

Focus on Kilimanjaro

by *Nathalie Désilets*
Citizen of Shefford

When I told my friends and family that I wanted to join a group that is leaving for Kilimanjaro, the reaction was unanimous: Don't you have enough to do already!!! I acknowledge that, from the outside looking in, their reaction is understandable. Indeed, at age 41, I have just barely finished two years of full-time breast-feeding, my sweet babies are two and three years old, and they are only in daycare part-time. I have three careers going at once, including a new one that has demanded a major financial investment. In addition, I have completely neglected my body for the last five years and have been limping along with an inflammation in my heel which means, that at the moment, I cannot walk long distances... A mere detail in the face of a 6,000-meter ascent! So I can say that, in terms of my fitness, availability and finances, the timing is definitely not



ideal. Am I a dreamer, a blind optimist, unrealistic, oblivious...or just plain crazy, as my mother would say! We'll know the answer in September 2007!

What motivates me about this project is the cause: the construction of a regional home for palliative care by Fondation Au Diapason. This organization has been supporting terminally-ill people and their families through the end-of-life stage for twenty years. There are many good causes, of course, but this one affects us all. We all hope that we will never need such an organization, but life being what it is, none of us are immune from such a situation occurring, for ourselves, or for someone we love. This house will provide end-of-life care, free of charge, for anyone with a guarded prognosis of two months, living in the Haute-Yamaska, Brome-Missisquoi or Acton areas, without distinction as to age, religion or culture. The project will require \$3.6 million for construction and for the first year of operation, most of it to come from donations and fundraising.

Thirty-nine of us will be making the ascent of Mount Kilimanjaro, in Africa. We have to raise \$8,000 each and pay for our own travel expenses. Knowing that I will have contributed to this house, if only by funding the purchase of soft sheets, a comfortable mattress, and a minimal part of the operating costs, makes me happy. I feel like I am mobilizing, on a very small scale, a positive energy of mutual assistance that, I hope, will spread to other people. In addition, the project will allow me to surpass my own limits, to get back into shape so that I can climb trees with my two angels, and be with them, in good health, for a very long time to come.

I invite everyone in the region to make a gesture, no matter how small. You can visit our group's website at www.audiapason-kilimanjaro.org, or mail a cheque directly to me, to the order of "Au Diapason-Kilimanjaro", at #62 du Grillon, Shefford, Québec J2M 1K8. You can also contact me for information at 450 539-5410, or at amaranthe@sympatico.ca. All donations for \$20 or more will receive a receipt from Fondation Au Diapason.

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A Word from the Mayor

Some Thoughts on Lighting

by Yves Gosselin
Mayor

We hear a lot about global warming, water pollution, air pollution, sustainable development. But not much is said about visual pollution. What is it exactly?

"Visual pollution is the term given to unattractive visual elements of a vista, a landscape, or any other thing that a person might want to look at." (Source: Wikipedia). In a broader sense, it is anything that alters the environment.

Poorly maintained lots, where all kinds of litter, discarded objects, even junk cars, etc. are allowed to accumulate, substandard billboards, these are just a few examples of visual pollution.

But there is another form of pollution growing in the township: "overlighting". Security lighting on your property is important, to avoid injury, prevent crime, etc. But does it have to be as bright as a street light? Do you really need those big "sentry" lights perched on a pole? Do you really need lighting that is as bright as day?

There are lighting systems that focus the



light where you really need it. Their power is sufficient to secure your surroundings without upsetting your neighbours, the environment and wildlife.

Have you ever considered shutting off your "sentries" when you go to bed, and only leaving on enough outdoor lights to keep your home secure?

I realize that many of our citizens once lived in cities and they are used to bright lights. But didn't you choose to live in the country because of its beauty and its quiet? Do you really want to turn it into a big suburb?

It is important, therefore, to think about ways of reducing lighting. Speak to your local merchants. Surely there are items (such as shields) that will allow you to keep your home secure without "overlighting" the neighbourhood. And don't forget that there is a municipal by-law on this. We would like to convince you of the necessity of preventing visual pollution to protect your quality of life, rather than chasing after offenders.

