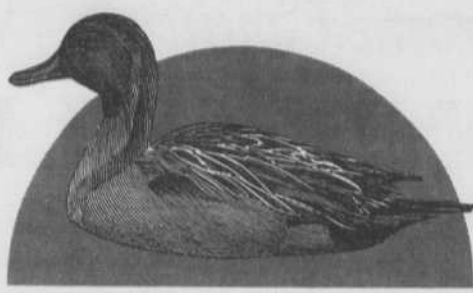


# Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1999

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## 40 years on ice

*71-year-old fisherman still angling when ice permits*

By Caroline Kehne  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
VENISE-EN-QUEBEC

This year's unseasonably warm weather has been a windfall for some, but not for angler William "Bill" McCarthy. This 71-year-old native of Clarenceville has been ice-fishing on Missisquoi Bay for more than 40 years and, weather permitting, doesn't plan to stop anytime soon.

While the outside temperature plummets and south winds whip across the frozen lake bed, McCarthy fishes from the relative comfort of his small cabin perched upon 15 centimetres of thick ice on the Venise-en-Quebec side of the Bay.

McCarthy's love of fishing goes back to his early days

growing up on a farm outside Clarenceville, just a few kilometres from the lake.

"I was born there but left in 1945," said the longtime resident of Ville Lemoyne. "Around 1957 I started ice-fishing in Venise-en-Quebec and Philipsburg with my brother-in-law who was a customs officer."

McCarthy and his late wife Gisele raised two daughters in Ville Lemoyne, but fishing was a family affair. Lake Champlain's stock of doré, pike and perch were the trophies: McCarthy senior cleaned the day's catch, while Gisele prepared it for dinner.

"When I first started fishing there were no shacks: People just fished outside," recalled McCarthy.

Now, fishing cabins dot the ice field like a little village. McCarthy had his current cabin custom-built by Fernand Courchesne, who has operated his outfitting business in Venise for more than 30 years.

SEE MCCARTHY, PAGE 7



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

William McCarthy's love of fishing goes back to his early days growing up on a farm outside Clarenceville, just a few kilometres from the lake.

## Library replaced jail in basement of town hall

*Farnham Library celebrates 40th anniversary this week*

By Caroline Kehne  
RECORD CORRESPONDENT  
FARNHAM

Benjamin Franklin, the father of the modern lending library, put forth the idea of a publicly-funded place where the common citizen could come in search of cultural, scientific or technical knowledge.

Franklin saw a new class of self-educated citizens as a vital part of the burgeoning American nation. In Canada, a more continental attitude toward learning prevailed and the lending library has had a far different history. Public libraries, especially in outlying areas, came into being not as the right of every citizen, but primarily through the de-

termined efforts of a few public-minded citizens.

The Farnham Public Library is one such institution. It celebrates the 40th anniversary of its opening on Feb. 9.

Farnham native Louise Hall, who with Jean Gauthier and Muriel Wallace co-founded the library, is still volunteering on behalf of the institution and current-

ly serves as Director of the Library Board of Directors. Hall remembers the early efforts to get a public library started.

"I was principal at Farnham Elementary School," she recalls, "The Home and School Association recognized the need for a local library. The library charter was signed in 1958 but didn't

SEE FARNHAM, PAGE 5

**Pierre Marziali**  
Pharmacist

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## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## February 11

**St. Valentine's Soup & Dessert Luncheon** at All Saints Anglican Church, Dunham at 12 noon. Great soups and mouth-watering desserts! Donation, \$5. Cards will be played immediately following lunch. Bring a friend and enjoy. Information and/or reservations: (450) 295-3341 or 295-2349.

## February 13

**The Royal Canadian Legion, Cowansville** will Celebrate Valentine's with a Roast Beef Supper at 120 Davignon, from 6 - 7 p.m., followed by a dance at 8 p.m. with the orchestra Gary Darling. Supper & Dance, \$10 per person, Dance, \$3, per person. Everyone welcome! Information 263-3543.

**Valentine Dance at Odd Fellows Hall**, 476 Knowlton Rd., at 8 p.m. Music by Silverado. One special door prize. Many other door prizes. Midnight snack. Admission charged.

**Dances Of Universal Peace Celebrates Valentine's Day - What Is Love?** at Sutton Yoga Centre, 111 Principale N., Sutton, 7 p.m. Dances followed by dessert potluck.

Bring a dessert if you wish. Dances based on sacred music from all spiritual traditions. No experience necessary. Bilingual. Suggested contribution: \$5 - \$10. Tel. Judith Avinger, 263-6685.

**Pool Tournament (Doubles) at Brome Hotel**, Brome. Registration: 1 p.m. Start: 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$10 per team; cash prizes, auction of teams, special prize for perfect game. Info. 243-5717.

## February 14

**The Royal Canadian Legion**, 120 Davignon, Cowansville will hold a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Everyone welcome!

## February 16

**Pancake Supper**, sponsored by Knowlton Lodge #28 at the Odd Fellows Hall, 476 Knowlton Rd., from 4:30 - 7 p.m. Served buffet style. Come and support a local community effort. Admission charged.

**Pancake Supper** on Shrove Tuesday to be held at Emmanuel United Church, 203 rue Principale, Cowansville, 5 - 7 p.m. All the pancakes, maple syrup, and ham you can eat. A 'surprise' dessert, along with tea, coffee or juice will be enjoyed. Cost: Adults, \$5; children, 5 - 10 yrs., \$3; children under five, free.

**Pancake Supper** sponsored by the men of the Parish to be held at the Anglican Church Hall, Stanbridge East at 5 p.m. Pancakes served with pure maple syrup, sausages, tea & coffee. Admission: \$5.

**Pancake Supper** at the Iron Hill Anglican Church, Church Hall, Iron Hill at 5 p.m. Everyone welcome!

## February 17

**St. Valentine's Dinner** sponsored by Le Club de la bonne humeur Lac Brome, 5 Mill Road, Bondville, noon. For information, call J. Gaudreau at 243-6572.

## February 19

**Palliative Care Fundraiser Dinner** sponsored by Diapason to be held at 'Chez Pierre', the charming restaurant at Massey-Vanier High School, Cowansville. Cocktails, 6:30 p.m., Six-course supper, 7:30 p.m. Regional wine, specially chosen to compliment the menu. Only 60 tickets available at a cost of \$60. A \$30 tax receipt will be issued. The proceeds of this evening will benefit Au Diapason Palliative Care Services Inc. who provide much needed care to cancer patients and their families. For more information and tickets, contact Celine Michelin (450) 266-5346 or Louise D. Kelly (450) 538-2273.

