

Stephenson leaves lasting legacy in Brome Lake

By Sharon McCully

The Town of Brome Lake is a shade darker this week after losing one of its most stalwart luminaries and leaders, Signy Stephenson.

Stephenson, 69, died last Saturday morning, Dec. 9, as merchants in the Victorian town were bustling to hang lanterns and illuminate the streets for Midnight Madness, a weekend of festivities, shopping, music and mulled wine that she helped create, and most certainly would have been at the centre of.

In fact, there wasn't much that happened in the Town of Brome Lake in the last 30 years that didn't have Stephenson's thumbprint on it.

Stephenson, a public relations specialist and editor of Toronto's trendy

Style Magazine, and her husband, Michel Gabereau, a one-time TV cameraman, left their high-powered media jobs in 1988 to purchase a small inn, Auberge du Joli Vent on bucolic Bondville Road, a quiet tree-lined road facing beautiful Brome Lake. The couple used their business acumen and media savvy to transform the century-old farmhouse into a charming inn and meeting place for locals and visitors looking for great food and country-chic ambiance. A master at weaving a sow's ear into a silk purse, Stephenson capitalized on the building's somewhat scurrilous history as the scene of a 1900s murder with the lingering presence of the victim's ghost, parlaying it into a storied house, complete with light-hearted sightings and séances. She bolstered business in both

the inn and the town by hosting walking tours and informative sessions for Elderhostel guests, highlighting the Victorian history and architecture of Brome Lake.

After honing their hotelery skills for a decade, Stephenson and Gabereau purchased the historic Blinn Inn, a piece of Knowlton history, built in 1849 to accommodate stagecoach travelers, strategically situated in the heart of the village. With careful attention to detail, the couple refurbished the dilapidated building, preserving a historic landmark, and making it once again a central meeting place and focal point for every event staged in town.

Le Relais, which she skillfully and successfully managed with her husband

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Signy Stephenson

Faubourg Lac-Brome: To be or not to be?

By Ann Davidson

With three key wrinkles to be ironed out and a number of solid questions to be investigated, it looks like the proposed housing project, Faubourg Lac-Brome, could be moving forward. That said, the final decision will probably be in the hands of citizens living there and in adjacent

zones to what was the golf course on Lakeside Road in Foster. If the council receives adequate responses from the developer, Marc Brochu, related to the questions posed at the public consultation held on December 9 in Foster, the plan could move forward with a second draft to be passed by council at the January 2018 meeting.

The meeting was heavily attended

with standing room only by about 150 concerned citizens who came to learn the details of the proposed housing project on what was Club de Golf Lac-Brome property that stretches into a fragile wetland and feeder stream leading into Brome Lake.

Councillor Lee Patterson outlined the legal framework applied for such a proposed project. The method is referred to as SCAOPI (Specific Construction, Alteration or Occupancy Proposal for Immoveables bylaw). It serves as a way of "derogating from the provisions of the current urbanism bylaws (zoning, subdivision, construction, permits and certificates, etc. in order to allow the realization of a project in a given sector without making the regulatory adjustments that might normally be necessary." He explained that the method "allows a review of a project by merit and a particularized approval in an approach that may be termed project zoning. It facilitates the development of problematic sites and serves as an instrument of choice for large projects or with complexities inherent to their par-

ticular characteristics."

At this point, the application by the developer has already been filed with the TBL planning department. It has been sent to the Urban Planning Advisory Committee (CCU) and the Environment Committee (CEC) and has been analyzed. The CCU has submitted a recommendation for the developer's request with mention that there are three non-conforming elements in the current proposal.

1. There are six non-conforming lots in the plan that have frontage ranging from 64.69 metres to 100 metres whereby the zoning bylaw requires a minimum of 100 metres.

2. Whereas a zoning bylaw states that the minimum distance between certain new sections of road and a water course (stream) is 75 metres, the plan cites a

CONT'D ON PAGE 3

No paper next week, December 26. The next issue will be Wednesday, January 3.

Merry Christmas



ANN DAVIDSON

Councillors and project promoters of the proposed housing development in Foster met with citizens on December 9 to learn details and issues related to the plan that highlights the possible development at Club de Golf Lac-Brome in Foster.

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Brome County Community Bulletin Board

December 20

Sutton Legion Bingo every Wednesday at the Sutton Legion, 2 Curley St. Sutton. Jackpot of \$200 or more. Start at 6:30 p.m. Bring your friends and lucky charms. Info: 450 538-2864.

December 23

The Mental Health & Well-Being Support Group. Please phone Linda: 450-243-0928 or pleasantvalley001@gmail.com for the location of the meeting. Join us for an opportunity to share experiences in a safe environment and receive support, information, encouragement, and acceptance. Having support makes all the difference!

December 23

The Brome County Children's Museum and Gift Shop (130 Lakeside, Knowlton) are open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring the wee ones by for some fun and festive play time and browse our "Bounty of Brome County" boutique for fabulous gifts by local crafters, artists, and producers. Info: bromemuseum.com or 450-243-6782. Merry Christmas!

December 24

A Christmas Eve holy communion service will be held at All Saints Anglican Church, Main Street, Dunham, on Sunday December 24 at 9:30 p.m. Come and join us to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. All are sincerely welcome.

December 24

All you can eat brunch hosted by Sutton Legion, will be **canceled** December 24 and will resume January 2018.

December 24

St. James Anglican Church-Foster. We welcome you to join us on Sunday December 24 at 2 p.m. for a **Christmas Eve service**, Rev. George Campbell officiating. We are the little church on the hill, 725 Lakeside, Foster. Join us afterwards in the hall for a potluck Christmas buffet. Everyone is welcome. Call Kate at 450-539-1123.

December 30

The Brome County Children's Museum and Gift Shop (130 Lakeside, Knowlton) are open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring the wee ones by

for some fun and festive play time and browse our "Bounty of Brome County" boutique, which stocks locally created and crafted goods and products. Info: bromemuseum.com or 450-243-6782. Happy New Year!

