

The Townships

911: Sherbrooke region may go ahead alone

By Dan Hawaleshka

SHERBROOKE — The greater Sherbrooke area will have 911 emergency telephone service by 1993 even if Quebec fails to support it, says Lennoxville-Ascot police chief Richard Tremblay.

Tremblay, president of a lobby group behind the 911 project, said Monday he would prefer to have the endorsement of the provincial cabinet.

But even if that doesn't happen

installation of equipment will go ahead in 1992, with 911 operation beginning in 1993, he pledged at a news conference at Sherbrooke police headquarters.

Under the 911 plan residents from Lake Memphremagog to Lake Megantic, and from Asbestos to the United States border, will be able to dial the single number for urgent help from police, fire or medical teams.

Also present were Sherbrooke

MNA André Hamel and Communications Minister Lawrence Cannon, who offered their support.

APPROVAL BY JUNE?

Cannon said Quebec is planning to implement 911 calling across the province. He said cabinet should approve the plan in principle by June.

Legislation would follow in the fall, Cannon said.

The 911 service is being held back by the province's outdated te-

lephone service, which should be updated by 1996, Cannon said.

Sherbrooke and the surrounding region, known as Region 05, and the Hull area are the only adequately equipped regions, he added.

"The only thing we ask is to allow the government to catch up," Cannon said, adding that Quebec prefers a universally accessible service.

"What's important is that Quebecers get the same service," he said.

A modern 911 service would automatically give emergency operators the address of a caller in distress, printed on a computer display.

Tremblay presented Cannon with a 2000-name petition endorsing 911 emergency service.

Cannon said the Sherbrooke region could save some money by waiting for the rest of the province to catch up and then buying equipment together.

But he added that the province won't stop Region 05 from going ahead on its own. "Regardless of if we go ahead with it, Sherbrooke can," added Cannon, MNA for La Peltrie.

Quebec and Ottawa will have to settle jurisdiction over the service before it goes into operation, Cannon said. "We have to investigate

and harmonize our actions."

The Sherbrooke-area system is expected to cost \$1 million to install and \$300,000 a year to operate, Tremblay said.

It would be paid for by users but exactly how hasn't been decided. One option is that \$1 be added to monthly phone bills. Another is that municipal taxpayers be billed \$12 to \$15 a year, Tremblay said.

"The estimates tell us it will be a dollar but it could be more later," Cannon said.

But any delay is out of the question for Tremblay.

"I don't think people will wait five years."



Dial 911 for help: Lennoxville-Ascot police chief Richard Tremblay handed Communications Minister Lawrence Cannon and Sherbrooke MNA André Ha-

mel a 2000-name petition Monday endorsing the emergency telephone service.

RECORD GRANT SIMÉON

Beware: Flea markets a fool's paradise for gold

SHERBROOKE — All that glitters is not gold, so beware if you're buying jewelry at flea markets this summer.

That's the warning from Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada as the summer flea market season gets underway.

To make sure you get your money's worth, the federal consumer branch offers this advice to buyers:

- Be sure there is a trademark on the jewelry which identifies the maker.
- Be sure there is a quality mark: 10K or 14K for example.

• Be sure the vendor's name and address is included on the receipt along with a description of the article including the number of karats (K) for gold or stones.

The information will make it easier to take legal action if necessary.

ALLOYS

Pure gold is 24 karats, but to increase its strength and to obtain a desired color, gold is mixed with other metals such as copper or zinc. The number of karats indicates the portion of gold in the alloy.

Gold plated jewelry cannot bear

the quality mark 10K, for example. But it can bear a mark regarding plating such as GEP, that is Gold Electro Plating. Beware if the salesman says the jewelry was dipped in gold. This is not a plating method.

For silver jewelry, the marks silver, sterling, sterling silver, .925, S.S. and silv. are all acceptable and mean the pure silver content is at least 92.5 per cent — the minimum standard in Canada.

For more information you can contact Sherbrooke's Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada office at 648-4067.