## February 20

**Fundraiser Dance** to offer moral and financial support to the Tinkler families who recently suffered a loss of barn and animals to be held at Salle Catudel, 1236 St. Charles South, Granby (450) 375-4603 at 8:30 p.m. Entertainment provided by Larry Comeau Band with a wide variety of music. Refreshments served, card tables, cash bar. \$7.50 each, \$2, under 14 yrs. For more information (450) 372-2990 or (450) 534-2241.

**7th Annual Spaghetti Supper** spon-

sored by Aliments Carriere Inc., at Centre Georges Perron, Bedford, 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Take-out orders available. Tickets available at the door or from any Cub or Scout. Adults: \$6, children under 12, \$3.

## March 6

**Indian International Food Supper** with host "Chef" Dass Paul will be served at the Royal Canadian Legion, 2 Curley St., Sutton between 6 - 9 p.m. Advanced reservations. Tickets: \$10 each. Tel. 538-0104 or 538-2210.

## March 18 - 20

**Healing of the Whole Person Seminar** at Trinity Church, Cowansville. Thursday & Friday evening and Saturday all day. Examining our relationship with God, ourselves and others. For information or registration, call 263-0431.

## February 13

## ARTS CALENDAR

**Townships Bluegrass and Old-Tyme Music Society Acoustic Jamming** at the Royal Canadian Legion, 77 Lewis St., Waterloo, 1:30 - 5:30 p.m. Supper 6 p.m.; Live Bluegrass and Old-Tyme Music bands from 7 - 10 p.m. **Advance Notice:** Winter concert tickets for renowned U.S. Bluegrass guest bands now available. Feb. 16, **Lost & Found, Virginia**; Mar. 23, **New Vintage, North Carolina** and April 20, **James King, Virginia**. Tel. Gord Cameron, 539-0333 or Tom Kilbride, 243-0645.

## COMMUNITY NOTES

**Sewing circle:** Anyone interested in learning how to sew or wants to learn more about sewing is invited to join a drop-in sewing circle (with instruction) being held at St. Paul's Church Hall, Knowlton every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. - noon. For more information please call Maria Brecht at 243-1662.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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**MASSEY-VANIER HIGH SCHOOL**  
Eastern Townships School Board  
**PARENTS' NIGHT**

Students at Massey-Vanier High School will receive their report card for Term 2 on Monday, February 8, 1999. Parents are cordially invited to meet with teachers on Parents' Night Thursday, February 11, 1998.

4:00-7:00 p.m.



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## CIRCULATION

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# Solid fuel: Daybreak reflections by the woodpile

To a youthful visitor, or anyone who passed by, for that matter, it was an impressive sight. Steam rose from the huge arms and back and bare head of this imposing figure, from the waist up clad only in a T-shirt. The early morning thermometer registered thirty below, and for you fans of the metric system that's, well, cold. Damned cold.

The place was somewhere in the far hills of Compton County, the time long ago. If memory serves, the big fellow's first name was Merlin, a man of 350 pounds or more who weaved his own type of magic with saw and axe in the hardwood bush. He was adding to a great pile of stovewood, beyond which were rows of what was then known as cordwood, three foot lengths for the large woodburning furnaces of yesteryear.

His personal heating needs for the winter having been taken care of, the most recent efforts were for the market. Given his seeming immunity or indifference to the severe cold, a newcomer might understandably conclude that, unless he owned a huge dwelling, personal needs were minimal. When asked how he got by with such skimpy attire when everyone else was bundled up mummy-like, he replied that (here it

comes) it was a dry cold, and there was no wind ... plus it helped if you didn't stop to talk too long.

A bright early winter morning over a typical Township's hamlet reveals a blueish haze against the rising sun. If it is not so cold that your nostrils slam shut at first breath, there is a pleasant, familiar scent in the air: birch, ash, maple, a hint of cedar. Prior to the oil scare of the early 1970s, and with the exception of old people and a few 1960s type back-to-the-landers, heating with wood was considered primitive, quaint, an admission of backwardness. Not any more.

The oil shortage that wasn't prompted many households, particularly in areas where the supply was plentiful, to use wood as a heating option once more. Just as the experience was fading from the collective memory, along came last January's ice storm as a pointed reminder of the vulnerability of energy supplies that must be transported over long distance. The insurance companies aren't always comfortable with it, but wood heat is part of country life for the long term.

A friend whose home heating needs

have been met virtually 100 per cent with wood since moving into an old log farmhouse more than twenty years ago makes a good point: while just about anyone can burn wood, it takes some skill and attention to heat efficiently and safely with wood. To this end, he acquired one of the first Vermont Castings stoves in the area, as well as the tools and knowledge regarding stove-pipe and chimney maintenance. He selectively cuts all fuel wood from his own lot and cures it under cover for a full year.

Not everyone is that meticulous. Another friend who bought a house on Lake Massawippi has struggled for years with an old Franklin stove installed by the previous owner. It can be said that she heats more with smoke than wood. A few nearby weekenders can't figure out why lighting their fireplaces is such a battle. We were loathe to suggest that the stranger who gave them such an apparently good deal on their wood probably hires school kids to pick the leaves off his supposedly dry wood in the moments before delivery.

The serious side is that heating with wood requires persistent caution and vigilance. Failing this, the consequences can be costly, even tragic. A former town

councillor in Sutton tells of a rash of incidents at a then-recently opened condo project by the ski hill. A number of holiday renters with good intentions put fire-place ashes in plastic bags and cardboard boxes and left them on the floor by the door or outside on wooden decks.

Before shaking heads at the foibles of newcomers to heating with wood, however, it is wise to remember and learn from our own mistakes in what is a long and ongoing learning process. A major lapse that comes to mind occurred close to home and not long ago. A well-intended fellow (no name here) undertook to clean a tenant's stove, pipes, and chimney. A nice homey touch, he figured, would be a cozy fire to greet the neighbour upon his return from work.

As he stood back to admire the cheery blaze behind the glass door, unfortunately he experienced a scary, sinking feeling. Something very important was missing between the stove and chimney. He'd forgotten to replace the newly-cleaned pipes. Luckily, the unit was an airtight, and with dampers closed and a metal bucket held over the hole on top, the flames died out quickly. As did any complacency that might have been creeping in about heating with wood.

## COUNTRY SQUIRE

BRIAN EDDINGTON

## COMMUNITY BILLBOARD

### COMMUNITY NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Do you wish you could read better? Need help with basic math? Call the **YAMASKA LITERACY COUNCIL**. Work one-on-one with a tutor and learn at your own pace. Lessons are FREE, private and confidential. Learning can be fun so why not do something for yourself today? Call Donna at 263-7503.