Think about it!

To make it easier to reach the Municipal Staff

The main phone number of the Municipality is 450 539-2258.

Dial the following extensions to speak to:

Yves Gosselin, Mayor	228
Sylvie Gougeon, General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer	224
Councillors office	229
Julie Guilmain, Building Inspector	234
Marc Cournoyer, Assistant Building Inspector	225
Rolland Fortin, Road Inspector	227
Sheron Forand, Secretary	222
Francine Larose, Secretary	235
Paulette Roy, Receptionist	221
Fire (emergency)	911
Rescue (emergency)	911

The 2007 Budget and Projects

by Daniel Leclair
Municipal Councillor

Fellow Citizens:

Last December 5, your municipal council tabled its budget. The content of the 2007 budget is a reflection of our municipality's financial capacity and should, in the medium term, allow the achievement of the major objectives that your council has set itself.

This year, we are focusing on the protection and development of our environment. In this regard, we have increased the financial resources devoted to environmental projects and set up a special Ecological Conservation Fund.

In addition, in collaboration with the regional county municipality (MRC), we will be participating in the launch of an eco-center for the eastern zone of the MRC. To achieve our environmental objectives, in the 1st quarter we will introduce a three-year master plan, which will allow us to introduce necessary measures for the timely management of our environment.

The municipal administration also intends to maintain the level of its investments to improve the condition of its streets and roads in accordance with the five-year plan adopted in 2005.

Last year, on the order of \$1.2 million in roadwork was completed. Based on the comments received at the municipal offices, it is evident that the work done last fall has met the expectations of a majority of the population.

In 2007, the municipality will devote a large part of its budget to public security. In order to comply with the Fire Safety Cover Plan, it will purchase a fire truck and enlarge the firehouse. Accordingly, in 2007, a budget of slightly more than \$500,000 is earmarked for public security.

In matters of tourism, the council is participating in La Route des Cantons and will commission feasibility studies for the

development of the little church on Brill Road. Last fall, the municipality enrolled in the Fleurons du Québec program. Participation in this program will enable us to enhance our public image, as well as contribute to community life and to our citizens' pride in their municipality.

The council also set itself the objective of improving our service to the public; we plan to increase our staff by hiring two people; one of them, temporary for a period of two years, has already started work. In addition, a major overhaul of our website will enable us to answer your questions more effectively and to develop interactive communications.

All of these projects will be carried out in complete respect of the financial capacity of your municipality. Despite a substantial rise in property values, ranging from 25% to 50%, your tax bill will only increase 10% to 33%, following an 11% drop in the property tax rate, which is now set at \$.80 per \$100 of assessment. In other words, the tax increase for a house worth \$125,000 in 2007 will be about \$100, or 11%.

As for the cost of the new recycling bins (360 L), it has gone from \$75 to \$87, the manufacturer having raised prices. The septic tank pumping program will continue, and that cost remains unchanged at \$65.

I hope that this short article answers your questions. We invite you to come meet with us at council meetings, which are held the first Tuesday of every month.



10 and 25 Years

*by André Pontbriand,
Municipal Councillor*

Your fire department is already ten years old. Currently, 29 firefighters are ready to respond 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, should you need them.

In 2006, your firefighters responded to 206 distress calls, for the most part from citizens of the municipality. These calls break down as follows: 155 calls as first responders to traffic accidents, heart attacks, poisonings, traumatic injuries, and more; 39 sorties as firefighters responding to fire alarms, chimney fires, grass fires, the smell of smoke, etc.; and 12 other calls for Jaws of Life extrications, floods, etc.

The first photograph is of the audience that attended the meeting, while the second photograph shows, in order, Sylvain Arès, Councillor in charge the fire department, Mayor Yves Gosselin, Lt. Jean-Claude Labrecque, Operator Dany Beauregard, Department Manager André Cadorette, Captain Denis

Labrecque, Lt. Luc Couture, and Councillor André Pontbriand, also in charge of the fire department.

