

Brome County NEWS



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2007

IGA *Gazaille*

LAC BROME
461 Knowlton Rd.
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Michel
Ginette



Magog
231 Sherbrooke St.

Farnham
999 Principale St. E.

Ride'em, cowboy

'Allo les Shriners!'

By Wendy Denman

BROME COUNTY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

One of the biggest local entertainment events of the year – The Karnak Shriners' Western and Rodeo Festival – takes place this weekend at the Brome Fairgrounds.

"We're ready, there's a lot of preparation for an event like this," says Leslie Hastie, president of the Eastern Townships Shrine Club.

The rodeo is surrounded by all sorts of activities put on by Montreal's Karnak Shrine – music, entertainment by Quebec country and western singer Eileen Wilson, kiosks, dancing, a steak BBQ supper Saturday after the show, chances to meet the cowboys, clowns, fun for the kids, a motorcycle parade, old style saloon, line dancing lessons and lots of Shriners in full regalia.

Says Hastie: "The boys down here have been helping out with a lot of legwork. We know a lot of people are coming from out of town to see the rodeo, we also hope lots and lots of residents will come out too and join the fun."

The local Shrine Club, with the Owl as its symbol, was started a little over a year ago to encourage local Masons to join and to create a presence in the Townships.

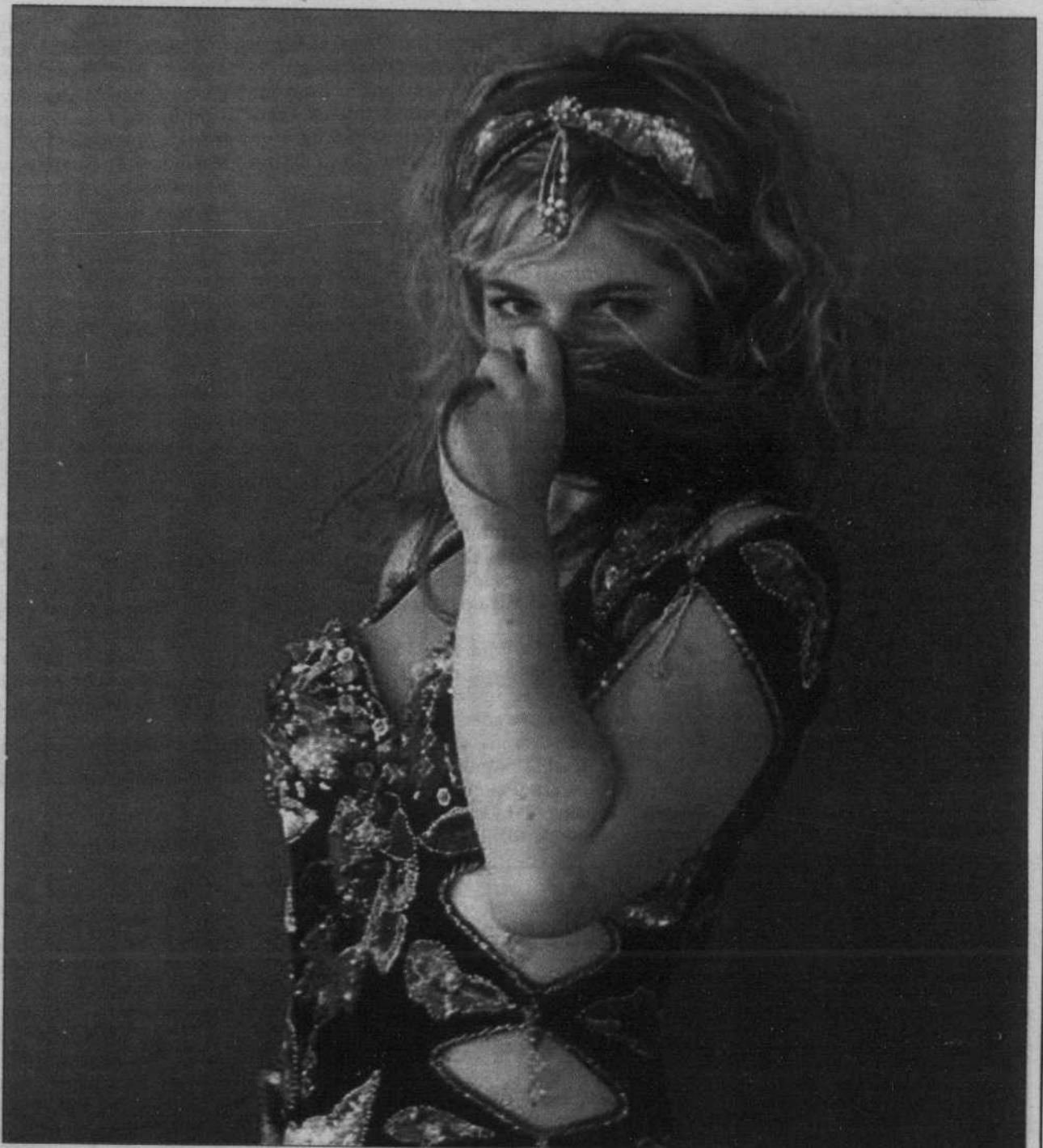
"Our membership is increasing and we're finding a really positive reception here. The Montreal boys came down to two events in Richmond recently, one the Canada Day parade, and people yelled 'Allo Les Shriners', it was kind of an historic event for us and lots of fun."

All Shriners must first pass through the ranks of the Masons. There has always been a strong Masonic presence in the Townships, the Lodges strongly intertwined with the English fact and leadership. Hastie sees the Shrine Club as a natural evolution.

The Karnak Shrine, a very active organization, is well known for the Montreal Shriners Hospital that treats all types of children's bone diseases.

PLEASE SEE SHRINERS ON PAGE 12.

Belly Dance



Veronique Bourbeau brings 1001 dancing women to Sutton. See page 5.

