the ice. The hand is placed on the handle, approximately 15 to 25 inches from the head."

Of course if you use one of the new "Hammer" brooms, as I do, you may find it makes too much noise when used this way, due to its plastic head echoing on the ice surface.

I suppose whatever way you choose to hold the broom in the end, depends on what is the most comfortable, and works best for you.

Good Curling!

If you have any information you would like to see mentioned in this column, please Tel. or fax (Franklin Studio) 827-2392.

-Brent Harrison

Havelock Fair Board hold annual meeting

The annual general meeting of the Huntingdon Agricultural Society Division "B" was held on January 14 at the Havelock Town Hall.

President Claude Lavalée thanked the directors for their efforts in making last September's 123rd Havelock Fair a success, and expressed his hope that the Fair would be continued for many more years.

Glenn Waller tendered his resignation and becomes an Honorary Director after serving for 40 years on the Board and serving as president between 1991 and 1993.

Following a two-year term as president, Claude Lavalée stepped down and vice-president Gretta Whyte was elected president

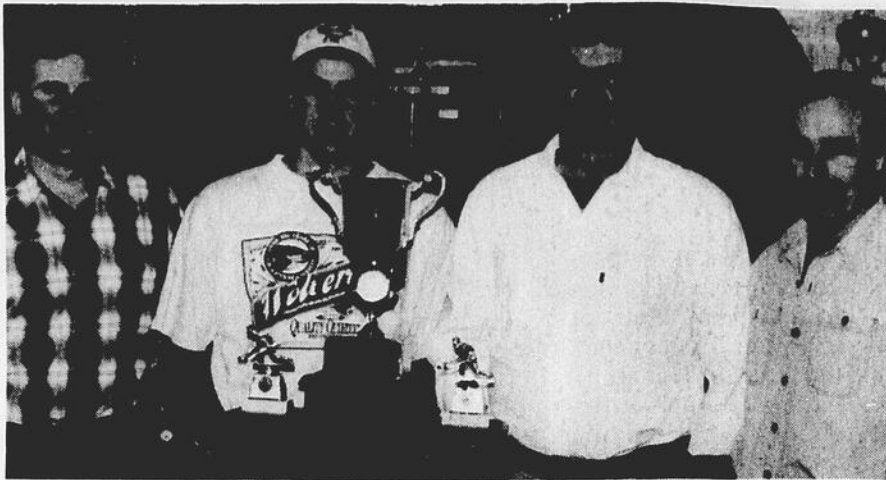
for the current year.

New vice-president is Jim Blair, and new directors elected to the Board are Rachel Lavalée, Judy Sutton and Diane Eastwood. Continuing as the Secretary-Treasurer is Lori Carroll.

September 9 is the date for the 1995 Havelock Fair. Admission and membership will remain at \$5; booths will cost \$35 and outdoor display space will be \$25.

The Fair's 125th anniversary will be marked in 1996 and plans were discussed to celebrate the occasion.

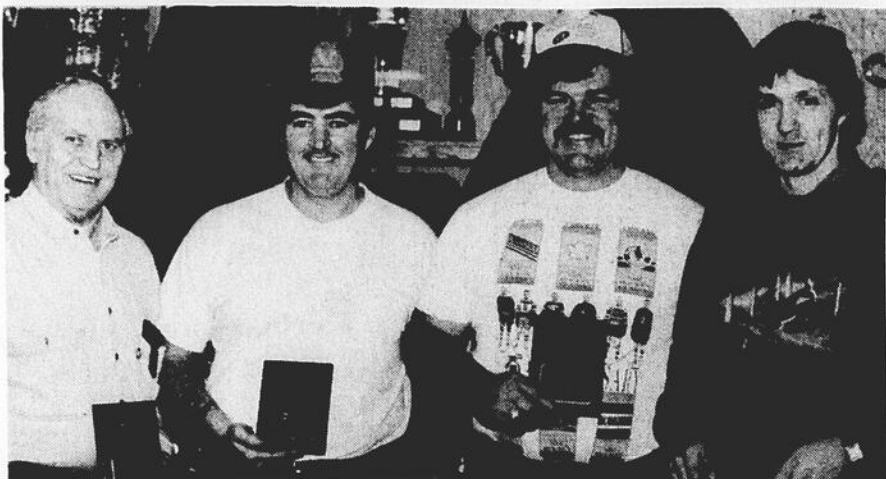
-D. Kerr-Sabeta



Farmers' Bonspiel

Winners of last weekend's Farmers' Bonspiel in Ormstown was the Howick-Riverfield entry of (left to right) lead Scott Templeton, second Ronnie Ness, third Morris Craig and skip Ken McRae.

