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THE
RECORD
Supplement
September 2000



TOWNSHIPPER'S DAY



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Youth 101

Get an A+

The Townshippers' Association will host a wine and cheese on Fri., Sept. 15 as part of a "short seminar on reducing the exodus of our brightest and best and attracting them back!"

It's a combination of press conference and community event, and all are invited.

It's from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., at the Richmond Community Centre at 780 Gouin, in Richmond.

How to get there?

Take Highway 55 to Exit 173; go towards Richmond. Turn right on Gouin Street (after the bridge). The community centre is immediately on the left, behind the Buresau 'immatriulation.

Townshippers' Day is on Sat., Sept. 16 at the Richmond County Fairgrounds. The hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.tday.ca or contact Townshippers' Association at 257 Queen, Sherbrooke (819-566-5717; 1-866-566-5717) or ta@townshippers.qc.ca.

On The Cover

The child in our cover photograph (courtesy of the Townshippers' Association) attended last year's Townshippers' Day in Bedford. This year's shindig is at the Richmond County Fairgrounds.



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Meet the Townshippers' Association: President Michael van Lierop.

T-DAY:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

The site itself was selected by the Townshippers' Association because it is smaller than in the past.

"Fairgoers from past years have suggested we use a smaller site so that it is easier to get around," said Wisdom.

There's the money angle, too. Mayor Viens is responsible for fundraising this year's budget – the total expense is \$25,000 (organizers hope).

Last year, the event was held in Bedford, cost \$27,167 and brought in \$25,154 in revenue.

"We only had an overrun of \$2,000 and that's good," said Garber.

T-Day will be held at the Richmond Fair Grounds located in Cleveland Township.

Townshippers' Association is a non-partisan, non-profit community organization serving the Eastern Townships English-speaking community.

Contact www.townshippers.qc.ca; ta@townshippers.qc.ca; 257 Queen, Sherbrooke (819-566-5717; 1-866-566-5717) or 203 Principale, Cowansville (819-263-4422; 1-866-263-4422).

Townshipper's Day

You won't have to be a rich man,
When you head down to Richmond,
The music's free and so's the show,
So you won't have to bring much dough.

Of course you can, it all depends...
If you've a wife who usually spends,
She'll want to buy some arts and crafts,
And you'll deal with the aftermath.

If she is that way inclined,
We'll be there; not hard to find,
I'm sure no matter where she looks,
She'll want to buy our cards and books.

There's other things in town to see,
The car museum attracts me.
Or if antiques make your heart race,
You've ventured into the right place.

If you tire of songs and sales,
Then you'll be welcome up at "Wales."
Go and visit; you'll be glad,
For people there are sometimes sad.

It's our day, so don't miss out,
You're sure to see old friends about.
You'll laugh and talk and reminisce.
It's one event, should not be missed!

When it turns cold and your feet freeze,
You'll still have those memories,
Of all the laughs, when you went down,
To Townshipper's day in Richmond Town.

Wayne Robinson

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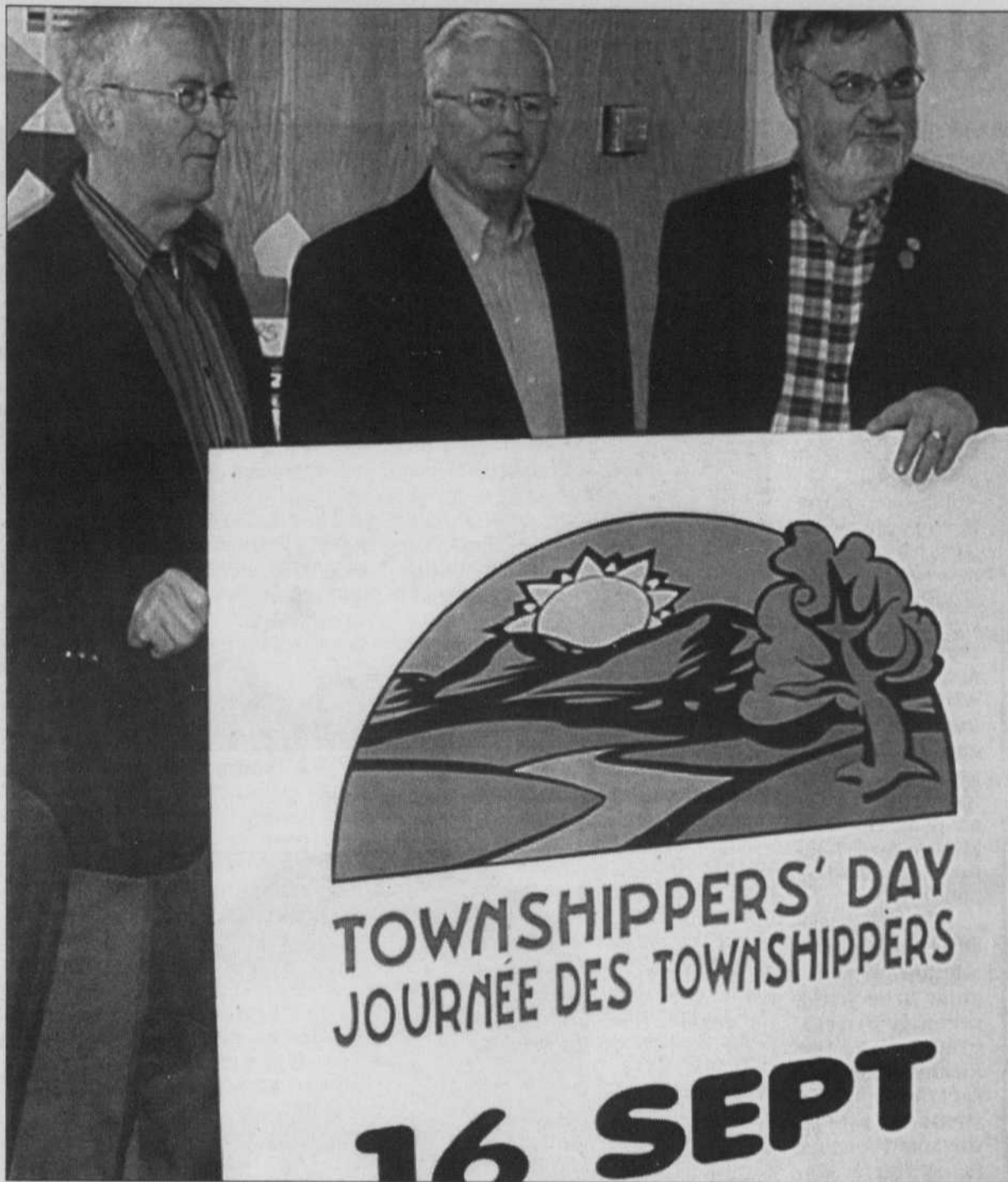
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COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

John Mulholland, member of Townshippers' Association's Board, flanked by the Co-Chairs of the T-Day Organizing Committee: Roger Viens, mayor of Ulverton and Gerald Badger, mayor of Cleveland Township and warden of the MRC of Val-Saint-François.

All together now!

Four Townships unite for this year's Townshippers' Day

By Sondip Chatterjee

For the first time, four townships have worked together to host Townshippers' Day. Cleveland, Melbourne, Richmond and Ulverton have joined forces to help organize the annual T-Day, scheduled this year for Sat., Sept. 16.

"We organize many things together," said Roger Viens, mayor of Ulverton, and co-chair of the event. The four townships have collaborated on such projects as fire service and civil security, for example.

Townshippers' executive director Rachel Garber emphasized that this Saturday is a celebration for all Townshippers.

"There are many francophones and anglophones on our organization committee, and everyone is welcome," said Garber. It's really an event about community, and everybody getting together and having fun.

Organizers already have 65 volunteers to help, but need another 35.

Kate Wisdom of the Townshippers' Association hopes to enlist more help.

Volunteers will be directing traffic, sitting at information booths, setting up the T-Day event site and taking it down as the day comes to an end.

PLEASE SEE T-DAY ON PAGE 2

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How do I attend thee? Let me count the ways

Come on over to Townshippers' Day

Are you planning to attend the 27th annual Townshippers' Day this Sat., Sept. 16 at the Richmond Fairgrounds in Cleveland Township?

If you aren't, the organizing committee is threatening to come knocking at your door.

"This is a day to socialize with your neighbours," said Roger Viens, mayor of Ulverton and co-chair of the T-Day Committee. "Admission is free. Parking is free. There are activities for all, from inflatable structures for the kids to antique tractors and crafts sale. What reason could you have for not going?"

GREEN DAY

Are you planning to carpool? Talk to your neighbours, because though the parking is free, T-Day this year is going green.

Efforts are being made to limit the amount of waste produced. All food will be served on recyclable materials and recycling bins will dot the site. Buses are being organized by some groups and coming from as far away as Thetford Mines and Bedford, site of T-Day 2005.

This T-Day recycling campaign is a follow-up to the guide to recycling recently distributed around the Richmond area. In fact, one of the items for sale in the Silent Auction is an Earth Machine composter, valued at \$80 and offered by Nova Envirocom. Don't forget to check out all the other great items for sale at the Silent Auction — proceeds help defray costs of the Day.

