

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017

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## No referendum TBL town hall renovation project is a go

By Ann Davidson

The results of last week's registry at Brome Lake represent 2.2 per cent of the number of people needed to propel a referendum related to a proposed \$1.2 million loan that would cover the estimated costs to renovate the existing town hall located at the corner of Lakeside and Victoria streets in Knowlton. There will be no referendum. The renovation project is a go.

Despite the town's efforts to give naysayers an opportunity to slam down a request for a loan that would serve to cover necessary costs of renovating the town hall, only 11 citizens showed up to sign the registry last week.

Prior to the regular meeting of February 6, notice had been issued by mail to all citizens in TBL about an information meeting serving as a consultation about the need to amend the infrastructure housing the town's administration. The

meeting was meant to give people an idea of the work to be carried out and to get citizens' feedback on the project. The council wanted to bring attention to issues that needed to be addressed such as the historical factors around the building, why the need for such a large project, the rationale between renovation or relocation, what would be involved in each scenario, and the projected cost of the necessary work.

At that meeting on February 6, three options were presented and discussed. That presentation was also made available for all citizens to review on the town's website. It is still there for people to peruse and understand the rationale behind the council's decision to renovate the existing town hall. A story outlining the situation was also published in *Tempo* last month.

Given the amount of money required

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FILE PHOTO BY ANN DAVIDSON

With 2.2 per cent turnout for last week's registry, the TBL administration has the go-ahead to apply for a \$1.2 million loan to renovate the existing town hall, an important feature standing within a recognized heritage cluster.

## Truck carrying explosive chemicals on Route 245 recovered

### A 24-hour gruelling operation saves lives and river

By Ann Davidson

A catastrophe was averted early Thursday morning last week when the driver of a Seaboard Transport tanker truck loaded with 35,000 kilograms of hazardous styrene opted to take to the ditch rather than hitting a semi-trailer that was backing into a dri-

veaway on Route 245 in East Bolton. It is said that slippery roads contributed to the situation.

According to Director of the Austin

Fire Department and First Responders, Paul Robitaille, "The driver who was making a delivery to Huntsman Chemical Company in Mansonville, was a pack

of nerves but his quick thinking to avoid the collision saved people's lives. If the contents of the truck would be ignited, the explosion would have been heard as far away as Sherbrooke."

Christian Blanchette, who coordinates emergency environment situations for Quebec's Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change in the Eastern Townships region, was on site for the duration of the 24-hour recovery operation.

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The Austin Fire Department and First Responders along with Environment Quebec standing by while the highly explosive chemicals are decanted from one tanker truck to the other last Thursday on Route 254 in East Bolton.

PHOTO BY ANN DAVIDSON



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# Brome County Community Bulletin Board

## March 8

**Bridge, bridge, bridge.** All the bridge you want. Monday and Wednesday afternoons starting at 12:45 p.m. and for beginners come Monday evenings (from 7-9 p.m.) and Friday afternoons (from 1-3 p.m.) Contact Karin Dorey 450-263-9769 or Roger Rouleau 450-955-1410.

## March 10

**Lift your spirit:** the aging process. A contemplative guide and spiritual practice to be held on Friday March 10 from noon to 2 p.m. at Knowlton United Church. Lunch consisting of soup sandwiches, coffee, tea, and dessert will be served at noon followed by the presentation at 1 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. This will be led by Rev. Steve Lawson. For details please call 450-242-1993. All are welcome.

## March 11

March 11, 18, and 25 - The BCHS will host a three part **workshop on the traditional art of finger weaving** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Marion Phelps Building at 130 Lakeside in Knowlton. The workshop will be given by Michelle Beauvais in French with English translation provided by Rose Skinner. \$30 for BCHS members, \$35 for non-members. Please register at 450-243-6782.

## March 11

**Country dance** with variety at Trinity Anglican Church, 409 South Steet Cowansville, Saturday March 11, 7-11 p.m. Music by Jimmy Edwards Country Folks Band. Door Prizes, 50-50 drawing, Support the church and the food bank. Non alcoholic party. Bring your young teen. (12-16 year old \$5) Adults \$8.

## March 11

**Watoto Children's Choir.** All the way from Uganda to Knowlton! Watoto is touring Canada and returning to St. Paul's church, 24 St. Paul's Road, Knowlton with a new concert, "Signs and Wonders." These children, orphaned themselves, travel the world as ambassadors of hope for Africa's orphaned and vulnerable. An event not to be missed! This African choir is a delight to experience so be sure to mark your calendar — Saturday, March 11 at 4 p.m. This is a free concert, however a good will offering will be collected and all proceeds donated to Watoto.

## March 11

Creek United Church 278 Brill Road West Bolton. Creek annual Irish stew luncheon with hot biscuits, dessert cake, and ice cream. Saturday March 11, time 12-2 p.m. Donation \$ 8. Please come and enjoy! Contact May Banks 450 243 0280.

## March 11

Legion 99 Cowansville 120, Davignon Saturday, March 11 - BBQ steak supper 5 - 7 p.m., 15\$ per person. Information: 450-263-3543.

## March 12

Legion 99 Cowansville 120, Davignon Sunday, March 12 - breakfast 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m., 8\$ per person.

## March 12

**Knowlton Players:** March 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. at Knowlton United Church. Announcing auditions for the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat by Andrew Lloyd Webber. The show will be in November 2017. Rehearsals will start in the spring with a break in the summer. We are looking for actors, singers and dancers aged 11 and up. For more information please call Lucy Hoblyn at 450 522-5223.

