

# News & Views

PUBLISHED BY THE BAIE D'URFE CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

## FEBRUARY, 1953

SEVENTH YEAR NUMBER 64 WHAT ABOUT THIS FIRE-FIGHTING PROPOSITION? It is several months now since the Town Council passed the question along to the Citizens' Association. The Association does not have to take any action—that is up to the Council—but it has been asked to express a definite opinion on two points. They are:

- 1. Do we want a volunteer fire brigade?
- 2. Have we enough men willing and able to man the pumps?

The proposal was outlined fully in News & Views for November and has been discussed to some extent at two Association meetings. Your executive has made it the main subject on the agenda at the meeting next Friday, February 13, with the intention of reaching a definite recommendation for the Council, one way or the other.

This subject is too important to be decided by default—it requires your expression of opinion. If the interest next Friday is desultory, the Association will recommend against the proposal. Then, if a fire occurs during a high wind and a dozen houses are destroyed, we will have only our own apathy to blame. On the other hand, if you are against the project, and next Friday's meeting is strongly in favour because you were not there to express your wiews, you may find yourself paying an extra few mills for a fire brigade you do not want.

The moral, of course: Whether you are pro or con, or just want to get some more facts in order to make up your mind, come to the meeting next Friday night.

Let's decide this on its merits--not just drop it for lack of interest.

WE WOULD CONGRATULATE THE TOWN COUNCIL on its Machiavellian shrewdness, perhaps, if we thought for one moment that the lack of sanding on the roads this winter had been designed to cut down the speeding of busses and cars on our section of the Lakeshore Road. Obviously



NEXT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 8.15 P.M. IN THE TOWN HALL FINAL DECISION ON THE PROPOSED VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

COMING FEB. 21: FIRST BAIE D'URFE WINTER CARNIVAL

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Corresponding Sec.	Vic Willetts	2523	
Treasurer	Selby MacLeod	2223	
Members at Large	Chas. Johnstone	2082	
	Ken Millar	2377	
CHAIRMEN, STANDING COMMITTEES			
Hospitality	Elizabeth Delmar	2153	
Membership	Ken Millar	2377	
Publicity	Ginny Higman		
Recreation	Bill Norcott	2351	
School Affairs	Ted Fry	861	
Town Planning	Chas. Johnstone	2082	
NEWS & VIEWS STAFF			
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Business Manager	Selby MacLeod	2223	
Circulation Mgr.	Mary Smith	2611	
Reporters	Sally Corbett	790	
	Prue Godwin	2475	
	Elsie Persson	2182	
	Chris Powrie	2682	
	Reg Vidler	537	

this is not the case, however, as the Lakeshore appears to be about the only stretch of Baie D'Urfe roadway that on rare occasion has felt the tender touch of the sand-man's shovel.

As this is written, February 1, we have had four weekends of glare ice which has provided better skating on the street than on the rinks--see Mary Coulter's poem in this issue. This particular day we have seen six cars being towed or pushed on almost-level St. Andrew's Road with wheels helplessly spinning on the ice. Yet at February 1, we believe that not one grain of sand has been deposited on College Green roads this year. It is reported that sand was seen at least once on Morgan Road during January, but conditions generally in the central section of town have been equally bad.

We have had one snow storm, January 28, which looked as if it might amount to something, but at 9 a.m., by which time most of the morning traffic had broken its way out, the snow plough had not put in an appearance. Fortunately, the snow stopped early, the plough appeared, and by the following day the streets had been cleared. Other years, with a storm blowing up, the plough has made a quick tour of the town's few miles of roads at the crack of dawn to clear a way for traffic, and make its subsequent work easier.

The citizens of Baie D'Urfe have every reason to ask the Town Council if it plans to pay R. L. Hammond the \$2,000-plus per year he was supposed to get, for winter road work that in the 1952-53 season most certainly has not been done.

ALWAYS READY, AND SOMETIMES ANXIOUS, to take up the cudgels on behalf of truth, beauty, purity, justice and all that, we would like to offer the suggestion that the town's newest street—Roxbrough or Roxborough, no one is quite sure—is undoubtedly the town's worst—named street, and that it should have a foreshortened career, even shorter than the street itself.