At its regular meeting on February 6, your council paid tribute to the ten years of service of five firefighters who have been active in the department since its founding in 1996. Your council presented each of these men with a plaque commemorating their ten years of loyal service in aid of their fellow citizens.

Since nearly everyone in the department was at the small ceremony, the council took the opportunity to thank them for their dedication to your municipality's fire department.



From left to right: Sylvain Arès, Municipal Councillor, Yves Gosselin, Mayor
Lt. Jean-Claude Labrecque, Operator Dany Beauregard, André Cadorette, Director
Cpt. Denis Labrecque, Lt. Luc Couture et André Pontbriand, Municipal Councillor.

of Service - Something to Celebrate!

by *André Pontbriand,*
Municipal Councillor

At the council meeting on December 6, 2006, before the citizens in attendance at the public meeting, Mayor Yves Gosselin took the opportunity to mark the 25 years of service of Ms. Sylvie Gougeon. To honour and commemorate these years of service on behalf of the population of Shefford, the mayor presented her with a commemorative plaque.

Ms. Gougeon entered the service of the municipality around August 4, 1981, as a part-time secretary. The part-time job quickly became full time, such that the mayor back then announced on December 12, 1982, that Ms. Gougeon would become permanent on January 1, 1983. Effective December 19, 1989, she succeeded Roger Pinel as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer to Secretary-Treasurer Maurice

G. Campbell. When Mr. Campbell decided to retire, she was promoted to the post of Secretary-Treasurer of the municipality effective January 1, 1990.

Pursuant to a circular from the Government of Québec dated December 1998, which circular asked the municipalities to identify their respective secretary-treasurers as general managers, Ms. Gougeon became the General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipality of Shefford Township. She has held both titles since that time.



We take the opportunity of this newsletter to pay tribute to Ms. Gougeon's years of service, to thank her for all the work she has accomplished for the citizens of the municipality, and to wish her many more years of public service.

Fire Protection Agreement

by *André Pontbriand,*
Municipal Councillor

As the agreement with the Waterloo Fire Department to protect the municipality's eastern sector was coming to an end on December 31, 2006, the councillor in charge of this file and the mayor began meeting with the Waterloo mayor and general manager in October 2006, in order to reach an agreement that was acceptable to both parties.

The two mayors signed a five-year agreement at the Shefford Township town hall on December 21, 2006. This agreement complies with the Fire Safety Cover Plan. One of the features of this



plan, submitted to the Minister of Public Security, is that the eastern sector will be protected not only by the Waterloo firefighters, as in the past, but also by the Shefford Fire Department, which will henceforth be the prime contractor for fire protection for the municipality's entire territory. Another feature is that the annual cost will not change, irrespective of the number of sorties for fires or Jaws of Life extrications, or the number of firefighters or trucks needed.

The annual cost of this agreement is, for 2007: \$50,000; for 2008: \$51,500; for 2009: \$53,045; for 2010: \$54,636 and for 2011: \$56,275. Furthermore, the agreement is renewable for an additional three years.

The Hydrants Are Operational

by *André Pontbriand*,
Municipal Councillor

As you no doubt know, the Ville de Granby installed an aqueduct from Coupland Lake across the Daudelin, Dupuis, Maher and Picard developments a few years ago. The aqueduct is occasionally used for supplying water to the citizens of Granby.

On December 6, 1988, a citizen of our municipality asked the council whether it would be possible to have a fire hydrant installed on this aqueduct which crossed rue Daudelin. This request was addressed to the Ville de Granby and the Ville's secretary-treasurer responded that it was impossible to proceed with such an installation. The request was made again on November 6, 1994 and the response from the Granby authorities was that it would study the installation of a hydrant.