## March 13

Monday, March 13, **Knowlton Coffee Break** — "Painting mini Hex signs" Pennsylvania Dutch art, from 1:30-3:30 p.m. suggested donation \$2, RSVP. Lac Bome Community Centre, 270 rue Victoria, Knowlton, avantebarb@bellnet.ca

## March 14

Tuesday, March 14, **Open 'til dark "Sleep"** How to get it, 1:30-3:30 p.m., free. Avante Women's Centre, 15 rue du Pont, Bedford 450-248-0530, avantebarb@bellnet.ca.

## March 18

Saturday March 18. Join us for a Saint-Patrick's Day dinner and dance at the Sutton Legion! Corned beef and cabbage dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. followed by music and dancing with Ben Arkansas and the Brome Tones from 7 to 11 p.m. \$20 per person.

## March 18

**CWL St. Patrick's luncheon and bake sale.** You are invited to the CWL St. Patrick's Day luncheon and bake sale at St. Patrick's Catholic community in the church hall in Granby, corner of 101 Principale and Dufferin (entrance in the back), Saturday, March 18, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tickets: adults - \$12 and children under 10 - \$5. There will be door prizes...

## March 18

**St Patrick's Day luncheon:** To be held on Saturday, March 18, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Emmanuel United Church, 203 rue Principale, Cowansville. Adults: \$10.; Youth 6 - 10 years: \$7.; kids 5 and under: free. Menu: "all you can eat" pancakes, real maple syrup, baked beans, ham, fruit salad, and beverages. There will also be a home baking table; handicraft and an attic treasures table.

## CHURCH BULLETINS

### ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH - DUNHAM

Sunday services at 10 a.m. - all welcome! The Reverend Sinpoh Han. Information: 450-295-2045.

## ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME

Services are at 9 a.m. First Sunday of the month no service; second Sunday of the month — St. John the Evangelist, Brome; third Sunday of the month — Church of the Ascension, West Brome; fourth Sunday of the month — St John the Evangelist, Brome; fifth Sunday, Holy Trinity, Iron Hill. Canon Tim Smart, rector. Information: 450-538-8108.

### BEDFORD PASTORAL CHARGE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

You are warmly welcomed to join us each Sunday for an uplifting spiritual experience. We welcome you and your ideas as we provide a safe place where individually we seek out a greater purpose for our lives. Every Sunday at 10 a.m. join our community in either Bedford, Stanbridge East or Mystic. Services in Bedford and Stanbridge East are followed by coffee and snacks. The address for each church can be found on our website, bedfordpastoral.org. For more information please contact Wendy Near at the church office on Thursday and Friday from 9 - 11 a.m. by phone 450-248-3044 or call 450-248-2739, or by e-mail at Bedford.pastoral@yahoo.ca.

### CALVARY UNITED CHURCH SUTTON

A warm welcome awaits you at our Sunday worship service in Sutton at Grace Anglican Church at 9 a.m. followed by a coffee hour at 10 a.m. in the church hall. Information: 450-538-0530.

### COWANSVILLE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Cowansville Community Baptist Church meets Sundays at 11:30 a.m., 137 rue John, Cowansville. Everyone is welcome.

### CREEK/WATERLOO PASTORAL CHARGE

Thursday, March 9 - Lenten study of RUTH at the Creek Church: 10:30 a.m.-noon. Second Sunday of Lent, March 12 - worship and music: Creek United, 278 Brill Rd., West Bolton, service including Sacrament of baptism, and Sunday school, at 9 a.m.; St. Paul's United, 4929 Foster, Waterloo, service at 10:30 a.m. Reverend Dave Lambie, minister. For information or to leave a message call: 450-539-2129.

### EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Come together for a thoughtful and spiritual experience and give yourself a good start to the week. Sunday worship is at 203 rue Principale, Cowansville, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: March 19. We serve the United Church communities of Brigham, East Farnham, Farnham, and Cowansville but really anyone can find a home here. Give it a try and sample a Sunday. Wheelchair accessible. Worship leader: Norman Haslam Church office: 450-263-0204 website: emmanuelcowansville.ca.

### ÉGLISE CATHOLIQUE ST. ÉDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

366 Knowlton Road, Knowlton. You are invited to participate in a bilingual Mass Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Christian meditation is now on Wednesday afternoons 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (side door). The group is now bilingual and has been formed to introduce meditation to newcomers. We welcome beginners and experienced meditators. Regular attendance not required. Information call Clare at 450-243-5590.

### GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

52 Principale sud, Sutton, welcomes everyone for Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. All welcome. Canon Tim Smart, rector. Information: 450-538-8108 or visit our website at www.gracechurchsutton.org.

### GRANBY UNITED CHURCH

Where God Unites all Children. Be a part of the family. 101 rue Principale, Granby. Please call 450-372-1417 for information and to confirm time of our services. guc-eug@bellnet.ca.

### KNOWLTON-MOUNTAIN VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE

Serving the regions of Knowlton, Bolton Centre, Mansonville, and Vale Perkins. Worship service at 11 a.m. at Knowlton United Church, 234 Knowlton Road (450-243-6078). A warm welcome is extended to all. Handicapped access available. For the months of January, February, and March, worship services will be held on the second Sunday of each month.

### ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

130 Principale, Granby, welcomes everyone for Sunday service at 11 a.m. All welcome. Bienvenue a tous. Reverend Richard Gauthier, rector. Information: 450-372-2197.

### ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

24 St. Paul's Road, Knowlton. St. Paul's - a dynamic, diverse community pursuing and serving Jesus in the Eastern Townships. 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services (traditional, contemporary and modern music and format). Please check out our new website: www.stpaulsknowlton.ca. Messy Church every third Wednesday of the month from 5 - 7 p.m. Everyone welcome! Telephone: 450-242-2885.

### TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Church with a "Heart" 409 South Street, Cowansville. All Sunday services are at 10:30 a.m. Come and join us as we endeavor to learn and practice God's loving will. We'd love to welcome you. Reverend George Campbell and Reverend William Blizzard. Information: 450-955-3325 (leave message).

# Tenth annual International Women's Day Dinner

Fundraising event honouring women still gaining momentum

By Ann Davidson

"Clearly an astounding success," chirped the president of the Yamaska Valley Optimist Club (YVO), Ginette Couture, when referring to the tenth annual International Women's Day Dinner in TBL this past Saturday. The evening actually coincided with the 30th anniversary of women participating in the Optimist Clubs. The fundraising event that keeps gaining momentum serves as a platform to honour three women for their accomplishments, as well as their contributions to the community.

Catered by Cowansville-based "Traiteur M.C.L." more than 100 people joined 21 of the YVO members at the TBL Community Centre to honour local accomplished artists. And though the final tally has yet to be announced, it is known that \$1,200 was raised through the silent auction of an array of 25 exclusive handbags and purses donated by one of the dedicated members of the YVO Club.

Proceeds of the event are targeted to youth programs such as the annual oratorical and essay contests, breakfast programs, the Junior Youth Optimist Club, Christmas angels program, scholarships, children's activities on Canada Day, "Godmothers for youth group homes,"

welcome kits, special events and other special occasions throughout the year.

Because this region is such a haven for artistic talent whether it is painters, artisans, musicians, or performing arts, the YVO club members decided that this year should focus on women who have strongly contributed to the visual arts. There were a number of female artists in consideration to be honoured and all deserve the recognition. However, with a limit of three, the consensus of the members of the YVO resulted in Marie-André Leblond, Susan Pepler, and Mary Martin. Introducing each of these three accomplished artists were Susan Burbank, Kathleen Sears, and Lois Hardacker who says that the bar is getting higher and higher when it comes to introducing such successful talent.

This year's format had a number of modifications that included visual effects prepared by Vilnis Epnors highlighting each of the artists' works while presenters respectively introduced the nominees. And when in years past the event has featured high profile keynote speakers, TBL's beloved Laura Teasdale was beckoned upon to develop a skit based on a list called "The Good Wife's Guide" originally published in a 1955 issue of "Housekeeping Monthly" that depicted how the view of women has



VILNIS EPNORS

Laura Teasdale, Linda Carey, Juli Peasley, and Lucy Hoblyn entertained the audience during the 10th annual International Women's Day Dinner in TBL with Teasdale's comical skit outlining the evolution of "The Good Wife" through the generations.

changed. True to form the accomplished playwright/comedienne/songstress came up with a rendition that compared wives from different generations, always incorporated music and merriment. The audience loved it.

Couture concluded that it was a superb evening orchestrated by club founder, Ilze Epnors and her dedicated team. "It was a well-balanced perfection with every detail tended to with such care and finesse."

# Artists honoured at International Women's Day Dinner

Sharing the love of what they see and how they see it

By Ann Davidson

Three YVO members assumed responsibility for introducing the honoured guests at the tenth annual International Women's Day Dinner on Saturday. Revered for their works, it was clear that they share much in common. They are observers who love what they do, and are not afraid of taking risks to further their talent.

Leading the way, veteran YVO member Susan Burbank lauded that talent surrounding everyone in attendance and expressed how inspired she had been while getting to know Marie-Andrée Leblond.

"Not many of us can say that they knew what they wanted to do for the rest of their lives by the age of 12. But that is just one of the things that make Marie Andree Leblond special."

Born in St. Jean sur Richelieu in 1978, Leblond grew up in Beloit and says that she inherited the artistic side from her mother. At an early age she learned the art of oil painting. Leblond has described herself as the shy girl who was a "bit of a nerd" at school who spent a lot of time on her own developing her talent. With a diploma in visual arts from CEGEP du Vieux Montreal under her belt, Leblond continued studying in the illustration

program at College Salette.

Burbank said that after graduation Leblond was full of determination and ambition and wanted to shock the world. "She participated in local artistic events. It was at one such event that she won the "Prix-du-Public," which led to a spot with the Clarence Gagnon gallery in Montreal. It was there that other art galleries began to notice, and her work started taking a prominent place in the Quebec and the Canadian art market; all at the ripe age of 19 years old.

"It was during that exciting time, when her career was taking off, that she received a heart-stopping phone call advising her that she had been selected to be part of a Quebec delegation at a major art event at the Carousel du Louvre in Paris. This was thrilling to her and was her introduction to the European mar-

ket."

Jokingly Burbank said that Leblond assured her that she was as excited then as she was to be selected as a nominee for the YVO's International Women's Day Dinner. She underlined how fortunate the community is that Leblond has opted to settle here given her worldly exposure.

In 1997 Leblond divided her time between Knowlton and Montreal. She had a studio/gallery above the current location of Woolrich where she taught and her art students could display their works. Between 2004 and its closure in 2013 her work was displayed at the Knowlton Gallery. For the past three and a half years she has continued to maintain a strong presence in her studio/shop in Knowlton next to The Shack across from Coldbrook Park. There she paints,

displays and sells her works, and takes orders from customers to do paintings on barn wood or canvass of their pets.