Whatever may be said about Baie D'Urfe's street names to date, at least they are
(a) pronounceable to both English and French, (b) are pronounced the way they are
spelled and (c) accordingly, can be identified on the telephone. Local residents are
quite accustomed to the fact that in dealing with a store sales clerk, for example, it
is necessary to spell out the name of the town every time. Why should we saddle future
residents with a street name that must be spelled every time, too?

With the varying pronunciations of the word-depending whether you are English (and what part of England), Canadian-English, Canadian-French, Scotch, Irish or Brook-lynite-the word phonetically should be spelled Roxbrow, Roxburro, Roxsbro, Roxberg, Roxbrug and so on ad nauseum. And when it comes to spelling these pronunciations, as a poor benighted store clerk has to do--brother!

Please, Messrs. Councillors! Roxburgh street is only about 150 feet long so far, only a few weeks old, and hasn't got any finished houses on it. Couldn't we find a better name than Rocksburrough to christen such an itty young effort—a name that is understandable, pronounceable and spellable in either English or French, if not both?

MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED LAST MONTH'S GENERAL MEETING and election of officers of the Citizens' Association witnessed an unusual example of something or other--we are not sure what, but suppose it can be called a misconception of the meaning of the word election.

Some people who were not included in the nominating committee's slate were willing to run for office, and arrangements had been made to nominate them from the floor. The first nomination was followed, however, not by the second nomination, but by an explanation from the floor as to why the nominee was not included in the slate in the first place. Finally, after a good deal of discussion, the nomination was withdrawn on the

February 1953

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general understanding that the executive would be increased by one member to make way for this nominee. And, after all the fuss, the other nominations were not made.

In other words, two or more members who were willing to run for office in an election were effectively prevented from doing so, on the general theory that a nominating committee has more intelligence in such matters than the electorate. Which, we think, is a profound misconception of the purposes of a nominating committee. Such a committee is created to ensure a sufficient number of good candidates in an election, not to do away with the election entirely.

We bring this subject up not so much because of its influence on Association affairs—perhaps it will lead to election for all offices next year, to re-emphasize the members' rights in such matters—but rather because of the effect this type of thinking may have on next summer's election of a Town Council, which is something of much greater importance.

The task of being a mayor or alderman of Baie D'Urfe is one which brings a lot of hard work and headaches, absolutely no financial reward--on the contrary--and very few words of thanks. As a result, there have been times when it has been difficult to get men to run for office. A step taken by the Citizens' Association some years ago was the decision to appoint a nominating committee which would seek out good men for public office--and the success of the policy up to this point has been manifest. We have a cracking good mayor and board of aldermen who run the town in a way that should make them, and all of us, proud. (This year's road-sanding excepted!)

This procedure has only one weakness—and it is a fatal one—in that it guarantees that no one will run for election. It has been the practice for the Association, in asking a citizen to go on its slate, to pay his \$50 election deposit, which will be lost if the candidate secures less than a certain proportion of votes. In other words, at each election the Association has bet \$350 of members' funds on its slate of candidates; and in a community like ours it is inconceivable that anyone would run in opposition. Since choosing the Association's slate is something placed entirely in the hands of the chairman of the nominating committee, we may say that one man chooses our town government—unless Association members kick over the traces at the appropriate meeting, which has been known to happen.

While conceding that this "Dictatorship of the Nominating Committee" has given us good government in the past, we suggest that Baie D'Urfe is getting too big for it. Among the scores of newcomers to our town each year must be some who are willing and able to assume public office--people whose names will never be considered by a nominating committee because their interest is not known, but who would be good candidates.

One recognized business principle applies here. As any employment manager knows, the man who likes his job is the one who will turn in the best performance; an unwilling worker is likely to be unsatisfactory. By the same token, the man or woman who is interested in the type or work involved in public office is likely to make the best showing, as compared to a reluctant citizen. Perhaps that is why democracy has proved so virile over the centuries—an uninhibited freedom of choice by the electors allows the good candidates to come to the fore and be recognized.

The key to this whole problem, it would seem, is the Association's practice of putting up the candidates' deposits. Obviously, under these circumstances it is not going to enter more than one man for each vacancy, and members will take a dim view of other candidates who may cause the Association to lose this deposit money.