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Brome County Community Billboard

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Aug. 10

B.B.Q. every Friday night through August at the Royal Canadian Legion, 77 Lewis St., **Waterloo**, 5-7 p.m.

Aug. 11

Flea Market at Knowlton United (234 Knowlton Rd.), on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 9 a.m. - noon.

Breakfast at St. Luke's Anglican Church, **Waterloo**, 8:30 - 10 a.m. \$6 adults, \$3 children under 10 years of age. All are welcome.

Potton Heritage Association - Saturday, Aug. 11: let's join the multicultural Festival! Parade, booth, photo contest on the Water theme. For info, call Gilles Provost 450-292-4479.

Potton Multicultural Festival. Come and enjoy the Parade, 11 a.m. rue Principale, **Mansonville**. Events all day! BBQ Supper, 5-7 p.m. Crafts, Canteen, 6 to closing; 12:30 - 1:30, International Buffet; 1 - 2:30, Talent Competition, Registration deadline, July 15. Serious applicants only. 450-292-5638. Welcome.

Join us for demonstrations of traditional crafts and quilt display at **Old Fashioned Day**, Aug. 11, 1 - 4 p.m., at the **Cookshire Fairgrounds** Main Building, presented by Compton County Historical Museum Society. Admission includes wagon ride, "Old Tyme" music, tea and homemade scones, and free entry to the Eaton Corner Museum Aug. 11 and 12. Raffle of "Rose of Sharon" quilt. For more info: Serena Wintle, 819-875-5210 or mus.eatoncorner@hotmail.com.

Aug. 12

Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 99, **Cowansville Dance** every Sunday, 3 - 7 p.m. with

BCN RATES & DEADLINES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Brome County News Community Calendar is reserved for non-profit organizations only. Deadline is **noon on Mondays**. A pre-paid fee of \$7 is required per publication, or **SPECIAL RATE of \$13 for 2 insertions**: 1 BCN & 1 in Friday Record "What's On" section. Please forward notices to 88-A Lakeside St., Knowlton, QC JOE 1V0, email: bcnews@qc.aibn.com, or fax: (450) 243-5155. Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Brome County
NEWS



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CIRCULATION

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August 12, **Knowlton Harmony Band Concert** in the **Knowlton**, Mill Pond Park Gazebo at 4 p.m. Bring your chair and relax to the tunes of years gone by! See you there?

Aug. 12 & 19

Fundraiser to promote an Annual Seniors Week with Bobbie Dee and friends **Bolton Center Town Hall** Aug. 12, **Austin Town Hall**, Sunday, Aug. 19, afternoon, 2 - 6 p.m. \$5 donation. Jam session; Everyone welcome, bring your instruments. Complete supper for additional \$5. All welcome! (Fitch Bay dances are closed for the summer.)

Aug. 13

Sunday, Aug. 13 from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Montreal author **Hermann Gruenwald** will sign his new book *After Auschwitz: One Man's Story* at Brome Lake Books (264 Knowlton Road), **Knowlton**. Don't miss you chance to meet this extraordinary man. Refreshments will be served. For more information please call 450-242-2242.

Aug. 18

Mystic Ice Cream Social to benefit Mystic United Church Women and The Old Mystic School Committee at the Old School House, **Mystic**, 5 p.m. Adults \$5, children \$3. All are most welcome!

Lac Brome "**Le Spot**" Youth Center's **corn roast/barb-q fundraiser**, Aug. 18, 5 - 8 p.m. Cost: \$3 under 18 years old, \$5 for adults. All the corn you can eat. Hot-dogs and drinks available for sale. Come check out the Youth Center and support our activities. Bring along your guitar and join the teens. 270 Victoria St., in the back. Information, call 450-243-1285.

Aug. 19

Summer Corn Roast at Dunham United Church, **Dunham** starting at noon. Corn, hot dogs, beverage and desert. \$7 admission. All are welcome!

ARTS CALENDAR

Aug. 1 through 8

Piggery Theatre presents **Roots Music Week** with the following shows. Wednes-

day, Aug. 1- "**Yonder Hill**" Bluegrass vocals at its best backed by a hot band of instrumentalists. Friday, Aug. - "**Oro**" - Celtic music from Ireland and Scotland, sometimes lively, sometimes peaceful. Saturday, Aug. 4- "**Bill Garrett and Sue Lothrop**" - Folk music. Wednesday, Aug. 8 - "**Terry Joe 'Banjo' with 'Fiddlin' Glen Patterson**" - Bluegrass/toe tapping good time. All shows at 8 p.m. Ticket price \$20 per show or two shows for \$35. Tel: 819-842-2431.

Aug. 7 through 11

Theatre Lac Brome, **Knowlton**, Tuesday, Aug. 7, 8 p.m., **Buoyant Billions** by George Bernard Shaw. Wednesday, Aug. 8, 8 p.m. 2-1 for Brome Lake Residents, **Buoyant Billions**. Thursday, Aug. 9, 2 p.m. Matinee-**Star Quality** by Noel Coward. Thursday, Aug. 9, 8 p.m. **Star Quality**. Friday, Aug. 10, 8 p.m., Gilbert and Sullivan's **Trial by Jury**. Saturday, Aug. 11, **Buoyant Billions**. Tickets: \$5 members, \$7 non-members available at the door. 9 Mont Echo Road, Knowlton, 450-242-2270-box office; 450-242-1395-administration.

Aug. 16-19

Watercolours featured by artist Rhonda Price at Brome County Historical Museum, 130 Lakeside, **Knowlton**, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Florals, landscapes and Equine Art.

Aug. 19

Theatre Lac Brome, **Knowlton**, Sunday, Aug. 19, 7 p.m.: **Tsotsi**-Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language Film-the riveting film about deprivation and violence in South Africa. Tickets: \$5. members, \$7 non-members available at the door. 9 Mont Echo Road, Knowlton. 450-242-2270-box office; 450-242-1395-adminis-

CHURCH SERVICES

tration.