December 31

Celebrate **New Year's Eve with Silverado** at Royal Canadian Legion Cowansville, December 31, 8 p.m. A light buffet will be served. Tickets \$20 available at the bar. Victoria Swift 450-531-5431.

January 6

The BCHS presents Lecture No. 1 of the **Marion Phelps Memorial Lecture Series with Jimmy Manson**. Starts at 1 p.m. in the Old Court House (15 St. Paul, Knowlton). Admission by donation. For lecture titles visit bromemuseum.com or call 450-243-6782.

CHURCH BULLETINS

ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH – DUNHAM

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

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BROME

Services are at 9 a.m. First Sunday of the month – Holy Trinity, Iron Hill; second Sunday of the month – St. John the Evangelist, Brome; third Sunday of the month – Church of the Ascension, West Brome; fourth Sunday of the month – St. Aidan, Sutton Junction. Canon Tim Smart, rector. Information: 450-538-8108.

BEDFORD PASTORAL CHARGE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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

Bedford.pastoral@yahoo.ca.

CALVARY UNITED CHURCH SUTTON

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

COWANSVILLE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Cowansville Community Baptist Church meets Sundays at 10 a.m., 137 rue John, Cowansville. Everyone is welcome.

CREEK/WATERLOO PASTORAL CHARGE

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve – worship and music. No morning services at St. Paul's United, 4929 Foster, Waterloo, family service at 7 p.m. At Creek United, 278 Brill Rd., West Bolton, communion service at 9 p.m.; Reverend Dave Lambie, minister. Sunday, December 31 – no services Creek United, 278 Brill Rd., West Bolton St. Paul's United, 4929 Foster, Waterloo, Reverend Dave Lambie, minister. For information or to leave a message call: 450-539-2129.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Come together for a thoughtful and spiritual experience and give yourself a good start to the week. Sunday worship is at 203 rue Principale, Cowansville, at 10:30 a.m. Sunday school is every third Sunday of the month. There will be one service on Christmas Eve beginning at 3:45 p.m. with a mini-concert performed by the Holy Stones, followed by our candlelight family service at 4 p.m. led by members of the Emmanuel United congregation. Come early to get a good seat! Please note that there will not be a worship service on Sunday, December 31. We serve the United Church communities of Brigham, East Farnham, Farnham, and Cowansville...but really anyone can find a home here. Give it a try and sample a Sunday. Wheelchair accessible. Church office: 450-263-0204. Website: emmanuelcowansville.ca.

ÉGLISE CATHOLIQUE ST. ÉDOUARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

366 Knowlton Road, Knowlton. You are invited to participate in a bilingual mass Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Christian meditation is now on Wednesday afternoons 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (side door). The group is now bilingual and has been formed to introduce meditation to newcomers. We welcome beginners and experienced meditators. Regular attendance not required. Information call Linda Spear: 450-538-2506.

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

www.gracechurchsutton.org.

GRANBY UNITED CHURCH

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

KNOWLTON-MOUNTAIN VALLEY PASTORAL CHARGE

Serving the regions of Knowlton, Bolton Centre, Mansonville, and Vale Perkins. Please note that there will be no 11 a.m. service on Sunday, December 24. Our Christmas Eve service will be held on December 24 at 7:30 p.m. led by the Rev. Steve Lawson at Knowlton United Church, 234 Knowlton Road. Please plan to join us for family worship and celebration in song and word. A warm welcome is extended to all.

LIVING HOPE CENTER

Living Hope Center, a full gospel church, meets on Sundays at 10 a.m. at 101 Albert Street, suite 1000 (under Uniprix) in Cowansville. For more information call pastor Tony Farrugia at 450-295-3573. Come and worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us.

ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

24 St. Paul's Road, Knowlton. St. Paul's – a dynamic, diverse community pursuing and serving Jesus in the Eastern Townships. 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services (traditional, contemporary, and modern music and format). Please check out our new website: www.stpaulsknowlton.ca. Everyone welcome! Telephone: 450-242-2885. Christmas events! December 20 – Messy Church Christmas 5-7 p.m. December 22 – service of hope 7 p.m. A time of reflection for those who find the holidays difficult. December 24 – 10 a.m.: The Fourth Sunday of Christmas. December 24 – 4 p.m.: Christmas Eve family service – Tree Decorating and a visit from Santa. December 24 – 9 p.m.: Classic Christmas Eve service – a traditional Christmas Eve. December 25, 11 a.m.: Christmas Day service.

TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

409 South Street, Cowansville. Christmas Eve, December 24 at 4:30 p.m., communion service to celebrate the birth of Jesus. All are welcome. New Year's Eve, December 31 at 10:30 a.m. worship service of carols, readings and prayers, as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus and ask God's blessing on 2018. All are welcome! Information: 450-955-3325 (leave message).

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The proposed Faubourg Brome Lake development plan

By Ann Davidson

With plans to divide the property into protected wetland, 343,076 square metres for single family dwellings on lots approximately 190 square metres, a commercial lot that would be 12,429 square metres, parkland amounting to 61,256 square metres, Marc Brochu's plan for Faubourg Lac-Brome, a low-density housing development takes into consideration the preservation of 3,584 square meters of artificial ponds, which will also be preserved.

Each house lot would represent approximately 1.5 per cent of the total size of the property. Houses would reflect the ancestral architecture of the area and would comply with the zoning bylaw (RBE-1-E16), in addition to meeting additional requirements of the developer. They must be a maximum of two stories high, have a minimum square footage of 1,200 for a one-story house, not including the garage. A two-story house must have at least 900 square feet per floor and the height restrictions of the buildings cannot exceed 12 meters. Cladding the exterior of the buildings would be restricted to a minimum of 75 per cent in wood. Additional cladding could be rock, brick, or engineered wood. Colours of the exterior would be restricted as

well. While black would be accepted as a secondary or trim colour, any colours that are bright, fluorescent, etc. would not be permitted. All new construction within the proposed development must be sanctioned by the promoter and the Town of Brome Lake before work commences.