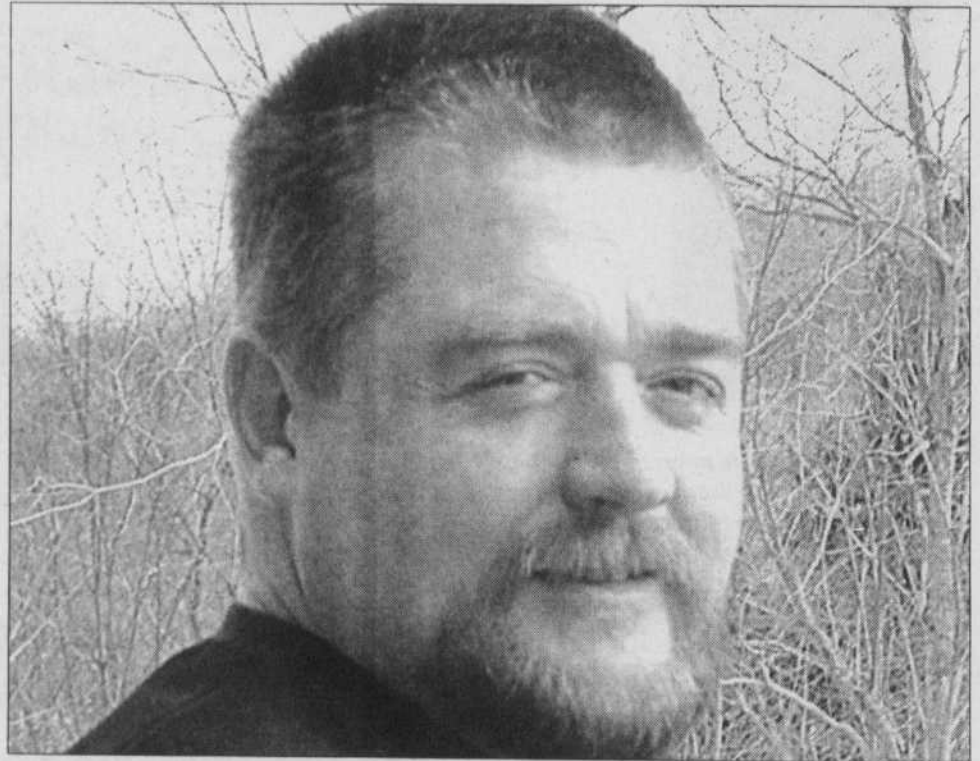
HERITAGE

Townshippers' Day is Green for more than just its recycling program — also for its Irish heritage! Home to a large contingent of Irish settlers in the 19th century, the Richmond area is now home to the largest Saint-Patrick's Day parade outside of Montreal and to the Richmond Irish Dancers, who



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Meet the Townshippers' Association: Evelina Smith.



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Meet the Townshippers' Association: George Courville.

will be performing on the Dance Stage. On Townshippers' Day this year, entertainers are making a point of singing an Irish song to celebrate this rich heritage. There is a rich variety of music and dance to be enjoyed.


Heritage is always a popular attraction for T-Day. Groups are coming out in droves to showcase their region's heritage. Buses are on hand to tour the area, including visits to the Valleyview Hall, the Richmond County Museum and the Slate Museum. In the Storytelling Tent this year, stories will be

told, in English and French. It is in this tent as well that the Waterloo AngloFranco Committee will offer conversation to help you practice your English or French. So tell your neighbours: it's not only for English-speaking Townshippers, it's for Townshippers.

A Day for all
For Gerald Badger, mayor of Cleveland Township, Warden of the Val-Saint-François MRC and co-chair of the T-Day Committee, this is the point of Townshippers' Day: its inclusiveness. That's why it's being hosted this year by

Happy Townshippers' Day!


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four different municipalities: Cleveland Township, Melbourne Township, Richmond and Ulverton. "It's a chance for these four municipalities to show how they work together as one community," he said, "as Townshippers, regardless of language."

Another reason to share transportation sources is a discussion about Townshippers' Association's much-awaited Eastern Townships Shared Rural Transportation Feasibility Study. At 3 p.m. at the Townships Alive! site, you can learn about shared rural transportation initiatives in the historical Eastern Townships, and how the English-speaking community can be involved. Present will be the study's director, Claude Rousseau, of Groupe Recherche Focus. He will be on hand to discuss and answer questions about his findings. While supplies last, participants can receive a copy of the study report, too.

FRIDAY LAUNCH — YOUTH 101

You should also make a point of picking up your copy of the Profile of the English-speaking Community in the Eastern Townships, a bilingual book summarizing recent research about the Townships English-speaking minority. Hot off the presses is the second edition of An English Speaker's Guide to Life in the Eastern Townships. Last year, 10,000 copies of the first edition flew off the shelves in three weeks, so don't delay! In fact, make a point of attending the launch of the Guide to Life on Fri., Sept. 15, the evening before T-Day, at the Richmond Community Centre. On the programme are also Townshippers' Association's initiatives to engage, retain and train our youth!

STILL LOOKING FOR A REASON TO GO?

The youth will present a Variety Show. The kids will get their faces painted. The petting zoo will be open for business and there'll be a pie-eating

contest with great prizes! Artisans from all over the Townships will present their wares. You'll get a chance to try yoga, experiment with a few dance steps, eat an apple, play games and exercise at the Townships Alive! Site. There will be an information fair with community groups, government services, educational institutions, businesses, health and social services institutions.

You're bound to see someone you know. You're sure to meet someone new. "Townshippers' Day is our day," said Townshippers' Association's president Michael van Lierop. "It's the one day when everyone can claim to be a Townshipper and take pride in that title: On St. Patrick's Day, everyone is Irish. On Townshippers' Day, everyone is a Townshipper."

And who knows, your neighbours might be there

Where? At the Richmond Fairgrounds at 128 Route 143, Cleveland Townships. Complete directions are posted on www.tday.ca.

When? 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat., Sept. 16.

This is an alcohol-free site. Come one and all — but please leave your pets at home.

Townshippers' Day is made possible in part by contributions from our hosts, the municipalities of Cleveland Township, Melbourne Township, Richmond and Ulverton, as well as CBC TV, CBC Radio One, CJMQ 88.9 FM, Centre d'aide aux entreprises du Val-St-François, Centre local de développement de la MRC du Val-Saint-François, ETFS, Global TV, Kezber i Solutions, The Outlet, The Record, Stanstead Journal, Townships Sun, the Government of Canada and other supporting partners, including Blanchard Litho who printed our colour poster! Also, a great big "thank you" to those who give to the Loony Leprechauns, on site collecting throughout the Day.

For more information, visit

www.tday.ca or contact Townshippers' Association at 257 Queen, Sherbrooke (819-566-5717; 1-866-566-5717) or ta@townshippers.qc.ca. Townshippers'

Association is a non-partisan, non-profit organization which serves the English-speaking community in the historical Eastern Townships.



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Meet the Townshippers' Association: Marie-France Lafaille.

IGA *Gazaille*



Michel and Ginette Gazaille

The Gazaille family & staff wish to congratulate the Townshippers' Association on their 27th Anniversary. Proud to be part of the community.

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Everything you need to know, but didn't ask

A guide to life in the Townships

Townshippers' Association has released An English Speaker's Guide to Life in the Eastern Townships, mark 2. The second edition, that is.

The 95-page booklet lists resources and offers advice to English speakers living in the Eastern Townships, or thinking about moving here.

It's edited by Sunil Mahtani, and includes information on health, recreation, volunteer groups, social aid, education, non-profit organizations, businesses offering services in English, and more.

"An English Speaker's Guide to Life in the Eastern Townships is a tool that will help support our efforts to strengthen the Townships English-speaking community, and invite newcomers to the region," said Michael van Lierop, the president of Townshippers' Association.

The spiral-bound book is an expanded version of the original Guide published in March 2005.

Almost all the 10,000 copies of that first edition were snapped up in a few weeks.

An online version was then put up on www.townshippers.qc.ca in March 2006.

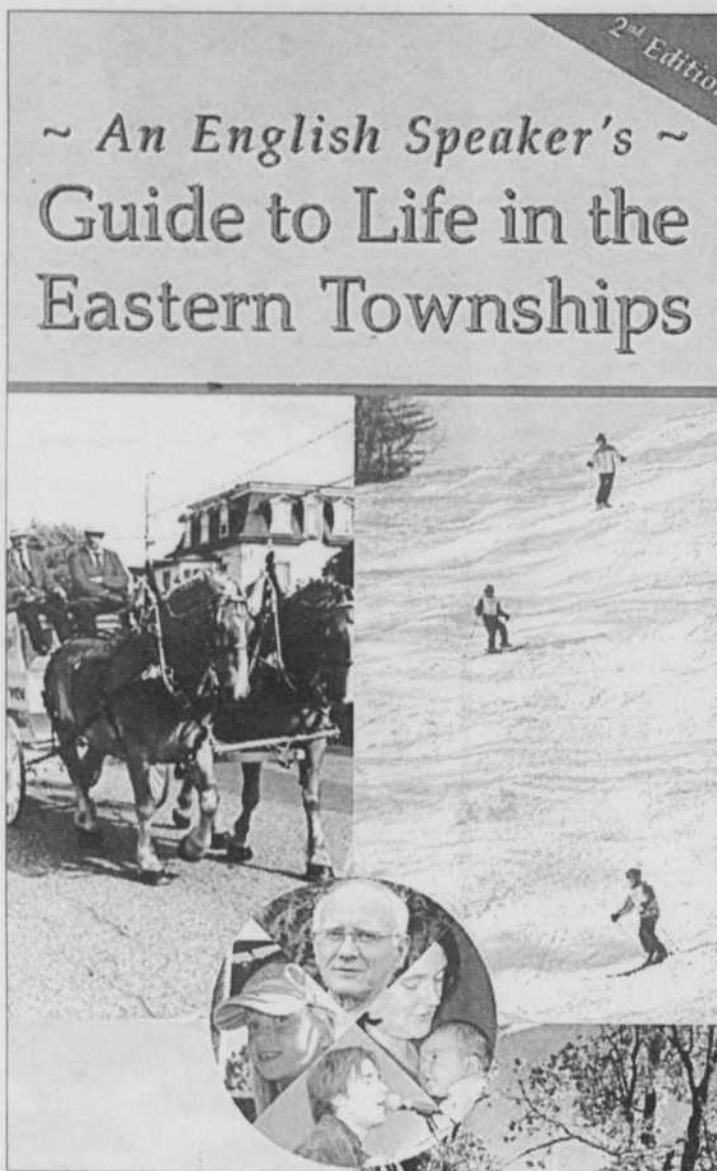
Both these earlier initiatives were supported by the Development of Official-Language Communities Program of Canadian Heritage.