"She has a wonderful home life in Cowansville with Stephen who, she is pleased to say, is a wonderful cook, with her pets that she loves, and her own perfect studio which is so important to her, filled with her art and beautiful music." She keeps in shape, physically and mentally, by running every day and walking in the woods with her dogs.

Though painting on canvas is her main medium for the galleries and her subjects mostly women and flowers, Leblond does a lot of painting on barn wood, or small wooden furniture pieces for her displays here.

"She knows her clientele here. Part of

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LETTER

## TBL should define parameters of pesticide use on golf courses

DEAR EDITOR:

There are three golf courses (two public, one private) adjacent to Brome Lake, protected wetlands, and "high-density" human habitation. The golf courses represent some 400 acres of land which are currently "exempt" from pesticide town control or oversight, under Town of Brome Lake by-laws. When was the last time TBL audited the types of fertilizers, and pesticides used by the local golf clubs (private and public)? Why were letters sent to them but no reply was ever made? Why does this very important issue seem to fall between the cracks every time it is brought up?

The question is why doesn't TBL set out tough and clearly defined parameters on pesticide use for golf courses. After all, other municipalities have done so – such as the municipality of Hudson, for example.

In its 9-0 landmark decision, the Supreme Court of Canada in June 2001 invoked "The Precautionary Principle" with regard to pesticides when giving Hudson and other municipalities, the right to pass bylaws restricting the use

of pesticides on its golf courses.

The Precautionary Principle means that, even in situations where there is not absolute proof of harm in all cases, precaution should be taken to protect the environment and human health.

"I've always considered this whole issue a local issue, and I defended it even to the highest court on the basis that we are a community and we have the right to decide what we want in our environment in this community," said former Hudson Mayor Stephen Shaar.

The Canadian Medical Association, an organization with some 4,700 members, have urged all levels of government to prohibit non-essential pesticides on lawns, gardens, parks, sports fields – and yes, – even on golf courses.

According to the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE), the number of pesticides that we readily use, such as is often used on some golf courses, pose "significant risks to human health." In addition, they say, it is important that we take policy and public health measures to ensure that the population is aware of the risks.

"Pesticide use represents a real threat to all of our health, and the health of

children in particular," says Jan Kasperki, chief executive officer of the Ontario College of Family Physicians. "Municipalities must retain the power to protect their citizens' health by passing bylaws that are tougher than the provincial legislation."

If Brome Lake golf courses must continue to use pesticides for "cosmetic and aesthetic purposes," then the town should at least require, from the golf courses, that the use of pesticides must meet certain conditions to minimize the effects on public health and the environment.

Knowing that scientific and medical research has shown that pesticides are linked to cancer, neurological illnesses, and birth defects; shouldn't TBL council at least inform its residents of the pesticides currently being applied on golf courses within its territory? And shouldn't council provide a list of these toxins on the town's website?

If TBL council does not implement a full, or at least a partial, ban of pesticide use on its golf courses, and history proves that pesticides are as dangerous as current scientific study suggests, then the municipality will have needlessly ex-

posed the public to chronic illnesses, unexplained cancers, and neurological disorders which could have been prevented by a ban. This is not a risk that any councilor should take for the sake of the weed- and pest-free golf course.

It is high time that council takes the lead on this important public safety issue – as other municipalities have done across Canada and in Quebec.

This issue has been going round and round for years, Mr. Burcombe, and I believe the population is merited of full action on your part and immediate action is kindly requested of you and your administration.

I urge council to take decisive action, as Renaissance Lac Brome and others have repeatedly requested. In addition, council should not shirk from implementing and enforcing environmental bylaws under its jurisdiction. To say that it may lack the manpower to enforce certain bylaws, such as those that may pertain to pesticide use on golf courses, is incredulous and unconscionable, given the known danger of pesticides to public health and the lake.

LARRY INGOLD  
Knowlton

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# TBL town hall renovation project is a go

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to borrow, the town was legally obliged to set up a registry for eligible voters opposing the request. Five hundred signatures were required to push the issue to referendum.

Notice of the registry was announced and published in both *Brome County News* and *Le Guide* on February 14, following the adoption of a bylaw (decreeing an expense and a loan of \$1.2 million for the renovation of the town hall) at the regular town meeting on February 6. The same notice was made available on the town's website.

This project is not news. It was originally announced in 2014 for the town's five-year strategic plan (2015 to 2020). The building is in a state of disrepair making working conditions a growing challenge.

The Town of Brome Lake administrators firmly believe that it is essential to preserve the building that presently houses town hall, whatever its future use. That the building has documented heritage value and is an integral part of the town's architectural heritage, it is recognized by the Ministry of Culture and Communications as an illustration

of "the diversity of influences on architectural design at the beginning of the 20th century." Built in 1908 it served as a post office until 1973 when it became the town hall. However, it serves the administration with growing challenges. It is considered an essential part of Knowlton's institutional cluster that was designated a heritage site by the town in 1993 as well as the Ministry of Culture and Communications in 2012. Known to be the largest of its kind in the Eastern Townships, the cluster is one of only eight in the province that have been well preserved.

Owing to lack of proper maintenance over the years the building has become run down with the interior not adequately suited for current needs. The exterior siding is damaged and the ventilation poor, causing moisture in the basement that requires major sanitizing work in order to provide necessary healthy working conditions. The layout does not allow for enough space for all the municipal services to be housed in the same location. Nor is there enough space for archival storage.