The promoter would like to use the existing building on the golf club site for purpose of commerce. He suggests that it could become a grocery store or a day care or a dépanneur, making it more convenient for the people in that proximity.

Every house in the development would be required to have its own septic system and that complies with the MD-DELCC.s Isolated Residential Wastewater Disposal and Wastewater Treatment Regulations. According to engineer Nicolas LeBlanc of the Bromont-based firm, St. Georges Structures et Civil, the topography of the terrain makes surface water contamination unlikely as development is downstream from the village core of Foster.

Each house would be required to have its own well. The artesian wells would be located downstream of the village nucleus of Foster. Given the density of development and the general topography of the sector, it would be logically

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Citizens request environment impact study

By Ann Davidson

With 64 hectares of land at their back door potentially about to be developed, Foster residents came to hear about the project and expressed a number of concerns that require a certain level of scientific substantiation.

Standing out was the request from Renaissance Lac Brome for an environmental impact study to be undertaken and the results shared with citizens as well as issues about water.

Among more than two dozen questions posed was the concern about available potable water to sustain the entire area including the development and Foster village. John Mines said that he had recalled the town sourcing water supply in the 1990s when there was a crisis and that they could not find enough for to supply the demand at that point. Brian Catchpaugh queried the rationale of the topography related to water flow and the impact of people living in Foster Village. Chuck Christie asked that the issue of increased use of salt in the water systems be looked into in terms of affecting wells to dry up.

The following is a list of questions that Renaissance Lac-Brome Secretary

Pierre Beaudoin prepared in the wake of the heady but respectful two-hour meeting on Saturday, December 9.

- Was there a market study done, given that the lots on rue du Sanctuaire have remained unsold for at least 12 years? The promoter stated that the lots were assessed by a professional evaluator, but that no market study has been done. The promoter expects to sell these properties for an average of \$80,000, according to an auto-construct approach over several years. How can precautions be taken should the project, in the end, become a white elephant?

- Did the town carry out an economic analysis, given that additional tax revenues would not be forthcoming in the early years and that there would possibly be expenditures necessary for road maintenance, snow removal, the park, etc.; to which the town replied that no economic analysis had been carried out.

- Is the developer sure there would be no impact on the supply of potable water to neighbouring properties? The developer noted that a preliminary study by a hydrologist had been conducted, who had felt that, because the properties are situated at a lower altitude than the village of Foster, no impact

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Faubourg Lac-Brome

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

proposed distance of 25 to 75 metres. 3. The plan allows for the protected shoreline buffer to range from 15 to 45 metres, the existing bylaw requires a minimum of 45 metres despite the MRC's recommendations to allow for only 15 metres.

If the town passes a resolution granting approval to the developer for the Faubourg Lac-Brome project, the next step would be subject to the consultation and approval procedures set out in

the Act Respecting Land Use and Development. That means that a registry would be made available to citizens who object to the project, and if there would be enough voters, the issue would be taken to a referendum. Any citizen over 18 years of age living in the area of the land in question or in the zones immediately adjacent to it would have the right to register opposition. The town will advise only those households eligible when or if that would take place.

LETTERS

Water and electrical supply considerations for Foster

DEAR EDITOR:

I found that the promoter's presentation for the proposed Foster Golf Course development was well done and explained, but there are two items to which I believe should be given a bit more attention.

Water: It appeared that there was a lack of real understanding about the nature of potential water supply especially the difference between surface water supply and artesian water sources. The present artificial ponds are from all accounts supplied from Durrell Brook or surface water well nearby, not from artesian sources.

If the engineer for the project has as he stated obtained assurance from competent hydrologists that the surface or alternatively the artesian water supply is sufficient for 50 new wells, one may accept that explanation, although it would be comforting to be able to examine such report.

My concern is based on the fact that surface water in the gravel esker extending from Autoroute 10 all the way to and including the golf course has in large part been drained for the means of gravel excavation and most residents on that approximately two-mile long stretch have had to drill artesian wells.

If the new houses attempt to exploit surface wells they may have problems.

If the wells are artesian wells they should be okay but note that the explanation that the new wells will have no effect because they will be a lower elevation is not at all correct — artesian wells drilled in the same aquifer will actually rise to the same level as the existing ones nearby.

In any event let us hope that this has been all well thought through.

As for individual septic systems, in my opinion I see no problem with those if carefully installed.

Electricity: Since the removal of the Foster substation in 1956, the area has had to rely upon feed from Knowlton on the east side of Brome Lake — this line is subject to failure during major wind storms and ice storms — the west side of Brome Lake is hooked up alternatively and power outages are much less frequent.

With the advent of 50 new units (eventually) in the Faubourg de Lac Brome project it seems a good opportunity to ask Hydro to carefully consider connecting the 25,000-volt roadside power line to the closer and much more robust source at Waterloo. Hopefully Brome Lake council may consider making such a request.

Respectfully,

RICHARD PRICE
Foster

Thanks to our local newspapers

TO THE EDITOR:

I am so late for Thanksgiving, but please accept my apologies. In this age of online technology more and more small and large newspapers are shutting down. Can we all give a huge thank-you to our wonderful Sherbrooke Record, founded one hundred and

twenty years ago, and the miraculous Brome County News. Enjoy your well-deserved holidays...oh I forgot news happens every day, no time for relaxing. Thank you.

PHYLLIS SISE
Foster

Thanks Lucy for Midnight Madness

DEAR EDITOR:

On behalf of the merchants of the village of Knowlton I would like to most sincerely thank Lucy McAuley of Brome Lake Books for yet another year of wonderful organization and execution of our Midnight Madness event! The weather blessed us and the town was packed right up until closing

time — it will probably take some time for all of us owning businesses in town to recover but it was a delightful evening and most certainly enjoyed by all! Kudos Lucy!