**ADVANCE NOTICE:** The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 77, 77 Lewis St. Waterloo wishes to announce the following agenda for the month of February, 1999: Feb. 13, Blue Grass, Feb. 16, Special Blue Grass Concert; Feb. 21, Breakfast

(Music Vel & Norm) and Feb. 27, Pot Luck Supper (Music Vel & Norm).

### CHURCH SERVICES

#### Knowlton Pastoral Charge

**Creek United, Foster** - Worship & Song, 9:30 a.m. Knowlton United, Knowlton - Worship & Song, 11 a.m.

**Parish of Brome, St. Aidan**, Sutton Junction, 1st & 3rd Sundays at 2:30 p.m., House Church, information, 243-6096; Ascension, West Brome, every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.;

**Holy Trinity, Church Hall**, Iron Hill, 1st, 3rd, & 4th & Sundays at 11 a.m. and 2nd at 7:30 p.m.; **St. John Evangelist**, Brome Village, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Sunday at 11 a.m. and 4th Sunday at 7:30 p.m., Hymn Sing.

**St. Paul's Anglican Church** 24 St. Paul's Road, Knowlton. Sunday Services, 8 and 10 a.m. Sunday School and Nursery, 10 a.m.

**Sutton-Dunham United Pastoral Charge** at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 14th, Annual Sutton Meeting, Sutton following worship also Annual Dunham meeting, 2 p.m., Dunham; Feb. 21st, Lay Service, Dunham; Feb. 28th, Communion, Dunham.

**Emmanuel United Church**, Cowansville will hold Worship Service and Sunday School at 10 a.m. All welcome!

**The Connection**, an inter-denominational Youth Service on Saturday, Feb. 13. at Trinity Anglican Church, 409 South St., Cowansville at 7 p.m.

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## Keeping your cool in the heat of winter

Winter is one of the hardest times of the year for your engine cooling system, bringing it from extremely cold to extremely hot. Your hoses are often some of the first things to fail in this process and can leave you stranded. Usually they, like Montreal blue collar workers, choose to do so at the worst possible time, adding inconvenience to expense.

Over time the heating and cooling process causes the deterioration of the rubber hoses that connect your engine, radiator and interior heater. Often they lose flexibility and can become so brittle the vibration of the motor can cause a crack. That crack can grow quickly, due to the pressure inside your cooling system and the only thing you can do about it is change it.

Hoses can also lose their strength as they age, beginning to bulge from the pressure. Like brittle hoses they can spring a leak with little warning.

The next time you're looking under the hood, check over your hoses and your coolant level. Hoses should be firm but pliable and the clamps that hold them in place should be in good condition. If they seem to be brittle, mushy, bulging or cracked, they should be replaced.

If you decide to change a hose yourself, change the clamps as well. Use a clean pan to catch the antifreeze when removing the hose. If it appears to be anything other than green, take it to a recycler and use a new coolant-water mix. A mix of about 60 per cent coolant and 40 per cent water is ideal.

Actually, many mechanics suggest you change the coolant every two years. This cleans out dirt and helps to ensure your cooling system is in top running

condition. If you're changing a hose, it may be a good time to flush the coolant. Once the new hose is in place, turn on the car heater before refilling the system. Let the engine run to be sure the coolant circulates properly. Once the heater is warm, everything should be okay.

### UNDER THE HOOD

MAURICE CROSSFIELD

For the next few days check your coolant level regularly, to ensure your repair job isn't leaking and there is enough antifreeze to do the job.

Of course coolant can leak from a number of other areas too. Radiators, water pumps, heater cores, and even the engine itself can spring a leak.

If the engine itself is the problem, then the coolant may be leaking into your motor oil. Check your dipstick and if it's covered in a milky colored substance, then that's your problem. Go directly to your mechanic for the details.

Heater cores can also develop leaks. These are usually easy to diagnose, with the heater giving off a sweet smell. It may also drip antifreeze or blow a greasy fog onto your windshield. This is another mechanic's job, usually requiring the dismantling of the dash. It's not a fun job, trust me.

If you can't find the source of the leak, place a clean piece of cardboard under your car for the night. In the morning you should be able to find a spot. Green means coolant, brown means oil, red means transmission fluid and clear means power steering or brake fluid.

If the leak is coming from your water pump or radiator, get them fixed right away. As with all antifreeze leaks, a minor problem can quickly lead to bigger and much more expensive things.

## Petite Chatte Retrouvée

L'article paru la semaine dernière vous racontait comment la jeune chatte devenue orpheline lorsque sa mère fût tuée par une automobile était disparue après que son frère l'ait quittée pour venir chez-moi.

Je craignais qu'elle meure de froid et de faim. Je laissais de la nourriture dans la vieille remise et j'espérais qu'elle ne souffre pas trop. Quelques jours plus tard, elle était là de nouveau et je me réjouissais qu'elle soit toujours vivante et en bonne forme. Mais elle n'approchait pas et ne se laissait pas approcher alors je voulais l'emmener pour la sauver. Elle me hantait. Je lui rendais visite au moins une fois par jour et par fois à deux ou trois reprises. Souvent, je montais le vieil escalier (il y avait 13 marches inégales) dans la pénombre pour appeler la petite qui finissait par apparaître pour manger et boire un peu (l'eau ou le lait gelait quasi instantanément). Chaque tentative de la prendre pour l'emmener échouait.

J'ai continué cette routine durant des semaines en me disant que cela n'avait pas de sens, qu'il ne s'agissait que d'une chatte. Mais, elle m'obsédait et je me sentais coupable de lui avoir enlevé son frère qui vivait maintenant comme un pacha.

Après une telle tentative, la chatte quitta la remise. Lorsque je l'ai appelée le lendemain, je l'ai vue sortir de sous un vieux garage non loin de la remise. Nous avions maintenant une routine; je l'appelais; elle sortait pour me faire savoir où elle était et où je devais la nourrir. Petit à petit j'ai réussi à la faire sortir pour manger à l'extérieur lorsqu'il faisait beau. Elle jouait dans la neige qu'elle mangeait pour remplacer l'eau. Je lui lançais des morceaux de grandes tiges de plantes séchées et elle les attrapait. Même à la pluie battante ou par temps très froid, j'étais là.