"The obvious next step was to publish

a new edition of the book," said Rachel Garber, executive director of Townshippers'. The second edition also has a print run of 10,000. "But how to pay the publishing costs? We were able to do

this thanks to the advertising in the new Guide from various businesses, and we'll also be selling the book for a modest amount — \$2 per copy."

The online version is still free.



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Pick up a copy for a mere two buckaroones.



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Meet the Townshippers' Association: Kim Bailey.



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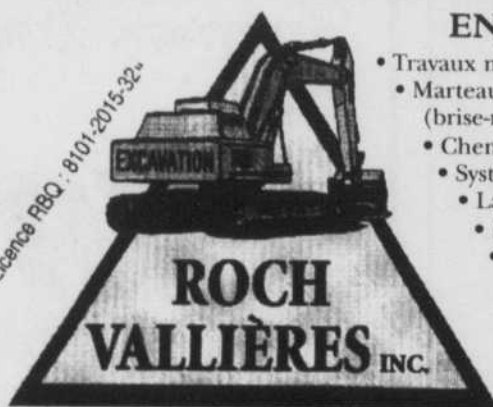
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*Congratulations to the Townshippers' Association.
 Celebrating with Townshippers.*

Ouch — bad food and fat hit the body and pocketbook

*Here's a solution
or five*

Have you heard the news? We are becoming a nation of people who overeat, don't exercise and have a lot of stress — and it's hitting your pocket book. Physical inactivity costs the Canadian health care system an estimated 2.1 billion annually in direct health care costs.

Looking for a way out? Drop by the Townships Alive! event at Townshippers' Day on Sat., Sept. 16 at the Richmond Fairgrounds in Cleveland Township and pick up some tips on staying healthy and well. The Centre de santé et de services sociaux du Val-Saint-François (CSSS), in collaboration with Townshippers' Association's Partners' for Health & Social Services Network - Estrie, is organizing some fun activities and suggestions on staying healthy, active and stress-free.

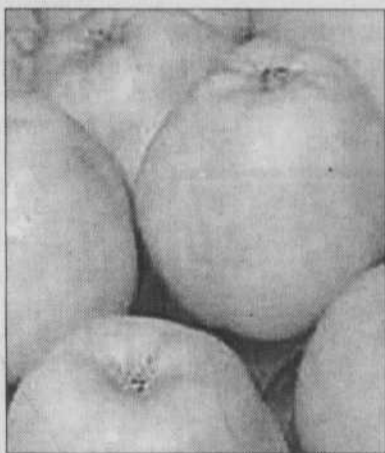
The day starts at 10 a.m., when Sheila Quinn and her roving group of youth are organizing some lively games that the whole family can enjoy. At 10:30, dental hygienist Isabelle Riopel will give away 100 toothbrushes while she also gives tips on how to clean your children's teeth.

At 11 a.m., Marianne Blom, public health nurse, will give a demonstration of the new CPR technique.

At 11:30, join Olive Smith and Carmen Blais for a few new dance steps — always a fun activity and very good for your health. At 1 p.m., Heather Lunan, a local yoga instructor, will have some advice on how to reduce your stress load and keep your body limber.

At 2 p.m., Natalie Gagnon, an aerobics instructor, will also be promoting some exercises that everyone can do. And at 3 p.m., researcher Claude Rousseau will answer questions about the Eastern Townships Shared Rural Transportation Feasibility Study carried out for Townshippers' Association earlier this year.

The CSSS Community Organizer, Marie Lachance, will hand out lots of colourful material on eating healthy. Drop by and see what is a healthy snack and what isn't — you might be surprised. You'll find lots of



Eat this apple — and you know why.

tips on preparing healthy snacks for your children and some good recipes. Pick up an apple while you're there — you know why.

This Townships Alive! event is supported by Townshippers' Foundation, the Quebec Community Groups Network's Health & Social Services Networking & Partnership Initiative, Canadian Heritage and the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Rural Secretariat through the HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development's Youth Engagement in Rural Communities project.

We are proud to host the 27th Annual Townshippers' Day

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Reducing mountains of garbage to zero

Or darned close....

If you wanted to, you could probably eat your plate up with your hot dog at Townshippers' Day. Though it's not actually recommended, nor is it said to be terribly tasty.

But every vender has agreed to sell food on biodegradable plates and drink in biodegradable cups.

Sat., Sept. 16 is the Green Townshippers' Day — and organizers mean it in every which way. "We're paying homage to the Irish tradition," says Townshippers' Association's Kate Wisdom.

The municipality of Richmond — the event is happening on the Richmond Fair grounds — is also keen on greening itself up environmentally. "It's seen as an industrial town," says Wisdom. But it's natural beauty and interest in environmentalism are often overlooked.

So when Townshippers' asked, "What can you do that nobody's ever done before?" — the answer was to go green.

When contacted, the Sherbrooke-based Nova Envirocom agreed to help. The 11-year-old company is run by long-time environmentalist Pierre Morency, and every year he sets aside some of his profits to subsidize the greening of as many community and non-profit groups as he can. Townshippers' Associ-

ation is now one of those groups.

"There aren't just Bill Gates's in the world," says Morency, referring to the billionaire who spends millions fighting AIDS in Africa. "There are also small companies" who do what they can afford to do, locally.

"We can't respond to all requests, but we do what we can." The idea is to show people what they can do to reduce waste, and of course, to actually reduce waste. "The anglo community is very interested in the environment," adds Morency. While washing dishes is the best way to save the environment, that's not always possible. The disposable products he'll send to Townshippers' Day have the least possible impact on the environment.

Wisdom at Townshippers' Association says the group is paying between 10 and 12 cents per item (the cups, plates and bowls are made of sugar cane and potatoes). Styrofoam bought at a dollar store would be cheaper, acknowledges Wisdom, but it would also sit, largely inert, in a landfill for hundreds of years.

Townshippers' has spent some \$900 on the project, but vendors will be repurchasing the supplies (4,000 plates and 3,000 coffee cups) at half price.

Morency's company is further helping defray costs by donating materials to the Townshippers' Day silent auc-



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Kate Wisdom was looking for something that hadn't been done before.



Townshippers' refused to buy gazillions of styrofoam cups.

tion.

Says Wisdom: "Townshippers' Day might always be green from here on in. This is such a great way of setting an example."

There'll be an information table on recycling, too. (And at least one group, students from Richmond Elementary School, are selling coffee in mugs that will be rewashed.)

Volunteer Sheila Quinn says there won't be garbage cans sprinkled about the site, either. Instead, there'll be two garbage sorting areas for everything from diapers, food scraps and cans.

Volunteers will encourage people to drop off their garbage in the special areas, and others will sort everything. All the food remnants will be composted; all the bottles and cans returned for their deposit.

It might not work out to a zero garbage day, but it will be as close as Townshippers' can make it.



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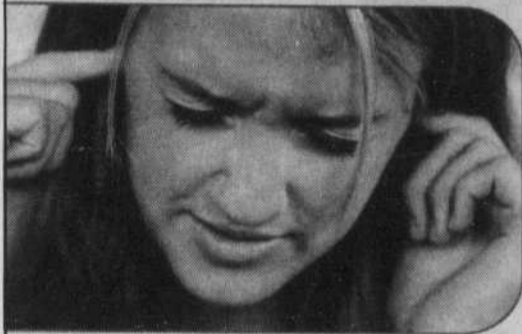
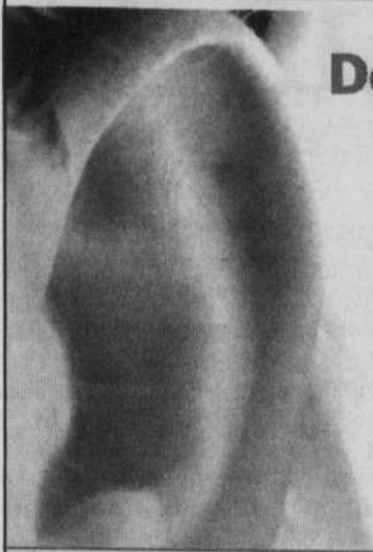
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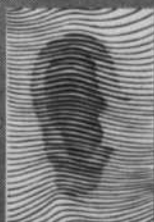
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In order to be Townshippers', the people who live in this large region need to be able to meet. "Transportation is a key need that people have brought up again and again in focus groups or outreach meetings," said Michael van Lierop, president of Townshippers' Association.

Also, English speakers aged 15-44 have lower levels of education, employment and income than their French-speaking counterparts. "It's a vicious cycle. Lack of transportation contributes to lack of education, which leads to lack of employment and lower income. We want to turn that around."

In fact, shared rural transportation in the Eastern Townships is on the move, and members the English-speaking community need to act fast if they want to participate in the new initiatives. At least, this is the main recommendation of the Eastern Townships Shared Rural Transportation Feasibility Study, recently carried out by Claude Rousseau of the Groupe recherche focus for Townshippers' Association.

Rousseau will answer questions about the study at a discussion session during Townshippers' Day on Sat., Sept. 16 at the Richmond Fairgrounds, Cleveland Township. The session is planned for 3 p.m. at the Townships Alive! site.