JUDITH DUNCANSON
*A-la-Carte
Knowlton*

Trusting you to know what you think

DEAR EDITOR:

Recently, some residents of West Bolton have received emails from Paul Geoffrion asking them to mobilize against the new council's plan to explore a possible solution to the Domaine Mont Foster problem. It appears Mr. Geoffrion intends to use the same tactics and manipulation of the facts that he employed five years ago.

Now that I am no longer mayor, I feel free to express my personal opinion on this.

Over the past several years, West Bolton's council reached out in several ways to hear the concerns of all citizens.

In the summer of 2015, several hundred citizens participated in a public consultation process run by Trigone consultants for the purpose of helping us develop a strategic plan. These citizens identified three main issues they wanted us to address: fiscal health, environmental quality, and sense of community.

More specifically, participants developed 21 objectives they wanted council to work towards. I won't list all 21 objectives here, but they include identifying new revenue sources and housing options, reviewing zoning and other regulations, and creating walking paths.

Another objective was for council to exercise leadership in environmental protection. Accordingly, this year's environmental concerns survey was devised to help council set environmental priorities as it considers the very modest development citizens told us they also want.

I am pleased that Mr. Geoffrion thinks so highly of our survey that he quotes it in such detail. But the survey results represent only one aspect of what citizens have told us they want.

So I would like to remind Mr. Geoffrion, and all citizens, that the people you elect to represent you have a responsibility to pay attention to all the concerns you expressed when you helped us develop the strategic plan, and not just the single issue that is of interest to Mr. Geoffrion in his unelected role as an activist and critic.

And it's especially not his role to reinterpret what you the citizens told us.

DON BADGER
West Bolton

Foster communications officer seems expensive

DEAR EDITOR:

Regarding the move by the Town of Brome Lake to hire a communications officer, it seems that this move is very expensive given the size of the municipality.

The most objectionable aspect deduced from the posted job description (apart from the cost which will mean the paying of another professional salary plus all benefits and possible new secretarial help etc.) is that all communications with all staff of the town including councilors will have to be funneled through the new officer.

Does this mean (as it states) that instead of contacting the councilor, residents will have to be content to make a

complaint only through the communication officer?

If this is to be held as a hard and fast new routine, the council should come out and explain/admit the fact. If true this will allow especially the councilors, the opportunity to duck the responsibility of answering directly to their constituents.

It is obviously too late to cancel the job now that it has been offered and possibly filled, but it seems that more effort should have been made to accommodate communication with the public, with existing staff.

Regards,

CHUCK CHRISTIE
Foster

Brome County NEWS



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Editor's note

The deadline for the January 3 issue of Brome County News is noon, Friday, December 22.

There is no paper on Tuesday, December 26.



Season's Greetings

Santa-worthy cookies

(NC) Whether you're participating in a cookie exchange with friends or making a treat for St. Nick, add these adorable reindeer cookies to your holiday baking this year.

As sweet to look at as they are to eat, the salty pretzel antlers complement the season's favourite flavours of ginger, cinnamon cloves and sweet molasses. These homemade treats won't break the bank either. Costing \$0.25 each, buying all ingredients at Walmart can help stretch your holiday dollars further.

Ginger-Molasses Reindeer Cookies

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour

Makes: 35 cookies

Ingredients:

- 1-3/4 cups (425 mL) flour
- 1 tsp (5 mL) baking soda
- 1 tsp (5 mL) ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) cloves
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 egg

- 1/4 cup (60 mL) fancy molasses
- 70 mini pretzel twists
- 1 package (200 g) prepared red cookie icing
- 70 candy eyeballs

Directions:

1. Heat oven to 325F (160C). Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, ginger, cinnamon, salt and cloves.
3. In a large bowl using a hand mixer or in the bowl of a stand mixer, cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy; about 2 minutes. Add egg and molasses, mixing until fully combined. In 2 equal parts, add flour mixture, mixing until just combined.
4. Roll dough into 1 tbsp. (15 mL) balls and place on prepared baking sheets 1 1/2 inches apart, pressing down lightly with palm. Place two pretzels next to one another 1/4 inch (0.5 cm) inside the edge of each cookie to resemble antlers; press pretzels lightly to adhere to cookie dough.
5. Bake in batches until just set; about 12 minutes. Let cool 4 minutes on sheets before cooling completely on racks. Once cooled, use cookie icing to adhere candy eyeballs to cookies and draw noses. Allow to set completely.

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Season's Greetings

5 fantastic movies to watch over the holidays

(NC) 'Tis the season for staying at home and binge-watching movies. Here are a few great flicks to take you through the holiday season into the new year:

Elf. This modern take on standard holiday fare has quickly become a classic. Will Farrell is hilarious as an oversized elf with the unbridled enthusiasm of a five-year-old. If you're looking for a holiday comedy for the entire family, this is it.

Home Alone. Macaulay Culkin stars as eight-year-old Kevin McCallister, a boy who finds himself having to defend his family's home from two crooks looking to rob it after mistakenly being left behind by his parents. The complicated traps, over-the-top slapstick and excellent one-liners make this flick one of the best. Skip the sequels, though — there's nothing quite like the original.

A Christmas Story. This treasure follows Ralphie, a young boy in the 1940s, and his quest to convince everyone with authority in his life, including Santa,

that a Red Ryder B.B. gun is a safe and practical Christmas present. But it's the subtle and not-so-subtle detail that make the film a true gift.

Lord of the Rings trilogy. When the holiday events wind down, you're ultimately left with more time on your hands. When this happens, what's better than burning through three well-shot, well-acted and intense fantasy movies? This trilogy is perfect for soaking up all that extra free time. The extended version comes highly recommended, giving you nine hours of adventure.