Le 23 janvier, en rentrant de Knowlton en fin d'après-midi, je suis arrêtée voir la chatte que j'avais bien nourrie le matin. Il faisait beau et juste avant le coucher du soleil j'ai réussi à l'attraper mais en la mettant dans une cage que j'avais laissée dans la vieille remise, la chatte se sauva. Les jours suivants, lorsque je l'appelais, elle sortait d'un autre endroit sous un vieux garage. Elle faisait un petit tour à l'extérieur comme pour me dire où elle était et rentrait vite. Je glissais les plats de nourriture sous le garage et je la voyais dévorer le tout et boire le lait avant qu'il ne gèle. Graduellement, je tirais le plat de plus en plus vers l'extérieur et elle suivait. Après l'avoir mise en confiance, elle ve-

nait maintenant manger un peu sur mon gant. Je ne pouvais plus utiliser de cage car elle aurait tellement peur et on me disait que je ne réussais jamais à la transporter dans mes bras jusqu'à la maison.

Un soir, alors que les prévisions atmosphériques étaient favorables pour le lendemain j'ai élaboré un plan dans les plus menus détails. Il fallait que cette situation aboutisse. J'avais remarqué que peu d'automobiles circulaient dans la rue à l'heure du midi; je décidai donc de l'attraper et de l'emmener à pied le lendemain midi. Comment faire pour ouvrir la porte chez-moi et pour enlever mes bottes en arrivant?

J'ai donc planifié de laisser la porte non bien fermée et de porter les bottes de mon frère desquelles je pouvais facilement sortir les pieds.

J'avais aussi préparé la petite chambre où la mettre en arrivant. En me couchant, j'ai revu le plan tout en me répétant que demain serait le jour de la victoire.

Le lendemain midi je retrouvais la petite devant le garage et sous le soleil brillant, je la faisais avancer vers moi jusqu'à ce qu'elle frôle ma botte (j'étais assise dans la neige) et je lui donnais à manger sur mon doigt.

Je l'attrapai finalement et, en la tenant fermement sur moi et en la caressant d'une main, je pris le chemin du retour. Je marchais rapidement, je pleurais, je priais, j'espérais réussir à me rendre à la maison, sinon, je ne me pardonnerais pas qu'elle se retrouve seule dans la nature. Nous n'avons rencontré qu'une seule automobile dont le bruit à effrayé la chatte mais j'ai réussi à la tenir et nous sommes rentrées à la maison comme je l'avais imaginé.

Dans la petite chambre, je lui ai emmené son frère. Ils se sont reconnus et embrassés. C'était le 27 janvier et ils ne se sont pas quittés depuis. Ils jouent, dorment et mangent ensemble et ils sont très heureux. Le nom du mâle est Koko et celui de la femelle, Yum Yum. Ce sont les noms des deux chats détectives d'une longue série d'histoires à grand succès de l'écrivain américaine Lilian Jackson Braun. Dans ces récits captivants, Koko et Yum Yum aident leur maître à résoudre des meurtres et autres méfaits. Ils sont brillants.

Si vous voulez les adopter, il vous faudra prendre les deux; ils sont inséparables et, eux aussi sont évidemment brillants.



**DENIS PARADIS, M.P.**

Brome-Missisquoi

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## 'We have close to 2,000 members and 60,000 books'

### Farnham:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

officially open until Feb. 9, 1959 when we moved into the basement of the town hall. The books were bilingual and most were donations or contributions."

The library still occupies that space, which once held the town jail.

"We turned the jail cells into study cubicles," she said wryly, pointing to the swinging saloon-style doors that have replaced iron bars. The old part of the library is equipped with a large conference table where evening seminars and conferences are held.

When the fire department decided to move out of the first floor of the building in favor of a new building more suitable for housing fire trucks, the library received permission to move into the vacated space where it remains today. The once all-volunteer staff is supplemented with two full-time staff, Lise Gagnon and Nicole Levesque. From its humble beginnings four decades ago, the library is now a

very busy place, hosting exhibits of the works of local artists, weekly visits by daycare groups and storytelling.

"We have close to 2,000 members and 60,000 books," said staff member Gagnon, now in her 17th year with the library. She estimates the lending turnover at about 270 books per day to residents of Farnham, Ste-Sabine, Ste-Brigitte and Ange-Gardien.

In a few months, the library will provide internet access to the community. The library, which once depended upon public fund-raisers such as fashion shows, now receives its funding from family membership fees and an assortment of municipal and government grants.

The current board, comprised of Hall, President Georgie Rahill, Secretary Robert Finnagan, Treasurer Danielle Hébert and Raymonde Martin, have decided in favor of a low-key anniversary celebration.

The library will host special events throughout the year such as visits by Canadian authors, contests for school children and outreach presentations to parent-teacher committees.



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Lise Gagnon, a veteran of 17 years on the Farnham Public Library staff, poses with Louise Hall, library co-founder and director.

## Bringing in the Bacon for Books



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

More than three hundred people turned out for the Sutton Canadian Legion's Brunch to benefit the Sutton Townships Library. The Canadian Legion hosts breakfasts for local charities the first and third Sundays of every month. Pictured are the breakfast organizing committee from the Sutton Townships library - Normand Ducharme, Louis Dandeneault, Lisa Charbonneau and Helene Hamel.



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## It is time to speak

Over the past several months I have listened to and read about Theatre Lac Brome, and the problems that it is facing.

We are all aware of the beneficial impact that the theatre has had on our community and on many of our lives. This was not an accident.

More than a decade ago, under the

leadership of Brian Timmins, and with the support of Alex Patterson, a group of merchants got together with a common goal. "To build a theatre in the heart of Knowlton". It was to be a show place for our local talent, a drawing card for tourism, but most of all it was an effort to unite our community and to preserve our eroding culture.

Some of these goals have been achieved, others have failed.

Under the direction of Ilay Ferrier, a retired businessman, an aggressive fund raising committee was formed, an artsite director was hired, the future of the theatre seemed assured.

Unfortunately, it would appear that the theatre has lost its direction.

Over the past few years the attendance of the professional theatre has dropped to less than 50 per cent.

A few of the board members decided that it was the location and the building itself that was at fault.

The cry went out "Move The Theatre." In a new location the audiences will come back. In a new location the community will reunite behind us. In a new location we will save our culture.

Yet, during that same period the amateur production attendance climbed to over 100 per cent.

Is the community more involved

with its theatre than the theatre is involved with its community?

The theatre was paying less than \$20,000 a year in rent. Which is about 15 per cent less than it paid 10 years ago. That is about half of current Knowlton rental value. Yet it receives over \$10,000 in rental income from the amateur and other production companies.

It also receives, from The Knowlton Pub, free maintenance of its washrooms, free snow removal, free lawn maintenance and free garbage removal.