KNOWLTON/CREEK PASTORAL CHARGE Worship & Song by members assisted by The Reverend Dale Skinner. Creek United, **Foster**, 9:30 a.m., Knowlton United, **Knowlton**, (handicap access), 11 a.m. Sunday School at both services. Visit us on the web at www.knowltoncreek.com.

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 24 St. Paul's Road, **Knowlton**. Sunday Service Aug. 12, One 9:30 a.m. service, Morning Prayer. For more info: 450-242-2885. The Rev. Tim Wiebe and the congregation welcomes everyone.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME SERVICE - PARISH OF BROME - Sunday, Aug. 12 - 11:00 a.m. - Service with M. and S. Jolley in the garden of Eugene and Annie Jones, Brome followed by a "Bring your own" Picnic Lunch.

SAINT-EDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH, 366 Knowlton Rd., **Knowlton** - Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m. (bilingual).

COWANSVILLE AREA PASTORAL CHARGE UNITED CHURCH Worship at Emmanuel United Church, 203 rue Principale, **Cowansville**. Worship 10:30 a.m., Choir practice, 10 a.m. Rev. Wendy MacLean officiating. 450-263-0204.

TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, COWANSVILLE. Join us for Sunday Worship one Service only at 11 a.m. every Sunday. Info: 450-263-2662.

WATERLOO ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, 4929 rue Foster - Rev. David Lambie, Minister, 10 a.m. each Sunday - a service and music. For information or message call 450-539-2129.

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BEDFORD/PHILIPSBURG & FARNHAM - Joint Sunday Service August 12 will be at St. James Church in **Bedford** at 10 a.m. Morning Prayer with June Harris. For information call 450-248-3923. The Ven. Dr. Brian A. Evans, Rector & Archdeacon of Bedford.

BEDFORD UNITED CHURCH PASTORAL CHARGE - Sunday, August 12 Stanbridge East, 10 o'clock. Rev. Michel Nahas leading. Everyone welcome. 450-248-3044 for information.

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH in **SUTTON**, 52 Principale sud, welcomes everyone for Sunday Services at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome. The Rev. Canon Tim Smart, Rector. 450-538-8108.

OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH, SUTTON, Pastor Alex Lobach and the congregation welcome all to worship with us each Sunday at 11 a.m. Mid-week youth group and Bible Study. Tel. 450-538-5225.

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH - DUNHAM. Sunday Services at 9:30 a.m. The Rev. Sinpoh Han. Information 450-266-0392.

SUTTON - DUNHAM PASTORAL CHARGE: Welcome to Sunday Worship Services led by Rev. Susan Tilleman at **DUNHAM UNITED CHURCH** at 9:15 a.m. and at **CALVARY UNITED CHURCH**, in **SUTTON** at 11:15 a.m.

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KNOWLEDGE AND KNOW-HOW.

Algae, cell phones and police services

Council notes

By Philip A. Godin
BROME COUNTY NEWS CORRESPONDENT
KNOWLTON

The main topic at the Town of Brome Lake's August council meeting was again the condition of its lake and a dissenting view of how water quality is monitored by the province.

"Last year the provincial government closed the lake only to find out later that it wasn't necessary to do so," said Mayor Richard Wisdom on Monday night. "Although we must comply with the province's decisions, we are monitoring the lake's condition ourselves just to show them that we can turn things around."

Town Hall is responding to what it considers too severe provincial assessments of the dangers posed by low levels of the (sometimes) toxic blue-green algae in Brome Lake. "Because the province ordered the beach closed, we had to let go of the students who worked as lifeguards and some small businesses are suffering."

The town has undertaken to have a study aimed at identifying the

culprits leaking phosphorus into the water, which the algae eat. "When we receive a good action plan from the firm during the first week of September, we will meet with the people of Brome Lake and then take the actions needed," added Wisdom.

The plan is expected to call for a series of stringent measures aimed at capping contamination by lakeshore residents and some motorized pleasure craft. In fact, the town has already indicated that a minimum five meter development-free buffer zone from the water's edge will be enforced.

The council voted unanimously to prosecute a resident of Sugar Hill over the near clear-cutting of trees along a waterway.

Other council news:

- Construction of the communications tower near the duck farm is slated to end by mid September and provide better cell phone services throughout the area.

- The mayor extended the council's appreciation for the life saving work provided recently by the town's First Responders called to a sudden medical emergency at the Knowlton Golf Course.

- The mayor announced that due to misuse, access to both the leaf collection site and the paint collection site will have to be monitored more closely. The mayor deplored having to use taxpayers' money to remove construction materials dumped by individuals or contractors at these dedicated sites and mentioned that cam-

eras may be installed to dissuade further abuse.

- Due to the resounding success of the farmers' market on Maple Street, the town is considering expanding its days of operation to include Sunday and installing lighting along the pathway leading to the market from Lakeside Road.

As far as the town's plans of expanding the market's parking onto land currently used by the Hydro-Québec sub-station, negotiations with the utility continue but are proving difficult.

- The town still considers that Brome Lake taxpayers are not receiving their money's worth for the \$1.6 million paid the province for police services and is actively pursuing ways to improve services.

- The town called the Sureté du Québec to intervene with traffic violations during this month's antique and collectibles sale held on the Brome County Historical Society's property in the centre of Knowlton. While considering the non-profit society a valuable asset, the town will meet with organizers to find a way to ensure the safety and security of the residents and visitors.

- A further indication of how well the town's building sector is doing, July saw a total of \$1.9 million in building permits, including one for a half-million dollar Société des Alcools du Québec building on Knowlton Road.

Le Spot To Be



COURTESY

The Lac Brome Youth Centre offers monthly dances, trips, billiards, plays, and a place to hang out or meet with friends. "Le Spot" is located in the new community centre (at 270 Victoria) and is open to those aged 12 to 17 of The Town of Lake Brome and surrounding area. The members of the Knowlton Lions Club recently contributed \$1,000 to Le Spot. From left to right: Dominica Badham-Sayer and Gwen Badham of the youth centre, Lions Club treasurer Eileen Mason, the centre's Arianne Lessard and Guylaine Thériault, Lion president Errol Frechette, and Anthony Royea and Jeremy Stone of the centre.