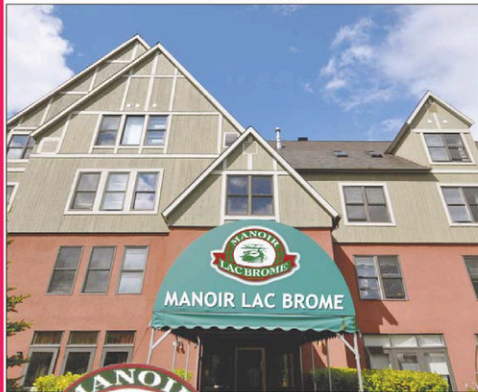
Blade Runner. As we peer over the edge of 2017 and look forward into the future, there's nothing like watching a bleak alternate future to remind us that things aren't as bad as they seem in the world. Set in 2019 Los Angeles, the film tells the story of Rick Deckard and his quest to track down four artificial humans as they search for their creator. Dark, gritty and futuristic, Blade Runner is a must watch. It's also fun to



see what the '80s thought the future 2049 now in theatres, reliving the first one is a must. With Blade Runner

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Season's Greetings

The legend of the Christmas Tree

A little holiday humour

What kind of bird can write?

A pen-guin

What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective?

Santa Clues!

Why did they let the turkey join the band?

Because he had the drum sticks.

What do you when if you cross an apple with a Christmas tree?

A pineapple.

Two little children were sitting by the fire one cold winter's night. All at once they heard a timid knock at the door, and one ran to open it.

There, outside in the cold and the darkness, stood a child with no shoes upon his feet and clad in thin, ragged garments. He was shivering with cold, and he asked to come in and warm himself.

"Yes, come," cried both the children; "you shall have our place by the fire. Come in!"

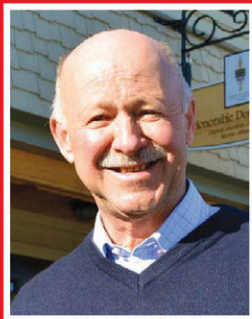
They drew the little stranger to their warm seat and shared their supper with him, and gave him their bed, while they slept on a hard bench.

In the night they were awakened by strains of sweet music and, looking out, they saw a band of children in shining garments approaching the house. They were playing on golden harps, and the air was full of melody.

Suddenly the Stranger Child stood before them; no longer cold and ragged, but clad in silvery light.

His soft voice said: "I was cold and you took Me in. I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was tired, and you gave Me your bed. I am the Christ Child, wandering through the world to bring peace and happiness to all good children. As you have given to Me, so may this tree every year give rich fruit to you."

So saying, He broke a branch from the fir tree that grew near the door, and He planted it in the ground and disappeared. But the branch grew into a great tree, and every year it bore wonderful golden fruit for the kind children.



**Honourable
Denis Paradis**
Member of Parliament for
Brome-Missisquoi

**I feel blessed to be the MP of one of the
greatest ridings in Canada.**

I wish you all a great holiday season!

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!*

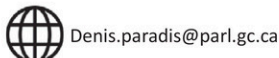
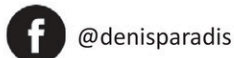
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LA DOLCE VITAE

Simple holiday entertaining



TAYNA BARDATI

This year, for some reason, I am having a hard time getting into the holiday spirit. Blame it on the late winter weather or just my busy schedule, I found myself looking for tricks to simplify getting ready for the holidays. Between my adult son home from university and attending the Nutcracker ballet recently, simple preparation is what is called for these days.

1) Sticking to two to three colours for decorations: There is no need to have your house look like the Christmas rainbow exploded. Keep it simple by choosing a few colours for your decorations. You also don't need to cover every corner of the outside

or inside of your house. Sometime, a bit of a relief from the holiday glam is what is needed. If you are receiving guests this year, focus on the areas that your guests will be spending the most time in: living room, dining room, and kitchen.

2) Instead of buying new china and glasses, consider renting dishes and flatware for your holiday get-together. Some rental places will even allow you to return glasses and plates rinsed but not washed. This may save you on time and you don't have to store these items year-round.

3) Candlelight makes for beautiful settings but if you are having small children and pets as guests, choose battery operated votives or pillars to avoid accidents and allows you to enjoy the get-togethers without stress.

4) You can replace the holiday floral centerpiece on your table by replacing this with a holiday scene, using a gingerbread house or even ceramic village miniatures. Add pine or fir branches and voila, instant holiday spirit.

5) Test your lights before placing them in your indoor or outdoor trees. Nothing is more frustrating than wrapping a tree with lights only to have half of the lights work. Always have a few spare bulbs on

hand if the lights don't work. When purchasing new lights, opt for the lights that are independent from each other, this way, if one light burns out, it isn't the whole strand that goes out.

6) Make your own decorations: One year, I opted to decorate with all homemade decorations and it brought a whole new feel to the holidays. Simple decorations like homemade gingerbread men, popcorn or cranberry garlands, and paper snowflakes will bring the vintage hohoho back to your entertaining.

7) A fireplace adds beauty and warmth but can heat up a room full of people rather quickly. If you can, opt for an electric fireplace that has the option of cutting the heat (only lights) or use your TV and place it on the fireplace channel (every year, there is always one, or buy a holiday DVD with fireplace/holiday scene and music). If this is still not an option, use battery-operated pillar candles and create a fireplace setting with these.

8) Wrap your chandeliers with a simple fir garland or Christmas lights to add instead holiday decorations. Another easy way is to add Christmas paper cut-outs to your plain lampshades with temporary tape or glue.

9) Make your own holiday fragrance by heating a small bowl of water with either fir or cinnamon essential oils over a votive candle or investing in a simple diffuser. You can also get real fir garlands and cinnamon sticks to place around your sitting areas.

10) Instead of getting Christmas tablecloths, that are used only once a year, think of purchasing bolts of colourful fabrics and draping your table with these. No sewing required, just make sure you have enough to drape all the way to the floor. If you don't buy too Christmassy colours, you can easily use these all year round, just change the centerpiece to reflect the season. Greens can be used any time of the year, as well as blues, whites, silvers, and golds.

Remember to take some time for yourself this holiday season. Preparing ahead and getting everyone to contribute leaves you more time to enjoy the festivities.

— Tayna Bardati is an Interior Designer, Home Staging Expert and most recently, a residential real estate broker in Brome-Missisquoi (www.creationstayna.com), follow her on Facebook @ Tayna Bardati courtier immobilier résidentiel, or on twitter #deco21girl.