Why should we not do away with the business of subsidizing candidates? Then the Association could go out and try to make sure there were more than enough good candidates

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in the running—and invite the fullest competition. Alternatively, why not offer to subsidize all the candidates? The Association might lose the odd \$50 deposit this way, which would go into the Town's coffers—but then, maybe we could ask the town to increase its allocation for recreation, or Baie D'Urfe Day, by a comparable amount that year. This sounds like a possible subject for some pre-election Association meeting.

One way or another, a means should be found to wean Baie D'Urfe away from the Tammany principle, satisfactory as it may have been up to this point. No one in the Citizens' Association can know the talents, the interests, and the possible public service value to the town of every citizen—and even if it were possible, it still is not wise to restrain anyone from running for public office.

Let's get back to the system of permitting the voters to elect our town government.

#### FIRST BAIE D'URFE WINTER CARNIVAL

## SCHEDULED FOR MORGAN RINK, FEBRUARY 21

When the new executive of the Citizens' Association met for the first time on January 19 at the home of Clary McGuire, one of the main points on the agenda was the question whether the Association's usual indoor parties could be held this year. The unanimous opinion was that they could not, because the Town Hall is not big enough.

The proposal was made that they should be replaced by outdoor activities—and this led to the idea that an annual Winter Carnival, ranking in scope with the summertime Baie D'Urfe Day, might provide the answer. To give the idea a trial run, despite the lateness of the season, it was decided to attempt a Carnival this year. George Lint was asked to head up a committee to stage the event, and has agreed to do so.

Full details will be mailed to everyone between now and February 21, the day of the big event, but the rough idea developed at a first meeting of the committee on February 1 is to hold a rounded program of children's competitions in the afternoon, to be followed by a men's broom-ball game, with the evening devoted to the adults. Evening events would include skating and dancing on the ice and refreshments. A charge of \$1 per adult couple will help pay the cost of prizes and refreshments for the children.

The committee, in addition to Chairman George Lint, includes the following as this is written; Rink Organization, Phil Amys; Races, Bill Parker and Tom Vauthier; Hockey, Ross Davidson; Lights and Music, Brad Proudfoot and Clary McGuire; Broom-ball, Don MacDonald; Dance, Roy Cape; Prizes, Al Christie; Entertainment, Jack Mitcham; Figure Skating, Polly McGuire.

In the event of bad weather, the Carnival will be postponed until February 28.

## CLARY McGUIRE ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF ASSOCIATION

## AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JANUARY 9

Members of the Baie D'Urfe Citizens' Association chose an executive for 1953 and laid plans for a busy round of meetings during the year at the annual general meeting January 9. The election, with retiring Chairman Al Christie in the chair, resulted in the appointment of the slate of officers presented by Fred Ritchie, chairman of the nominating committee. They are:

Chairman, Clary McGuire; Vice-Chairman, Tony Kingsmill; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Mario Amys; Corresponding Secretary, Vic Willetts; Treasurer, Selby MacLeod; Members-at-large, Ken Millar and Charlie Johnstone; Editor, Chester Ellis.

Following the election, Al Christie welcomed Clary McGuire to the chair, and the

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new executive took over. From here on we report the meeting in the words of Recording Secretary Marion Amys:

After a short recess the new chairman expressed the sincere appreciation of the citizens for the good work done by the outgoing executive. He then pointed out that he felt that the next meeting should be reserved for the discussion of the fire-fighting problems and that a final decision should be reached. In order to aid the citizens in making their decision it was hoped that the different suggestions be put forth in News & Views. John Fisher suggested that houses have an all-weather  $2\frac{1}{2}$  gal. fire extinguisher placed in a specific spot outside each house. In a serious fire a great many extinguishers would be available. Phil Amys suggested that in addition to this idea, large heavy-duty wheel-borne CO2 extinguishers, such as used at airports, be strategically placed throughout the town. Mrs. Jessie Mitcham pointed out the advantage of neighbours knowing the equipment and the layout of their neighbours' homes in case of fire.

Clary McGuire asked for suggestions as to the type of meetings desired in 1953. Mr. Kinmond and Miss Kruse pointed out the advantages of having outside speakers. Frank Pinkney suggested holding some of the meetings outdoors. Sid Nagley felt there would be a distinct advantage in group discussions as a way of seeking information as to the wants of the citizens.