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Hybrids pose unique problems to emergency crews

Electrical system must be disabled

Gas-electric hybrids provide more of a challenge than the average vehicle to fire and rescue services. Along with the standard risks of fire and explosion from fuel lines or tank ruptures, they have several circuits of elevated electrical power levels that could injure or even kill during an extrication.

Add to this the advent of side-curtain and seat-mounted air bags (becoming popular on non-hybrid vehicles as well), and a firefighter must operate with the skill of a surgeon to avoid deploying an uninflated air bag.

I was approached recently by Capt. Casey Morden of the Beckwith Fire and Rescue Service, a volunteer team based southwest of Ottawa, to see if I could get a late model hybrid to use as a classroom aid for emergency response, fire suppression and extrication training.

When I asked Toyota Canada for a Prius hybrid from its press fleet, promising it would get it back in one piece, Toyota agreed without hesitation.

Under the direction of Beckwith Chief Bill McGonegal, a full complement of volunteers turned out one evening recently to learn about the special care and procedures needed when working with a hybrid.

Morden, who had previously taken hybrid vehicle training, started by showing how to immobilize the vehicle so unintended movement wouldn't interfere with passenger rescue.

The Prius has no mechanical link gear lever to lock the transmission in park, so the wheels must be chocked and the traditional, 12-volt electrical system must be disabled by disconnecting the standard battery located in the

UNDER THE HOOD

BRIAN TURNER

trunk, or by pulling the control fuse in the under-hood power panel.

In some Prius models, the electronic ignition key need only be within three metres of the vehicle to start the powerplant — it doesn't need to be inserted into its dash receiver station. And if the driver is unconscious, it would be hard to ask him or her where the key was located. But thinking ahead, Toyota placed an override switch just under the steering column. When this button is pushed, the electric drive can be activated only if the key is inserted into its station.

It's vital to isolate the hybrid battery, which can deliver more than 200 volts. While fire personnel seldom take anything for granted, they should know that

Toyota has designed the hybrid battery system with fail-safe relays that trip when an air bag deploys to disconnect this electrical source from the car's wiring circuits.

Capt. Morden pointed out all hy-



CANWEST PHOTO JEAN LEVAC/OTTAWA CITIZEN

Firefighters from the Beckwith Fire and Rescue Service near Ottawa discuss safe procedures for a Prius supplied by Toyota for the demonstration.

brid high-voltage circuits are easily identified by their bright orange casings.

With the electrical powerplant off-line, passenger extrication procedures are similar to non-hybrid vehicles. Cutting the roof off by chopping through support pillars is not recommended because of the placement of side-curtain air bags. The preferred method: cut out the centre of the roof panel, leaving the perimeter intact.

A common misconception is that hybrid batteries are prone to leaking in a collision. In fact, the large battery located under the rear seat is well shielded from collision forces and uses a gel-filled nickel metal hydride construction with flexible battery casing coatings to contain any

seepage.

A few years ago, Transport Canada staffers told me they had done their best to get hybrid battery packs to leak in crash tests of all of the popular hybrids of the day, without success. But the electrolyte can ignite and burn when the right temperature is reached, and Toyota engineers have provided a well-constructed venting system to allow this combustion to take place without creating an explosion.

A battery protected by a steel cage can become a very large grenade if the expansion forces created during a burn are not allowed to escape.

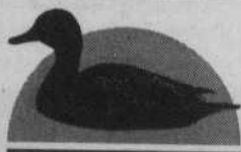
The Prius battery is designed to burn out quickly and reduce itself to ashes if left unattended.

But the emergency response guide points out that copious amounts of water directed into the rear cargo area should extinguish even the most stubborn flames. The hybrid drive battery is divided into 28 separate modules, so cooling them down with water reduces the likelihood of complete consumption by fire.

- CanWest News Service

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THE
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1001 dancing women

The beauty of pride

By Alanna Fahey
BROME COUNTY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Veronique Bourbeau, a belly dancer who has been impressing audiences 17 years, is coming to Sutton. Bourbeau, known as Sasar – which means “travel” in Arabic – will tantalize with her own rendition of the Arabic tale of 1001 nights.

“Middle Eastern dance focuses on the beauty of women, their sensuality and femininity, breaking down the barriers of age and shape,” says Sasar, reflecting on the title of her show, Oriental Dance: 1001 Women.

“The Arabic tales of 1001 Nights explores all the aspects of a woman’s beauty and because I encourage all women to feel proud of their body, they will only benefit from the beauty of this type of dance,” she adds.

Having done most of her training in Montreal and Sherbrooke and having performed in such places as the embassies of Middle Eastern countries, Sasar saw a need for this type of dance in this area of the Townships when she moved to Brome one year ago.

She opened a dance studio in Brome and has students ranging from eight to 61 years old.

In her classes, women not only learn the movements, they learn the history and the origins of the dance. Some of Sasar’s favorite dancers are North Americans (Hadia and Sahra), as well as Egyptians Fifi Abdo and Samia Gamel.

Catherine St-Pierre, a kinesiologist, mother of three and owner of Physikinaction, is a student of Bourbeau’s. “I figured from watching the shaking and the flow of the body that this could be a good thing for enhancing my own body movement and it is also something I enjoy doing with my daughter.”