The Municipality of Shefford Township proposed in its Fire Safety Cover Plan, filed with the MRC de la Haute-Yamaska, that the Ville de Granby be asked whether it would be possible to install an online fire hydrant on each street crossing the Coupland Lake aqueduct, so that the municipality could provide greater fire protection for its population. This request was submitted to the Granby authorities and, two weeks later, an exploratory meeting took place between Granby's representatives (Mr. Pineault, General Manager and Serge Robert, City Engineer) and those of the Municipality of Shefford Township (Ms. Gougeon, General Manager, Mr. Melançon, Fire Chief in 2004 and Mr. Pontbriand, Councillor). According to

Granby's officers, nine online fire hydrants could be installed for \$60,382.62 and annual maintenance provided for \$2,250. However, they had to submit this request to their council for approval. The municipality was to receive Granby's acceptance or refusal around spring 2005, according to a call made to Mr. Pineault by Ms. Gougeon. The delay was caused by a drinking water study undertaken by the Ville de Granby and the Ministère de l'environnement du Québec. The request was submitted again to the Granby authorities in January 2006 and, in December of the same year, Granby's waterworks department employees installed the fire hydrants on the following streets and roads: Raymond-Lemieux, Saxby Sud, Daudelin, Paquette, Dupuis, Lorraine, Maheu, Maher and Boisvert.

This accomplishment is a major asset for the citizens in these areas, which can count on a large supply of water in the event of a fire. And, for some citizens, the installation of these fire hydrants might enable them to get better property insurance rates.



Firefighters and First Responders, Faithful to Their Post!

by *André Martineau*
First Responder and Firefighter

The school of tiny rainbow-coloured fish play among the coral. Enjoying the warmth of the water, he looks to see what has sent them scattering. Has a barracuda or other predator approached without his knowing? Or was it that shrill ringing and the voice of the young woman... Wait a second! How could he hear all that underwater, in the middle of a coral reef in the Caribbean?

Emerging from his dream, nestled in his own warm bed rather than turquoise waters, he wakes in

a flash... A fire alarm, Maheu Road... A quick glance at the bedside clock tells him that he'd better be quiet and not disturb the household... His dear wife would not take kindly to being woken at 2:30 in the morning. Jumping into his clothes, laid out and ready for such an eventuality, he hurries to his vehicle and, ignoring the -27°C temperature, drives directly to the firehouse to pick up the pumper before heading over to Maheu Street.

Fortunately, this is not a scenario that is repeated too often, thank God! But it is the weekly lot of the firefighters and first responders who protect their fellow citizens in Shefford.

On Mount Shefford

First Sighting of a Rare Wasp in Québec

by Luc Jobin

Entomologist and Citizen of Shefford

After completing an inventory of the dragonflies in Jean-Paul Forand Ecological Park on Mount Shefford, and in Yamaska National Park, I became interested in the presence of a wasp I had observed when I first arrived in Shefford Township in 2000, and which had chosen a parcel of my land as a nesting site. The appearance and behaviour of this wasp were unfamiliar to me. I therefore decided, in 2005, to research the identity, biology and behaviour of this insect.

The scientific name of this predatory wasp is *Cerceris halone Banks*, a species that is very rare in Canada, having only been reported in southernmost Ontario and Manitoba. This is the first time it has been observed in Québec. In the United States, it occurs in a wide area that extends from New England to South Carolina, and west to Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas. It is part of the genus *Cerceris*, which includes 850 species around the world, with about a hundred in the United States, 18 in Canada, and eight in Québec. Very little research has been done on this insect. Here is a brief summary of my observations of this ninth species of *Cerceris* reported in Québec.

It is the largest of the species observed in our territory. The females measure 13 to 16.5 cm in length and are larger than the males. The female is distinguished by the presence, on the front of the head, just above the mandibles, of a crescent-shaped structure which she uses to tunnel in the ground. This wasp also has yellow markings on the head and body that help distinguish it from other wasp species.

This solitary wasp nests near my swimming pool, in grass-covered, sandy fill that contains just a little clay. It is called solitary because there is only one wasp per nest, and predatory because it feeds on other insects. The female wasps dig their nests in early August at a depth ranging from 50 to 60 cm. The nest consists of a vertical access tunnel and lateral galleries where they deposit food and their eggs. They only live for five or six weeks and die before September 10. The immature insects spend the winter underground in a larval state and transform into pupas in the spring, giving birth to a new generation in early August the following year.