(Photo: J.T.)



Runners-up

This Shawville rink came second in the Farmers' Bonspiel at Ormstown. Shown, left to right, are second Kevin Hannaberry, lead Don Duff, third James Howard, and skip Ian McKechnie.

(Photo: J.T.)

Sunday Morning Hockey League

(Standings as of January 22/95)

Standings	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Autobus Leduc	11	3	2	68	47	24
Legion #81	7	7	2	68	60	16
Old Pub	5	7	4	55	68	14
Ferns	3	9	4	53	69	10

Scoring leaders

	G	A	PTS
A. Dubois	14	23	37
D. Walsh	10	22	32
M. Morrisette	10	20	30
B. Racine	15	13	28
M. Voyer	7	18	25
G. Arcoite	14	11	25
T. Gavin	13	10	23
B. Green	12	10	22
W. McDowell	13	9	22
D. Rennie	8	14	22

Goalies

	W	L	T	GA	GAA
D. Rennie	9	3	2	40	2.85
P. Clement	8	5	2	54	3.60
M. Legros	5	7	4	68	4.50
L. Cambell	1	6	3	45	4.50

Results Jan. 22: Old Pub 4 Fern's 4;

Autobus Leduc 4 Legion #81 2.

Next week Jan. 29: 10 a.m. Fern's vs

Legion #81; 11:30 a.m. Autobus Leduc vs Old Pub.

Huntingdon Legion Wednesday Night Mixed Darts League

TEAM	GP	W	L	PTS.
1. Lonesome Doves	80	51	29	51
2. Highlanders	80	49	31	49
3. Falling Stars	80	48	32	48
4. Blue Jays	80	47	33	47
5. Shooting Stars	80	45	35	45
6. Happy Gang	80	43	37	43
7. Blue Birds	80	40	40	40
8. Misfits	80	36	44	36
9. Condors	80	35	45	35
10. Hopefuls	80	32	48	32
11. Cardinals	80	29	51	29
12. Aces	80	25	55	25

Top Scorers Men:

1. R. Patenaude (174); 2. C. Parson (140); 3. T. Hersey (140); 4. G. Johnson (140); 5. A. Rafter (140); 6. A. Lemay (140); 7. C. Gibbons (140); 8. B. Stewart-Wardlaw (140); D. Vallee (140).

Top Scorers Women:

1. M. Ykema (140); 2. G. Gibbons (139); 3. L. Wattie (134); 4. S. Johnson (134); 5. H. Simonsen (132); 6. R. McIntyre (125); 7. D. Donnelly (121); 8. J. Brennan (120); 9. K. Rafter (118).

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Local Skate-a-thon raises over \$13,500 for hockey

Over 250 skaters, including representatives from the councils of Huntingdon, Hinchinbrooke, Ste-Barbe and Godmanchester, took part in Huntingdon Regional Minor Hockey's Skate-A-Thon Saturday. Members of the Huntingdon Optimist Club also participated.

A preliminary total of over \$13,500 was raised for the local hockey association and Godmanchester seems to have retained the Municipal Challenge Award, while the fight for the Community Challenge Trophy remains undecided.

Results

In weekend hockey action, Huntingdon teams probably skated their legs off Saturday, because wins were few on Sunday.

Home action saw Adam Lepine stuff a Mathieu Durand rebound in for a goal in a 2-1 Atom B-2 loss to Ste-Martine in Sunday morning's only game.