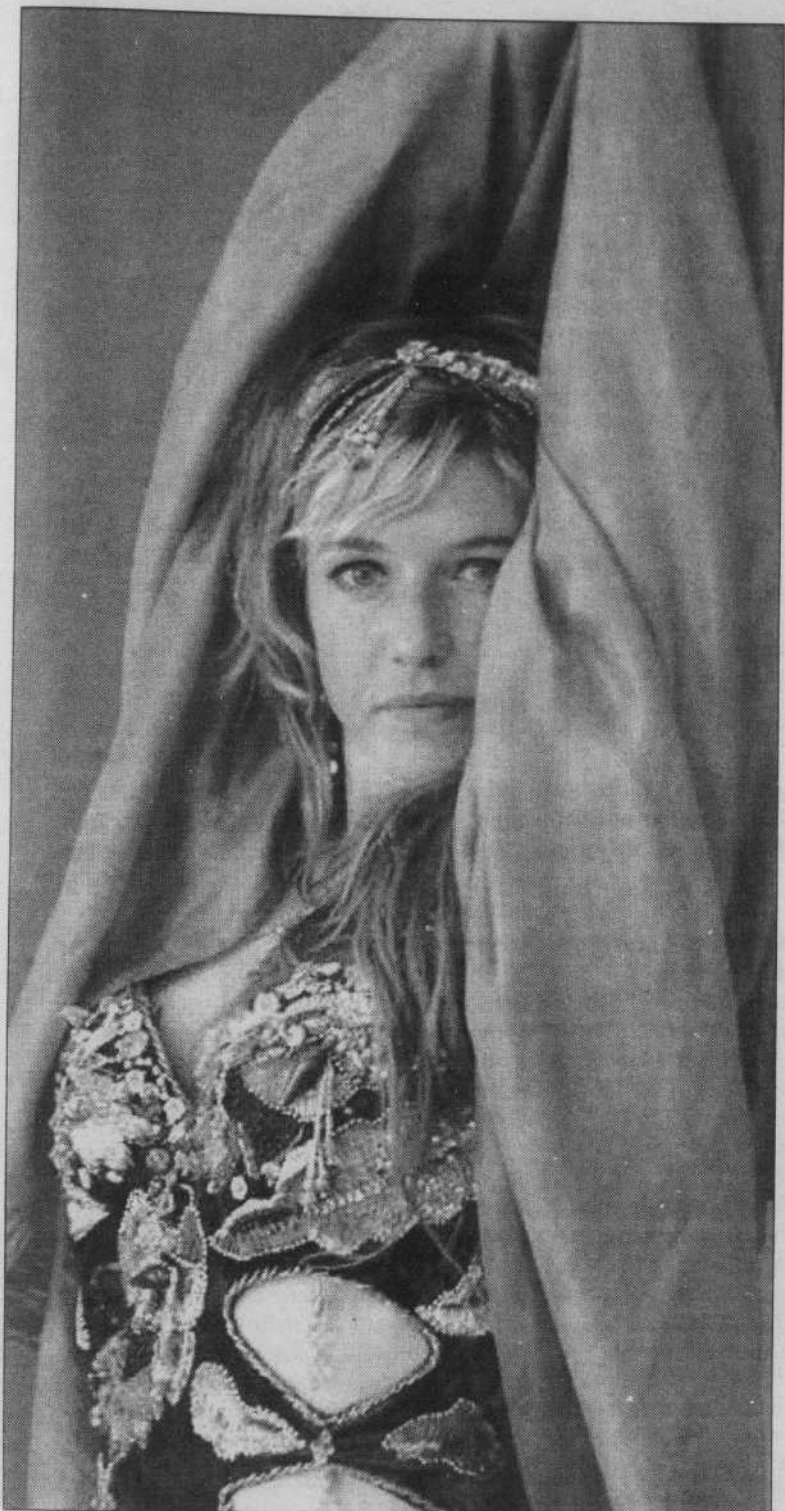
St-Pierre is a personal trainer who has competed and won several body sculpting contests.

This Saturday when Bourbeau takes to the stage, she will be accompanied by guests The Girls from the Brazilian World in Montreal. Although Bourbeau choreographs most of the show, she says there is still room for improvisation. “I try to keep to the traditional dance of the country or region where the dance originates, and I respect the tradition in their costumes. Ninety per cent of the dance is choreographed, but there is room for inspiration.”

Bourbeau celebrates the perfection of our differences through her dance. “It is a really good way to express ourselves, our feelings, our love,” Bourbeau explains. She feels lucky to be able to teach: “I have one goal in mind when I teach, as we say in Arabic: ‘Almraa almu’jba binafsiha’, which means, ‘Women who feel proud of themselves’. And that is what I want to impart to women, to feel pride in themselves.”

Ariana Webb is a young student of Bourbeau’s and herself a choreographer, having designed segments for the end-of-year Kalidescope dance at Massey-Vanier Regional High School. “Bourbeau not only teaches us to dance, she takes the time to build a relationship with us and her personality is such that everyone in the class has found a personal connection with her through the understanding of the dance. The show should be fun.”

To find out more about the next classes which start on Sept. 17, email sasarbelydance@yahoo.ca or call 450-242-1238. There will be two performances at the Salle Alec et Gerard Pelletier in Sutton on Saturday, Aug. 11, at 4 and 8 p.m. Reservations may be made at 450-538-0486.



COURTESY

Veronique Bourbeau says Middle Eastern dance focusses on beauty.



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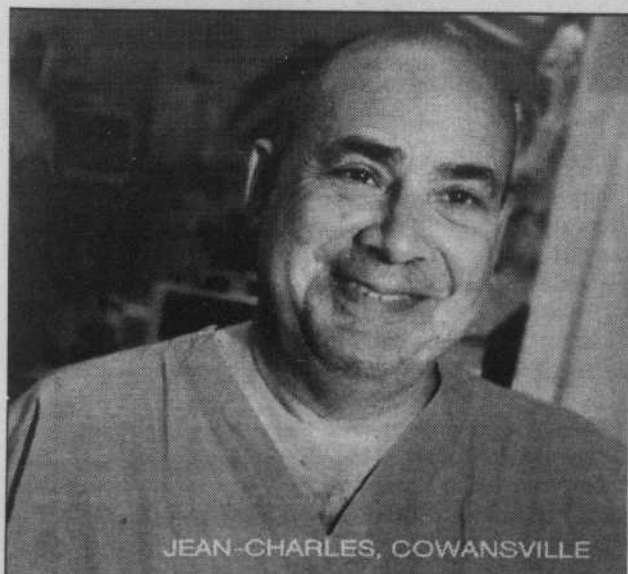
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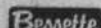
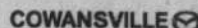
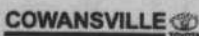
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Brome Fair needs the best of the best —fast!