As an item of unfinished business, the chairman mentioned that the P.A. system was now in order and waiting to be housed by the shack of the Recreational Committee. Chester Ellis reported on the financial success of advertising in News & Views and pointed out that more money could be raised in this manner if it were the wish of the citizens. He asked for volunteers to aid in the task. Sid Creates brought up the town lighting problem which will be discussed at the next meeting.

Tea and cookies were served by Mrs. Ware and her assistants Mrs. Carol Davidson, Mrs. Jean Vauthier and Mrs. T. Kingsmill.

## NEXT FRIDAY'S GATHERING IS A "SPECIAL" MEETING TOO

## TO CONSIDER AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

A proposed amendment to the constitution will be presented to the Citizens' Association next Friday and, in compliance with the constitution, it has been made a "special meeting" as well as a regular monthly meeting of the Association.

The following self-explanatory letter giving notice of motion to amend the constitution has been received by the executive, duly signed by five members, and will be presented for action at the next meeting:

"At the 1953 annual election of officers of the Association, a nomination as member of the executive was made which would have had the effect of including on the executive the current chairman of the Recreation Committee.

"After considerable discussion the nomination was withdrawn on the understanding that the next meeting of the Association would consider a motion to increase the size of the executive by one member, to accomplish the same purpose.

"Accordingly, please be advised of the following motion to amend the constitution:

"That the wording of Article 1V, paragraph (a) of the Constitution shall be amended by deleting the word 'two' and inserting in its place the word 'three'."

February 1953

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## WARD SYSTEM AND WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICES

## FAVOURED BY CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

The work of the Town Planning committee in considering various possible amendments to the Town Charter highlighted the December meeting of the Citizens' Association, which has not previously been reported in these columns. As a result of discussions, Chairman Charlie Johnstone of that committee on December 15 wrote to Mayor Jean Gelinas to inform the town officially that:

"The Baie D'Urfe Citizens' Association at their meeting on Friday night, December 12th, 1952, passed the following motions:

- "1. That this meeting go on record as being in favour of having the town divided into three (3) wards and that each ward be represented by two (2) aldermen. The elections to be held each year on the first Saturday of October to elect one new alderman for each ward and that the term of office be for two years.
- "2. That the meeting go on record as being in favour of removing restriction on item 10, Art. 6352 preventing women from wholding office.
- "3. That they use assessors valuation as submitted rather than reducing it 50% for valuation purposes."

#### ADD TO YOUR DIRECTORY

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#### DELETE FROM YOUR DIRECTORY

Stewart, Mrs. D. L.

3 Lakeview

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## PRESENTATION OF TOWN'S PRIVATE BILL IN QUEBEC

### DELAYED UNTIL FALL SESSION OF LEGISLATURE

Proposed amendments to the town charter will not be presented to the current session of the Quebec legislature, the January 9 meeting of the Town Council was informed, as a penalty fee of some \$500 to \$700 would be incurred for "late filing". The delay resulted from the Council's action in waiting for views of the Citizens' Association, which were not presented until mid-December. Accordingly, the private bill will be held over until the next session, this autumn.

The Council had a relatively light agenda to start off its year. Building Inspector "Pop" Ware reported the discovery that plastic vent pipes through roofs (now installed in some homes) are not permissible under the building code—they must be cast iron. Delay has been met in the financing and building of roads in the Miller development because the province asked a referendum of all property owners affected—in this case, three. A committee of the Council will meet with Mr. Comber in the continuing attempt to get him to name a price for land required for streets.

Permission was given for use of the Town Hall for Brownies' meetings from 4-5 p.m. on Mondays. A proposed four-lot subdivision at the end of Caron Point was considered February 1953.

but no one could figure how the area could be divided into more than two lots under the town's by-laws. Discussing proposed amendments to the zoning by-laws, the offer of the Citizens' Association to have its Committee of Eight assist the Council was recalled, and Aldermen Corbett and Menzies undertook to meet with this committee soon.

