

# Your Local Journal



Serving these fine communities

Vol. 5 No. 02, November 22, 2007

Also available in Rigaud, Île-Perrot, Pincourt, and the West Island

Via Canada Post

**Christopher O'Neill**  
 Real Estate Agent  
 450 424-4134

**\$249,000**

**SOLD IN 17 DAYS**

Bungalow, 2 bedrooms, large living room and dining room, hardwood throughout. **CALL 7 700022**

**Yvon Blais**  
 Real Estate Agent  
 450 424-4134



PHOTO: SARA E. BAXTER

Pincourt's Graham Batty will be able to put down his bagpipes and take a breather a little more now that his two busiest seasons, summer and fall, are coming to a close. See story page 28.



**What's inside...**

*Magical Memories has liftoff* .....Page 3

*Happy Hour for Horses* .....Page 7

*Hudson joins Rigaud in emergency* .....Page 11

**NEW at**

**RISTORANTE SOLAIA**  
 CUCINA ITALIANA

**Baby Back Ribs**  
*Rob's hidden secret!*  
*Why compromise?*

Look for your **GIFT** from Solaia inside!

3187 Harwood Blvd  
 Hudson  
 450-424-1424  
 www.solaia.ca

## Student chefs a class act

**Sara E. Baxter**  
 editor@yourlocaljournal.ca

Hudson - Westwood Senior High School students served up a quality performance in their Fine Dining fundraiser which wrapped up Monday night.

"It was very successful and it turned out to be beyond what I ever could have imagined," said Linda Wongkee who is one of the parents involved in the fundraiser.

All money raised from the fundraiser will go towards financing a trip to Peru for 20 of Westwood's Grade 11 students. The cost of sending the students to a Peruvian

community in March for a work-related educational project is about \$3,000 each.

The Fine Dining event is one of many fundraisers the students will host in order to raise the \$60,000 needed to completely finance the Peru trip.

"It was sold out for all three nights," said Linda Wongkee of the fundraiser that involved students preparing and serving meals at three Hudson eateries.

The fundraiser kicked off Oct. 22 when students joined chefs in the kitchen at Solaia restaurant. Eighty diners came out for the evening event. The second night of the event took place at Maxime on Nov. 12

and brought in 80 diners. The final chapter of the fundraiser took place at Willow Place Inn Monday and brought out 86 diners.

"A lot of people from the community said they read about this fundraiser in your newspaper," said Wongkee in a phone interview with The Journal Tuesday morning. "The community has been very, supportive."

Funds were also raised through auctions and raffles held at each evening's dining experience.

Continued on page 5

The best way to predict your future is to create it. -Peter Drucker

**Festival of Lights**  
 Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Enjoy a glass of wine while you shop  
**TAX FREE!**

422 Main Road, Hudson (450) 458-5222

**Garage A. Prieur et D. Brunette Inc.**

	<b>MATADOR</b> MPS8 Max: 180/60R14 <b>\$279.80</b> <small>(Set of 4, taxes, delivery and labouring included)</small>		<b>SEMPERT</b> SPEEDGRIP Max: 180/60R14 <b>\$339.80</b> <small>(Set of 4, taxes, delivery, installation and labouring included)</small>		<b>SEMPERT</b> SPEEDGRIP Max: 200/60R16 <b>\$399.80</b> <small>(Set of 4, taxes, delivery, installation and labouring included)</small>
--	--	--	---	--	---

740, Harwood Blvd., Vaureuil-Dorion **450 424-5354**



# Piper's other passion soars sky-high

Sara E. Baxter

esb10@yourlocaljournal.ca

**Pincourt** With summer weddings and Remembrance Day wrapped up for this year, 31-year-old Graham Batty can safely put down his bagpipes, wind down, and focus on his other passion.

"I bought a Cessna so I can really get my hours up there," said the Pincourt resident who is working on acquiring his commercial pilot's license. "I've had my private pilot's license for a year and I will be able to get my commercial license in another couple of months."

Batty's passions for the bagpipes and flying blossomed soon after he joined the Air Cadets at the age of 16. It was as a member of the 306 (Maple Leaf) Wing of the Air Force Association's pipe band that he mastered his talents as a bagpipe player.

"I joined cadets with visions of becoming a pilot and not so much a piper," laughed Batty who played with the pipe band until he was 27. "But it's one of the best things that has ever happened to me. It's how I met my wife."

Batty was playing the bagpipes in Montreal's St. Patrick's parade when he first met Chantal.

"Two years later I was playing for Remembrance Day at a school where she was teaching. I saw her standing at the back of the gym and I recognized her from that day at the parade. Seven months later we were engaged and we've been married now for three years."

As a professional piper with his own business website, Batty has grown accustomed to spending much of his summers performing at weddings. He spends early to mid-November every year performing in Remembrance Day celebrations at several schools and other establishments throughout Greater Montreal. Most recently he signed on to give a performance at Sunshine Academy in Dollard des Ormeaux on Nov. 3 to help the elemen-

tary school celebrate Remembrance Day.

"I average about 90 jobs a year," he said. "I do about 45 or 50 weddings a year and I play at about nine schools for Remembrance Day."

Throughout the year Batty is employed by various other individuals and organizations to play at functions such as funerals, birthdays and corporate events.

"I got my first paid job at 18, a wedding, and playing really became my profession at 27," he said, thinking back to some of the moments that stand out most in his career. "I played for a man's 100th birthday and then a few months later I played at his funeral. I was honoured to play for both occasions."

Batty's career highlights include working abroad in places most people's careers will never take them.

"The two other major things for me were that I worked at Tokyo Disneyland in Japan in 2000 and then last year I worked at Huis Ten Bosch which is an amusement park in Nagasaki, Japan," he said.

While there are plenty of people who enjoy the sound of bagpipe music, Batty is well aware there are those who certainly don't appreciate the sound of bagpipes.

"You either love them or you hate them, that's what they say about the pipes," he laughed. "Fortunately, over the last 15 years, I've met many more that love them than dislike them."

Although competition never played a role in attracting Batty to the bagpipes, he has taken part in various such events.

"I was selected from across Quebec in 2000 to represent the province as a member of the Canada Millennium Pipe Band put together by the college of Piping in Summerside, P.E.I.," he said. "I competed there in a Grade II piping competition and it was a wonderful experience. The talent I was surrounded by was very high calibre."

Batty has also competed in various

competitions closer to home, around Montreal.

"I play for the fun aspect and the camaraderie," he said. "I enjoy what I do, I enjoy making people happy and I enjoy the attention."

With winter about to set in, Batty is excited about the opportunity to spend more quality time at Laurentide Aviation in Les Cedres where his small aircraft is tied down.

"I'll be focused on flying and I'll be piping more as a hobby from now on," he said, reminding his career just may take a turn once he earns his commercial pilot's license.

"I've certainly been fortunate with the people I've met through piping and the places I've been to," he said. "I've had some unique opportunities, it's opened a lot of doors and I've made a lot of great friends."

To learn more about Batty and his experiences visit [www.bagpiping.com](http://www.bagpiping.com).

Graham Batty plays the bagpipes at a boutnine schools throughout Greater Montreal around Remembrance Day each year. He is shown here performing for students Nov. 3 at Sunshine Academy Elementary School in Dollard des Ormeaux.



ILLUSTRATION BY SARA E. BAXTER