16 TOWNSHIPS

Rousseau surveyed all the transportation initiatives in the 16 rural Townships MRCs, in addition to consulting focus groups of English speakers and experts in the field, both in the Townships and in other areas of Quebec.

He found that six shared rural transportation initiatives are in operation, and six others are in the study stage. The area studied is the historical Eastern Townships, which includes the Estrie region and parts of the Montérégie,

Centre-du-Québec and Chaudière-Appalaches regions.

However, not all of these initiatives take into account the geographical distribution and needs of English speakers, or the language and style of communicating information to them. "The French-speaking community responds to 'flamboyant' publicity, and the English-speaking community responds better to publicity containing more detailed information," said one of Rousseau's interviewees.

The shared rural transportation initiative in Brome-Missisquoi is one that has made special efforts to include English speakers in its clientele, and Rousseau recommended that Townshippers' Association explore collaborating, as well, with projects in Haute-Yamaska, Haut-Richelieu, Memphrémagog and Val-Saint-François.

"This is something that we cannot do alone," said van Lierop. "Townshippers' Association simply does not have the resources to do so. We hope that other institutions and community groups will play key roles in an overall strategy to help

the English-speaking community benefit from these new initiatives. This study provides a good basis for making that happen."

QUEBEC ASSISTANCE

Many of the current transportation initiatives stem from the Quebec government's assistance program for shared rural transportation that came into effect in 2003. The program offers MRCs financial support to launch a variety of transportation strategies that will enable rural residents to

PLEASE SEE
TRAVEL ON
NEXT PAGE



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

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TRAVEL:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 10

travel to health and social services, work or other activities.

Townshippers' Association is a non-partisan, non-profit organization serving the Eastern Townships

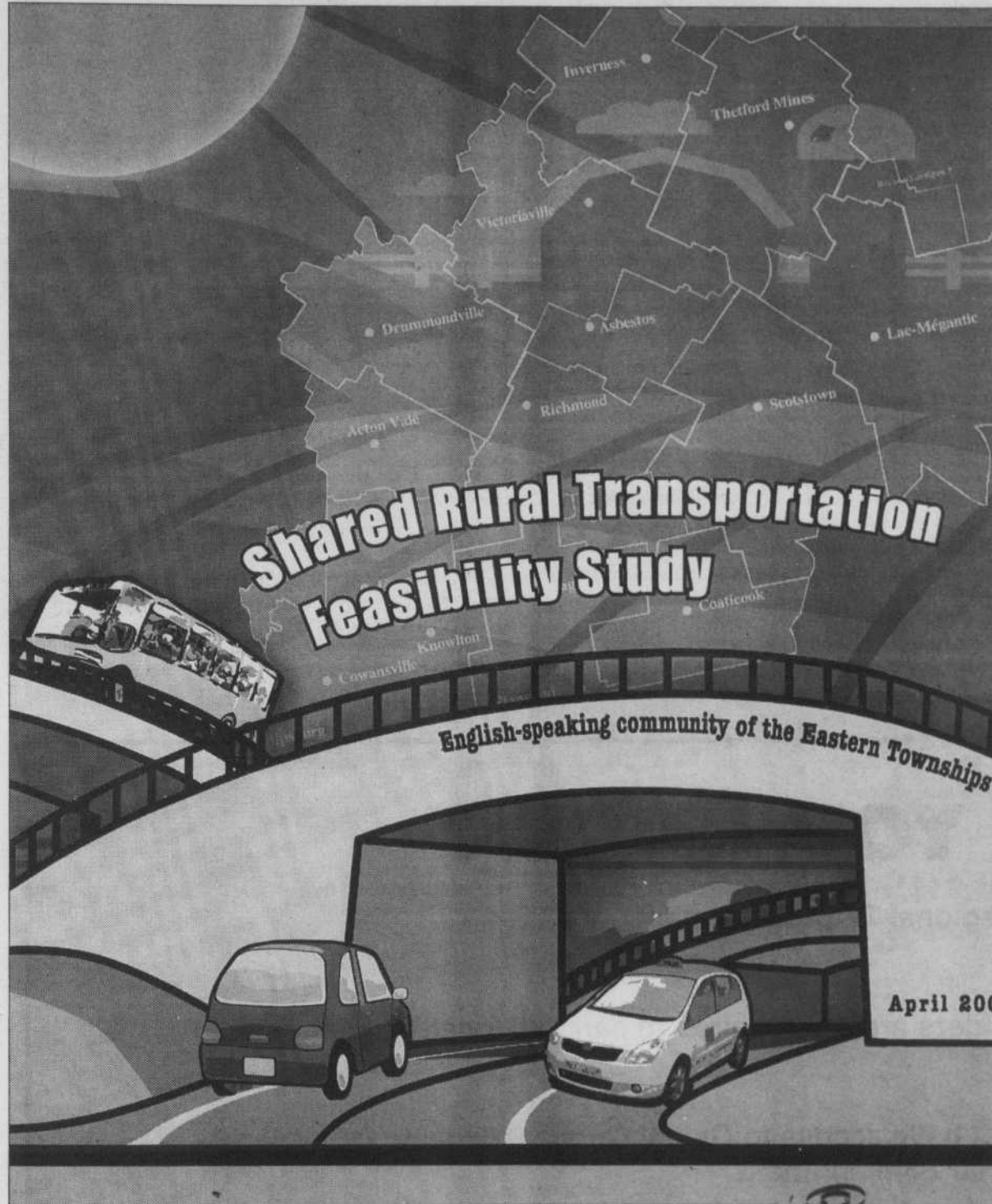
English-speaking community. Partnering in the transportation feasibility study were the Megantic County English-speaking Development Corporation in the Thetford Mines area, the

Lennoxville & District Women's Centre in the Estrie region, the Avante Women's Centre in the Townships portion of the Montérégie and the Eastern Townships School Board, among others.

The study was funded by the Department of Cana-

dian Heritage's Development of Official-Language Communities program.

For more information or to receive a copy of the report, contact Townshippers' Association's Lennoxville office at 819-566-5717 (toll free 1-866-566-5717) or ta@townshippers.qc.ca



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

A consultant will lead a discussion about shared rural transportation at 3 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 16's Townshippers' Day.



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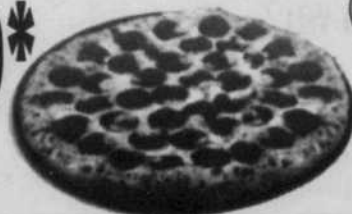
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Staying in Coaticook?

YOUTH hopes you will

Townshippers' Association wants young people in Coaticook to stay put — and is pulling out all the stops to help youth find the means to do it.

Make Way for YOUTH is a new initiative to tell English-speaking youth about career opportunities in the Coaticook MRC and neighbouring areas of the Eastern Townships. It aims to reduce out-migration and encourage skilled youth, especially English speakers, to migrate to and thus benefit the Coaticook MRC and the surrounding region.

"We chose the Coaticook MRC as the location for Make Way for YOUTH because the high rate of English-speaking out-migration there has affected the area's overall population level," said Rachel Garber, executive director of Townshippers' Association.

The project is led by Marie-France Lafaille, Make Way for YOUTH/Desjardins migration agent. She plans to organize three free exploratory weekends for youth aged 18 to 35 who are interested in moving to or moving back to the area.

"The aim is to guide participants to discover or re-discover the region, to

offer participants employability and entrepreneurial training, and to help them develop a network of contacts with the principal players in the local social-economy," she said.

"All this is to help them begin to prepare their return to the region."

Lafaille's role will also include working with youth. "I am there to help them find a job that responds to their interests," she said, "to find job offers that are difficult to access by those who live far away, or to put young people in contact with potential employers.

"Each week, I will publish an e-bulletin containing the job offers available in the region."

To be on the distribution list, register at www.accrodesregions.qc.ca.

"Although the activities will be carried out in English, participants of all linguistic backgrounds will be welcome," said Martha Crombie, director of the Eastern Townships CEDEC.

The project was created jointly by the Carrefour Jeunesse Emploi des Cantons de l'Est, Eastern Townships CEDEC and Townshippers' Association.

Make Way for YOUTH is part of the Quebec government's Place aux Jeunes program which oversees about 70 such



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Meet the Townshippers' Association: Norma Salisbury.



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Meet the Townshippers' Association: Shannon Keenan.

projects throughout Quebec. This is the first Place aux Jeunes project that specifically targets English-speaking youth.

For more information, contact Marie-France Lafaille, at Townshippers', 819-566-5717 (toll free 1-866-566-5717) or mfl@townshippers.qc.ca.



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Playing for pleasure — and gas money



COURTESY

Gail Klinck and Keith Whittall play a regular gig in Knowlton — because they love music.

The harmonies of Klinck and Whittall

After thinking about it a little while, Gail Klinck realized that everything that she loved to do involved some sort of teaching. That's why she's ended up as an English teacher at Cowansville's Massey Vanier High School, though the route was a mite circuitous.

There was a few years spent on staff at Townshippers' Association, and some research work on local history, and a spell as a veterinarian's assistant training dogs.

Perhaps there's also something in music that's about teaching? Certainly Klinck, loves to connect with an audience.

They play a regular gig on Sundays in front of Camlen's in Knowlton (through mid-October).

"At Cam's, you talk to people as they go by. You give a gift, and you connect with the person it's being given to."

And Klinck and Whittall will undoubtedly be connecting with the audience at Townshippers Day, Sat., Sept. 16, where the pair will perform on stage as one of the musical acts.

The music is a mix — "some people

have said it's a Townships feel," Klinck says. "It's laid back, we don't do covers. Everything has a little tweak that's ours. There's a folky country overlay, a little bit jazzy on the side."

Both play the guitar and both sing. But in truth, she does the lion's share — should that be, the bird's share? — of singing, and he brings the happenin' guitar skills.