## POETRY CORNER, OR WHERE IS THAT \*\*\*\* SAND TRUCK?

The glazed streets these recent weekends may not have moved the sand-man to spread a little of his life-saving silicate on Baie D'Urfe's roads, but at least they have moved a lot of people to have some fun skating thereon; and moved Mary Coulter to poetry about one week-end's doings in College Green. Here is Mary's reaction, influenced by you-know-what poem.

#### COLLEGE GREEN MEMORABILIA

The night of January 10 it rained. Homecoming drivers tensed and strained. But with the dawn and morning light There spread a rink-enticing sight!

Then we produced a different story Of wholesome fun and bladed glory, A fastly-moving panorama Including all from tots to grandma. Skates Christmas-new, skates aged and battered Were found and donned. It little mattered What age they were: their owners parted With Sunday laze and outdoors started. First came the lads--Bruce, John, Dave, Rickey Al, Frankie, Jeff, Mae, Bill and Mickey With girlish squeals all coy and airy Next Les, Doll, Leslie and Rosemary. Off to the church with boots in pocket Sped Baker's Ian, a future Rocket! And minutes later, though more sedate. Came Gord on sleigh, Maw, Paw to skate. Up Oxford, St. Andrew's, in a soul-shaking hurry Dashed John, David, Peter, Robert and Murray. Less swiftly but lightly came Linda and Bly, Janet, Liz Lainie, Terry, Donna and Guy. The next act included both young and old troupers As round the curve swept the whole family of Coopers. Peres Norcott, Davidson, Lint and Kingsmill Towed sleds with their young who were likely to spill. Then a group of the mothers, and calls of "My dears. I haven't had such fun for years!" With shaky limb though youth of heart They couldn't stop once they made a start. Mesdames Taylor, Albulet, D'Aoust and Ritchie Some neatly skirted, some rather britchy, Some overstuffed, some lithe, some lean Lent humour, joy, grace to rink College Green.

And all through the day often given to slumbers. The kaleidoscope shifted in colour and numbers. 'Twas a day to remember, a small touch of heaven The Sunday called Fifty-Three, January 'leven.

#### SERIES OF HORTICULTURAL LECTURES PLANNED

#### TO TEE OFF THIS YEAR'S GARDENING SEASON

The first 1953 meeting of the Baie D'Urfe Horticultural Society not only heard an outstanding horticulturist with a bag-full of useful hints for local gardeners, but it also was informed that more of the same will be available in a series of lectures starting February 23 and continuing each Monday for six weeks.

In addition to the lecture course, Horticultural Society activities this year will include the usual discounts to members on seeds and other garden supplies, extra-large discounts on fertilizers, the usual summer flower and vegetable show, and a home grounds competition, the meeting was informed. More details will be available to members in due course.

The speaker of the evening, Wm. J. Tawse of Steinberg's is a former professor at Macdonald College who has been active in various activities combining agriculture and business, and currently is employed to help farmers grow bigger and better crops for Steinberg's chain of stores. In his various business capacities and as an amateur gardener in his spare time, he has picked up wide knowledge of how to get growing things to do what you want them to, knowledge which he shared generously with the audience under headings too numerous to mention.

George Bain expressed the thanks of the meeting, voicing the general sentiment that members present could not have heard a more interesting and practical address, which was followed by refreshments.

## CHAIRMEN OF 1953 STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

## CHOSEN AT FIRST MEETING OF NEW EXECUTIVE

Chairmen for the various committees of the Citizens' Association in 1953 have been selected, as a result of discussions by the new Association executive at a meeting on January 19, with the following results:

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

Hospitality: Mrs. Elizabeth Delmar Membership: Ken Millar Publicity: Ginny Higman Recreation: Bill Norcott School Affairs: Ted Fry Town Planning: Charlie Johnstone

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Winter Carnival: George Lint Baie D'Urfe Day: Phil Amys

Your membership fee of \$2 per family for 1953 is now due. If you have not paid it yet, please put it in an envelope addressed to Treasurer Selby MacLeod, and save a member of the Membership Committee the trouble of a personal call.

After what happened to Columnist Bob Wiseman of the Lakeshore News, who got on the bad books of Roads Chairman Mrs. Urquhart and Services Director Rene Labrosse for his remarks about non-sanding of roads in Dorval, we should hesitate to say it—but on the other hand, isn't it fantastic that there has been no sanding of roads in Baie D'Urfe during the 1952-53 winter to date?