Fruit, baking and canned yummies

By Philip A. Godin

BROME COUNTY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The Brome County Horticultural Society is looking for a few good competitors to participate in as many as five exhibition categories at their annual judging event to be held during this year's Brome Fair.

Society Secretary Shirley Arnett is coordinating the call for participants. "We are inviting people to submit their best items in the fruit, vegetables, flowers, baking and canning categories."

But there is a condition: all applications must be received at the Horticultural Society by the 6 p.m., Aug. 10 deadline.

Contestants will be grouped into adults, youth and children sections to ensure an even playing field. Articles submitted will be judged by a panel of eight independent volunteers who award ribbons, prizes and even sponsor-funded cash awards and prizes to the five best entries in each category.

The society has held the annual event since 1856 as a means to encourage and develop a range of skills in aspiring green thumbs, confectioners and canners as well as very well heeled gardeners and chefs.

A reflection of evolving societal customs and traditions as well as of changes in local climate, the once highly popular event has seen a steady decline in recent years, to the point where instead of limiting the number of entrants, the society

sees itself calling for more.

"The flowers and produce categories are becoming more and more weather dependent," says Arnett of the difficulty gardeners have been experiencing. "This year the phlox started up so early that they will probably be over by the time we are planning to judge them. And there are even some gardens that have been flooded, too."

As far as basic home-skills training such as baking and canning are concerned, changing mores have impacted the number of children learning the tricks of the trade from their elders.

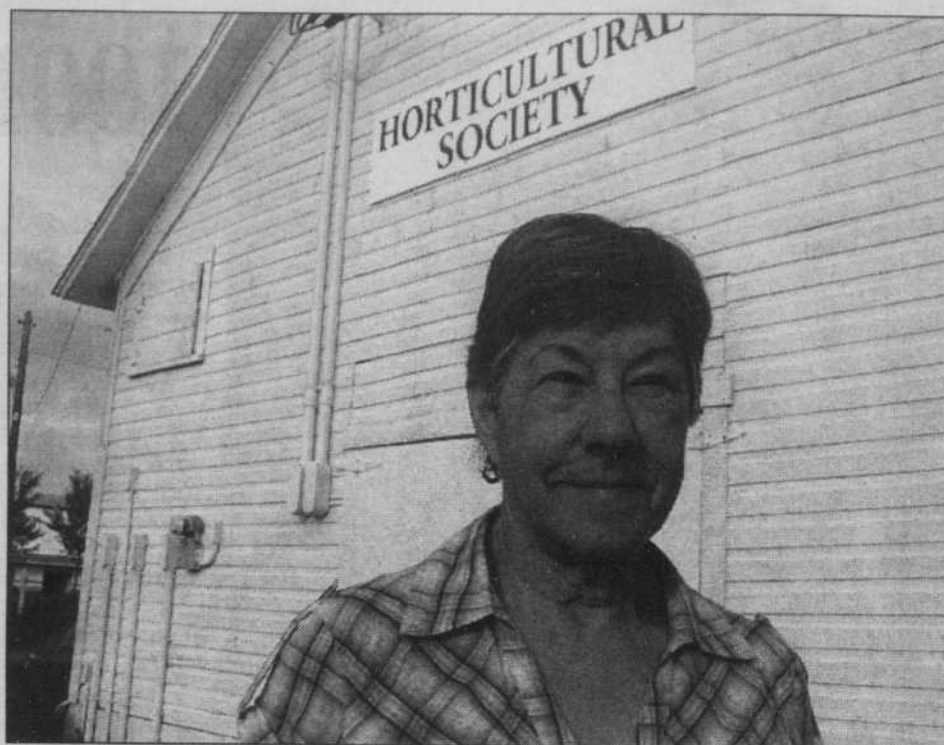
"Parents don't have the time to cook as much as before and in the heat of summer it's not easy to start cooking and making preserves, so there is less at-home teaching happening," says Arnett.

Adding a measure of sensitivity to the event's practices, only the names of those youths who have won in a given category are published.

Children five to seven years old can enter several categories, including "Best Lunch Box Snack", the Melinda Arnett-sponsored "Three Decorated Cupcakes" category and the Irene Hodorowski and Herbert Coles-sponsored "Decorated Vegetables" category.

"For children we also have 'Flower Display', 'Wood Display', 'Leaves Display', 'Three Carrots Display', 'Three Decorated Cookies', 'Decorated Cake', and 'Rice Krispies Squares'," adds Arnett.

For youths ages 12 to 17, categories include "Plate of Four Vegetables", the John McElroy Cleary "Gingerbread House and Scarecrow" categories, the Evelyn McMahon Grubb "Carved Pie Pumpkin", "Best Bread"



PHILIP A. GODIN

Brome County Horticultural Society Secretary Shirley Arnett is recruiting participants for the organization's 151st annual contest that challenges the county's bakers, gardeners and preserve makers to bring their best up for judging at this year's Brome Fair. Sign up before 6 p.m. Friday.

and the Knowlton Oddfellowes Lodge 28-sponsored "Decorated Vegetables".

Other youth categories are "Floral Arrangement", "Plant in Bloom", "Three Cucumbers", "Three Carrots", "Chocolate Layer Cake", "Iced Brownies", and finally "One Large Chocolate Chip Cookie".

Adult categories include a wide number of fruit, vegetables and plant displays, as well as cut flower arrangements and many types of preserves including vegetables, jams, jellies, marmalades, ketchups, pickles, relishes, berries and meatless spaghetti sauces among others.

Arnett has been volunteer coordinator for the event since 1995 and gets a lot of satisfaction from it. Her uninterrupted 24-year stint as sole provider of food services at Knowlton Academy may in part explain her penchant for getting kids involved in

food preparation.