The town weighed the options of ei-

ther renovating by two different scenarios or relocating, and concluded that buying a new lot and building a new structure along with having to sell the existing building would be more expensive than renovating. Renovating everything all at the same time would be less costly and less burdensome than doing it in stages whereby requiring staff to relocate during each phase. Doing it in a single phase rather than multiple phases would be more time and labour efficient in the long run. As well, by renovating the existing building the municipal services will stay in the town's historic centre and help sustain the urban ecosystem.

The \$1.2 million amount was already cited in the 2017 budget and is broken down to cover three specific jobs as outlined by AS Estimation Enr. for ventilation costs \$186,500, by Le Groupe S.M. Inc. for Architect fees of \$147,300, and the balance (\$866,200) of the amount to cover all construction, renovation, and expansion work, plus floors, bricks, and windows.

A small discussion on Facebook ensued following the results of last week's

registry. Several people have voiced disapproval of the specific project because they feel there are other priorities more pressing. Mostly they wonder if low turnout might have been owing to the single location of the registry in a town that has its population distribution within seven villages in a large geographic area. Pete Stone and Mark Bennett wonder if there would be greater participation on these matters if the vote could be executed in each of the villages rather than centrally or if it might be more efficient to set up an on-line voting system.

Justin Cuplinskas said that he didn't bother to sign even though he is not fully on board with the project. "It appears to still be the less of two evils. It absolutely needs to be done. I've seen the structure of the city hall, it's in bad shape. This (plan) does look to be one of the more cost effective solutions, as there are other roadblocks such as the building being historical. It can't be demolished. It can't be replaced. It can only be renovated, and it needs to be done for safety sake."

# Truck carrying explosive chemicals on Route 245 recovered

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ANN DAVIDSON

The blustery and cold weather were difficult conditions for the recovery crews who were repeatedly hindered by white-outs.

He explained that styrene is highly explosive. Leaking vapours could be ignited by minimal friction or simple insidious static electricity from cell phones or hydro wires. Hence the reason for the hydro in the area being cut and communications could only be transmitted by use of anti-static radios.

"It is a very delicate operation that takes time. The object is to transfer the chemical while avoiding soil contamination and leaching and preventing the substance to ignite. With the Missisquoi River within close proximity it is a major concern because the chemicals are toxic to aquatic organisms," Blanchette explained. Robitaille explained how fast the layers of authori-

ties arrived on the scene. Within 30 minutes of the 911 call, a barrage of service providers and specialists had converged on site to ensure optimal human and environment security. Sureté du Québec, Transport Québec, the fire department and first responders, a professional clean-up crew, the recovery centre for Seabord Transport, the coordinator of emergency services for Quebec's Ministry of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change, as well as a chemical engineer for the company and a local excavation company all showed up. And a tanker truck also arrived on site within the

hour to await transfer of the toxic, explosive chemical held in the ditched truck.

The immediate action taken was to ground the truck and all its equipment in order to protect from any electrical interference. The four homes within the required 800-metre radius were evacuated, and the road was closed to travellers who were rerouted to East River Road. A dike was prepared at the lower end of the ditch that was then lined with a protective membrane to prevent leaching in the event of any leak or spill from the tank, which had become dislodged from the truck bed.

Blanchette said that despite the gruelling work conditions for the crews involved in the recovery, the cold and blustery weather allowed for the least amount of risk. Cooler temperatures reduce the chance of ignition and the wind served to dissipate the vapours. Had this happened during the heat of mid-summer with no wind, the task of recovery would be next to impossible. But as Robitaille concluded, in this case it was a good ending to a perilous operation.

"Nobody was hurt, no homes were destroyed, the environment was not impacted, the company did not lose the contents of the load, and insurance will cover all costs including those incurred by the Austin Fire Department and First Responders.



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### ABOUT TOWNSHIPERS'

## Health Matters: What is cancer?

About two in five Canadians will develop cancer in their lifetimes, according to the Canadian Cancer Society, and one in four will die of the disease. The national community-based organization estimated 202,400 new cases of cancer and 78,800 cancer-related deaths would take place last year. The statistics can be frightening and for those facing cancer, the diagnosis can completely change their approach to living.

In collaboration with the Avante Women's Center and Townshippers' Association, the next free Health Matters Information Session on Friday, March 10, will take a closer look at the disease with cancer expert Dail Jacob. The recently retired nurse practiced in the area of oncology and palliative care for 23 years of her 39-year career, which included working for the Canadian Nurses' Association in certification exam development in the specialty of oncology.

Join us from 10 a.m. to noon at the CLSC in Cowansville, 397 de la Rivière, for this clear and informative presentation, which will include prevention, symptoms, treatment, and support/resources. A complimentary light lunch and continued discussions on the day's topic will follow.

Health Matters is a part of CHEP (Community Health Education Program) offered by the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), which aims to provide health information to English-speaking communities across Quebec. Visit CHEP online at [www.chssn.org](http://www.chssn.org). This CHSSN initia-



The next free Health Matters Information Session on Friday, March 10, in Cowansville will include a DVD presentation with a long-time oncology nurse on the topic of cancer.

tive is funded by Health Canada through the Roadmap for Canada's Official Languages 2013-2018: Education, Immigration, Communities.

For further information about this session, please contact Kate Murray at Townshippers', 450-242-4421, [km@townshippers.org](mailto:km@townshippers.org).

For more information on Townshippers' Association and our activities, keep reading this weekly About Townshippers' column in Brome County News and visit us on Twitter @Townshippers, Facebook.com/Townshippers and our website [www.Townshippers.org](http://www.Townshippers.org). Connect with Townshippers' offices in Sherbrooke at 100 - 257 Queen, 819-566-5717, toll free: 1-866-566-5717, or Lac-Brome at 3-584 Knowlton Rd, 450-242-4421, toll free: 1-877-242-4421.

