

Beebe Sub: Rail, trail fans may split cost of study

By Scott Verity Stevenson

SHERBROOKE — The provincial government, *Sentier Massawippi* and *Nostalgie de la Vapeur* may join forces to study suggested ideas for the former Canadian Pacific railway line between Beebe and Lennoxville.

About 50 per cent of a \$60,000 study would be funded by the provincial government; the other half would be split between *Sentier Massawippi*, which wants the right-of-way converted to a hiking and bicycle trail, and *Nostalgie de la Vapeur*, which wants to take over the tracks to run a steam train aimed at tourists.

Keith Baxter of the Massawippi Trail group said Quebec offered up to \$23,000, if the proposal for a study is accepted.

Trail and steam enthusiasts rushed to meet a December government deadline for their proposal but have heard nothing since.

Baxter said the Quebec planning and development office would ultimately be responsible for helping fund the study.

The Massawippi Trail group has been lobbying for a feasibility study since early last summer. But with fund-raising campaigns moving like a slow train, a comparative study of both trail and steam-train ideas has been proposed.

CO-OPERATION

Georges Des Lauriers of *Nostalgie de la Vapeur* says the two groups are also co-operating to pique the government's interest in the abandoned railway. "We're trying to convince the government

to buy the tracks," he said.

He added that *Nostalgie* has the money for its share of the joint study.

But so far that's not the case for *Sentier Massawippi*. "We're raising money in nickels and dimes," Baxter said. "We've got to change our strategy."

Michael Grayson, also of *Sentier Massawippi*, said some of the remaining \$37,000 required for the study has already been accounted for. The city of Sherbrooke has offered \$3000, Lennoxville is expected to offer funds at their next public meeting, and private interests have also contributed, Grayson said.

Sentier Massawippi wants the abandoned Beebe Subdivision converted to a recreational trail for hikers, cyclists and skiers,

among others. They estimate the cost of such a project would be around \$1 million, but hope the government will buy the CP land for a linear park.

Steam enthusiasts want to run an old-style steam train for tourists along the line, which was officially abandoned a year ago.

NOT SO UNITED

Des Lauriers says the two groups could share the right of way.

But Baxter said that's not what *Sentier Massawippi* wants. "We joined forces for a comparative study only," he said.

Last week a decision by the Supreme Court of Canada improved prospects for the steam people. The court decided that small railway companies do not have to follow the same regulations as Ca-

nadian Pacific and Canadian National. Exemptions would make it cheaper for small railways to function.

But outdoor and steam enthusiasts aren't the only ones interested in the long thin strip of land. Many property owners bordering the rusty tracks want to buy land adjacent to their properties — especially those along the banks of beautiful Lake Massawippi.

The *Massawippi Association* negotiates on behalf of those property owners.

FEAR OF DEVELOPERS

All three groups share the fear that the land be bought by a real-estate developer who could pay a higher price.

But in line with federal regulations, the land has first been offered to the provincial government.

Euclid Harel of Transport Quebec said the province has until April 1 to decide whether to buy it.

As evaluated by CP, the land is already priced beyond the reach of many local property owners. A private evaluation commissioned by the railway company estimated the value of the 30 metre by 47 kilometre tract at \$11 million.

At that price all most can do is lament for the days of old.

Trail enthusiast Frank Harding was digging through records at the Stanstead land registry recently and came across the original bill of sale for a parcel of land to the Massawippi Valley Railway Company. In 1870 Charles Brooks sold 2876 x 90 feet (about 6 acres) of land near Quebec Lodge, between North Hatley and Ayer's Cliff, for the grand total of \$162.50.

Fingers crossed: Parents worry for soldier son

By Scott Verity Stevenson

ASCOT TOWNSHIP — Never do time and distance become so acutely important as when there's a threat of war — especially for those whose loved ones are near the battle lines.

Asked if she has a son on duty in the Persian Gulf, Edith Warner responds with a long, burdened sigh, then "yes" in a tone of regret and deep concern.

Edith and Edson Warner's son Terry is stationed in Al Manamah, Bahrain — Canadian navy headquarters in the Gulf.

"Yes, we're proud, but not happy he's so far away," Edith said in an interview Tuesday night, just hours before the deadline imposed on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. "But I wish he were coming home for supper tonight," she

added. Edson Warner was less expressive about Terry's absence, but more outspoken on the war. Canadian involvement — and his son's — are "a necessary risk," he said.

GOOD SPIRITS

The Warners last spoke to Terry in a short telephone conversation Monday night. "He sounded in good spirits," his mother said, adding that the parents spent the "three minutes" just listening, to learn as much as possible of his condition. "He sounded very cheerful," she added.

The news they got included the weather as well as Terry's perspective on developments in the Gulf. He said there was a heavy rainstorm — a sort of Arabian monsoon — when he called. But he told his parents he was keeping up with the news on radio and TV.

Warner works as a clerk, but he said his gas mask and rifle are always at hand — "never further than your reading glasses," his father said.

Terry, a 1982 graduate of Bishop's University, has been involved in the militia and now the regular forces since the age of 14, when he joined the cadets. Now 31 years old, Warner is normally posted at St-Hubert army base.