This *Cerceris* is very sensitive to weather conditions, only leaving its nest when the temperature is above 23°C and returning to the nest as soon as the sun disappears behind clouds or rain threatens. When it rains, the wasp uses its

large head to stop the tunnel opening to prevent the rain from penetrating. In the evening, it closes the nest opening with a plug of wet sand.

An interesting phenomenon: this wasp feeds its young with other insects, but only three species of Curculionidae, or weevils, which damage the acorns of the Northern red oak. The

wasp captures these insects in the treetops and carries them to the nest between its legs, after injecting them with venom that immobilizes them permanently. This wasp is, therefore, a beneficial insect that we must protect because it plays an important role in the regeneration of the Northern red oak. Indeed, acorn weevils damaged up to 17% of the acorns sampled in 2005 and 2006.



Recreation Contract with Ville de Waterloo

by Donald Tétreault,
Municipal Councillor

The current recreation contract with Ville de Waterloo passed by a majority vote. However, the mayor had to cast the deciding vote at the council meeting last June 6. Understand that all of the council members were in favour of the contract, but not with the amount being charged, which comes to \$75,000 for 2006. About 375 citizens made use

of Waterloo's recreational facilities in 2006.

Our recreation contracts with the cities of Bromont, Granby and Waterloo will all expire simultaneously on December 31, 2008.

Your municipality invests approximately \$260,000 in recreational spending annually. In spring 2007, repairs and renovations will be made to Val Maher Park.

Recycling by the Numbers

by Daniel Leclair,
Municipal Councillor

Have we made progress? You be the judge...

- Materials recycled in 2005: 418 tons, or 23.9% of the total waste.
- Materials recycled in 2006: 543 tons, or 23.6% of the total waste.

If an additional three tin cans, one glass bottle and two 2-L cartons were to be placed in every Shefford recycling bin every week, we would increase our percentage of recycled materials by 5%!

REMEMBER: EVERY LITTLE BIT COUNTS, SO LET'S BE VIGILANT!

A Regional Solidarity Market

Pauline Franche of Waterloo and I, Lise Bideau of Shefford, are both passionate about this movement, having been deeply touched by the initiative launched by Les Ami(E)s de la Terre de l'Estrie in Sherbrooke.

So we have decided to set up a similar project in Waterloo. I invite you to visit their website at: www.atestrie.com

The idea of the market is to foster connections between the producers and consumers. The primary aim is to buy directly from local producers, all year round.

Obviously, organic products, whether certified or not, take center stage, in order to protect our dear Earth (no GMOs).

This is a project of collaboration, partnership, cooperation, and it goes without saying that we need you. Certain principles are advocated for sustainable development: DIVERSITY, FAIR

TRADE, DEMOCRACY, AUTONOMY.

The computerized system set up by Les Ami(E)s de la Terre allows purchases to be made online, providing a direct link between the producers and the consumers. If this project speaks to you, please let me know as soon as possible. All we need to get the project off the ground is about thirty people who are prepared to buy online, and six or seven local producers who are prepared to sell their products online.

I BUY LOCALLY TO SUSTAIN MY REGION'S ECONOMY. I SUPPORT MY LOCAL PRODUCERS. I PROTECT MY ENVIRONMENT. I AM MAKING A DIFFERENCE NOW.

Looking forward to making a difference with you,

Lise Bideau
Email: brideaul@hotmail.com
Telephone: (450) 539-1647

SQ Update

by Michel Campbell
Sûreté du Québec
MRC Haute Yamaska

Here are some statistics regarding police interventions on the territory of the Municipality of Shefford Township in 2006.

In addition, we responded to 110 false alarms in 2006, primarily due to user errors.

	2004	2005	2006
Attempted murders	1	0	0
Sexual assaults	4	7	3
Assaults	12	7	10
Robberies	1	0	0
Harassment/threats	11	10	6
Property fires	0	0	3
Vehicle fires	2	4	2
Breaking and entering	41	34	56
Other thefts	28	12	24
Vehicle thefts	19	9	3
Snowmobile / ATV thefts	5	4	7
Fatal accidents	0	2	1
Injury accidents	41	54	49
Property damage accidents	152	142	141

Calling all amateur photographers!