Novice C-2 were dealt a loss by Valleyfield 3-1, with Jarred Murphy scoring on a Jordan Tilley assist in early evening action, while the Novice B-2 came up with their first league point in a 5-5 tie with Ste-Martine. Joey Laplante recorded the hat trick with Martin Lalonde and Eric Barrette each tallying one.

Novice B-1 saw Michael Whyte score two goals and Adrian Oliver add one to win 3-2 over Beauharnois, and Daniel Taillefer recorded his first shut-out in an Atom C-2 0-0 draw with Valleyfield.



Look mom, no hands! An Atom B skater making laps during Saturday's Skate-a-thon at the Huntingdon Regional Arena.

(Photo: V.F.)

Away action

Novice C-1 saw a tie evaporate with 33 seconds left, losing 3-2 to St-Timothée Sunday morning despite goals by Drew Ferguson and Martin Lemay.

The Midget Bs also suffered a road loss, 4-2 in Ste-Martine Sunday. Marc Caza and Jeff Duheme were credited with goals.

Atom B-2 maintained their undefeated string, tying 4-4 in St-Timothée on the strength of a two goal performance by Pat Daoust. Singles went to Westcott Duheme and Marc Leblanc. Atom C-1 went down 3-1 in Mercier, Francis Caza recording their lone marker.

Both Bantam B teams played in Valleyfield Sunday night, losing 4-2 and 5-1

Howick

by Jean Furcall
825-2578

The community has been once again saddened by the death of residents and former residents. Sympathy goes out to family and friends.

Pearl Kerr passed away January 10, the day before her 98th birthday.

Lillian Chisholm died in the Barrie Memorial Hospital last week.

Eric Smith, former resident of Howick, died suddenly in Ottawa.

Elva Ness Armstrong who was born and grew up in Howick, passed away last week after a courageous battle with cancer.

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Hemmingford Bowling

The Hemmingford Wednesday Night League team standings after Jan. 11 are as follows:

TEAM	PTS.
Bechard	50
Thompson	44.5
Wallace	41.5
Gagne	39
Bickes	38
Rodrigue	36.5
Daniel Leboeuf	36.5
Darlene Leboeuf	18

HIGH SCORES OF THE WEEK:

LADIES: (single and triple): Ann Lapierre: 161, 458; Bev Bechard: 162,449; Teenie Wallace: 167,446; Rita Hebert: 159.

MEN: (single and triple): Glenn Bickes: 196, 540; Gerald Bourdon: 201, 537; Gaetan Gagné: 187,512; Gilles Bouchard: 175, 505; André Gagné 197; Les Thompson: 191.

-Florence Ellerton

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La Commission Scolaire de Huntingdon

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the bylaw, number CC 1995-01, giving the day, the time and the place for the regular meetings of the Commissioners for the year 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 has been adopted. This bylaw will be in effect as of January 25, 1995.

Given at Huntingdon, on January 17, 1995

Jean Beauchamp
Director General

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Aussi vendu: faucheuse rotative New Idea 5212, 12' de coupe seulement une saison (1994), 2 boîtes à ensilage dont un Dion 18' avec toit, 4 batteurs et train de compagnie, 8 roues, 12 tonnes à l'état neuve, une Gehl, 3 batteurs 14' avec toit et train John Deere, souffleur à ensilage New Holland 25, fourragère Inter 720 avec contrôle électrique, tête à maïs 2 rangs et pick-up à foin, râtelier de côté New Holland 258, 2 presses à foin dont une John Deere 500 à balles rondes 5x5 et une New Holland 270, 2 voitures à balles rondes dont une 36x10 6 roues et une 20x10 8 roues; voitures plate-forme dont une 22' train Valac 6 roues, 2 20' 6 roues et une 18', débroussailluse 5' Comer att. 3 pts., terrière à piquets MF 9", mangeoire à ensilage 16', monte balles à fond de toile 30' sur roues, tout terrain Suzuki 230 (4 roues), sélection de bois de construction 2x4, 2x6, 2x8, 4x4 et de la planche. Quelques autres articles trop long à énumérer.