"As a combined pair, he filled in what I lacked, I filled in what he lacked," says Klinck. "He's the musician's musician," she says. And though she won't boast about her own voice, the duo would have few fans if she sang merely "pretty decently," as she claims.

Because there's just the two of them, some of the "problems bands encounter we didn't" — and she means the in-fighting and egos.

The pair have been performing together for at least 20 years "I don't think I should give you numbers, frankly," she laughs sheepishly. And with that kind of history, the playing's tight. "There's almost an intuitive feel" for each other's musical moves, she says.

The two met when they were both

PLEASE SEE KLINCK AND WHITTALL ON PAGE 14

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KLINCK AND WHITTALL:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 13

doing youth work for the United Church.

Soon after, he asked her to contribute to a Christmas cassette, and they've been strumming along ever since.

Working together continues to work for them. "Keith is the moving force behind the writing," she says, though she has done a bit of writing, too. "I am a pretty good critic, I tighten up stuff for him. In the creativity part, he for sure has the biggest part of it. I tweak stuff... so it feels right."

SONGS FROM THE STOREFRONT

The pair released a full-length CD last summer titled "Songs From the Storefront: The Camlen Collection." They recorded 12 songs and released it themselves, from Whittall's own recording studio.

Another is in the works, and might be ready by the spring, Klinck says. That one will be slightly different, though — it's a mix of older Whittall tunes and the standards that they simply love to sing (like "Summertime").

"It's more than a hobby," says Klinck. "I don't think I would call it a career because we don't live off it."

"If I could, I would." Her perfect life would be playing music, painting pictures and playing with her two dogs.

She does love her day job, however. "I like working with kids, the diversity of it. It changes year after year, there's always a new crop.... New energy, new creativity, new ideas. You don't get stuck."

DOGS

"You build on what the kids bring you — a feeling of excitement, of anticipation."

The Grade 7 students bring their own interest to class, as goes Klinck. She finds places where those interest intersect, and makes connections that help

with learning and teaching.

Klinck loves dogs, for example. Most kids do, too. Now she spends a few weeks teaching about Alaska's famed Iditarod trail sled dog race in Alaska (though Klinck has never participated, and says she never will, watching while covered in a big pile of down jackets might appeal).

SWALLOWING SMOKE

But Klinck always goes back to the music. The pair play restaurants and private parties, though not many bars. "I guess we're too old," says Klinck.

She acknowledges that new non-smoking rules might make her more open to performing there. (She used to swallow gallons of smoke.) But the hours are long — five or six a night, and "you gotta be on all the time. I found it hard."

Whittall also prefers more relaxed gigs these days. And he also ended up teaching.

His mother was a classical pianist, and he started with recorders and mouth organs before graduating to the violin.

"But by the time I got to Grade 6 or 7," he says, "the guitar was the happening thing — and I was thrilled by it."

His more serious mum "didn't understand. My mother tolerated all the noise in the basement."

Whittall went to college and ended up as a music teacher, himself (now retired), though he also kept his hand in the practical and has played in a collection of bands.

He lives in Melbourne, meeting the Cowansville-based Klinck for practices.

"We play for pleasure," says Whittall. "We try to make enough money to pay for gas, essentially."



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Meet the Townshippers' Association: Rachel Garber.



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Young people are getting their due this year from the folks at Townshippers' Association. "We can see a gap in perspective between youth and adults, and the fact that young people are an under-utilized leadership resource in many communities," said Townshippers' president Michael van Lierop. "The vitality and survival of the Townships English-speaking community depends on engaging youth in community development — and doing this now, not just in the future."

So the Youth Engagement in Rural Communities (YERC) project, an initiative of Townshippers' and Quebec 4H, is launching its plan of action for the coming year.

That plan includes joint adult-youth activities to build working relationships and a support network for youth centres throughout the Eastern Townships.

The YERC's Townships plan is being spearheaded by project coordinator Katie Hodge and research assistant Tamie Salter. It was developed in consultation with the HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development, which oversees three YERC initiatives — one here in the Eastern Townships, one in Nain, Labrador, and one in Prince Edward Island. The project aims to study and develop HeartWood's model for youth engagement.

So what's planned? There's a professional development workshop facilitated by the senior youth of Quebec 4H, for adult volunteers and staff of Townshippers' Association.

Another project is the creation of a training and support network for various youth centres across the Eastern Townships. Youth coordinators will be able to get together and share experiences, ideas, strengths and challenges.

GETTING STARTED

A first meeting was recently held at Citizen Advocacy in Mansonville. "So many great things are happening at these youth centres. Members and coordinators rarely get the much-deserved recognition and support for the great work they do in the community. It was wonderful to get coordinators together to share and showcase some of their efforts," said coordinator Hodge.

Developed by HeartWood, YERC is funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Rural Secretariat's models program and Canadian Heritage's Development of Official-Language Communities program.

HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development is a leader in youth development programs in Nova Scotia. They have developed an approach for youth involvement in community that has a ten-year track record.

For information



COURTESY TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Katie Hodge has the details on the youth program, YERC.

about the Youth Engagement in Rural Communities program, contact Katie Hodge at 819-566-5717 (toll free 1-866-566-5717) or kh@townshippers.qc.ca.

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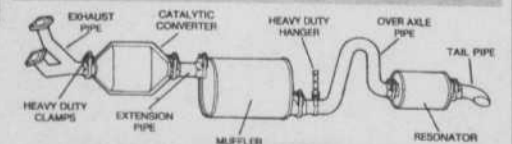


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Meet the Townshippers' Association staff! Say hello to Cathy Turner.



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His artwork begins with the discovery of a dead tree on his property. He has a collection of pine trees, and every so often one doesn't survive.

He lets it dry for five years. "The wood needs to be really dead," he says. "Or the ornament will split or warp."

When the time's up, he cuts the wood into six-inch pieces and turns each chunk on a lathe, creating tiny hand-made balls of some two inches in diameter.

Count 20 minutes for each sphere. Then a layer of paint, and Péroquin gives it to his daughter, Annick.

She paints a scene — elves, Santa Claus, a winter wonderland to warm the heart and the soul for the Christmas season — then returns it to her father.

OVER AND OVER AND OVER

He varnishes the final product over and over, until the ball features the same lustrous finish as a commercial Christmas ball.

Péroquin is a retired educator, and spends many nights every week finishing up the ornaments.

Despite the days of work, the base price is \$15, with some going up to \$120 depending on the complexity of the artwork.

You can even order a specially made ornament. Some arts patrons request a view of their own home or a panoramic view of their property. Such balls are slightly larger and it takes even more time to ensure a realistic looking paint-

ing. Just as a globe distorts the size and shape of the world's continents, a smaller ball needs special attention with respect to perspective. "You have to cheat, if you will, so that it looks real."

Péroquin also started painting a few on his own. He paints landscapes directly on the ball — his daughter, he says, draws something first, then transfers the drawing, then paints.

Their work is on display at the Galerie Knowlton and in Quebec City.

Péroquin has rented space at Townshippers' Day to sell his artworks. In addition, he has a small collection of balls painted by a collection of artists that aren't for sale, but for show only.

POUDRE ET PINCEAU

And Péroquin wears another hat. He's also attending Townshippers' Day in order to drum up publicity for his annual arts symposium, Poudre et Pinceau, that has been based in Windsor for five years.

"I'm tired," he says. "There isn't much support there."

So next year's edition (held en Français), the sixth, will be set in nearby Ulverton in mid-June.

It's a mix of cultural events and the municipality of Ulverton will support the endeavour (including helping out with the organizing).

"Last year it was just me," says Péroquin, adding that he can't do it alone again. And there were problems with government financing, as well.

Péroquin says Ulverton is great place to set the conference. There's more interest in cultural events, he says — Windsor is much more sports oriented.

He says that little held him to his old location — 80 percent of the clientele comes from away — meaning Sherbrooke, the south shore, Granby and even Drummondville. "Even the volunteers come from the outside."



FILE PHOTO

Christmas in September! Now imagine a tree all gussied up with your favorite ornaments... plus one.



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Wah wah wah, goes the guitar!

A youth variety show

Canada's Jimi Hendrix will be performing at Townshippers' Day. He's a young lad of 11, reports Sheila Quinn, and he'll be cranking out "Oh Canada" on the electric guitar, echoing the great Hendrix's screeching (but iconic) signature act.

The youngster is one in a collection of young people who've put together a variety show in the entertainment tent at 12:30 in the afternoon on Townshippers' Day, Sat., Sept. 16.

Also performing is a Richmond High School student who'll toss out one of classical music's Top 40 hits, Pachelbel's Canon. On an electric guitar.

The variety show has been pulled together by Quinn and the Youth Forum, a non-denominational group sponsored by the United Church that covers the entire Eastern Townships.

"It's a community group," she says, then laughs: "Not a psycho religious cult.

"It's really cool, it's for young people who need to feel a place where they belong, where all the cliquey weirdness of school melts away." Where kids can be themselves.

Youth Forum is now 30 years old, and up to 60 kids participate.

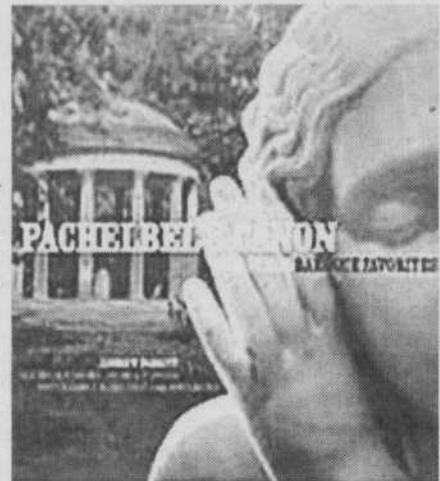
Quinn first went to one of its activities as a 12-year-old (it was a week-long camping event). By 18, she was herself a camp counsellor. Now 32 and bringing up her own two children, she's still involved.