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# Pet Of The Week — Layla



**H**il I am a lady, about 2 years old, with short fur and white markings. When I arrived here two months ago I wasn't looking my best — I had just recently had puppies. Actually, in my short life I have had more than one litter of puppies! I wonder where they all are? How are they? Are they in good homes? Have they been sterilized? Euthanized?

When I arrived here and saw and heard about so many dogs and cats needing homes I realized I had made a big mistake bringing more puppies/dogs into this world. But of course, I didn't know what I was doing at the time. Actually it wasn't my choice. My owner wanted it. Humans, please stop it! If you could see the faces of all the pets all over the world needing homes you'd understand!

Now, back to me. I am looking much better now — I am a calm, affectionate, friendly lady who loves people and other dogs. And I am not too big — just about 40-45 pounds. Come and visit us here at the SPCA Montérégie, 178, ch. du Vide, Ste-Angèle-de-Monnoir (exit 37 on autoroute 10). Adoption hours are 2 - 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays. You can see photos of some of my other friends on the website!

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# Artists honoured at International Women's Day Dinner

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

her artistic talent is seeing through to the soul. Just look at the art, look at the eyes...she can capture the inner feelings. And that is why, perhaps, that she has so many orders for paintings of people's beloved pets."

"Known well for the Brome Fair posters of 2012, 2013, and 2015 the Knowlton Duck Festival posters from 2006 to 2013, and the duck mural at the Le Relais terrace, or maybe you have a picture of yourself with your face in the big painted wooden duck board at the duck festival ... all Marie Andree's work. You may even spot a print of one of her works in a major department store. These days she is working very hard preparing a show for 2018."

When asked what it takes to be a successful artist, she said along with the talent one must have the sense to trust oneself. This is a passion, a lifestyle, a job which she absolutely loves.

Lois Hardacker reminded everyone about Mary Martin's roots being in Waterloo, Frost Village, and South Stukely even though she was born in Montreal. During her 11 years of schooling in Waterloo, Martin enjoyed private art and music lessons. Clearly seeing something in her daughter, Martin's mother encouraged her to stick with it even though she claims she didn't always want to. "It was something appropriate to develop."

According to Hardacker, Martin spent a year in Junior Girls' College in Vermont following high school. "There was a time when she thought of becoming a veterinarian which, in retrospect, she is happy that it did not happen." It was a bachelor's degree in Agriculture from MacDonald College and study in landscape architecture that tied in with Martin's love of the natural world.

"Mary spent two years in studio work at Beaux Arts and returned to Mac to obtain her teaching certificate. Then it was out into the real world for six years of teaching: science, biology, ecology, art and English. Sometimes, in teaching, we learn a lot about ourselves. "I think Mary learned that her life should be lived closer to the natural world and in exploring it through her art."

"And thus began a 40-year career as a dedicated artist — gardener, singer, and



VILNIS EPNERS

Members of the YVO Club took turns introducing the honoured local artists during the annual International Women's Day Dinner, a fundraising event for youth activities in the region. Left to right, artist Mary Martin with Lois Hardacker, artist Susan Pepler with Kathleen Sears, and Susan Burbank with Artist Marie-Andrée Leblanc.

animal-lover on the side."

Those who have been around and watching will recall the lovely sepia drawings of old-time buildings in the area — barns, sugar shacks, and churches. Then these same sites were reproduced in oils and watercolours and Martin moved on to landscapes and boats — whatever stirs her creativity. Scenes from England, Nova Scotia, northern New England, and from right here open people's eyes to the character and beauty of places. Studies did not stop and Martin credits Don Stone in Maine with valued teachings in painting outside. Her ability to reproduce colour and light on canvas is a feature of her work and art — a latent talent and vision, a scientific understanding, honed with years of experience.

Hardacker, a well-known and successful Realtor, went on to say, "The artistic process is a mystery and a fascination to me. There is a miracle in the artist's seeing, and of not just seeing, but in interpreting and transposing, so that we all can see."

Newer to the region, Kathleen Sears, who moved to Cowansville four years ago, presented Susan Pepler, also a new full-time but not unknown resident of TBL. She made a point of citing a quote by Maya Angelou. "All great artists draw from the same resource: the human heart, which tells us that we are all more alike than we are unlike."

Sears described Pepler as a well-known artist that "we are so lucky to have in our community." Having moved to Knowlton in December 2015 Pepler now has a permanent spot to display her work at à la Carte. Her first exhibition in Knowlton was in 2006. Speaking about Pepler as a globetrotter, Sears mentioned that Pepler had lived in Singapore during a time when her family had lived in Malaysia. "She grew up in Newfoundland and Labrador and until Knowlton she had her home in Montreal. A world traveller, she has been to Cuba, Nicaragua, Jamaica, England, France, Italy, Austria, Hong Kong, Czechoslovakia, and Mexico. In my point of view, Susan personifies the definition of a global citizen."

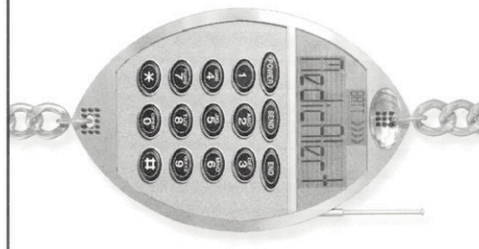
Pepler is a Concordia graduate with a bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1984. She also received a degree from Dawson College, which makes her a certified designer. She has worked as a freelance advertising illustrator doing storyboards and sketching coloured drawings for TV advertising concepts. After ten years in the business, she began painting with acrylic paints. Pepler describes herself as loving to use big paint brushes, lots of paint, and loud music. She stated that the big paint brushes help her keep things loose.