February 1953

## AROUND OUR TOWN

College Green people are planning a sleigh ride, complete with bean supper and dancing, the evening of Friday Feb. 20. The idea is to gather at the Four Seasons Hotel, ride the sleighs to Rock Ledge and back, then spend the time eating etc.

As everyone probably knows by now, Ginny Higman has taken over Reg Vidler's chores as Baie D'Urfe correspondent for the Lakeshore News, and is conducting a sprightly column of goings-on-around-town. Phone your news to her at 617.

Two new baby boys have been welcomed to the Lakeview Road neighborhood this last few weeks. They belong to the John Mannings and the Ed Gosselins.

We see Claire Turnau's picture in the papers as winner of a University scholarship and the Lieutenant Governor's bronze medal for highest standing in the second year B. Sc. course at Macdonald College.

The perfect wife never opens her husband's mail--unless, of course, she is not sure what is in it.

The official News & Views typewriter is on the fritz. After waiting two months for a repair man from Ste. Annes, we are wondering if any reader wants to fix it—or take it for a ride in to the Underwood people in Montreal for rejuvenation.

Clary McGuire and some of the boys are waiting anxiously for the Winter Carnival, or some other opportunity to give the new P.A. system a good workout.

As indicated at the last Citizens' Association meeting, this publication could earn more advertising revenue—which could be ploughed into recreation facilities or something—if we can find the necessary people to do the soliciting. If you are willing to help, phone the editor at 2024.

Ginny Higman has invited the Cubs to use the hill back of her home, 20267 Lake-shore, as a gathering place for skiing on Tuesday afternoons after school.

Baie D'Urfites paid themselves a silent tribute to their quiet-living habits at the last Citizens' meeting when Reg Vidler said the street lights were set to go off at 2.30 a.m. and only one person disagreed with him. That night the street lights went out sharp at 1 a.m. as usual.

John Evans left for his new job in New York at the start of the year as per schedule. Julie is still in town, keeping the home fires burning until the house is sold, and a new one acquired in or around N.Y.C.

John Turner from Quebec has taken over John Evans' job at the Garden City Press, and is living in the Doug Laird home temporarily, while the Lairds are over in Sweden.

The Laird children are still in town--young Dougie with Will Spriggs and family on Oxford, while Stephanie is staying with the Jack Mitchams.

This is a little late, but perhaps it is not too late to point out that the noted Mario Duchesnes has undertaken to give recorder lessons in Ste. Annes, starting January 26. Anyone interested should phone 2332 or 526.

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## BAIE D'URFE BUYERS' GUIDE

BANKS BANK OF MONTREAL	HAIRDRESSERS, BEAUTY PARLOURS  DEGUIRE, MISS GERMAINE 71 STE ANNE 538
BOATS & MARINE SERVICE	DECUIRE.   MISS GERMANE   538
STE. ANNE MARINE SERVICE 46 STE ANNE 2426	HARDWARE
BUILDING CONTRACTORS	D AOUST, J.B. 27 STE ANNE
MORRISON, G. ERNEST 2) LAKEVIEW, BAIE DURFE 2818 PILON, LIONEL 29 CHRISTIE	HUB. THE
BUILDING MATERIALS	INSURANCE  GREENFIELD ALAN
DAOUST, JEAN 4 CHRISTIE 373	GREENFIELD, ALAN CARON PT, BAIL DURFE
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A & P STORE	
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GUENETTE PHARMACY 67 STE ANNE 667	DUQUETTE, F
ELECTRICIANS	RADIO - TELEVISION
STE ANNE ELECTRIC 10 PERREAULT 804	BOILEAU, ED. L
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FLORISTS	
SMITH & SON, REGD 70 STE ANNE 432	STATIONERY — OFFICE SUPPLIES  GARAND, J.H.R
GARAGES - SERVICE STATIONS	TAXICABS
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COOPERS GARAGE LTD METROPOLITAN BLVD 688  COOPERS GARAGE LTD METROPOLITAN BLVD 343	THEATRES
LAC ST, LOUIS AUTOMOBILES LTD. 90 STE ANNE	REX THEATRE 83 STE ANNE 341
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