The Horticultural Society manages the competition in collaboration with the Brome County Agricultural Society. Participants from around the province can submit entries, although residents of Brome County have priority admission.

To enter contact the Horticultural Society's offices at 450-263-1317, complete and submit the entry form before 6 p.m., August 10 along with a \$25 entrance fee which doubles as a pass for the four-day-long fair (on the Labour Day weekend).

Participants must deliver the items they area entering for judging before 9 p.m. on Thursday, August 30 or before 11 a.m. Friday, August 31. Only those contestants who are very certain of actually submitting an item should apply.

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SOCIAL NOTES

Fulford

Services at Fulford United have been rescheduled to August 19 and 26, 9:30 a.m.

It was good to chat with members of the Fessenden family, here for their reunion at Eben Eden, Sandy Knoll. Fessenden Falls remains accessible to Fulford residents thanks to the kindness of the family.

Get well wishes to Phyllis Hamilton of Granby from friends and acquaintances in Fulford.

- Margaret Fordham
450-539-0713

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A dog named Hope

DEAR EDITOR

I was one of the many dogs rescued by the SPCA Montérégie from a "puppy mill" in St. Matthieu de Laprairie on January 18, 2007. Left shivering in a cold dark barn without food or water for days on end, I never saw the light of day.

When I arrived at the shelter, I was given a warm bed with blankets. The shelter caregivers named me "Hope". My hope is that no other animals will have to suffer as I have.

My companions and I thank you for caring and for your generous donations to help us have a better life.

HOPE

as told to Jennifer Lancaster of Knowlton



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Shaw's wit mixes with God and humanity

A Buoyant review

By Alanna Fahey

BROME COUNTY NEWS CORRESPONDENT

If Bernard Shaw were alive today and had the opportunity to see his play *Buoyant Billions* performed at Arts Knowlton, he would have agreed with many in the audience. It is so well acted that one is completely taken by surprise when it is over.

The cast is outstanding and the actors understand every line and indeed know the true intent of the dialogue.

Buoyant Billions was written between 1946 and 1948 and true to Shaw's nature, it runs tight on witty banter while presenting a vigorous drama based on ideas centered around socialism, the majesty of the human consciousness and the validity of emotions.

The opening scene is riveting with Frank Fontaine as Father and Ian Lake playing his youngest son. Fontaine and Lake guide this play into the depths of its soul with all its ideas about existentialism, the political machine, mysticism, and the quantum physics theories that define humankind in science.

"I wasn't convinced it was the best choice for introducing Shaw to Lac Brome audiences," said director Nicholas K. Pynes, adding, "How can we resist the last full-length play that Shaw wrote? I hope you will find that it resonates with our contemporary lives."

And resonate it does, as the audience



Our reviewer loved *Buoyant Billions*.

seemed to be swept along with the wonderment of the acting, and they were encased with an awkward silence when the dramas of the characters were drawn out in a tone that was fitting to Shaw's razor sharp understanding of the meaning of cadence.

Mary Harvey, who plays an independently wealthy woman, looked after in the wilds of Panama by a seemingly ig-

norant native (portrayed by Neil Napier), fills the stage with a nonsense approach to her life. Napier's agility is flawless as he swings his character from ignorant native to wise sage by just a movement in his face.

Harvey's character — whose only fear, it seems, is to fall in love — gives the play a sauciness and with that premise at hand, along with the prospect of (her father) Buoyant's eminent death, the play takes off.

The audience is swept along on a carpet ride that flows over the landscape of religious, political and cultural ideologies.

When Doug Hooper, who deftly plays Buoyant's lawyer, meets the honorable priest (quietly played by Bill Jarand), it becomes clear that Hooper will develop the most during the course of the story, as with each encounter with Buoyant


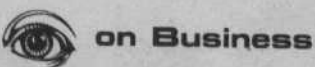
and his family his curiosity leads him to explore his own consciousness and to confront his fear of their frankness.

Yet it is the trio of characters, known as the Second Born, Second Born's Wife and Darkie, the Second Born's sister, that gives the play the fulcrum Shaw intended.

Shaw was forever questioning the scientific side of human life and consciousness and these characters (played with joyous abandon by Gregory Prest, Laura Teasdale and Laura Allen) explore the wonderment of the idea of true fusion with God, which Shaw suggests is not God at all, but something much more, a level of non-duality that supersedes the need for the creative Godhead. This gives to man the freedom to conjure his own affairs, and to experience the fullness of a love that comes from truly letting go.

Buoyant Billions' ensemble cast shines. The designs — costumes, sets and lighting — draw the audience members into the space that these characters occupy and it is just that space, that moment of realization, that there is a gap before a thought comes, when all the world is a stage and Shaw meant to expose it.

Shows are Aug. 11, 16, 21, and the 24th at 8 p.m. For reservations call 450-242-2270 and check out the website www.theatrelacbrome.ca for the entire summer schedule of professional plays.



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The 3rd Annual Picnic in the Park 50+ will be held Wednesday, Aug. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Davignon Park in Cowansville. There'll be information about the various services available to both the French- and English-speaking communities of our region. Yoga and Tai Chi are back again this year, and there will be sandwiches and refreshments and music (featuring Ralph Steiner). Don't forget to bring your chair, some protection from the sun and a friend or two. The more the merrier! Transportation may be available. Call 450-293-8583 or 1-866-890-5242. Admission is free. If it rains the event will be held at St-Leon school on Davignon Street across from the park. The organizing committee includes Amélie Casaubon (Town of Cowansville), Claudette Giguère (Community Development Corporation BM), Sonia Lessard (BM Care Givers Group), and George Courville (of the Townshippers' Association).