Équipement laitière, d'étable et récolte: chariot à ensilage motorisé Wic 52 moteur 8HP, dérouleuse à balles rondes Wic Hydro-Static moteur 10HP, rouleuse à maïs Rad, chariot à moulée Agrimetal, videur à ensilage Butler suspendu avec treuil électrique, 2 convoyeurs à foin New Holland 60' avec distributeur de balles, 1 convoyeur Lajoie et Malco de 40' et 24', fan à foin Proulx 5HP, 2 fans d'étable 16 et 18", avec thermostat, 50 abreuvoirs à eau, installation d'étable pour 110 têtes, 2 nettoyeurs d'étable dont un avec montée Bodco 75' (trus d'acier pivotante), seulement 3 ans, chaîne montée à droite 320' et un Patz 220' balles rondes (Luzerne etmil), 1000 balles de 2e coupe, 2000 balles de paille, 200 tonnes d'ensilage de luzerne et 20 tonnes de soja, réservoir à lait 400 gallons Craft bain glace, pipe line SURGE 1 1/2 inst. pour 80 vaches, 5 unités de traite, compresseur Universel 5HP (2 ans) 4 balances Waikato.

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ORMSTOWN: Excellent

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HUNTINGDON: 3 bdrm, 2 storey home with many lovely features, hardwood floors, large lot \$55,000

MUNICIPALITY OF THE PARISH TRÈS ST-SACREMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETING

To persons or groups interested by a bylaw project on minor derogations to the urbanism bylaws.

Public notice is hereby given that:

At a meeting held on January 3, 1995, the council of the municipality of the parish Très St-Sacrement adopted the bylaw project number 12-95 titled "Bylaw project on minor derogations"

In conformity with the law, this bylaw project will be submitted to the population for consultation.

A public consultation meeting will be held on February 6, 1995, at 7:30 p.m. at the municipal office, 63 Lambton street, Howick.

At this meeting the mayor will explain this by law project and the reasons for its adoption.

The bylaw project can be consulted at the municipal office during regular office hours.

Given at Howick, on January 19, 1995.

Suzanne Côté
Secretary-treasurer



VILLE DE
HUNTINGDON

HUNTINGDON

PUBLIC NOTICE

BYLAW 545-94
to establish the tax rate for the 1995 fiscal year

Public Notice is hereby given by the undersigned secretary-treasurer that the Huntingdon Town Council adopted at a special meeting on December 19, 1994 at 8:00 P.M. the bylaw number 545-94, bylaw establishing the tax rate for the 1995 fiscal year.

Anyone interested in consulting the bylaw, can do so, during regular office hours.

Given at Huntingdon, on January 19, 1995.

Diane Taillon
Secretary-treasurer

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Former Dundee mayor L.D. Fraser dead at 80

Life-long Dundee resident, Lester David Fraser passed away at the Huntingdon County Hospital Center on November 2, 1994 after an illness of several months.

Born July 17, 1914, he was the eldest son of the late John James Fraser and his wife, the late Cora Lavers Fraser.

He lived and worked on the family farm and in 1944 was united in marriage to Marguerite Mary Burbank of Sherbrooke, Que., who predeceased him in August 1983.

Lester Fraser served his community on the Dundee council for several years and was mayor in 1957-58 and again in 1961-62. He was an active member of Zion United Church and served on the Board of Trustees.

Surviving are two daughters, Jean Armstrong (Winston) and Anne Carpentier (Cary); one sister, Verna Hewson (Basil) of Buckingham, Que.; and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by two sisters: Bernice (Mrs. Frank Thorp);

and Evelyn, who died at the age of 13; and by two brothers, Gordon and Harold.

Funeral services were held November 5 at Huntingdon United Church. Rev. Neil Wallace, assisted by Rev. Charles Carpentier, conducted the service. Burial followed in the old Zion Cemetery adjacent to the family home.

Honorary pall-bearers were Fred Armstrong and Donald Fraser; and pall-bearers were three grandsons, Merrill and Scott Armstrong and Brent Carpentier; also Kenneth Fraser, Jr., Fraser Hewson and Robert Burton.

Attending the funeral from out of town were: Mr. and Mrs. Basil Hewson and family of Buckingham; Frank Thorp of St. Lambert; Ronald Thorp and Brady of North Bay, Ont.; Mr. and Mrs. Angus Peables of Mississauga, Ont.; Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Evans of Smiths Falls, Ont.; and Rev. and Mrs. Charles Carpentier of Bancroft, Ont.

FOUNDATION ... from page 8

tions Canada, Ericsson Research Canada and Lorne Gardner.

Arthur Gamble from Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Forrester; Mrs. Stella Gourley from Mrs. Phyllis Kyle, Robert Ness, and W. Wiltshire;

Raoul Guérin from Caisse Populaire Ormstown;

Douglas Hodges from Mme Rolland Hodges;

George Irwin from Mrs. Annie Simpson; James S. Kierans from Mrs. Micheline Novotny;

Mme Béatrice Lauzon from Gérard Primeau;

Mrs. Alice Guernon Lefebvre from Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists of B.M.H.

Mrs. Margaret McConville from Mrs. Wendy Dineen, Mrs. Lily McConville; Thomas McConville;

Mrs. Albert Moore from Mrs. Wilfred McCarty;

Mrs. Annie Moore from Joseph Money-penny;

Thomas Pinches from Mrs. Rita Baker; Mme Rose Alba Primeau from Gérard Primeau;

Winston Rennie from Châteauguay Valley Antique Ass. Inc.; Lloyd Sproule from Mrs. Ruby Sproule;

George Stonehouse from William McKell; Douglas Templeton from Mrs. Jean Furlall;

Dr. Wilfrid Watson from Mrs. Ina Barrington, Châteauguay Lodge #36;

Mrs. Johanna Zeldenrust from George Ehrhart, and Daniel C. Patterson.

FCC offers new scheme for family farm transfer

Answering the question, "Who will take over the family farm?" has always been an important one in Canada. It will become even more important over the next two decades, as the bulk of those currently farming retire.

The size of the greying farm population is borne out of statistics gleaned from the 1991 census. It showed that 32 per cent of Canada's farmers are 55 years of age or older.

Quebec had the lowest portion in that age group, at 23 per cent. By contrast, 36 per cent of farmers in Alberta, and 35 per cent of those in Saskatchewan are 55 or older. Nationally, only one of every five of Canada's farmers are under age 35. In Quebec it's one in four, the best ratio of young farmers in the country.

Farms are different from other businesses. "The family farm is still held closely as our jewel to pass on to the next generation," says Brock Allison, a farmer and senior tax advisor with The Legacy Group in Edmonton, Alberta.

In September 1994, the Farm Credit Corporation announced a new product called the Family Farm Loan as an option to assist in passing along the farm. Believed to be the first product of its kind in Canada, the Family Farm Loan is a three-way agreement among the vendor, the purchaser and Farm Credit Corporation.

Unlike a conventional loan, the Family Farm Loan is paid out over a maximum of five years, rather than in a lump sum. FCC will lend up to 90 per cent of the appraised value of the assets being transferred. The seller gets a minimum down payment of 10 per cent from the purchaser and an initial payment of perhaps 40 per cent from FCC, giving him or her half the value of the property up front. FCC pays the balance to the seller in equal, annual installments over the next four years.

The purchaser makes payments calculated on the full amount of the loan, although interest is only calculated on the amount paid to the seller. Equity builds quickly because the principal portion of the payments is quite large in the first two years of the term. This results in significant interest

savings for the purchaser.

There are several reasons why anyone thinking of buying or selling a farm should consider the Family Farm Loan. For the purchaser, the most attractive aspect is the opportunity to save interest on the loan, says Don Kelly, Chairman of The Legacy Group. This is especially important because farms are becoming even larger as a significant portion of the farm population approaches retirement age.

For the seller, there are important tax considerations. Carol Jones operates an accounting firm with her husband in the dairy country near Truro, Nova Scotia. Jones believes the Family Farm Loan will be useful where a lot of money is involved, and where the vendor doesn't need all of the money at the time of sale.