He went to the Gulf in October. "It took him three days to decide to go to the Middle East," his mother

said. She described service in the army as "a very personal choice."

"Terry made the choice when he joined the military," she said. "He had some serious concerns."

AT RISK

Now his parents are the ones concerned. "I believe he's at great risk," Edith said. "I think he is just by virtue of the fact that terrorist groups might strike."

But both Warners said the Canadian army has a role to play in the

Gulf. "As a member of the United Nations, we have a responsibility toward the people in Kuwait," said Edith Warner.

But she also said that Prime Minister Brian Mulroney is too submissive in foreign policy. "Mulroney is a bit of a weakling right now — following the other leaders," she said. "He hasn't much backbone."

Edson Warner spoke more strongly on Canada's role. "We hire policemen and firemen to protect us; in the case of the armed forces, they are working and serving for peace, order and good government," he said.

"There's nothing wrong with fighting wars for good, sound economic reasons," he added.

Warner himself served 22 years in the reserves and was distinguished for marksmanship — a trait shared by son Terry. In the 1977

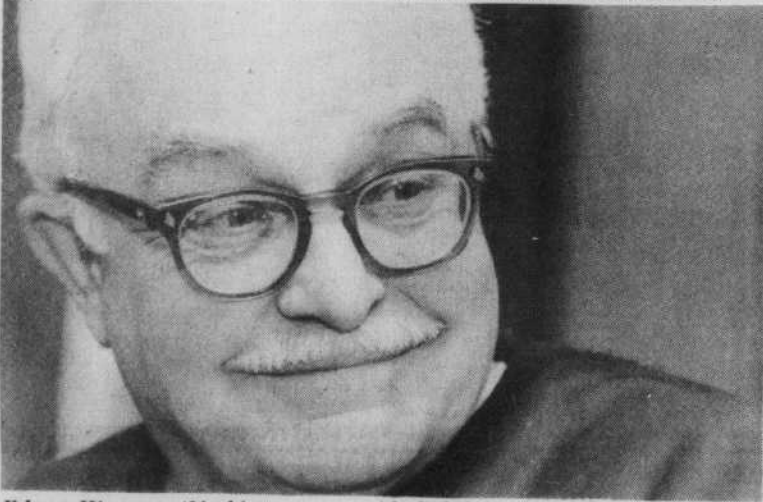
Quebec Summer Games, Terry won gold medals in three out of three shooting events.

FAMILY AFFAIR

The whole Warner family has always been involved in disciplined activities like scouting and the army. Terry's brother Patrick is in the Coast Guard, and Robert served eight years in the Air Force. Sister Susan — now raising two children — was active in Girl Guides as a youngster.

But his parents said Terry is a very diplomatic individual. "He's a very people-oriented kind of person," Edith said.

Terry was the manager of a Consumer's Distributing store during the craze for Cabbage Patch dolls. His mother said he had to deal with a lot of aggressive parents on that job. "They called him Mr. T, the pacifier."



Edson Warner: 'Nothing wrong with fighting wars for good, sound, economic reasons.'



Terry Warner: 'A very people-oriented kind of person.'



Edith Warner: 'A responsibility toward the people of Kuwait.'

Bush: Macho man or worried for the world?

By John Valorzi

WASHINGTON (CP) — As an 18-year-old high-school senior during the Second World War, George Bush enlisted in the U.S. navy in what he said he saw as a great moral crusade against Adolf Hitler and Nazism.

Bush said he believed western appeasement of the German dictator helped cause the war and his later experiences as a bomber pilot convinced him the United States had a moral obligation to fight aggressors who bully smaller countries.

"Nearly a half-century later, the same good-versus-evil ideal has brought Bush to the brink of waging war against Iraq, a conflict that could cost thousands of lives and cause a terrible backlash in the Middle East for years.

The risks are enormous, yet the 68-year-old U.S. leader remains steadfast in his resolve to use force

to force Iraq out of Kuwait.

For months, he has consistently been the true hawk in his administration, insisting force is as necessary today to deter Iraq as it was when the United States fought German, Italian and Japanese totali-

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tarianism.

On deciding to go to war, "I've got it boiled down very clearly to good versus evil," Bush said in a recent magazine interview.

"It helps if you can be that clear in your own mind."

More than any world leader, Bush has led and sustained the coalition against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom he has often likened to Hitler. And he now faces

the most-difficult decision any president can make — whether to go to war and send his countrymen to their deaths.

DEADLINE APPROACHES

As the midnight Tuesday night deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait approached, Bush met with intelligence and national-security officials after walking the White House grounds alone at dawn to reflect on the critical days ahead.

He also called religious leaders and asked them to pray for the country.

With the United States deeply divided over the question of war, what forces have helped shape Bush's thinking on the Persian Gulf and brought him to the brink of conflict with Iraq?

Some pundits have said Bush's macho threats to "kick ass" in the Persian Gulf are an attempt to fight his effete, wimp image that

still dogs him two years into his presidency.

But there's far more behind Bush's actions than the need to prove his toughness under fire and assure his place in history as one of the handful of great U.S. presidents who helped change history.