Pepler has a wide geographic client base spreading across North America as well as overseas. "Because of the Internet, it was easy to move out here and maintain business as usual. All she needs is her canvasses, her list, and her laptop." With over a thousand clients and followers, she communicates through her newsletters and uses social media like Facebook and Instagram. Her paintings can be found all the way to Japan. Up until now, she has painted over 500 paintings in her lifetime.

According to Sears, Pepler believes that one way to recognize whether one is an artist is if one is born an observer.

"For example, from my entrance all the way to my solarium, Pepler observed the color of the floors, the feet of living space, the items in the environment and even the texture and color of my boots."

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# International Women's Day

## International Women's Day 2017 at Knowlton

In celebration of International Women's Day in March, the CEDEC Small Business Support Network (SBSN) is hosting a 5 à 7 panel discussion in Knowlton on Thursday, March 20, 2014.

Jessica Brown, owner of Athletica Lac Brome, will moderate this exciting event. Brown, after working in media for 20 years, now carefully balances the responsibilities of being a business owner and mother of three active children.

Jessica Brown is very active in the community, promoting tourism and economic development in Brome Lake.

She will lead a group of dynamic women entrepreneurs through topics such as negotiation and building a professional network, as well as opening the discussion to participants who seek advice about their own specific challenges.

A volunteer-driven organization, CEDEC sparks economic innovation in building forward-looking,

prosperous and confident communities across Quebec through sharing expertise, knowledge and building partnerships. CEDEC is funded by the Enabling Fund for Official Language Minority Communities and by the Government of Canada.

The CEDEC SBSN supports communities across Quebec by providing personalized business-development services in English. They follow through with every client to make sure they have the tools to succeed.

Stay tuned to CEDEC's Facebook page, CIDI 99.1 FM, Townshippers' Association's social media, and [www.cedec.ca/sbsn](http://www.cedec.ca/sbsn) for details about the interesting women entrepreneurs on the panel.

For more information or to register for the event, contact Dawn Copping at 1-866-566-7228, [dawn.copping@cedec.ca](mailto:dawn.copping@cedec.ca).

All attendees will receive a free membership to CEDEC SBSN which includes a complimentary screening and business assessment.

## International women's Day 2017 in Quebec


On March 8, 2017, International Women's Day will be celebrated under the theme 'Equality all the way', to highlight the importance of women in society. Topics, such as freedom, non-violence, self-reliance, the right to work, universal access, parental leave, solidarity, feminism, work-life-education balance, pay equity, justice, empowerment, parity, equality, anti-racism, activism, fundamental

rights, sexual freedom, etc., are very much alive today. On that special day, let's take a moment to reflect on all of this. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at [ccfq@pipsc.ca](mailto:ccfq@pipsc.ca).

Your Quebec Regional Status of Women Committee:  
Stéphanie Fréchette, Florcy Lavaud, Nadia Méhu-Jules, Isabelle Mercier, Isabelle Vermette




COURTESY CEDEC SBSN  
Athletica Lac Brome owner of Jessica Brown will lead a group of dynamic women entrepreneurs at an exciting 5 à 7 panel discussion in Knowlton hosted by the CEDEC Small Business Support Network on Thursday, March 20, 2014.



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On this International Women's Day, Me Caroline Rosa & Me Joannie Tardif, associate lawyers, wish to greet all the women of our region, who shine each in their own way in our community. More personally, they wish to thank all the inspiring women around them.

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**VAUGHAN** - The family of Doug Vaughan wishes to extend their sincere and heartfelt gratitude to family, friends and neighbors for their support in the loss of a husband of 62 year, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Your presence at the visitation and service, your wishes of condolences and kindness were a great comfort to all of us.

Our most heartfelt thanks for the over one hundred cards of sympathy we received, as well as the food brought to us.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the staff of the B.M.P Hospital for the excellent care Doug received during his short stay. The staff were kind and compassionate at a very difficult time.

Our sincere appreciation for Reverend Dave Lambie for officiating at the service. We would also like to express our thanks to Dean Whitehead for words of remembrance of the time he worked with Doug at the Transport.

We wish to thank the members of the Dunham W.I Colfax R.L #29 and the EK Home Board for catering the reception following the service.

To the staff of Brome Missisquoi Funeral Complex our heartfelt gratitude for the kindness and concern shown by the staff at a very difficult time.

Cherry-Vanilla Bread a sweet reminder of favorite ice cream

KITCHEN SCOOP  
 By Alicia Ross

Do you remember cherry-vanilla ice cream? The kind with dark, sour cherries and just a hint of vanilla in the sweet, thick cream? It seems that this old-fashioned combo is nowhere to be found among the ice cream flavors in my little town.

But there's absolutely no reason we can't enjoy those same dramatic flavors in an easy quick bread. Today's recipe is part-quick bread and part-buttery poundcake studded with dark, rich, tart cherries. I first started thinking about the delicious possibilities when I came across a large bag of Montmorency cherries at my local club store. I grabbed a bag, thinking they'd be a great winter addition to my morning oatmeal. Then I started snacking on the intense little gems when I remembered my favorite ice cream flavor as a child - cherry-vanilla.

Yes, they are wonderful when stirred into a steaming bowl of oatmeal. But you're going to love the result of this quick bread. After several loaves, I've finally given up on the hope of having leftovers long enough to make French toast. It seems that when a loaf is in the house, it never stays until the next day. If you can, give it a try with day-old or two-day-old bread and let me know how it turns out. In the meantime, enjoy the sweet goodness of cherries and vanilla again.