Shady deals on used-car lots

SHERBROOKE — Seven used car dealers in the Granby and Asbestos regions have been fined a total of \$7000 after pleading guilty to breaking Quebec consumer laws on ticketing merchandise.

Used cars must have stickers which warn of needed repairs and

which tell potential buyers of warranties required by law.

The dealers Autos Denis Vachon, Automobiles R. St-Onge, Garage Yvon Bouffard Inc., Automobile 112 Inc. and Ghislain Grenier who sells cars under then name GRG Automobile, were fined between

\$500 and \$2500 for not including all the obligatory information on the cars they were selling.

Jeannot Racine Auto Inc. and Serge Turgeon, who operates under the name SML Automobiles, were fined \$1500 and \$300 respectively for not putting the stickers on all the cars on their lots.

The seven used car dealers were sued following an investigation by the provincial consumer protection branch, L'Office de la Protection du Consommateur of 67 garage owners in both areas.

Three other used car salesmen are still before the courts on similar charges.

During the investigation consumer protection officials discovered 82 per cent of used car dealers posted the required sticker but 30 per cent did not properly describe the warranty they must offer by law. In Granby, 50 per cent of salesmen didn't respect one requirement or the other.

Spring cleaning browns Brome Lake water

SHERBROOKE — If you're hooked up to the water main in the Brome Lake and you're water turns brown, don't worry. The situation is only temporary.

Until May 24 the town will be working on the annual cleanout of fire hydrants and flushing water mains.

Brome Lake town clerk Lisa Merovitz warns this may produce a change of color as well as the

presence of suspended particles in the water.

"The situation is temporary and we ask you to check the state of the water before drinking it or using your dishwasher or clothes-washing machine," Merovitz said in a communiqué Monday.

If your tapwater is brown or contains particles, let it run for 10 or 15 minutes and the situation should return to normal, she said.

Mass. man caught with funny money

CHAMPLAIN, N.Y. (AP) — A Massachusetts man was charged Monday with smuggling counterfeit U.S. notes after nearly a quarter of a million dollars in bogus U.S. currency was found at a Canadian border crossing in northeastern New York state.

U.S. Customs Agent John O'Hara said Jose Morais, 40, of Milford, Mass., tried to re-enter the United

States at about noon Sunday. But during a routine inspection, agents began bouncing a spare tire and noticed it didn't sound right.

O'Hara said the tire was taken off its rim and \$239,100 in counterfeit \$100 bills was discovered. The money was turned over to the Secret Service.

Morais, a registered alien from Portugal, was arraigned Monday

afternoon in Rouse's Point before U.S. Magistrate Henry van Acker and remanded to the Clinton County Jail without bail. A bail hearing was scheduled for Thursday in Albany.

It was the fifth counterfeit arrest made at the Champlain border crossing since last month. O'Hara said the bust was the largest in nearly a decade.

Beebe Sub: Two sides meet but no conclusion

By Dan Hawaleshka

SHERBROOKE — A weekend meeting between Lake Massawippi landowners and a group which wants a hiking park appears to have ended in impasse.

Each group has its own ideas on what should be done with an abandoned CPR right-of-way between Lennoxville and Beebe. Most of the 54-kilometre former Beebe Subdivision runs through unoccupied land, but a portion of it follows the built-up east shore of the lake.

CP has put the property up for sale.

Saturday's meeting "was the first time since last fall that we were able to state face to face how open we can be to different options," said Michael Grayson, vice president of Sentier Massawippi. "We're able to consider a bypass route."

NOT PLEASED?

But the offer apparently didn't impress Michael Allatt, of Groupe Massawippi, an alliance of landowners from North Hatley, Hatley Township and Hatley West.

"They didn't show too many signs of being flexible," Grayson said in a telephone interview Monday.

Allatt could not be reached for comment.

Both Sentier Massawippi and Groupe Massawippi want the 12-kilometre, 100-foot wide stretch of land along Lake Massawippi, from North Hatley to Ayer's Cliff.

Sentier Massawippi wants it to form part of a linear park which would stretch from Lennoxville to Stanstead. Groupe Massawippi wants it for the private use of individual lakeside property owners.

Grayson said Sentiers would consider an alternate route as long

as cyclists and pedestrians could reach the lake at some point to enjoy a picnic.

"We feel that's feasible," he said.

FREEZE?

Grayson also said the Quebec government should block the sale of the land while a feasibility study on the linear park is conducted.

"There should be a moratorium for two to three months while the study takes place," he said.

Grayson hopes the study begins in June. Sentier Massawippi has been given 50 per cent of the study's cost, or up to a maximum of \$23,000. The money comes from the *Assemblée de concertation et développement de l'Estrie*, a local economic development group supported by the provincial planning agency *L'Office de planification et développement du Québec*.

The study, by private consultants yet to be chosen, is expected to cost more than \$40,000, Grayson said.

"There's still a little bit of money missing," he said.

Grayson said the meeting between the two groups was "private". Six members from Sentier Massawippi attended and three or four from Groupe Massawippi.



Michael Grayson... They weren't flexible.

LENOXVILLE
Neighborhood
Watch

Working Together To Prevent Crime

The Black Parent

Criminals often prey on elderly

By Capt. Jacques Gagnon

Criminals often regard older persons as easy targets for many kinds of crimes. Every elderly person should be aware of these crimes and how to prevent them.

PIDGON DROP

This scheme accounts for more than half of the confidence games reported to the police. The swindlers claim to have found a large sum of money and offer to share it with you. You are asked to withdraw "good faith" money from your bank. The swindlers take the "good faith" money and give you a phoney address where you are to collect your share of the found money. You never see them again.

BANK EXAMINER

A phoney bank examiner contacts you and asks for your help in catching a dishonest bank employee. He asks you to withdraw a

specified amount of cash from your account so that he may check the serial numbers. After turning over your money to the examiner, you never hear from him again.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

- Do not rush into something involving your money or property.
- Be wary of something-for-nothing or get-rich-quick schemes.
- Never sign a contract until you and your lawyer, banker, or other expert has thoroughly read it.
- Never turn over large sums of cash to anyone, especially a stranger, no matter how promising the deal looks.
- Do not hesitate to check the credentials of a salesman or public official.
- Arrange for incoming cheques to be sent directly to your bank.

OTHER CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

AT HOME

- Join Operation Identification.
- Install good locks and always use them.
- Don't leave tell-tale signs that you are away.
- Never open your door to a stranger without credentials. Install a wide-angle door viewer which permits you to see callers before you open the door.

ON THE STREET

- Walk only in well-lit areas.
- Do not burden yourself with packages and a bulky purse.
- Never display large sums of money in public.
- Walk near the curb and away from alleys and doorways.

Capt. Jacques Gagnon is in charge of crime prevention and community relations for Lennoxville-Ascot police.

Quebec hikes handouts — ask your member now

QUEBEC (CP) — Quebec has urged its hospitals to cut spending, cracked down on welfare recipients and forced transit authorities to slash budgets or raise prices, but it has tripled the funds legislators distribute in their ridings.

All 125 members of the Quebec National Assembly will each be able to distribute an average of \$100,000 in their riding, up from between \$32,000 and \$37,000 until now.

The money — administered by the Ministry of Recreation, Hunting and Fishing, to assist local vol-

unteer associations — can be distributed under certain general criteria, a government spokesman said.

"If anyone understands the needs of organizations in each riding, it has to be the local member," said Carol Mathieu, an aide to Recreation Minister Gaston Blackburn.

"Why should people have to fill out a 16-page form to get a \$200 subsidy?

"It doesn't make sense.

"We wanted to eliminate some of the red tape and I think we have."

Each disbursement must be between \$100 and \$10,000. Any handout larger than \$1,000 can only be to an organization with a valid charter and any organization which gets more than \$2,000 will be subject to spot inspections.

Not all members will have the same amount of money to distribute.

The amount will be calculated according to their riding's average income, number of voters and the number of municipalities with fewer than 5000 inhabitants. There is a \$1000 bonus for each such community.

Drinking and Driving

It's criminal

TAKE A STAND.

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