Preventing Saddam from controlling the Middle East oil supply — the economic lifeline of the West — is paramount in U.S. strategic thinking but so is the unshakable belief the U.S. must deter Iraq's "naked aggression" to safeguard the existing post-Cold War world order.

Bush also said he was deeply horrified by reports of brutality by the Iraqi invaders of Kuwait.

The president has had a longstanding but little-known affection for the tiny sheikdom from his days as a Texas oilman and he has often compared Kuwait to the countries attacked by Hitler.

A diplomat before he tackled presidential politics, Bush also believes the United States is the only country with the will and means to stop regional conflicts and ensure the success of his "new world order," a system of collective security led by the United States through a reinvigorated United Nations.

State Secretary James Baker warned in August of "a new dark age" if Iraq's aggression against Kuwait goes unpunished.

Last week, Baker said the Gulf crisis is a "a defining moment in history" for the world.

The United States is engaged in "a highly moral enterprise," former president Richard Nixon wrote recently, because future bullies "will take seriously U.S. warnings about aggression."

Last weekend, a divided Congress narrowly voted to give Bush authority to wage war in the Persian Gulf. Although public opi-

nion polls show a majority of the U.S. public favors a war to oust Saddam from Kuwait, tens of thousands of anti-war demonstrators continue to march all over the country — even before the first shot is fired.

Larry Sabato, a University of Virginia political scientist, warned the lack of strong public consensus for a Persian Gulf war threatens to undermine Bush's policy.

"There's tremendous ambivalence about our involvement in the Middle East," Sabato said.

"That means that when the war starts, a vast majority of Americans will support the president because there's always a rally-round the flag movement. But because he hasn't convinced Americans of the need for this action, that support will fade in record time — possibly a matter of days."

Civil servants told better stay neutral

By Gord McIntosh

OTTAWA (CP) — The man widely regarded as the dean of federal deputy ministers warned Tuesday of reprisals if public servants win the legal right to engage in partisan political activity.

Arthur Kroeger, a deputy minister through five successive Liberal and Conservative governments, said public servants should resist the temptation to enter the political fray for the sake of their own careers.

"You proceed at your own risk," he told 220 people at the Canadian Club.

The issue of federal public servants working on election campaigns is now before the Supreme Court of Canada. Partisan political activity is allowed in some provinces.

Kroeger, currently deputy minister of employment and immigration, had "some friendly advice" as a leading Ottawa survivor.

"Having the legal right to work for a political party does not guarantee that no penalties of any kind will be incurred by those who choose to exercise this right."

Among survival tips: Don't scoop the minister. Deputies don't become household names. Ministers do.

Should deputy ministers be politically inclined? Yes, but never partisan. The deputy minister of

agriculture, for example, must know farmers as well as farming economics.

Do clever bureaucrats empathize with those who govern? Right again, just as the "so-called King's friends" did in the 18th century British Parliament. "We feel an affinity with governance because that's the business we're in."

Ministerial staffs use the pronoun "we"; public servants use "they."

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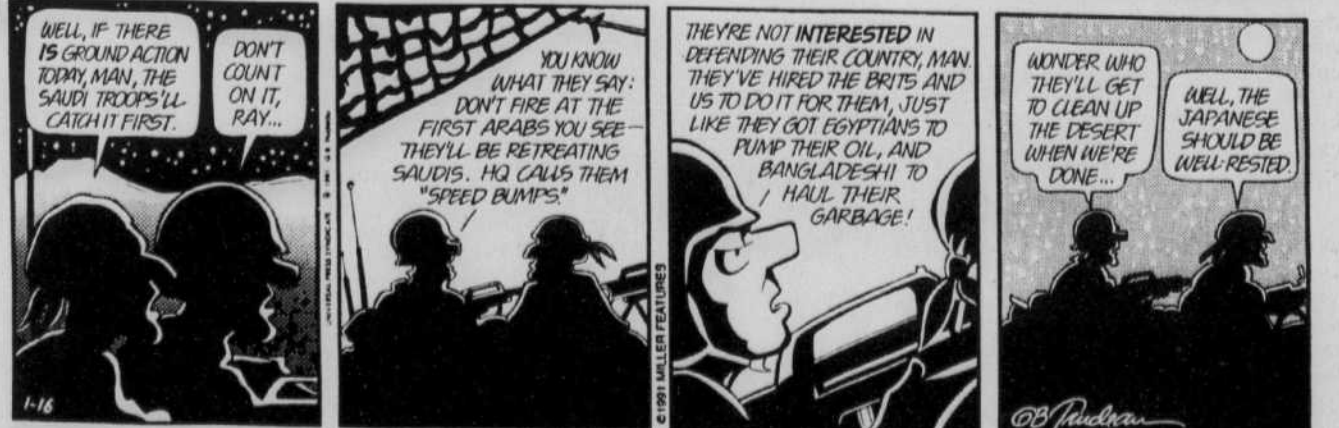
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Weather

Wednesday, 15 centimetres of snow and blowing snow starting in the afternoon. High of -2. Thursday, snow and blowing snow. High of -1.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU