



# RACHEL WRITES

by Rachel GARBER

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

In India, the Hindu 5-day festival of lights called Diwali happened a couple of months ago, celebrating the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness. In the darkest days of the winter solstice, we are having our own festival of lights. And the house that lights my fire on my weekly path is the one at 83 Cookshire Road, Sawyerville.

Yes, many neighbours are in hot competition, but 83 Cookshire Road is a veritable wonderland of crèches, reindeer, Santa, and just about every icon of Christmas imaginable, sculpted in lights of just about every colour imaginable. (Thanks for lighting my path, friends!)

Another sort of festival of lights deserves recognition, too: the community learning centre movement. We've got our own little light shining in the Haut-Saint-François, called the Eaton Valley Community Learning Centre (CLC). It is but one of many across Canada.

The very first one was created in Fredericton by the government of New Brunswick in 1973, to help meet the cultural and educational needs of the Francophone minority community in a largely Anglo-

phone environment. The concept creates a partnership between a school and the community it serves, with the school becoming a cultural hub for social, artistic and educational programs in the minority language. The idea is to help community members retain their linguistic and cultural heritage, and pass them on to a new generation. It's a hedge against assimilation - that strong tendency among language-minority members to abandon their own language in favour of the majority language.

The idea spread across Canada. In 2006, some 34 existed among Francophone minority communities outside Quebec; there are probably many more today. Today, 23 such centres exist inside Quebec for English-speaking minority communities, including our very own Eaton Valley CLC in Bury.

This whole movement and the strong participation of our own community members together fuel this little English-speaking light that is the Eaton Valley CLC. And here is something of what it offers to light your path during the dark months of January and February:

### EXERCISE

Aerobics classes start the week of January 10 in three locations - Bury, Sawyerville and Cookshire. Info: Melanie Blouin, 819-872-3811.

Badminton starts again January 11, Tuesdays 7-9 p.m., for people aged 16 or older. It's a real steal at just \$1 per night. Info: June Morrison (819-872-3736) or Jacques Lizotte (819-872-3794).

Hula hoop exercises on Mondays on January 10 and 17, or Fridays starting January 7.

### COMPUTER SKILLS

A series of six 90-minute classes start in January on two topics: Basic Computer Skills for Beginners and Internet for Beginners. The workshops are jointly offered by the Bury Municipal Library, the Eaton Valley CLC and SADC for just \$60, at either the Bury Municipal Library or the CLC. Register by contacting Annie Lemelin, 819-852-2447, ext. 110.

Internet Café: The CLC is looking for volunteers!

### CULTURE

Lessons in piano, guitar or other musical instruments are coming to both the Bury and

Sawyerville elementary schools, offered by the personnel of the École de Musique. Contact: Henryk Maszewski.

An English conversation club is scheduled to begin in January, and the Centre is looking for anyone interested in leading a French conversation club.

Meditation workshops led by Myrna Lowry are coming up in 2011.

### DISTANCE EDUCATION

The CLC is now an outlet for distance education. Persons missing credits for their high school leaving certificate can get them in either Bury or Sawyerville.

### FARMERS' VIDEOCONFERENCES

The Quebec Farmers' Association is interested in hosting videoconferences on various topics. Watch for posters advertising topics and times.

### CALENDARS

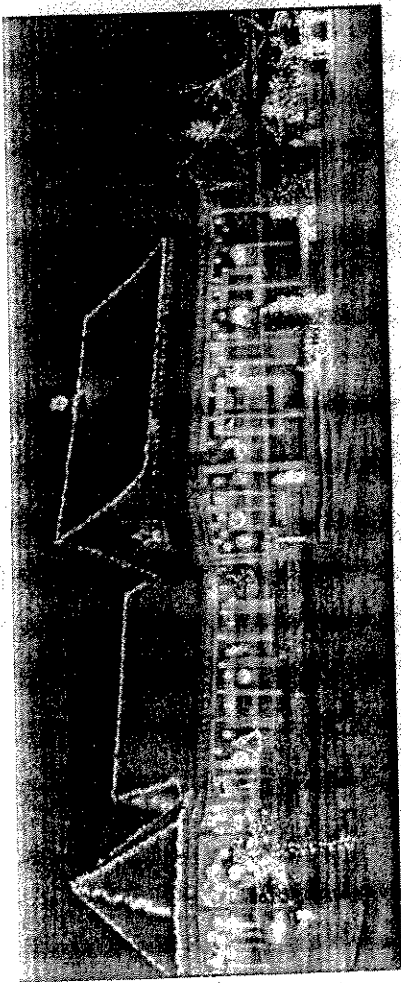
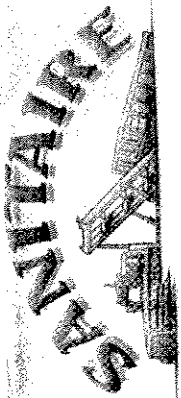
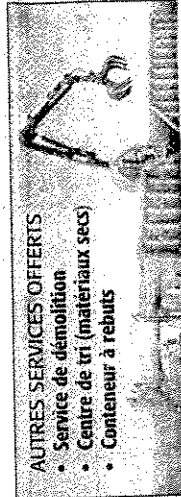
Finally, this is a timely moment to get your Eaton Valley CLC calendar for \$15, available at the Bury General Store or the Pope Memorial School, or by calling 819-570-7255. Yes, that's the number of the Eaton Valley CLC, 523 Stokes, Bury. Or you can email Lise Coté-Dougherty, coordinator, at [cote-dougherty@ped.etsb.qc.ca](mailto:cote-dougherty@ped.etsb.qc.ca)

### CHURCH SERVICES

**Baptist:** Sunday school is at 10 a.m. (English and French), and worship service is at 9 a.m. in French, and 11 a.m. in English, in Sawyerville (819-239-8818). **United:** Worship services, Sunday school and nursery are at 9:30 a.m. in Cookshire and at 11 a.m. in Sawyerville. (819-889-2838). **Anglican:** Worship services at 9:30 a.m. in Bury and at 11 a.m. in Cookshire (819-875-1568 or 819-239-6902 cell). Also, a special webcast of an education event, "Reading Scripture through Other Eyes," is planned for Lennoxville on Jan. 19-21. It will feature speakers live from the Trinity Institute in New York City, with local discussion groups. Speakers include Walter Brueggeman, a world-renowned biblical scholar. For info or to register: Rev. Wanda Willabough, 819-875-1568 or 819-239-6902 cell.

Do you have news to share? Call 819-889-2520 or email [ra.writes@gmail.com](mailto:ra.writes@gmail.com) by Jan. 10 for publication Jan 19 and by Jan. 24 for Feb. 2.

Nous passons à toutes les semaines dans VOTRE MUNICIPALITÉ!



A festival of lights at 83 Cookshire Rd., Sawyerville.