

Deer season opens: 1300 checked

Weekend vigil pays off for game wardens, QPF

By Maurice Crossfield

SHERBROOKE — This weekend was the beginning of deer season throughout the Eastern Townships, and both game wardens and police were out to make sure it was a safe one.

Thirty-five members of the Quebec Police Force and 24 provincial game wardens spent the weekend setting up roadblocks, checking cars and drivers, and patrolling the region's back roads checking on hunters to make sure everything was above board.

The joint operation by the QPF and Environment and Conservation Ministry game wardens was carried out in addition to regular patrols of the region to watch out for illegal hunters.

In all the officers stopped 845 vehicles and checked some 1300 people.

Thirteen were fined for illegal storage of a firearm. By law all firearms must be unloaded and in a case, and at night they must be stored in the trunk of a car, behind the seat in a pick-up or in

the rear well of a utility truck.

Another seven were charged for drunk driving, and a stolen all-terrain vehicle was recovered.

QPF officers also took the opportunity to give 69 drivers 48-hour warnings for safety defects on their vehicles.

"It is very important to make everyone aware of the importance of safety during hunting sea-

son," said provincial conservation spokesman Paul Jeannotte. "The first weekend is always very busy."

Jeannotte says a big part of the problem in the Townships is the large number of back roads, the large number of hunters and the large number of deer. "We have a lot of roads to cover and a lot of deer to watch out for," he says.

On Saturday and Sunday alone 12 poachers were caught and charged for hunting at night with the help of spotlights. Wardens recovered four deer and one moose from the deer jackers.

Jeannotte says the level of illegal hunting is about normal for this time of year.

But the weekend campaign was mainly to remind honest

hunters to obey the rules, and spread the word about new regulations. The main change this year is that hunting is now forbidden within 10 metres (about 30 feet) of the outside edge of any roadway, including right-of-way and ditches.

"So far it has been a fairly normal hunting season," Jeannotte said.

Christmas baskets benefit

Venison: Poachers loss is charity's gain

SHERBROOKE (MC) — The region's less fortunate will benefit this year from hunters who make mistakes, and from those who can't be bothered to get their deer or moose by legal means.

Meat seized by provincial game wardens this fall will end up in food baskets in time for the upcoming holiday season.

Up to 2,000 pounds of meat is needed by the Roch Guertin Foundation campaign *Paniers d'espoir*.

For the third year in a row some of that meat will be taken from deer jackers and other illegal hunters caught in the act.

Some of the meat will come from animals killed by poachers, the rest from female or young

game animals shot by over-excited hunters who make mistakes.

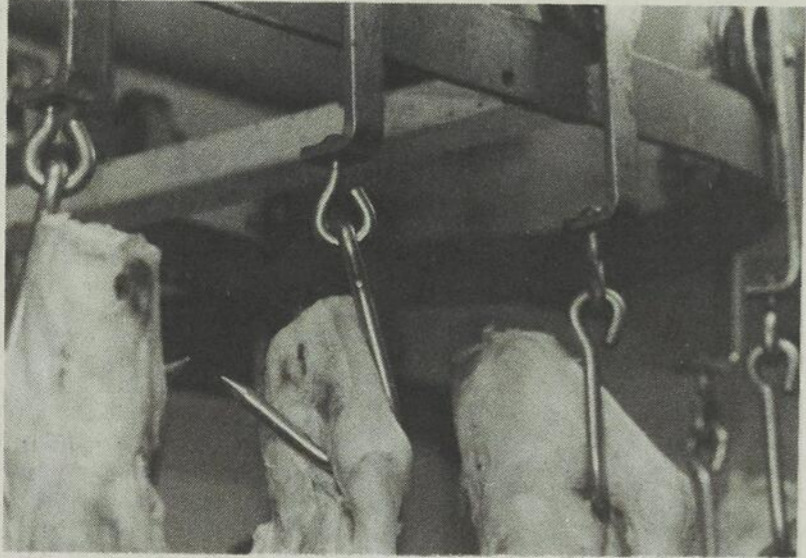
"The meat is cut up and frozen on the same day it is confiscated," said provincial conservation spokesman Paul Jeannotte. He says the important thing is to make sure the meat stays fresh.

The foundation pays for butchering and storage. Most of the meat is ground up into hamburger before it is frozen.

Included in that freshly obtained meat will be cuts from four deer and a moose that were shot at night over the weekend. While those in need will be getting fresh moose and deer meat this Christmas, a dozen poaching suspects will have to get lawyers.



Deer and moose meat seized from local poachers will be included in food baskets for the needy this Christmas. RECORD: GRANT SIMEON



Conservation officers busted a dozen jackers this weekend and seized the carcasses of four deer and a moose. RECORD: GRANT SIMEON

Especially for seniors

Flu shots are recommended

By Ingrid Bejerman

SHERBROOKE — Influenza season has arrived, and the Quebec Lung Association is urging seniors and those with chronic lung or heart conditions to visit their local community health clinic for a flu shot.

The Association hopes to reduce the risk of flu-induced health complications this year by expanding its vaccination program to an even greater number of people than in the past.