The council would like to decorate the walls of the Town Hall with photos of the township. It therefore invites the municipality's amateur photographers to submit a maximum of three photos that, in their opinion, depict the beauty of the township.

This contest on the architecture, landscapes, and landmarks of the municipality will run until fall 2007. The photos will be submitted to a panel of judges made up of citizens, elected officials, and at least one photography professional. For more information, visit the municipality's website (www.cantonshefford.qc.ca).



In support La Maison au Diapason Benefit Show by Daniel Boucher

Hi Everyone,

I want to invite you to a benefit show, which I am organizing as part of my fundraiser for La maison au Diapason. I will be presenting Daniel Boucher's critically-acclaimed show Chansonnier (see attached file). On April 21, at 8 p.m., in the recital hall of the Maison de la Culture de Waterloo, Daniel Boucher will present his intimate one-man show. Alone on stage, with just an acoustic guitar, Daniel fairly whispers his songs, and his lyrics take on a whole new dimension, guiding us through a range of emotions. The show is directed by Michel Rivard.



The price is \$50 a ticket, and a receipt for \$30 will be issued by the Fondation on the purchase of two tickets, which may be purchased through the Maison de la culture de Waterloo website or by phone at (450) 539-4764, through the Librairie des sommets in Bromont au (450) 543-0770, or through me.

I want to thank you for encouraging me in this cause which, unfortunately, will affect us all one day, either directly or indirectly.

If you would like tickets for contests or other events, I will be happy to reserve them for you.

If we have a full house, I will only have to raise another \$1,500 on the initial \$8,000 that I need in order to keep my appointment with the summit of Kilimanjaro in September 2007, on behalf of all those who will never have the opportunity to even think about taking on such a challenge. I leave you with the link to the La maison au Diapason project: <http://www.audiapason-kilimanjaro.org/>

Also, thank you for telling everybody you know about this!

Have a great day!

Nathalie Désilets
amaranthe@sympatico.ca
(450) 539-5410

Reminder from the Urban Planning and Inspection Department

by Julie Guilmain
Building Inspector

A permit or certificate of authorization is required for:

- construction, additions, alterations, renovations, repairs, demolition, moving (main building);
- secondary suites (mother-in-law apartments);
- construction, additions, alterations, renovations, repairs, demolition, moving (accessory/ outbuildings);
- installation of above-ground pool, in-ground swimming pool, inflatable swimming pool or spa;
- septic system (septic tank and leech/drain field);
- well;
- tree cutting;
- burning;
- culvert and channel;

- lake and artificial pond;
- work in sensitive areas (waterways, flood zones, banks, shores and wetlands);
- dock;
- fence and retaining wall;
- signs;
- garage sale.

You can obtain an application form for a permit or certificate of authorization at the municipal office, or download it from the web site at: www.cantonshefford.qc.ca. The form must be filled out by the applicant.

Furthermore, there are new standards in effect pertaining to light installations (light standards) and outdoor wood furnaces. Inform yourself!

Keep in mind that winter vehicle shelters are only authorized between October 15 of a given year and April 15 of the following year.

Reusable or disposable diapers?

*by André Pontbriand,
Municipal Councillor*

This program, launched in 2006 by Mayor Yves Gosselin and well received by new mothers, is being continued again this year. The \$100 contribution for reusable diapers is now available.

The municipality's families can obtain the \$100 contribution for 2007 by submitting a proof of purchase of reusable cotton diapers. This program will end on December 31, 2007, provided it no longer meets the needs of the families in the municipality.

Septic Tank Pumping

*by Julie Guilmain
Building Inspector*

The septic tank pumping service will continue again this year in cooperation with the MRC de la Haute-Yamaska. This service is part of the MRC's Residual Materials Management Plan.

1,174 septic tanks were serviced in 2006:

- 826 septic systems are compliant;
- 348 septic systems need to be checked;
- 151 have major problems
- 197 have minor problems
- 10 properties have no septic system

This year, approximately 1,218 tanks will be serviced. The territory that will be covered in 2007 is the western part of the municipality, i.e.:

- the western part of the mountain;
- Chemin Saxby Sud and Chemin Saxby Nord;
- developments to the west of Chemin Saxby Sud and Chemin Saxby Nord;
- Chemin Denison Est;
- the Rue Sylvie development and trailer park (3 avenues);
- Chemin Brandrick;
- and Boulevard David-Bouchard.

A map of the serviced area is available at www.haute-yamaska.ca and at www.cantonshefford.qc.ca

Servicing will begin around May and will end around October.

The contractor expects to pump out roughly 15 tanks per day, four days a week.

A few days prior to servicing, the MRC de la Haute-Yamaska will mail you a notice informing you of the period during which your septic tank will be serviced. During this period, the covers on your septic tank holes must be visible and ready to be removed without difficulty by the contractor.

On the first servicing visit, an official will accompany the contractor to inspect your septic system and oversee the servicing. He will also check for such things as any noticeable odours, abnormally soggy ground or subsidence. These are some of the signs that a septic system is not functioning properly. In such cases, the official will report to the MRC which will inform the municipality. The municipality's inspector will then look into the situation more fully.

We remind you that regular pumping of septic tank sludge is indispensable to prevent solids and scum from clogging your drain field, which could result in early failure, leading to backflow into your home or runoff into the environment. Such a collection also reduces the risk of contaminating the waterways and the water table.

Haute-Yamaska's Historical Society

by Richard Racine

Société d'histoire de la Haute-Yamaska

After a first attempt to set up a historical society in Granby in 1948, it was not until 1967 that the Shefford Historical Society was formed. The beginnings were difficult, and the organization did not really get off the ground until the mid-1970s.

Initially, the historical society concentrated its efforts on the entire territory of Shefford County, whose limits had remained unchanged since 1855. However, following the creation of the MRC de La Haute-Yamaska in 1982, the society narrowed its focus to Granby and its immediate area, namely the ten municipalities that made up the new regional government. In 1992, the Ministère de la Culture granted the historical society the status of certified private archival service and, in 1998, it updated its name to match the new local reality, changing it to Société d'histoire de la Haute-Yamaska.

One of the principal mandates of the historical society is to promote the region to the general public through the exploration of its past. The means employed to breathe new life into the region's history are as varied as the research methods: books in wide distribution, inventories of heritage and archival products, newsletters, journals, websites, conferences and exhibits.

As part of the mandate assigned it by the Ministère de la Culture in 1992, the Société d'histoire de la Haute-Yamaska, like some thirty other organizations grouped as a network, gives priority to the acquisition of private archives, both francophone and anglophone, which may enrich our knowledge of regional and national history. The historical society owns some two hundred collections and archives acquired from associations, industries, families, individuals, as well as municipal and school sources.

Anyone interested in genealogy, in all of its forms, will find technical and human resources to help them achieve their goal. Whether to establish direct lineage, research collateral family ties, or document the lives of their ancestors, genealogists will be able to consult hundreds of records of baptisms, marriages and burials in Québec, Acadia and New England. All of these tools are available either in print or on computer.

Finally, the historical society has a reference library of more than 4,000 volumes on regional and national history, a collection of newspapers on microfilm from 1823 to the current day, plus 500 road, topographical, cadastral and electoral maps. In addition to all of this are the historical society's records of its research on area municipalities, the fruit of many years of work.

This wealth of documentation is available, for a small cost, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 135 rue Principale, Granby.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergencies (ambulance, fire, police) 911
Fire Station 776-3316

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Fax: 539-4951

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Mayor's Office Ext. 228
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Construction Permits Ext. 234 or 225
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Roads and Public Works Ext. 227

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The Newsletter of the Municipality of Shefford Township is a publication of the Municipalité du Canton de Shefford.

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