Is the theatre a poor place to put on a play? For the actors, I'm sure it is, however, the building was built to the specifications of a theatre committee. It was to be a place where a variety of events could be held. The floor was left flat and the entrance was to "stage right". This was done so that if the theatre needed to be extended, it could.

The proposed new theatre is following the same guidelines, a flat floor

and a multi purpose building that will "serve" the community. In their haste to move, and to build, I don't think that the committee has looked closely at what they have. Or the potential of the existing building and land that is available to them.

It backs onto the southern part of the Mill Pond. It is located in the heart of the village. It has the support and backing of the amateur group. It has the support and financial backing of a dedicated and involved merchant organization. Its very location screams for a greater involvement with the many restaurants and pubs in the village.

Is the board of directors trying to reinvent the wheel? If so, what shape should it be?

I think it should be square!

No, I think it should be a triangle!

No! I think... not!

GERRY WOOD  
Owner  
Knowlton Pub

## Waterloo Legion thanks its volunteers

## Several local organizations aided

The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 77, Waterloo, wishes to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard all year at our fund-raisers in 1998 and to all those who attended these activities to lend their support.

Thanks to their efforts we were able

to make substantial donations to many local organizations, such as the Brome-Missisquoi Perkins Hospital Foundation, Centre d'Action Benevole Waterloo, Waterloo Sea Cadets, Waterloo Elementary School, Waterloo Minor Baseball and the Acton Vale Fire Department.

Many donations were also made outside the community to the "Last Post

Fund", Canadian Cancer Society, Centraide, Ste. Anne's Hospital and many others.

The scouting program, which is also sponsored by the Legion, has also been reinstated in the area after a long period of non-activity.

We hope to do even better in 1999! Let's keep up the good work!

Submitted by  
Velma Lloyd  
Waterloo Legion

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every  
day.

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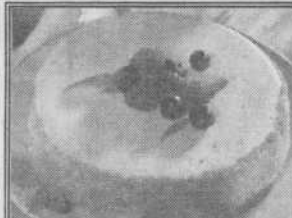
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|  <p><b>COUNTRY HAM</b><br/><b>2<sup>69</sup></b><br/>lb<br/>5,93 kg</p>          |  <p><b>HOUSE CRETON</b><br/><b>2<sup>49</sup></b><br/>lb<br/>5,49 kg</p>            |  <p><b>COOKED TURKEY</b><br/><b>6<sup>99</sup></b><br/>lb<br/>15,41 kg</p>     |

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# Bill McCarthy fishes from 8 a.m. to dusk

## McCarthy:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The cabin is painted green and white in honour of McCarthy's Irish heritage and the front is emblazoned with a fish and a shamrock.

Now retired and a widower with grown children, McCarthy still makes the 45-minute trip from the South Shore to Venice-en-Quebec when conditions permit.

"During the week, I fish alone, but on weekends, I have friends who come out to meet me: Some of them I taught to fish when they were young."

McCarthy fishes from 8 o'clock in the morning to dusk. Throughout the season, his outfitter will move the cabins to different parts of the Bay according to safety and to reports by local fishermen on where fish are biting.

"Some guys bring battery-operated televisions - all the comforts of home. I wasn't interested in that stuff," he said.

McCarthy's cabin is equipped with the basics - a pot-bellied stove for heat and cooking, a few chairs for comfort and eight trap doors in the floor that give access to the ice.

After drilling holes through the 15-centimetre ice, he sets his lines and

waits for the wooden poles to bob, a sure sign something is nibbling at the minnow below. For dinner, he'll heat soup or make grilled cheese sandwiches on his stove top.

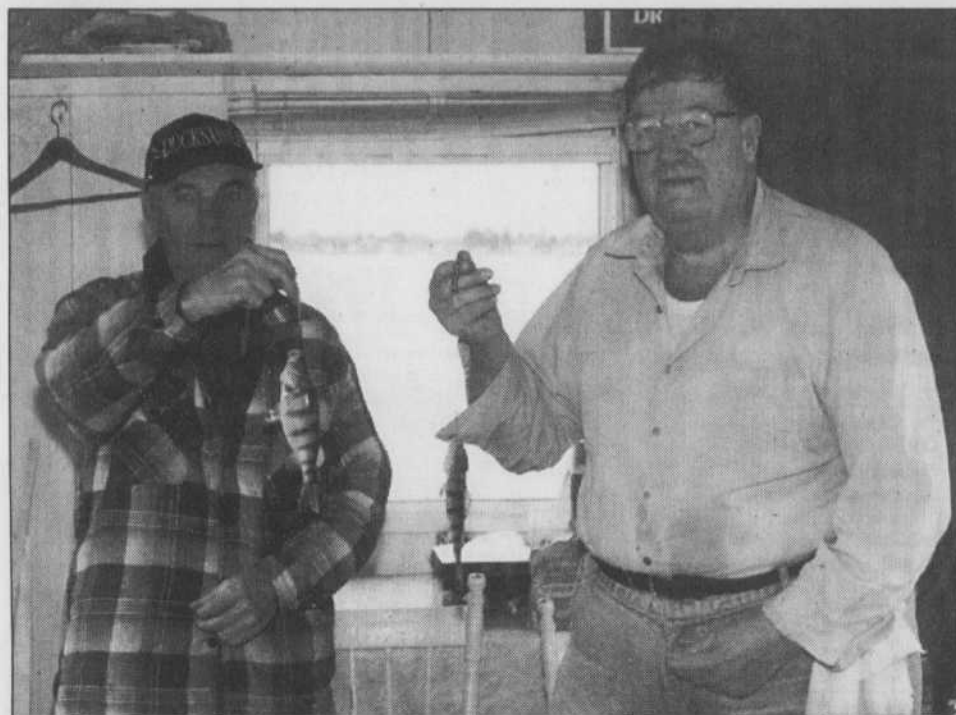
This season has not been a banner one for either local fisherman or the outfitters who supply them. Missisquoi Bay did not freeze until late December and a mid-January thaw forced most of the outfitters to bring the fishing cabins back to shore. Though the cabins returned to the ice last week, most are expecting the season will be over by early March.

McCarthy has seen many changes in the lake over his long fishing career.

"I catch mostly perch now. Doré is rare. The outfitters say that there were more fish and bigger ones years ago. Now they joke that they all took a swim to the States."

Steps are underway to revive the once-plentiful fish populations of Missisquoi Bay. Measures to improve the water quality, as well as restrictions on the number of fish that can be taken by sports fisherman, may someday bring the Bay back to its heyday.

Until then, Bill McCarthy will be out on the ice, enjoying the solitude of his cabin and waiting for 'the big one' to come along.



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

Outfitter Fernand Courchesne and fisherman William McCarthy with their catches.