Those who are at the greatest risk have been identified by the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

True influenza is a serious

respiratory illness caused by a virus, and is usually much more severe than the common cold.

There are only two ways to protect oneself from contracting it, according to the Lung Association: immunization and luck. Neither are fail-safe, but the odds are much better for people who have been vaccinated.

The Lung Association says that influenza and pneumonia combined is a leading cause of death in adults 65 years and over.

In 1991, 6,779 Canadians died from complications associated with flu-induced pneumonia — a number which can be reduced dramatically through vaccina-

tion, according to the Association.

All community health clinics (CLSCs) in the Eastern Townships are offering flu vaccination clinics throughout October and into November free of charge to people 65 years old and older; and to those of all ages with chronic respiratory conditions.

The Gaston-Lessard CLSC in Lennoxville will hold a special clinic at 219 Queen St. on Monday, Nov. 7 and Nov. 14 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 pm; the Sherbrooke CLSC at 1200 King St. East will hold a similar clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 15, and 22 from 1:00 to 4:30 pm.

14 people hit each day

Jaywalkers compared to animals in new ad campaign

By Ingrid Bejerman

SHERBROOKE — The Quebec Automobile Insurance Board is hoping to make jaywalking hazardous to your image as well as your health.

A hen, a donkey, a bull and a ewe have been chosen to play the role of careless jaywalkers in an upcoming televised publicity campaign designed to shame Quebec pedestrians into obeying traffic lights and crossing at intersections.

Michel Fontaine, director of communications at the insur-

ance board, says the purpose of the campaign is to remind viewers that Quebec drivers strike 14 pedestrians each day on average.

A series of four TV ads have already been produced, and their approach is to use less shock and more schtick in the derision of careless drivers and pedestrians.

Behind the comedy lie the facts: On average, 4,500 people are involved in a traffic accident every year in Quebec.

In addition, the insurance board believes that the two main causes of the accidents are

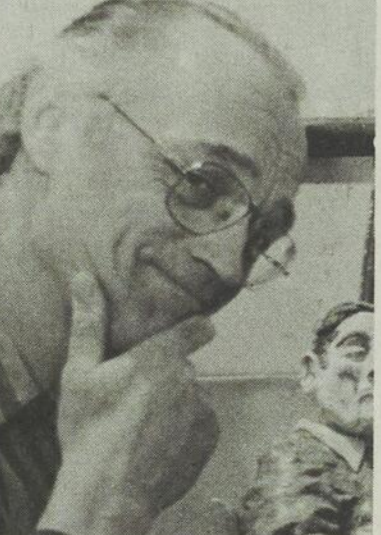
pedestrians' negligence and drivers' distraction or lack of attention. Still, most accidents take place at intersections and at pedestrian crosswalks — hardly jaywalking territory.

Residential and commercial zones, where the legal speed limit is usually 50 km/h or less, are also frequently the scene of accidents involving pedestrians. The majority of victims are either over the age of 65 or under 10 years old.

The campaign gets way in mid-November.

Still no municipal support

Cross-country skiers may use Massawippi Trail first



George Foster... More members.

SHERBROOKE (RL) — A stretch of the Sentier Massawippi trail between Ayer's Cliff and Beebe could be open to cross-country skiers this winter if two bridges are repaired before the snow falls.

"We'd like to get that done if we can organize some people to work part time," said artist George Foster, who was returned to the board of the non-profit organization at the group's annual general meeting this weekend.

Foster said the private trail group has building permits for two former railroad bridges between Ayer's Cliff and Boynton and that a new board mem-

ber, Jeffrey Stafford of the Ripplecove Inn, has promised to maintain the surface of the bridges for cross-country skiers.

Chances are the group will use lumber from the Embury Road bridge which was recently demolished by the municipality of Ogden.

Sentier Massawippi directors said that in the past year the volunteer group has worked mainly on ways to control soil erosion along the edge of the trail.

EROSION CONTROL

Work on the worst area near Curtis Road was completed last week. That area was prone to

frequent flooding caused by beaver dams and other debris that clogged up tributaries of the Tomifobia River, Foster explained.

Adjacent homeowners who oppose the transformation of the 19-kilometre stretch of former railbed into recreational trail over-exaggerated its proximity to the river, Foster said.

As for continuing fears that some tourists using the trail might vandalize adjacent private property, Foster said that Sentier Massawippi does not intend to promote the use of the nature trail by people other than those who are members or friends of the Sentier Massawip-

pi group.

"I don't know how much people will go on them, and that's the worry of local people, that they will do damage," Foster said. "For me I see it as a place to take my bike and meet people. If I meet people from Nebraska, then that's fine."

Of course, a small deficit incurred by the group's trail improvements may have to be eliminated by raising membership, Foster added. "This time next year I hope we'll be back in the black," he said. The group currently has about 50 paid members.

Over the next year, the association hopes to complete work

on the trail between Ogden and Highway 55.

The non-profit corporation controls 130 acres of land which Foster said resembles a long skinny tree farm.

As for support from local municipalities, the Sentier Massawippi has all but given up hope.