The young people are mostly of high school age. Those who are older become shepherds, answering questions or giving advice.

The youth group will meet Friday night for a sleepover, get to Townshippers' the next morning in time to check out everything that's happening, then prepare for



As they say on Sesame Street, one of these things is not like the other...



their own show.

"We've organized ourselves as this band of gypsies," Quinn says of Saturday's plans. "We're going to lure the other youth out there" to the entertainment tent for the show.

It was originally planned as a singalong, but the thing just kept growing. There's now music and spoken work (such as poetry). And some trivia questions (about recycling, for example).

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There's a belief that young people are leaving the Townships for a lack of jobs. The solution? Helping young people know what the region's top sought-after skills are, so they can get training for something that both interests them and that can provide them with a decent living.

In August, Townshippers' Association received funding to evaluate of the educational opportunities in the historical Eastern Townships in relation to the top 40 job prospects in the Townships. It's a follow-up to an already existing program.

"We expect this study to give Townships educational institutions, students and business community an up-to-date and comprehensive report that shows the link between available educational programs and the occupations where employees are in highest demand in the Townships," said Michael van Lierop,

president of Townshippers' Association.

"This is a key initiative for Townshippers' Association," he said. "We aim to help English-speaking youth to be more empowered, engaged and integrated into the community. For that to happen, jobs are crucial!"

The study will include an evaluation and updating of the top 40 job prospects in the Townships, the currently available English and French educational programs in this region, at vocational education, CEGEP and university levels, and their match to the top 40 job prospects. The report will be distributed to educational institutions and relevant businesses in the region, and will be used to update the data available on www.topportunity.ca. The project will be carried out during the coming six months.



FILE PHOTO

PLEASE SEE JOBS ON PAGE 20

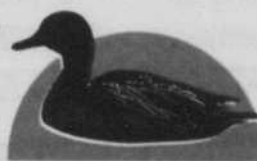
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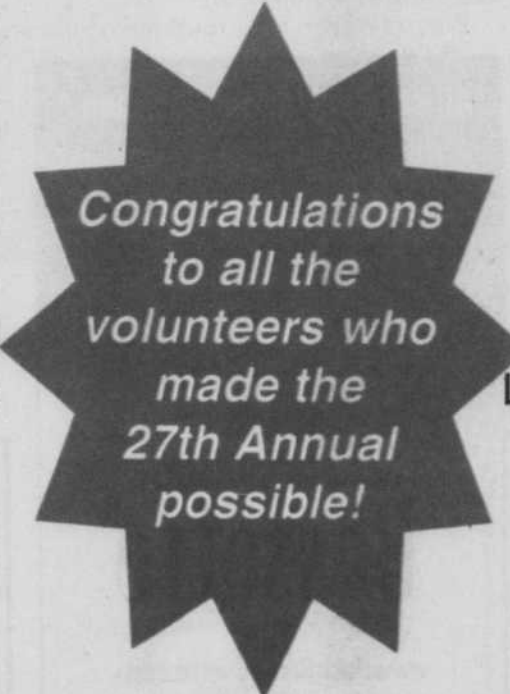
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JOB:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 19

"This initiative comes in the context of a relatively high level of out-migration among English speakers in the Townships, especially those with more education," said van Lierop. "Several studies have pointed to the perceived lack of employment and employment

opportunity as a powerful motivation for youth to leave the region."

The study is made possible in part by a contribution from the Department of Canadian Heritage.

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Top jobs

The www.topportunity.ca Web site "has determined the 40 occupations most likely to be posted in job banks or in job placement centres in the coming years in the Eastern Townships.

"We have done this by combining the occupational lists from all four regions, and analyzing Emploi-Québec's and [the federal human resources department's] five-year forecast (for the years 2002 to 2006) for labour supply and demand. Our Top 40 represent the very best employment prospects for our big and beautiful region."

- Here's the list.
- Chemical technologists and technicians
 - Registered nurses
 - Electrical and electronics engineers
 - Pharmacists
 - Butchers and meat cutters, retail and wholesale
 - Nurse aides, orderlies, and patient service associates
 - Managers in health care
 - Furniture and fixture assemblers and inspectors
 - Wood products assemblers and inspectors
 - Head nurses and supervisors
 - Industrial engineering and manufacturing technologists and technicians
 - Sales representatives, wholesale trade (non-technical)
 - Registered nursing assistants
 - Specialists in Human Resources
 - Mechanical engineering technologists and technicians
 - Electronic service technicians (household and business equipment)
 - Process control and machine operators (for

- food and beverage processing)
- Specialist physicians
- General practitioners and family physicians
- Tool and die makers
- Woodworking machine operators
- Dentists
- Heavy-duty equipment mechanics
- Industrial instrument technicians and mechanics
- Instructors and teachers of disabled person
- Plastics products assemblers, finishers and inspectors
- Electrical and electronics engineering technologists and technicians
- Manufacturing managers
- Industrial and manufacturing engineers
- Information systems analysts and consultants
- Drafting technologists and technicians
- Furniture finishers and refinishers
- Sales, Marketing, and advertising managers
- Machine tool operators
- Financial officers
- Machinists and machining and tooling inspectors
- Cabinet makers
- Automotive service technicians, truck mechanics, and mechanical repairers
- Ambulance attendants and other paramedical occupations
- Human resources manager.



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There's a Ryot goin' on

Chill politics and a serving of cool

For the first time, Andrew St. Amant will be showing off his chops in his hometown of Richmond.

"It's cool it's in Richmond," said St. Amant. "Most people there wouldn't even know I play music."

Though he first picked up a guitar when he was 11 years old, he's never performed professionally in his birthplace.

But all that will change at Townshippers' Day at 1:30 p.m. on Sat., Sept. 16 at

the Richmond Fair grounds, when his band The Ryot performs.

St. Amant plays lead guitar and does some singing.

St. Amant is 24 years old, a sociology student at Bishop's University (and lives in Sherbrooke). He used to pop by a friend's place and strum his guitar — Annie Fontaine would also be there, and would sing. The pair clicked musically.

"It really flows... we feed off each other. I've played in other bands before,

but I've never connected so quickly with another person musically]."

The two have now worked together for just over a year; some seven months ago, André Isabel's rhythm guitar joined them. (And they're now trying out a bassist, Simon Losier).

Asked to describe the music, St. Amant calls it a mix of legendary folkies Joan Baez and Bob Dylan. "It's pretty chill music."

It's political, too.

"We're like advocating compassion, freedom and stuff like that. We do a

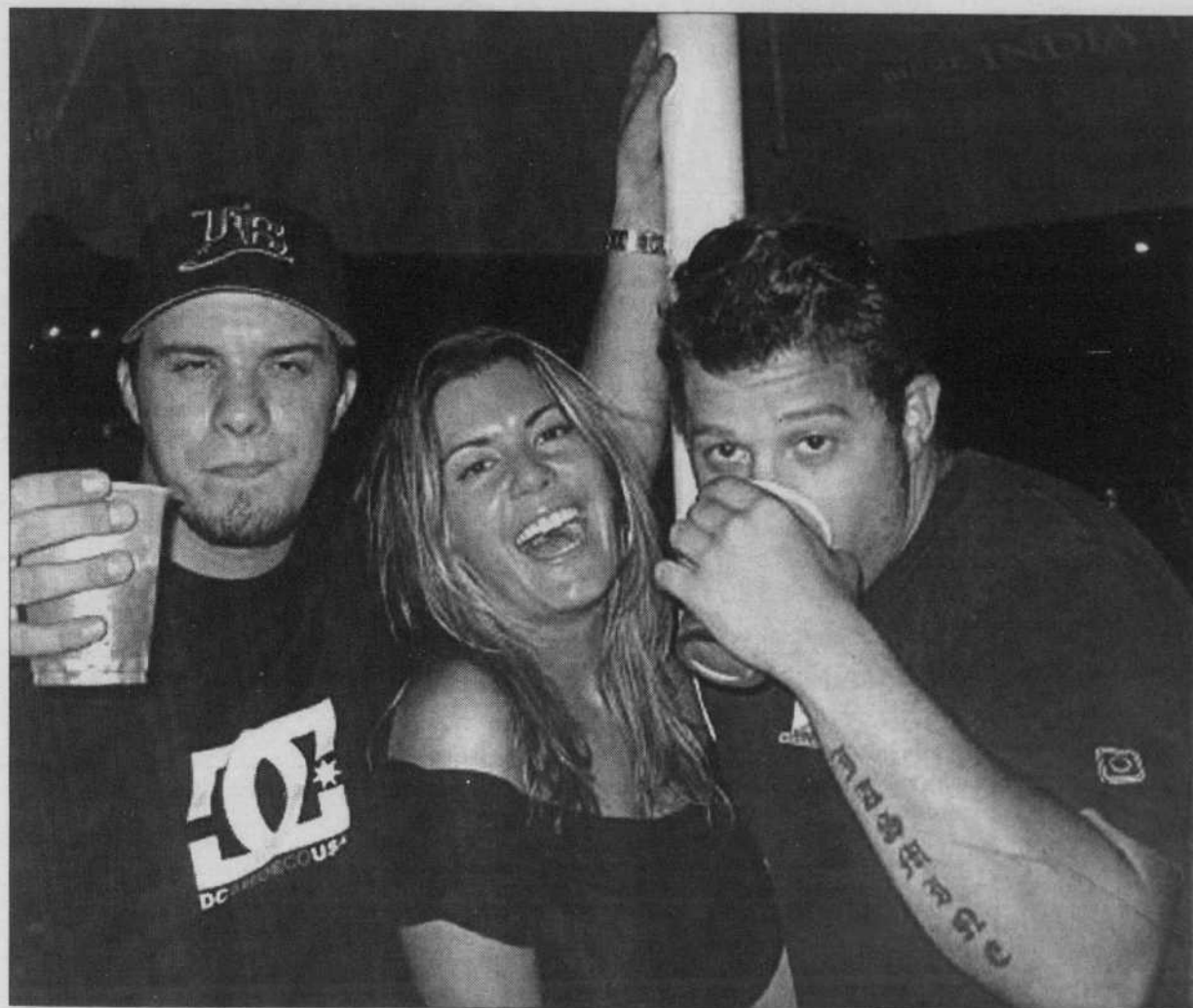
couple of covers, but we have about 14 of our own songs."