Brock Allison adds that if the retiring farmer doesn't need all of the money up front, the vendor can claim a reserve on the capital gain that might arise from the sale, spreading the tax liability over five years. Allison expects the capital gains exemption to disappear in 1995, making reserve provisions more attractive. There's also something called the alternative minimum tax that may apply to some farmer's situations, Allison warns.

The five-year disbursement can also help vendors avoid another tax pitfall, says Doug Baber, and estate planner with Yeager LeBlanc and Associates in Regina, Saskatchewan. "The clawback of the Old Age Pension can mean a significant amount of extra tax, and this is something people receiving the pension, or about to receive the pension, need to watch out for," says Baber.

Canadian farmers share a common sentiment: they want to see the family farm remain in the family. Beyond sentiment, however, there are important financial considerations that need to be addressed when buying or selling the family farm. Intergenerational products like the Family Farm Loan offered by the Farm Credit Corporation will become more important as a large portion of our farm population approaches retirement age.

-Farm Credit Corporation

W.I. looks at funding possibility

Dewittville W.I. met January 13 at the president's home where dessert was served by Grete Bulow and Bertha Quinell.

Carolyn Cameron read a story about an oyster with a bothersome grain of sand in his shell, which eventually became a pearl. Maybe we too can do something about our gripes instead of just complaining.

The roll call featured happy memories.

Greetings came from former member Margaret Beattie.

A program to raise money for the breakfast club was described. The Canadian Living Foundation donates money to the club in return for labels from various grocery items.

The W.I. card party will be held April 11 and the County and Provincial Conventions will be on April 28 and May 17-18, respectively.

Annual reports and the 1995 slate of officers for the coming year were read.

The 1995 Program, read by Bertha Quinell, looks exciting.

-J.E. McNaughton

H'don's W.I. names slate for 1995

Huntingdon Women's Institute met January 10, at the home of Florence Reid.

Ruth McIntyre chaired the meeting, and the roll call was answered by 11 members, who paid their annual membership fees.

In place of sponsoring a card party, members donated money necessary to keep the local W.I. solvent.

Annual conveners' reports were read, and Helen Steward reported on the W.I. Essay Competition.

Florence Reid, secretary, read an outline of meetings for the year ahead.

The slate of officers is: Past-President, Marthe Barrette; President, Ruth McIntyre; Secretary, Florence Reid; Treasurer, Thea Ykema.

Conveners are: Agriculture, Merle Ferry; Canadian Industries, Isabel Elder; Citizenship, Lynn Cunningham; Education, Donna Thiel; Home Economics, Mildred Otney; International Affairs, Joan Rottensten; Publicity, Isabel Elder.

Special Committees: Refreshments, Lynn Cunningham; Cards, Florence Reid. -Isabel Elder

QCNA Assemblage

Provincial Affairs

with Glenn Wanamaker



Sometimes it's the little things that can make a big difference.

Such as statements by long time péquiste and former leadership candidate Guy Bertrand that his party's sovereignty plans are illegal, suicidal, and really not a great idea anyway.

Bertrand may well be a publicity-seeking political pyromaniac, as some commentators have referred to him. But most Quebecers outside the capital have no personal opinion of the man, except that they know he's a prominent lawyer and long-time PQ member.

His kind of analysis sows the seeds of doubt, no matter how much spin-doctoring you do.

Then there is Pierre Bourgault, the Premier's now-former special advisor who mused about the dangerous situation that could arise if the referendum fails to get 50 per cent support because of the Anglophone vote.

That kind of confrontation-building scenario is in nasty contrast to the image of serene nation-building that Premier Parizeau has been trying to evoke.

Then there is the plunging Canadian dollar and the rise of interest rates, both of which do nothing to bolster voters' optimism for the future.

Neither is within the control of the PQ, but when part of its sovereignty legislation is based on keeping the Canadian dollar and maintaining economic relations with the rest of the continent, it doesn't take much imagination for voters to think that things could worsen if Quebec separates.

Last week, Radio-Canada obtained a copy of the Parti Québécois-Bloc Québécois research paper that talked about how it could win over the votes of "soft nationalists".