BCHS makes special request

Brome County Historical Society

DEAR MR. CLAUS:

We know you are very busy this week so we won't take up too much of your time inquiring about your health and that of Mrs. Claus, the elves, and the reindeer. In lieu of said formalities, we are sending you a case of our finest elderberry juice from Vitality to ensure that you are all in good shape for Christmas and beyond. Rich in Iron, Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium, and Phosphate as well as Vitamins A, B-6, and C, the pretty purple juice is a super an-

tioxidant, immune booster, and anti-viral elixir. It also speeds up recovery following strenuous athletic activity, an apt-enough description of the work you do every December!

Mr. Claus, the boys and girls of Brome County and beyond have been extra good and kind this year! They turned out in large numbers with their families to make and deliver special Valentine cards to seniors in our community and to create unique post-cards for men and women serving in our Canadian Armed Services. They were also very well behaved when they visited our Brome County Museum with their families, teachers, and

classmates to learn about local history and take part in our special old-time activities, like sugaring-off, butter churning, and ice cream making.

In the wake of such a great year at the Brome County Museum, we would like to request that you bring BCHS memberships to as many of those boys and girls and their families as possible so they might enjoy many more opportunities to participate in our fun and educational programming in 2018. Membership cards are a snap to wrap, unbreakable, require no batteries, and are guaranteed to bring joy to the recipients for one full year. Furthermore, when used according to the

simple directions ("use often"), they increase knowledge of history and cultivate appreciation for heritage and culture.

We sincerely hope you will consider our request, Mr. Claus. We wish you a safe and happy journey around the world on Christmas Eve and invite you to stop by the Brome County Museum for a cup of Virgin Hill coffee and a Turkey Hill chocolate bar. We are also leaving out some museum-made Great War iron rations for the reindeer.

Sincerely,

THE STAFF AND BOARD MEMBERS OF THE BCHS

Stephenson leaves lasting legacy

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

and staff, was 'the' place to sample every manner of duck concoction during the Duck Festival which she enthusiastically promoted, and a hub for post-theatre and post-town council de-briefings.

It was there that Stephenson often 'held court', brainstorming with community leaders about ways to churn the town's cachet into cash for merchants, mapping out strategies to brand Knowlton's unique qualities, planning events like the Literary Festival, Midnight Madness, the Dog Pageant, House and Garden Tour, and Festival of Lights. Stephenson was key to these sessions for several reasons: she knew people, she knew media, and she worked doggedly to make every project she had a hand in a success.

As cream naturally rises to the top, Stephenson was the crème de la crème of Brome Lake. She served as a councillor on Brome Lake's town council representing Foster and is credited with saving the local railway sta-

tion from oblivion and converting it to a tourist bureau. She was president of Theatre Lac Brome and spearheaded the campaign to purchase the land for the new theatre, securing a place for live theatre in the town for years to come. Stephenson's creativity and vision are behind many of the innovative initiatives undertaken by merchants and groups in Brome Lake to promote the town. She helped select the homes for the House and Garden tour, and secured and hosted guest writers for the Literary Festival. Her skills as a media maven with a substantial list of contacts were put to good use promoting the town, its events and history, both in Quebec and beyond.

In addition to her many achievements in Brome Lake which will be her legacy, she was a devoted mother to two children and two stepchildren, a loyal and supportive figure to a large and eclectic circle of friends, and an inspiration to all who crossed her path.

The Record joins the community in extending sincere condolences to her husband Michel, her children Georges and Aileen, her stepchildren Morgan and Eve, her grandchildren, and her many friends and family members.



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Brome Lake's commercial district facing many changes

By Ann Davidson

In keeping with the tourism plan presented last April at a public meeting by TBL councillor Louise Morin to make some changes to the municipality's commercial district in the centre of Knowlton, Mayor Richard Burcombe announced the purchase of the building at 10 Lakeside Road in Knowlton for an amount of \$460,00.

Along with the purchase of Mill Pond Plaza in the early summer the two acquisitions represent an \$845,000 investment toward planned enhancement of the commercial area of Brome Lake.

With both buildings slated for demolition, the eventual open space in the area surrounding Pettes Memorial Library is to be designated as a public space that will see an enlarged park by the Blackwood Dam and Mill Pond. The plan at this point is to also make more parking available as well as to move the farmers market from where it has been located on Maple Street.

However, given that the town hall will be undergoing major renovation, Burcombe says that some of the town offices will be set up at 10 Lakeside as a temporary measure. Lucy Hoblyn and Danny McAuley, owners of Brome Lake Books, say that their store will be moving from its location at 10 Lakeside to the building that was formerly Jones New York. The timing of relocation is yet to be determined but Hoblyn believes it will be some time in April. Lynn Matthews at La Vie Sucrée, in the same building, will be closing at the end of this month while she hopes to find a smaller space to accommodate her downsized business that will continue to feature her famous fudge. The big challenge is to find something smaller than the space she has been renting that will be affordable.

Meanwhile, other changes have taken place in the same proximity. Designer Christine Gosme has moved from the Boardwalk to 11 Lakeside and La Pikenya shifted from Mill Pond Plaza to where Gosme had a storefront. Barnes Home Hardware is delighted with their move from its long-time home on Victoria Street to the Korvette building on Knowlton Road. And Tom McGovern has taken the bold initiative to open a thrift shop in the back of the building where Barnes was before moving.

Word last week about the Woolrich store closing has yet to be confirmed in writing by the head of-



ANN DAVIDSON

The building at 10 Lakeside in Knowlton has recently been bought by TBL and will serve as temporary office space while the town hall is undergoing renovation.

office, according to manager Chantal Cloutier. The Woolcan Inc. office located in Montreal has advised BCN that a press release concerning this situation will be issued by the US-based head in the coming days. Citizens of TBL have expressed great concern over the potential loss of six jobs as well as the overall impact on the town's commercial district. Just in 2017 they witnessed the closing of Athletica, Le T-Room, The Tuxen, and several other businesses.