CAROLINE KEHNE/CORRESPONDENT

The cabin is painted green and white in honour of William McCarthy's Irish heritage and the front is emblazoned with a fish and a shamrock.

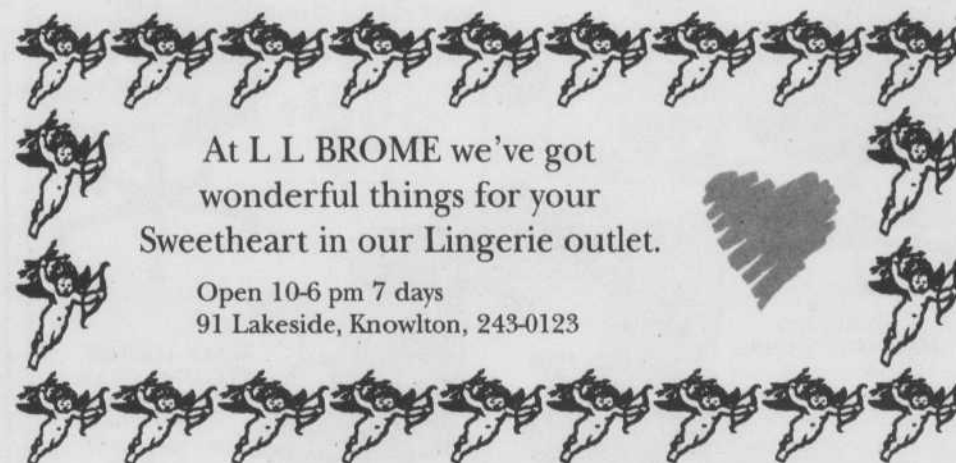
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## Brome County News

# Solution to 'The Case of the Punctured Professor'

Bertie Bellelettre, expert in American poetry, crawled to the edge of the woods as he was dying so that he could grasp leaves in his left hand, grass in his right hand and scrawl the word "of" between his hands.

Seen from above, that message is Leaves of Grass written by the American Poet, Walt Whitman and Kevin correctly deduced that Bertie was fingering Percy Whitman as his murderer.

This was a hard one - as of Sunday, I don't have any winners for this. I'll know if these are any by Monday, noon.

It's time for Kevin Klewes to take a break while he awaits another Townships crime wave. The intrepid gumshoe will be back in a few weeks and will be seeking your help in solving his latest cases.

This week's winner is Maureen Lefebvre. Honourable mentions to Brian Davies and Judith Davies of Sutton.

### CORRECTION

In the Bureau en Gros ad, please note that for the contoured manager's chair \$229.99, the choice of colors are:

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# Flowers have special meanings

(SOP) Flowers are lovely to look at, delightful to smell, and a gift to the world as they grace our paths, meadows and gardens. Each flower also has a particular meaning. A rose means love, and is the most popular flower on Valentine's Day.

Rose — love.

Red Tulip — declaration of love.

Yellow Tulip — hopeless love.

Multicolored Tulip — beautiful eyes.

Daisy — innocence.

Lily — purity, sweetness.

Appleblossom — preference.

Scarlet Red Poppy — fantastic extravagance.

White Poppy — sleep that cures a broken heart.

Marigold — grief.

Buttercup — ingratitude

Daffodil — regard.

Honeysuckle — generous and devoted affection.

Purple Lilac — first emotion of love.

Blue Violet — faithfulness.

Sunflower — thoughtfulness.

Strawberry — esteem and love.

Dahlia — instability.

Forget Me Not — remembrance, true love.

Iris — message.

Red Carnation — alas! my poor heart.

Striped Carnation — refusal.

Yellow Carnation — disdain.

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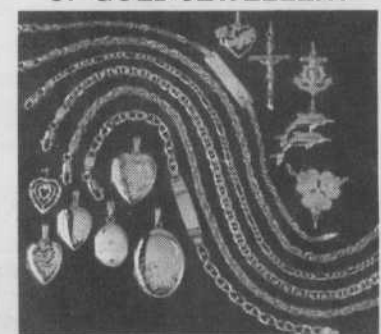
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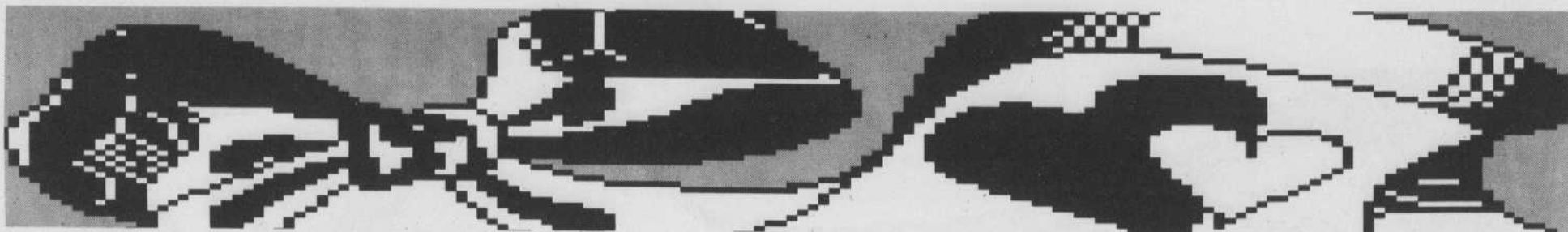
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# Fortune cookies for a Valentine party

(SOP) These small cookies with your fortune tucked inside will entertain your friends at a Valentine party or just about any time. They are easy to make because you use store-bought refrigerator cookies that just need slicing and baking. Here goes!

## Materials:

- A roll of refrigerator cookies red sugar (for decorating the cookies) knife;
- Cookie sheets;
- 8 1/2" x 11" white paper
- Felt tip marker, scissors.

## Method:

1. Cut the piece of paper into 1/2" by 2" rectangles.

Write a silly valentine message or fortune on each piece of paper. Here are some examples: "Beware of Cupid"; "Avoid heartburn"; "You will love... cookies!" Fold the message in half after you have finished writing it.

2. Make the refrigerator cookies by following the directions given on the package – but slice them a little thinner than is suggested. 3. After you have sliced the cookies, but before you bake them, fold the dough in half and slip the fortune inside. Seal the dough by pressing the edges together.

4. As the package directs, put the cookies onto the cookie sheet, sprinkle them with the red sugar, and bake for the suggested time.

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Sweet Taste on Valentine's Day:

# Hot Chocolate to warm your heart

(SOP) A marshmallow with a cherry on top makes this a festive drink.

## Ingredients you will need:

- 2 cups chocolate syrup
- 2 quarts of milk
- Marshmallows
- Cherries

## Utensils you will need:

- Large saucepan
- Stirring spoon
- Toothpicks

## Directions:

1. For each cup you will be serving, spear a marshmallow with a cherry on a toothpick.

2. Put milk in saucepan with chocolate syrup and stir to blend.

3. Continue stirring until mixture comes to a boil. Remove from heat immediately or it will boil over and mess up the stove!

4. Pour chocolate into cups and then add marshmallows.



## FOR AN INTIMATE & ROMANTIC VALENTINE'S DINNER

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# Valentine's Day: A Roman Festival of Early Spring

(SOP) Some Valentine's Day customs go back to an old, old Roman holiday, the Lupercalia. This festival was celebrated long before Valentine lived. It began when Rome was a tiny village. Fierce wolves lived in the woods nearby. The Romans called upon one of their gods, Lupercus, to keep the wolves away. They held a festival in Lupercus' honor every year on February 15. They played games, sang and danced for him.

Years passed. Rome grew into a town, then into a city. The wolves had been driven away long ago, but the people kept the festival. It was still celebrated in Valentine's time.

One of the customs the young people liked was name-drawing. The names of the Roman girls were written on slips of paper and put into a jar. Each young man drew a slip. The girl whose name he drew was to be his sweetheart for a year.

No one knows how or when this name-drawing

started. Drawing names could not keep wolves away. Probably boys and girls started the custom for fun. The middle of February was early spring in Rome, and everyone was thinking of sweethearts.

After Saint Valentine died, more and more Romans became Christians. The Christian priests moved the spring holiday from February 15 to February 14, Valentine's Day. Now the holiday honored Saint Valentine instead of Lupercus.

The priests tried to make the name-drawing fit in with Christian ways. Saints' names were written on the slips of paper. Each boy and girl drew a name and tried to copy that saint's life.

However, people liked the old custom best. Soon they went back to it. Again the boys drew girls' names. Now the little name slips were called valentines. When a boy drew a girl's name he said she was his valentine.

So Saint Valentine's Day became a romantic spring festival.



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The Jan. 27 meeting of the Knowlton Golden Age Club met at the Community Centre with a good attendance.

Lawrence Marsh welcomed all and the minutes were read by Ethel Marsh and seconded by Katherine Bailey.

Ethel read a "Thank You" card from Gordon Marsh for the card sent him.

The half-and-half was won first draw by Phoebe Eaton and second draw by Arthur Fry.

Jim Eaton organized the playing of '500' at four tables.

The special prize for bidding

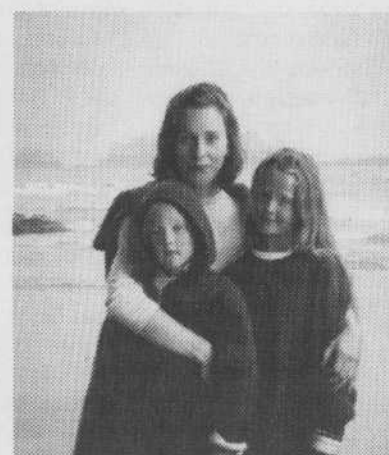
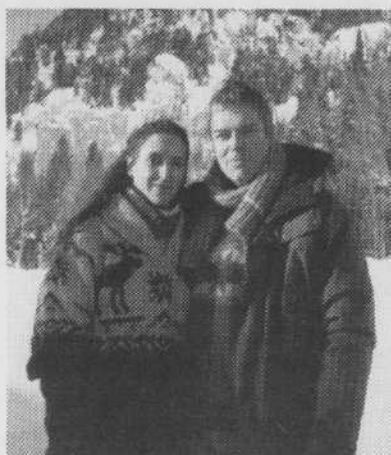
and making 10 hearts was won by Ormonde Brown and Mabel Cornish.

Prizes for high score were won by: 1st, Ethel Marsh, 5090; 2nd, Mabel Fry, 4300;

3rd, George Bailey, 4270; 4th, Mary Horne, 4170; and 5th, Gladys Frizzle, 3950.

Elvia Johnson made tea and coffee

and the usual pot-luck lunch and social time was enjoyed while door prizes were given out, ending a pleasant winter afternoon.



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### Waterloo

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Mr. and Mrs. Doug Lousley of Bishop's Mills, Ont., spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Marsh.

Mrs. Elsie Beauchamps was in town for the funeral of her late sister-in-law, Glena Maynes and while here she stayed with Mrs. Clara Boyd. Mr. and Mrs. Mac Lewis and Marge (Hammond) Fowle stayed with Doug and Shirley Beakes. Other out-of-towners here for the funeral were Wesley and Jean Jones of Scarborough, Ont., and Cliff Jones of Fredericton, N.B. Jean stayed on another week at the Maynes home. Mac Lewis's three daughters and four grandchildren were also in town for the funeral.

Mr. Maurice Campbell is still a patient at the B.M.P. Hospital at the time of this writing.

Mrs. Pat Cote was hospitalized at the B.M.P. Hospital recently after falling on the ice.

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I am pleased to announce that my nephew, Mtre Louis MEUNIER, notary will ensure you the same service and professionalism that you have expected over the years from your notary Meunier.

Mtre Louis Meunier, notary is a graduate from the University of Sherbrooke and is a member of the Quebec notary board since February 1998.

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Me Louis Meunier, LL.B. D.D.N.  
Notary, title attorney  
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Cowansville, Qué. Canada  
J2K 1M7 Tél.: 450-263-0330  
Fax: 450-263-9757  
notaire.meunier@qc.aira.com

Thank you,  
André F. Meunier and Mtre. Louis Meunier, notary assignee of notarial records of notary André F. Meunier (1961 to 1998), J. Fridolin Meunier (1932 to 1977), Jules Côté (1918 to 1934), L. Auguste Marchessault (1916 to 1918), Percy D. DuBoys (1902 to 1913) and Moses O. Hart (1867 to 1917).

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## From the Pens of E.T. Writers Rocky's Tale

I would imagine that a Townshipsper who hasn't had at least a couple of encounters with wild animals is more of an exception to the general rule. The thing of it is, encounters are often so brief that telling about them verbally describes them quite adequately. As for those, I've had a few or more which include witnessing fawns in the wild nursing on a doe, and squatting down on the ground to encourage a vagabond moose to approach within fifteen feet of me, which luckily afterwards I heard was a very unwise thing to do.

Few encounters such as these have the human interest content, as in feeling that we've had some manner of man-beast relationship, that would make up a real story. This one that I'm trying is only about a raccoon, which I know are commonly kept as pets in the country, but from what I know, are captured as babies or cubs, and raised and trained before they come to adulthood.