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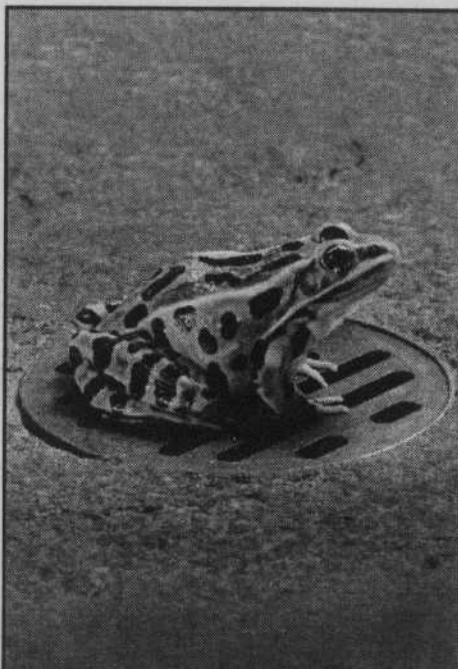
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Shirley's turning 80, she's still in great form
Cooking, cleaning, baking and gardening up a storm.
She's only slowed a little, but really not that much
And she's still great in the kitchen. She hasn't lost her touch.

She still keeps really active with events around the town
Dancing, walking, shopping and card parties all around
She helps out with the churches, she really helps a lot
And when we try to call her, she's often on the trot.

Your 4 children all love you, and help out when they can
Your in-laws all adore you and your 8 grandchildren too
You even have great-grandchildren and they love to come to play
You're already up to seven with one more on the way.

You get right to the point, we know what's on your mind
You teach us to be open, don't keep your thoughts inside
You set a great example for generations on
And we hope you keep on going, just watch out for the ice.

St. James Guild

St. James Guild, Foster met in the church hall at 2:00 p.m. on August 1, with nine members present. Muriel Whitehead opened the meeting with the Guild prayers, in the absence of the president, Frances Johnson.

The secretary, Carol Dunn, took the roll call and read the minutes of the previous meeting. They were adopted as read.

May Banks gave the treasurer's report. Doreen Gibbs moved that it be adopted as read.

Muriel, as corresponding secretary, read a thank you note from the Mizener family for the donation to Creek Church in Stella's memory.

The problem of low water pressure in the hall was discussed. Muriel will

ask Richard Price, as Warden, to see about it, as it makes for difficulty on card party nights. The air-conditioner has been moved and seems satisfactory now.

May is organizing a drawing to be held at the last card party in October. She read the list of prizes to date, and asked all members to try to donate something. Tickets will be sold at all up-coming card parties.

Nancy Dixon joined us for discussion of a supper to be held before the Aug. 27, Military Whist card party, to take the place of the usual refreshments.

The meeting closed with a prayer. Nellie Williams moved the meeting be adjourned.

Carol Dunn

Death



STEEL, Garnet James (1914 - 2007) - Passed away peacefully at B.M.P. Hospital, Cowansville, QC. on Saturday, August 4, 2007 in his 93rd year. Resident of Philipsburg, QC, husband of the late, Jean Catherine Watts. He leaves to mourn his daughter, Alison (Robert Crouse), Knowlton, and grandchildren, Christopher (Brigitte Lepage), St. Basile-Grande; Holly, Bromont; Sara (Nate Forster), Bondville; great-grandchildren, Maya, Brooke and Alexandra; sister, Olive (Allen Palmer), Bedford; brother-in-law, Robert Hanna (Ile Perrot); niece, Sylvia Skeels (the late Donald Skeels), Swanton, Vt.; nephews, Jim Hanna (Janet Evans), Ile Perrot; David Hanna (Cathy), Toronto. The family would like to sincerely thank all the 2nd and 3rd floor Doctor's and Nurses (especially, Sylvie Tremblay) for their care and compassion during this most difficult time. Funeral Service to be held on Thursday, August 9th, 2007 at St. Paul's Anglican Church in Philipsburg, QC at 11 a.m. Visitation shall take place at Joseph Dion et Fils Ltee Funeral Home, 215 rue Riviere, Bedford, QC on Wednesday, August 8th from 7 - 10 p.m., and on Thursday August 9th the Funeral Home will open at 9:30 a.m. A private Burial of Ashes will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the B.M.P. Foundation, Cowansville, QC.

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SHRINERS:

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"So many people right in my home town of Cowansville have used the hospital, or known someone who has had experience with the hospital," says Hastie.

"It's been there for over 80 years, there's no more talk of moving the hospital to London, or anywhere else. Why change something that isn't broken? When they build the Montreal super hospital, we'll be there with them."

The rodeo is not a fundraiser for the hospital, but rather a fraternal event and fundraiser. "This is our third year with the rodeo and it's becoming established as an important event, we'll start organizing even earlier next year. We're doing a lot of publicity in

newspapers, radio stations, even in St. Albans. We've had special prices on advance tickets, but there's still lots of room, people leave things to the last minute. They can buy tickets right at the gate."

The weekend starts with a no-admission Meet The Cowboys event and barn dance at the Saloon at the fairgrounds on Friday evening, Aug. 10.

The riding, roping and racing, thanks to Wild Time Productions, takes place 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

"We're all looking forward to the weekend," says Hastie. "The local boys have put some stuff together, a special train for the kids, not elaborate, but fun. We hope our neighbours will join in, get to know us better and see a really great rodeo."

Gate price is \$20; \$10 for under-14s.

Super Champ

COURTESY

Cowansville's Kevin Lamy, 18, will meet other young people from across the country at The War Amps National Headquarters in Ottawa next week. The "Super Champs" aged 10 to 18 are enrolled in Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program, taking part in the inaugural seminar of the Webmasters project. It provides provide training in the Web development field, with particular emphasis in creating websites, with the goal of providing skills leading to future employment. "Many organizations, mostly of the smaller variety, wish to set up a website but lack

the personnel to establish and maintain it. There is a very real potential for these Webmasters graduates to be hired by companies in need of these specialized skills," said War Amps CEO Cliff Chadderton in a release. "The War Amps call computers 'the great equalizer,' as they can be operated with very little physical input. By learning these skills at a young age, Webmasters graduates can be leaders in the computer field." The camp will be held from Aug. 13 to 17.



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