"We probably will never have municipal support," Foster said.

Sentier Massawippi also completed its board with new members Jeffrey Stafford, Roger Alacoque and Antonia Mitchell. Returning to the board are Foster, Keith Baxter, André Crépeau, Frank Harding and Margie Brand.

A little goes far

UNICEF is a Halloween tradition



By Ingrid Bejerman

SHERBROOKE — While boys and girls across North America celebrated Halloween by dressing up in spooky costumes and trick-or-treating in their neighbourhood Monday evening, millions of less fortunate children in developing countries around the world wonder whether they will have enough food to get them through the day.

UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, has been working hard in Quebec for decades to help bring some hope to these children by supporting a variety of relief projects in over 137 developing countries.

"While in Quebec one dollar is enough to buy a piece of candy or a soft drink," says Rénaud Daigneault from UNICEF Estrie, "in a developing country, the same amount covers the cost of vaccinating 20 kids against tuberculosis or buying 100 capsules of antibiotics."

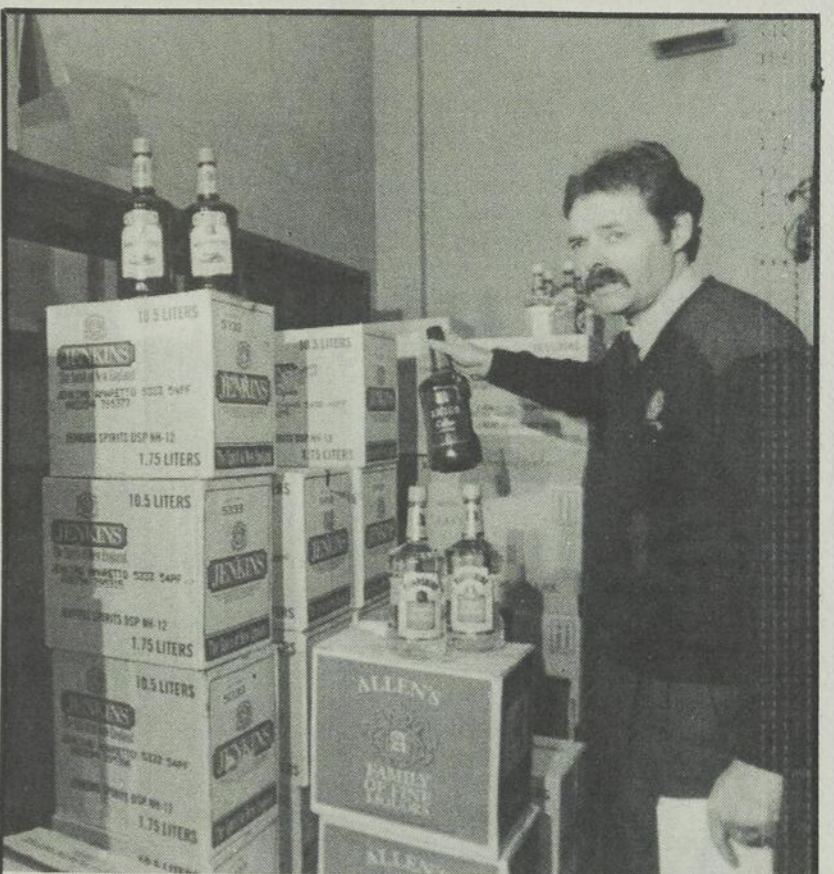
On Halloween night Lennoxville crossing guards dress so they can be easily seen. Traffic patrolman René Côté got a hand from crossing guard Nancy Leclerc. Her snazzy cow outfit probably helped as much as her stop sign in slowing traffic on busy Queen Street.

The UNICEF message has remained the same for nearly two generations of trick-or-treaters: it is possible to deliver basic services to Third World children for very little money by Western standards.

"For the price of one stamp, UNICEF can purchase a box of 12 needles for vaccines," Daigneault said. "And for the price one movie ticket, we can donate two stethoscopes to a health centre."

Each year since 1955 UNICEF's fundraising campaign in Quebec has coincided with the Halloween fun of thousands of boys and girls, who collect funds towards such necessities while trick-or-treating in their neighborhood.

The first UNICEF campaign raised just \$17, but last year, 550,000 Quebec children managed to raise more than \$1 million. The funds were used for vaccinating children against several diseases, food supplements, clean-water projects and education supplies.



RECORD: GRANT SIMEON

Busted: Quebec Police Force officers intercepted a pickup truck filled with 110 cases of liquor smuggled in from the United States early Monday morning. QPF patrolmen stopped the truck at the junction of routes 108 and 55 in Ste-Catherine de Hatley, said QPF spokesman Cst. Serge Dubord. The 110 cases of liquor each contained six half-gallon bottles of 11 kinds of hard liquor including rum, gin and vodka. Dubord said the liquor had a market value of about \$20,000. Police arrested the driver and turned him over to RCMP who will charge him under federal customs laws. He will also be summoned to appear in court under the provincial penal code for illegally importing liquor, Dubord said. A 50-year-old Fleurimont resident, the suspect was arrested on similar charges in 1992.