Rocky, as we named him, for lack of a more clever description, was a full grown adult when he came into our lives for a while. Which meant that this one had raised and maintained his own life in the wild, which was cruelly evident in the fact that half of his tail had been long since severed.

At first he passed virtually unnoticed among the variety of marauders that raided our bird feeder at night on the outside of the glassed-in section of our outdoor porch. One night I was strumming and picking at my guitar when I noticed him at the feeder. I kept on playing, and he kept on eating for a good half hour to my serenading. I paused and looked up, saying, "What do you think? Not so hot eh? I agree, I need practice." I kept on playing for a while and I could almost feel the sensual pleasure that he was deriving from his food, as if my playing had anything to do with it. I wondered then about his tail. Did he have the other half wrapped around the corner, of the screen?

He became a regular at the feeder, and if it wasn't full he at least stopped by to check. By turning on the porch light for a second we soon recognized him as Rocky by his severed tail. There was something about him that interested me in particular. He seemed more wizened and cunning than others, and had an almost peculiar intelligence that I had neither seen in others. I later read that raccoons can live up to fifteen years of age, which may be supporting evidence for my intuition.

One night I thought I'd like to feed him myself. I picked apart two or three slices of bread and put them in a pan ready to give it a try. I thought I would feed him out of my hand. I opened the porch door and squatted with a handful of breadcrumbs offered in my palm. On being so close to him on the outside, with thoughts of all of the rabies going around, the reality of the situation seemed to take a firmer hold. Still, I kept my proffered hand out as he slowly approached. Another thought that came up was that he might like to sample one of my fingers with the bread. I guess that was what put an end to the hand feeding idea. I backed off quickly and closed the door. He followed suit, looking almost betrayed, so I stepped out again and just put the plate on the outdoor bench. As he caught on to the idea he strode up and ate greedily. It was obviously appreciated.

And Rocky soon became part of the summer evening's entertainment. Cat food and table scraps were somewhat begrudgingly allowed by our cat on to Rocky's plate. As weeks passed he put on a little weight, and I was almost hoping that his tail would grow back to full length. After his meal, he had a habit of standing up on his hind legs and, gently clutching the screen with his front paws, would peer in at us, and then satisfied, would wander back into the dark. It was suggested that he was trying to say thank-you. And occasionally he would

pause from his meal and stare over the edge of the porch, sometimes emitting a slight growl. This was obviously his porch and nobody else was going to get in on the action.

On the muggier nights he would often flop down on the floor of the porch, apparently more exhausted than we from the heat. But the sight of a dishfull of food coming his way would instantly lift him into the usual vigorous stage performance. He may, for all we knew, have enjoyed all of the attention that he got. And, as animals go, even though we had gotten quite fond of him, he left and didn't come back as usual.

A few weeks passed and one night as I was considering how he might be roadkill, he came up on the porch a little apprehensively. "Rocky, it's you," I said. He looked at me questioningly, and then backed away slowly. A little confidence came back to his eyes. I wondered if he had been hurt. He turned around and without the usual begging, went down the porch steps. "That's odd," I thought. "But at least he's alive. As I pondering, Rocky and another raccoon walked somewhat boldly onto their stage. It was unusual for him, but I guess he was letting a guest in on the feast already set out. They both started eating, Rocky with the usual table manners and the other quite awkwardly. I noticed some movement in the big maple that stands just beside the porch. And a pint sized cub jumped from it, trying to land on the railing, but failed and fell into the bushes below. One by one four more cubs attempt-

ed the leap and also fell to the bushes. Meanwhile the previous attemptees had climbed back to the notch in the tree and tried again. They all repeated their cleverness but failed time and again. One eventually made it to the food which was almost gone by the time he reached it.

We were so pleased that Rocky trusted us enough to bring along the Mrs. and the kids, but at the same time wondered how far this was all going to go. As if reading our thoughts, Rocky stayed back, letting just the mother and cubs to eat, supervising from time to time. The mother too backed off gradually as the cubs grew. After a while the half grown cubs were the only guests at night, and by fall they showed up only once in a while. I wondered again what had happened to Rocky.

Late Autumn months came with it's drizzle and rain, and Rocky returned. He stood up and peered in the porch window, but when I made a motion to get some food he backed off. I opened the door and said, "Rocky, good to see you again." and then closed the door behind me. He walked slowly to the steps and took a look behind to make sure that I understood that life does have to have some good-byes. It was agreed instinctively, and Rocky disappeared into the night.

Steve Lamb  
Sutton, Que.

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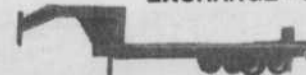
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## FINANCIAL PAGE

# Build GIC portfolios to mix-and-match investment features

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- News Canada

## Clearing the confusion about RRSP loans

(NC)—Whether you're making your first RRSP contribution, or need help contributing your maximum, your bank can offer you a range of borrowing options.

Borrowing for this year's RRSP contribution may make sense because it's important to have the maximum

amount of money enjoying tax-deferred compound growth. Missing a single contribution can make a big difference at retirement. And when you borrow, you can use your tax refund, if any, to pay down your loan. CIBC for example, has a 120-day deferral option, so you could even receive a tax refund before making your first loan payment! There are various ways to borrow for an RRSP contribution — consider these:

- Line of Credit — apply only once and have an available reserve of cash that you can access as necessary.

- RRSP Loan — if you're planning to pay down your loan within a year, an RRSP loan as low as prime allows you to defer your first payment up to 120 days (at which time you may have your tax refund to use against the loan).

- If you'd like to catch up on your unused RRSP contribution room, some loans allow you to take advantage of the recent tax rules which allow you to carry forward, indefinitely, any unused contributions. You can spread your payments over 10 years, defer your first payment of up to 120 days and choose a fixed or variable rate of interest.

If you'd like to find out more about RRSP loans, contact your financial institution or CIBC at 1 800 465-CIBC (2422) or visit [www.cibc.com](http://www.cibc.com).

- News Canada

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## CONTRIBUTIONS TO YOUR R.R.S.P.

The deadline to make contributions to your R.R.S.P. In order to obtain a deduction on your 1998 income tax return is March 1, 1999.

Your maximum eligible contribution limit appears on your 1997 federal notice of assessment, which you probably received last summer.

This limit equals 18% of your earned income for the year minus any contributions to your or your spouse's R.R.S.P. This limit accumulates year after year.

Earned income consists mainly of employment income, business income, rental income, disability payments received from the Canada or Québec Pension Plan, taxable support payments.

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