However, with closings there have been openings. Jack Walker has repurposed the England Hill store while maintaining some of its original integrity to be a gallery for art installations or even a reception space. It's located between the icon Camlen store on Lakeside Road and Café Florale. An easy walk down the hill from Café Florale is a new shop that specializes in fresh produce at affordable prices (Fruiterie 243).

According to Morin, the town's tourism plan falls inside the guidelines of "Coeurs Villageois," which helps a municipality to develop its living environment in a harmonious way while enhancing its tourist attractiveness while retaining its personality and characteristics. The development of a tangible plan to beautify and enhance its existing distinctive features is central to the concept. The object to strengthen local identity and develop a personalized welcome to visitors is key to sustainable tourism that includes ecology and economy. Being certified as a Coeurs Villageois town gives authorized recognition by Tourism Eastern Townships within its promotional campaign.

Fire leaves two women homeless

By Ann Davidson

The fire that broke out in a building owned by Carolyn Smart on Paige Road in West Bolton on the morning of December 14 left Shelley Whitehead and her mother, Darlene Lennox, outside in the perilously sub-zero conditions of last Thursday morning with little more than pyjamas on. Lennox didn't even have time to put footwear on and was found standing in the freezing snow with bare feet while they watched their rented apartment being razed. In the advent of winter and festive holidays they are left homeless and with little resources to recover.

Both ladies were taken to the hospital for observation. As it turns out, Lennox, the mother of locally known musician Rusty James Whitehead, was suffering from smoke inhalation. Because she had undergone heart surgery only nine days prior to the fire, she was put in an induced coma to avoid

more complications and remains in hospital. His sister Shelley is staying with friends for the time being until Lennox's health allows her to be part of finding new digs. Smart is currently staying in British Columbia while her home and the building on the same property that was demolished in the fire were rented. Smart will be returning to West Bolton to deal with insurance adjusters at some point in the new year.

According to TBL Councillor and fireman Lee Patterson, the call that was received by the TBL Fire Department at 7:30 a.m. brought support from as far as Sutton, Cowansville, Farnham, and Bromont. An unidentified neighbour saw the flames shooting from the windows and made the 911 call. An investigation is being undertaken to determine the cause but Patterson says it is likely accidental. Jennifer Ruggins-Muir of TBL has set up a Go-Fund Me page for anyone interested in donating to the cause.

Pet Of The Week — Apache

Hello! I'm a black and white male cat with beautiful, graceful whiskers — just look at my eyebrow whiskers — delicate and ethereal! We don't know how old I am but I do know that I have been here since April! Really, it's incredible — there are so many cats here at the shelter — we're full — there is a waiting list to get to stay in this nice cozy place — and there are thousands and thousands who are not as lucky as me!



I hope someone will adopt me for two reasons: first, I would love to have a home of my own, but also if I left there would be a space for another cat who is waiting! Please, please, why are there so many of us? Come on humans, I've heard of this thing called "sterilization." Is that something that could help us?

Happy holidays! We are closed for adoptions until Saturday, December 30.

SPCA Montérégie, 178, ch. du Vide, Ste-Angèle-de-Monnoir (exit 37 on autoroute 10).

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Find the right person for the job in advertising in our **Career Section**. Many Record readers want a career change and are looking for a new job. Shouldn't your ad be in The Record's Career Section? For reservations or further information, please call

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Card of Thanks

Thank you

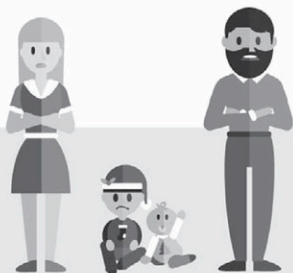
To all the citizens of West Bolton, the Mayors and my MRC colleagues who gathered on Sunday afternoon at Auberge Le Relais to make my retirement party such a success.

It has been my honour to serve West Bolton for 42 years and I thank you all for your support over those years.

Sincerely,

Don Badger

Holidays can be complicated for parents.



Our legal information articles explain the rules on child custody. We can help. Get informed. educaloi.qc.ca/child-custody



PUBLIC NOTICE

BUDGET 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given of the following:

The Municipal Council will hold a special sitting to adopt the Town's 2018 budget, its three-year capital expenditures program for years 2018, 2019 and 2020 and the following by-laws:

- By-law providing for the adoption of the budget and the imposition of general and special property taxes for the year 2018;
- By-law decreeing tariffs for the financing of certain goods and services for the Town for year 2018.

At that sitting, the deliberations of the Council and the question period must deal exclusively with these matters.

This meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., at Buchanan Hall of Centre Lac-Brome, 270 Victoria Street, Brome Lake.

Given at Town of Brome Lake This December 19, 2017

Gilbert Arel
 Director General
 Assistant Town Clerk

In Memoriam

BAILEY - In memory of Allen Bailey who left us on December 18, 1995.
 22 years have passed
 And we still miss you.
 Until we meet again.

Love
 SHARON
 SHELLEY (daughter)
 BRIAN (son)

In Memoriam

HARVEY, Kevin Allen: May 23, 1963 - December 21, 2000.
 Our tears may fall a little less
 But we speak of you often
 And reminisce of times
 You were here with us.
 We miss you oh so very much,
 Especially when Christmas time is near.
 We will never stop loving or missing you.

BARBARA AND JUNIOR
 (Mom and dad)
 LLOYD AND MARK
 (brothers)
 JANICE AND TRUDY
 (sisters)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR MINOR EXEMPTION

These applications for minor exemptions will be heard at a sitting of Council to be held on January 8th, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Buchanan Hall, Centre Lac-Brome, 270, Victoria Street, Brome Lake.

Persons interested by these applications are invited to attend this meeting and communicate their observations.

Application no. 367

39 Mill Road, lot 3 939 935, zone AF-13-H8

Nature and effects of the application:

Request to rebuild a detached single-family residence on an existing foundation located at a distance of 8.92 metres from the front property line. Annex VII of Zoning By-Law no. 596 concerning siting standards per zone, sets the front setback for the AF-13-H8 zone at 10.5 metres.