St. Amant writes all the music and about 30 percent of the lyrics. Fontaine pens the rest of the words.

The Ryot recorded for the first time this summer, a single called "Freedom" that's available on the band's My Space Web site.

It was produced by Sherbrooke-based musician JF Coley as part of a program set up in conjunction with community radio station CJMQ. Coley offers to

PLEASE SEE THE RYOT ON PAGE 22



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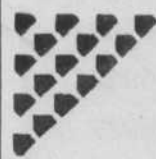


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THE RYOT:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 21

record — for free — a single song for a local band, then interviews the members on air about their music and plays the tune. There's drums on the track, contributed by Coley, but the band itself has no one on skins.

"We owe him lots of thanks," said St. Amand.

"He was not out to find somebody that's going to benefit him. He wanted to know how we wanted to make it sound."

The tune is a bit of a lifesaver; it's impossible for a band to find a paying gig at a bar, say, without a demo.

The band, however, still has not made anywhere near a living as a musical entity, though St. Amant said they do bring in a good crowd once booked: "We're three young people who have plenty of friends. We bring 100 people in." They've played two gigs this summer.

"It's not a hobby. I'm serious about it. But it's hard to find time. The three of us work..."

"It's a potential career, I want to play music my whole life. But it's a tough

scene to break into."

St. Amant left the Townships for a while. He moved out of home at 17, and eventually ended up in Vancouver for seven years. When he came back, he rediscovered how "beautiful" the Townships are.

"We have a nice place here."

You can hear the single "Freedom" by going to <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendID=105413372>

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COURTESY

Sherbrooke's JF Coley (pictured here with his eponymous band) donates time to musicians who are starting; he records a single for them, for free, and interviews them on the community radio station CJMQ (88.9 FM).



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TRAINS:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 23

up parcels at the station. The QCR and CNR met here, each with its own track (one at the front of the station, the other at the back). The bricked station platform would be filled with folks at train times, the hotels across the street prepared for a sudden influx of visitors wanting food or a room for the night.

Today, no passenger trains come through. Freight cars are still shunted back and forth, but the station platform is quiet and much changed, and patrons of the restaurant are the only people moving where the railroad tracks once gleamed.

The Richmond region museum, located in Melbourne, has many artifacts and documents outlining the history of railroading in the area. A visit here where life at the turn of the century is depicted, could be a most interesting side trip.

Also in Melbourne, in the church just up the hill on Belmont, where French protestants were the last occupants,

there's slate and everything to do with this type of rock was used as roofing material, walkways, chalk boards and billiard tables. The church's brick from the Richmond brick yard and slate from the Kingsbury quarry is an outstanding example of the use of slate in the area. Here, even the cross atop the steeple is made of slate, carefully restored and in mint condition.

Visitors here may watch slate being split from a solid block, an art requiring patience, strength and precise eyesight... choosing the line of rock to follow and pounding a chisel into the block to form a fissure that eventually – hopefully – splits the way the shaper wants it to.

The interpretation center will be open this Saturday, ready to host visitors from Townshippers' Day.

Turning toward Kirkdale, Ulverton and Drummondville, visitors can follow the old route that winds down river, first coming to the famous Pierce's



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

The Centre d'interpretation de l'ardoise – also known as the slate museum.


Crossing and Old Stone School House, one of the oldest stone structures in the region. Still sitting squat and square, guarding the small cemetery situated along one side, this building was one of the first schools in the area, built in the early 1800s. Names of former students are inscribed on a plaque near the door and, although the school house is not open to the public, artifacts from days long ago are still gathering dust inside. The exterior has been carefully maintained, the cemetery is kept neat and trim and the building has been given official status as a heritage site. A short stop here is a must for history buffs.

Further along, about three miles or so, is Kirkdale, where the old church hall was once the church, used as a barracks for militiamen and eventually

sold to a private owner. But Trinity Church still stands, one of very few brick structures complete with the flying buttress style of architecture (which eliminates support posts inside). Stained glass windows, legacies from early pioneering families, grace the brick walls with the chancel stained glass window a priceless work of art.

Inside, tongue and groove hardwood lumber covers walls and ceiling, laid in diamond shaped patterns and wood worked into figures and symbols. Here again, the passerby could take a few minutes to stroll through the surrounding cemetery, notice the age of gravestones and perhaps find the headstone of the first person to be buried here, circa 1829.

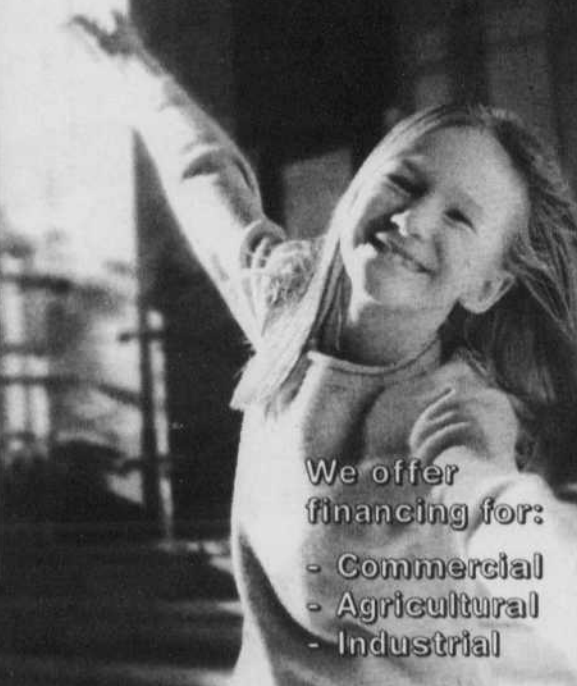
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Settling in Richmond in the late 1700s

Those trails became roads

By Claudia Villemaire
RICHMOND

There's not much traffic on the St. Francis these days. There was a time, however, when small craft and even a paddle wheeler plied the water near Bromptonville. This river, with its swift narrows, rocky ledges and broad reaches was the only highway accessible and navigable for the first settlers arriving from the England, Scotland and Ireland in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

There are still tales told of the dangers those pioneers faced as they poled their way between river banks where hardwood trees grew right down to the

water, presenting what seemed an impenetrable wall that must be pierced before the first attempts at clearing land could begin.

These were hardy folk, perhaps ill-prepared to face the rigors of a Canadian climate. But many were skilled in other ways — as craftsmen who could make the tools and equipment those first settlers could put to good use.

Logs were the first material used to construct shelter and, later perhaps, for a cow, a few chickens, maybe a sow pig. Often, the cow supplied another essential tool or two as well, giving birth to bull calves which were castrated and raised as oxen, the strong, slow-moving animals that could pull stumps or haul a cart transporting families or farm produce.

It didn't take long before there were trails worn through the forests as settlers travelled from one tiny farmstead to another.

Properties were often long and narrow, resulting in farm homes and buildings situated less than a mile apart. In a short time, well-trodden pathways widened into the first of the Eastern Townships' maze of country roads, following town lines and range numbers, often to a cluster of homes and farms that would soon be known as a village. A general store, blacksmith, a school and a church would soon bear the name of the first settler arriving there.

Here in the Richmond area, there were many such tiny hamlets: Ulverton, Kirkdale (where the Lower Durham post office was located), Gore (complete with

a general store and post office), Lisgar, Boscobel, Bethenie, Maricourt, South Durham, Davidson Hill....

Years later, towards the end of the 1800s, the countryside was dotted with one-room schoolhouses where students arrived either on horse back or by buggy or cart. A stage coach line was developed between Quebec City and several points in this immediate area.

Travelling from Boston to Quebec City must have been a test of stamina and strong stomachs, to say nothing of the many dangers lurking along the way.

Traces of that old trail can still be seen if one watches diligently; iron-shod wheels rattled and thundered over

PLEASE SEE OLD ROUTE ON PAGE 27



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

Blanchette's Woolen Mill, now restored with spinning and weaving machines still running and trails around the mill giving visitors a true view of life in the good old days.