Cherry-Vanilla Bread

Start to finish: about 45 minutes, mostly unattended baking time  
 Yield: 10 servings, 1 slice each

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 4 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup 1 percent (or higher) milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup dried cherries

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Butter an 8- or 9-inch loaf pan well and set aside.

Combine the flour, sugar, salt and baking powder in a bowl. Stir well. In a separate bowl, lightly whisk the butter, egg, milk, vanilla and cherries together. Add the combined wet ingredients to the dry and stir until just moist throughout. Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes or just until a wooden pick inserted in the middle comes out clean. Cool for 5 minutes in pan, then turn out onto a wire rack to cool further. Slice and serve, or wrap tightly in foil until ready to serve.

Approximate values per serving: 197 calories, 5 g fat (3 g saturated), 31 mg cholesterol, 3 g protein, 35 g carbohydrates, 1 g dietary fiber, 165 mg sodium.

\*\*\*

(Alicia Ross is the co-author of "Desperation Dinners!" (Workman, 1997), "Desperation Entertaining!" (Workman, 2002) and "Cheap. Fast. Good!" (Workman, 2006). Contact her at Kitchen Scoop, c/o Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106, or send email to tellus@kitchenscoop.com. Or visit the Kitchen Scoop website at www.kitchenscoop.com.)

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## Fact or Fiction? Movie Character Challenge

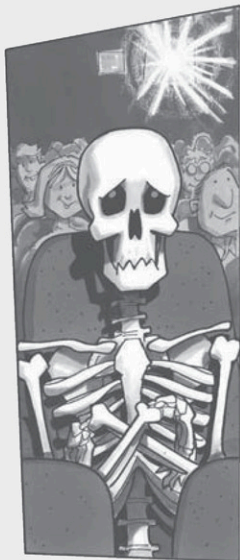


Many movies have been made for kids. Here are some questions about some kid movie characters. How many can you answer correctly?

- 1) Winnie the Pooh is a rabbit. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 2) Woody does not like Buzz Lightyear in the beginning. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 3) Dorothy Gale lands in Oz with her dog Bobo. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 4) Shrek is married to Princess Adrianna. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 5) Snow White lives with 10 dwarfs for a time. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 6) Luke and Princess Leia turn out to be brother and sister. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 7) Cinderella has a stepmother and two stepsisters. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 8) Pinocchio's nose grows with every truth he tells. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 9) Frodo Baggins must destroy the necklace before it destroys him. **Fact or Fiction?**
- 10) Harry Potter is a genie. **Fact or Fiction?**

Answers: 1) Fiction, Winnie the Pooh is a bear, 2) Fact, 3) Fiction, Dorothy's dog's name is Toto, 4) Fiction, Shrek is married to Princess Fiona, 5) Fiction, Snow White lives with seven dwarfs, 6) Fact, 7) Fact, 8) Fiction, Pinocchio's nose grows with every lie he tells, 9) Fiction, Frodo must destroy the ring, 10) Fiction, Harry Potter is a wizard

## Jokes and Riddles



Q: How did the bee greet the flower in the movie?

A: Hi, honey!

Q: Why did the skeleton go to the movies alone?

A: Because he had no body to go with.

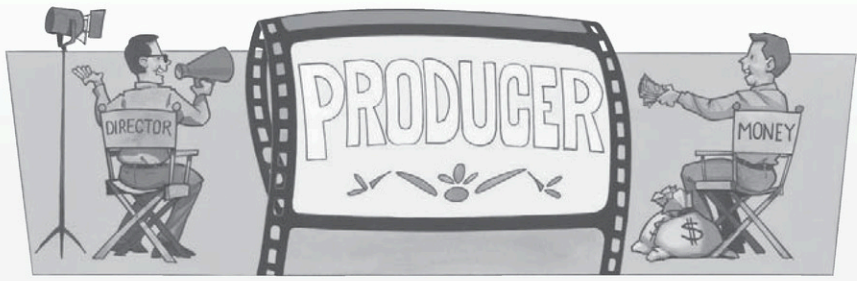
## NAME THAT TITLE

It takes a lot of people to make a movie. Fill in the blanks to name the job titles of some people that might be found on a movie set.



- 1) D \_ \_ R \_ \_ C T \_ \_ R
- 2) M A \_ \_ \_ U P  
A \_ \_ T \_ \_ S T
- 3) A C \_ \_ O \_ \_
- 4) C A M \_ \_ R A  
\_ \_ P E R \_ \_ T O \_ \_
- 5) G R \_ \_ \_
- 6) H A \_ \_ R D R \_ \_ S S \_ \_ R
- 7) P R \_ \_ P M A \_ \_ E \_ \_

Answers: 1) Director, 2) Makeup Artist, 3) Actor, 4) Camera Operator, 5) Grip, 6) Hairdresser, 7) Propmaker



## A Big Job

When a movie begins, the names of people that helped make it are usually listed. At the top of the list is a person known as the producer.

Producers have a big job. They are the ones who make the movie happen. They find a script, hire a director, help cast actors and put together a film crew. They are also in charge of the money needed to make the movie.

Because the job is so big, movies often have more than one producer. While one producer might deal with the money, another might deal with the film crew and actors.



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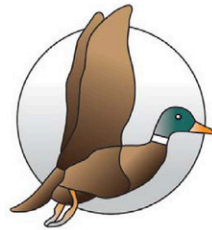
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