Application no. 368

10 Freytag Road, lot 3 939 870, zone ID-10-P9

Nature and effects of the application:

Request to rebuild a detached single-family residence destroyed by fire on an existing foundation located at a distance of 1.98 metres from the front property line. Annex VII of Zoning By-Law no. 596 concerning siting standards per zone, sets the front setback for the ID-10-P9 zone at 10.5 metres.

Application no. 369

1163 Knowlton Road, lot 3 940 050, zone UC-1-M2

Nature and effects of the application:

Request to legalize the overall height of 6.7 metres and the superficial area of 9.9 metres of the existing sign. Annex IV of Zoning By-Law no. 596 concerning sign standards per zone, sets the maximum overall height of a sign at 6 metres and the superficial area at 6.5 square metres for the UC-1-M2 zone.

Application no. 370

603 Lakeside Road, lot 4 265 251, zone RBE-2-E16

Nature and effects of the application:

Request to build an accessory building and reconstruct retaining walls located entirely within the protected shoreline of the Quilliams wetland. Article 80 of Zoning By-Law no. 596 prohibits all construction and work in the protected shoreline of watercourses, lakes and wetlands.

Application no. 371

570 Knowlton Road, lot 5 272 911, zone UC-4-L13

Nature and effects of the application:

Request to install a sign between the windows located on the first storey of the building. Annex IV of Zoning By-Law no. 596 concerning sign standards per zone, stipulates that signs must be located beneath the first storey windows.

Given at Brome Lake This December 19, 2017

Gilbert Arel
 Assistant Town Clerk

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REACT NOW!

The proposed Faubourg Brome Lake development plan

unlikely that the new development would have an impact on existing artesian wells and the risk of well contamination would be lessened since the use of pesticides and fertilizers would be reduced since it would no longer be a golf course.

A one-kilometre linear path for walkers to make their way along Durrell creek leading to a park, as well as the tourism office and other linear parks that are part of the town's plan would

be made available for all citizens of TBL. The wetland would be offered as a gift to a conservation organization for preservation purposes and could eventually be an area with walking paths that respect the vulnerable state of wetlands.

LeBlanc reminded everyone that golf courses pose much more negative environmental impact with approximately 90 per cent open grassland that needs constant upkeep and fertilization that drains into the closest water sources. At

present the golf course contravenes Law 596 since lawn mowing is, in many cases, done up to the high water mark. As well, no measures have been taken to prevent storm runoff and sedimentation.

The developer plans to renaturalize the area by implementing shoreline restoration practices, replanting inside the buffer zone, create structures to prevent or slow down runoff, and reduce the use of fertilizer and pesticides with

the hopes of stabilizing the aquatic life, improving the water quality and preventing invasive plants. He assures the community that all bylaws legislated by TBL and the MRC Brome-Missisquoi would be adhered to.

LeBlanc concluded the presentation by reminding all that there is actually enough area on the property to build 100 houses. They are restricting the project to 48.

Citizens request environment study

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3



ANN DAVIDSON

John Mines of Foster questioned the TBL town representatives and the developer of Faubourg Lac-Brome about the potential impact on potable water supply, which has always been a premium in TBL.

on the water table was foreseen.

A citizen stated that most of the lots (70 per cent) were at the same altitude as the village of Foster; another called for a proper study by a hydrologist as an essential pre-condition before going farther with the project.

Still on the theme of potable water supply, the developer said that the amount of water pumped for irrigation by the golf course for irrigation was greater than the amount that would be needed for the 50 homes in the project; several citizens remained puzzled because the situation is not comparable (drought versus ongoing supply, ground water, water from artesian wells).

What is the logic of the town allowing this unserved development, while there is a long-standing need in the Foster and north-of-Lakeside sectors for a local wastewater treatment system? The town replied that such an approach had been considered, but because it would have delayed the project for several

years, given that the requirement to include this area in the urban perimeter had already been refused by Quebec in January 2013.

What about the quality of the soil particularly in the rue du Sanctuaire sector, to ensure that wastewater was properly treated and the water table not contaminated? The developer stated that percolation tests had been carried out; the citizen insisted that a more complete study be carried out.

Can a parking lot be laid out on the site adjacent to the tourism office to provide public access, which could be situated on the two reversed gradient lots (the former golf range), for sports activities? The town indicated its possible interest in acquiring the property.

Someone asked about the town's regulatory process (use of the PPCMOI, the bylaw that allows block amendments to the zoning bylaw) in relation to the Comprehensive Planning Program (PAE), which is provided for in the master

plan, the planning program, and is much stricter in terms of management of the territory. The town noted that it had made this choice for reasons of flexibility and to accelerate the project.

A citizen said she was uneasy about the enlargement of the commercial uses in the zone, because this could compromise other neighbouring businesses, specifically the convenience stores (dépanneurs) and a neighbouring daycare centre. The town indicated that the "local businesses" land use would be allowed. This was questioned by another citizen who maintained that the only local business to be allowed in this zone should be directly related to recreational activities.

A citizen asked why it was necessary for the developer to obtain so many exemptions to the existing bylaw and whether it would not be possible to develop a project that would follow the rules, especially since the property is not yet subdivided. The developer stated that it would be very difficult to put in place an economi-

cally viable project while respecting all the norms.

Another person expressed concern about lighting from the development causing interference with the night sky.

The developer said that there was no specific access provided to the lake in this project.

He also noted that the access and exit for Sanctuaire on Lakeside Road would not be used by emergency services.

A second draft of the project, with or without modifications, should be adopted by the town council in the coming weeks or months, opening the door to a referendum on the matter (petition to open a register, opening the register, and the referendum, if necessary) by the citizens of the 13 contiguous zones.





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The BCN office will be closed the following days during the holidays: December 25 and 26 and January 1.

There will be no BCN published on December 26, 2017.

We would like to take this time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

The B.C.N. staff

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