Happy Townshippers' Day



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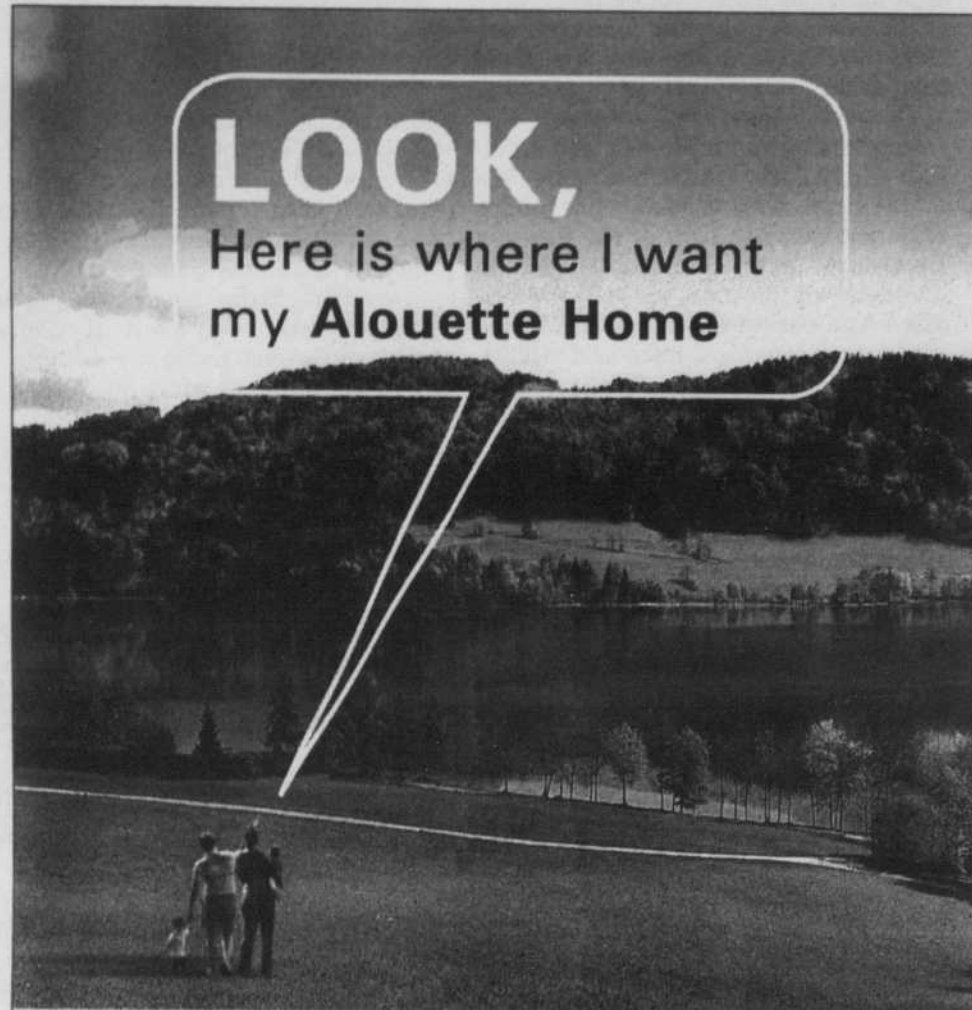
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STAGE COACH:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 24

On we go, following, more or less, the old stage coach line to wind down into the village of Ulverton where at one time, several stores, mills and even a



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girls' school were at the heart of this village. Stately homes tell the tale of wealthy settlers and the old stage coach inn and stable are still plainly visible.

In days of yore we could take milk and cream to turn into cheese, deliver a load of logs to another mill and, later, pick up sawed planks and lumber for a new project. Later, in the fall, a load of wheat or grain would be trundled down to the grist mill and the team could be taken to the local blacksmith where winter shoes with corks could replace the lighter, summer horseshoes.

There's not much left to see that hints of the hustle and bustle of this village when hopes were high the railroad would eventually come through. But the stage coach inn, the stable where fresh horses were always ready, the church and Town Hall, restored and refurbished in the old style, are still there. A walkabout here takes about half an hour but goes back over a century in the imagination.

Going back to Richmond, there are still more sights to see. Recently an antique car museum has opened on Craig Road, near the only traffic lights in town.

Main street is slowly developing its own character with new boutiques specializing in framing, local works of art and art supplies. Handicrafts and gifts have taken over the historic Bank of Montreal building and further along, a shop specializing in all kinds of wool and woodcraft. Visitors might see the



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

The Ulverton Town Hall, still standing firm.

flood lines on old buildings where this sometimes cantankerous river has left her mark.

Spring floods were part of life for nearly 100 years along this business section. Folks still tell tales of swimming contests from one hotel to the other, or of boating along the main drag. Finally, a series of dykes and pumping stations, new dual sewer systems and reconstructed main streets was completed. As a result, there have been no more floods.

But there's a walking trail along the river bank and plans to develop park land and the new Club Nautique continue to expand and develop the tourist industry here.

So visitors to the Townshippers' Day gala at the fairgrounds will have plenty of interesting things to do and see off the site. The only requirement is getting started a bit earlier and staying in the region a bit longer.

Or perhaps you'll come back next weekend?

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OLD ROUTE:

CONT'D FROM PAGE 25

rocky ledges, through sandy stretches, climbed the rocky ridges of the famous Townships' mountains and finally galloped down the steep hills into Quebec city.

Here in Richmond traces of that old route can still be found, from Waterloo, down into the St. Francis valley and up, up, over the hills that rise from the St. Francis river. When leaving Richmond and heading northeast, the road bed is in plain view as you climb that first hill out of town.

Walk along a section of that old road, near the Picken Development, enjoy the shade provided by century-old maple trees and you'll hear the thunder of horses, shod hooves sound like the rumble of a distant storm when hitting a road bed that barely covers the rocky ledges underneath. A harness jingles and — after the climb — horses' nostrils flare as they breath hard, flanks heave and sweat. Harness pads and collars are sweat soaked and the sour-sweet smell we call horsey hangs in the summer air.

There are many stops on that long trek, usually not more than 20 miles apart, less if the terrain is hilly. Some stops are just a few minutes to let the

valiant steeds catch their breath. Others are to order passengers to step down and walk beside the stage as the hill is too steep and the load too heavy.

There are stops where a noon meal awaits and fresh teams of horses stand ready, harnesses already in place, stamping to take over the task for the next several miles.

Today we zip back and forth between towns and cities on blacktop highways, fields and farmsteads just a blur in passing. Taking the time to step back in time, picture life as it was 200 years ago right here in the St. Francis valley, is not frivolous. Stopping to read the names of Irish settlers carefully lettered on the Celtic monument in Memorial Park in Richmond might give the visitor some inkling of what the good old days were really like here in the valley where the only traffic on the river these days is a canoe or kayak ride down to Ulverton, available at the Club Nautique, situated along the railroad track on Main Street South.



CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE

The last furrow of a long day, the plowman homeward plods his weary way.



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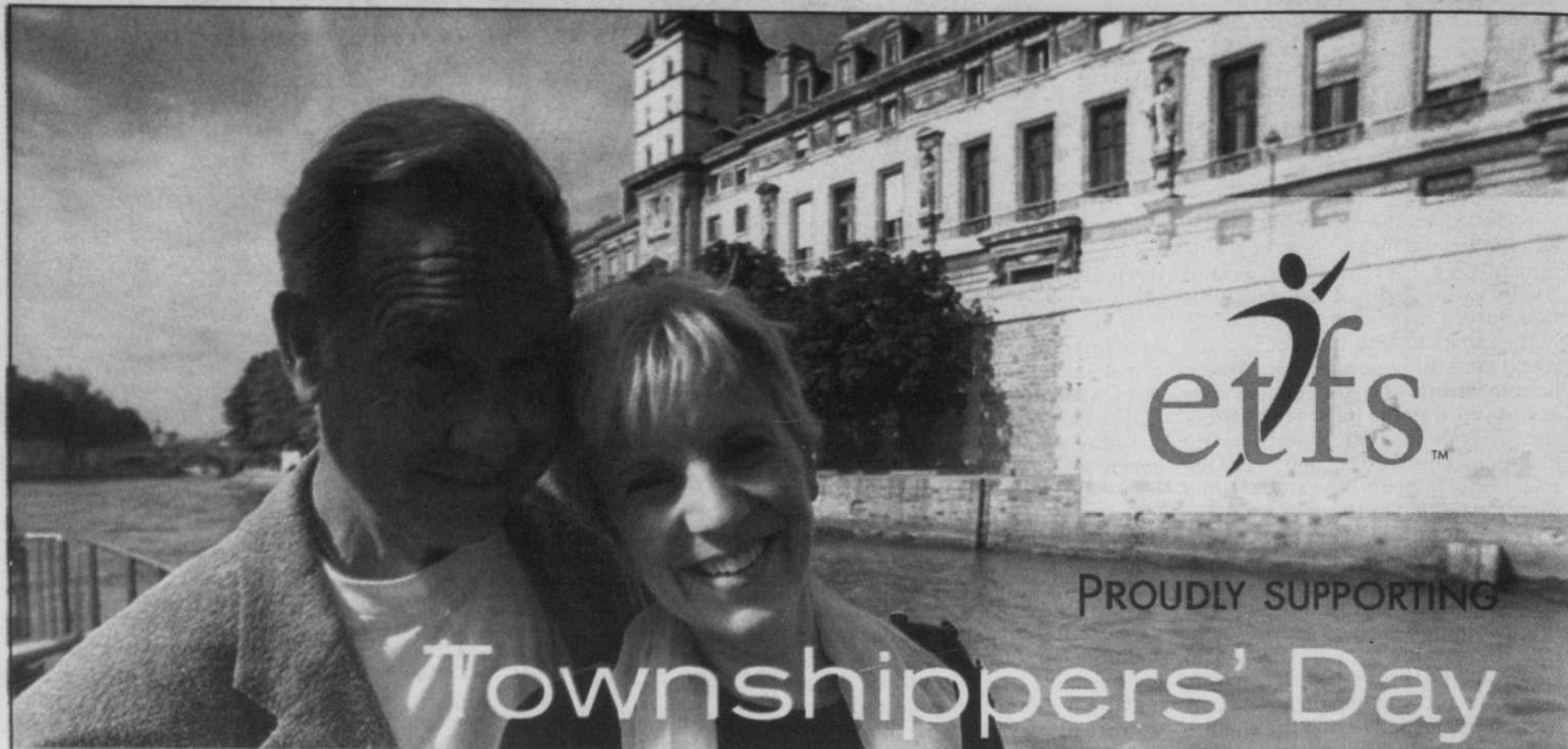


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