Part of the strategy will be to try and answer their fears - their fears about trouble and violence, their fears about economic instability, and generally their fears about change.

Unhappily for Premier Parizeau, people in his own party weren't of much help last week.

SOVEREIGNTY COMMISSIONS:

Meanwhile, the PQ is gambling on its travelling commissions to help generate momentum heading into the referendum.

They will begin hearings in most regions during the week of February 6. Exact dates and locations in your area should be announced by this week, and details on how you can participate will be in your mailbox, also this week.

HEALTH CUTS:

The spending freeze imposed by Treasury Board President Pauline Marois means that Health Minister Dr. Jean Rochon will have to find \$400 million in the coming year.

He acknowledges in an interview that the freeze might well last for three years, which adds up to well over one billion dollars. Given the inexorable rise of "system costs", caused by even the smallest amount of inflation, economies will have to be found elsewhere.

One target will be hospitals. The role of some will change, to eliminate duplication of specialized services and particularly, the need for expensive equipment.

Some will lose their status as university hospitals, or simply be

recognized for a particular specialty. Some hospitals may close. These decisions should be known by the end of January.

Another priority will be to reduce the number of diagnostic tests, which physicians recognize are often unnecessary for the health of patients but which help protect against malpractice charges.

Prescription drug costs will inevitably be targeted, Rochon acknowledged, though he wouldn't say how.

He now has on his desk a report by a special committee which recommends strongly that the prescription drug program be revamped.

It proposes replacing the free drug program for the elderly, as well as the "Malades sur pied" program, with a universal drug program based on an individual's ability to pay.

Some would still receive drugs for free, though in general, people would pay part of the cost, but with an annual maximum.

THE MAGS FERRY:

The media have not been kind in their treatment of the government's handling of the Magdalen Islands' ferry - MIL - Davie Shipyard issue.

In just about every story, the PQ decision has been portrayed as a politically-driven waste of money.

To recap, Industry Minister Daniel Paillé announced last week the building of a new \$70 million ferry for the Matane-Godbout-Baie Comeau crossing.

The boat will be built by MIL-Davie, which is good news for its out-of-work employees. But no one else can tender, which is sure to raise the ire of other yards inside and outside Quebec.

The existing ferry on that route, the *Camille Marcoux*, will be refurbished with the \$30 million that Ottawa had earlier offered, and be sent to the Magdalen Islands.

While the *Camille Marcoux* is in dry dock, Quebec will have to rent another ferry to maintain service.

The first problem is, no one really asked for a new ferry for the Matane-Godbout-Baie Comeau crossing, and secondly, people on the Magdalens, who need the new boat, get stuck with a used one. Needless to say, they are enormously ticked off.

The government's maladroitness can only be explained by its stubbornness in pretending it already leads a separate country - and to heck with the cost!

Remember last summer, it was insisting that a new ferry for the Mags sail to the Gaspé instead of PEI - a so-called Quebec-Quebec link that would add many hours to travelling time.

It took months for the landlocked PQ braintrust to realize that even the most ardent sovereigntists would prefer to go to PEI rather than spend extra hours bobbing about in the Gulf just to land on Quebec soil.

Remember also that the PQ has promised so often that it would save MIL-Davie that it became impossible, in the name of the referendum, to do anything but.

In the end, while its decision may win some votes, it will lose some others, and cost more money in the process.



Helping Grandma

Olive Craig of Howick was the winner of this year's Boy Scouts' Christmas Stocking. Since she wasn't on hand to receive it, her grandchildren volunteered to take charge of the prize, which they very quickly delivered to her. The drawing took place December 15 after the local Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all went carolling at Ormstown's Barrie Memorial Hospital.

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All you can eat brunch
January 29, 1995
Serving 9 am - 1:30 pm
AT LEGION HALL, HUNTINGDON
Proceeds in aid of March of Dimes

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Children 5 to 12 years: \$3.00
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Fri.	Seafood Platter	\$12.95
Sat./Sun.	Prime Rib	\$15.95

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