

## ***Brits Making a Difference in Montreal***

### **Literacy Unlimited a Sanctuary for Ex Brits!! [www.literacyunlimited.ca](http://www.literacyunlimited.ca)**

Like many British immigrants to Quebec Sue Bramfitt-Reid arrived in Canada five years ago to the shock of not being able to find a job. Sue had worked for 23 years in the British Education System but found that her skills were not appreciated in Quebec. "I am not a quitter," she says, "so I made huge efforts to find work in the voluntary sector. I worked at Dix Mille Village in Pointe-Claire village for a while. I tried working in a school medical room, and the West Island Hospice. I even looked after two young French girls whose mother was at work. I must have been the most qualified child minder ever!!...". She was losing hope of ever fitting in when an acquaintance suggested that she call Literacy Unlimited, which was a mainly English-speaking organisation that was always looking for tutors and general volunteers.

She only had to make a call to the Executive Director and knew almost straight away that this might be what she was looking for. Sue has now been at Literacy Unlimited just over three years initially starting as a volunteer in the office. "It was great; the people were friendly and most importantly my skills were appreciated and put to good use". The organisation is run with volunteers who take part in a weekend of training to help equip them to teach adults who have failed in the education system to read and write in English. Sue took the training and became a tutor. "I got my first student and loved doing what I had always done - teaching. Then as luck would have it the job of Administration Assistant became available and I knew that I could do the job and make a difference". Sue was interviewed and got the job. She loved it and got really into initiating systems and organising the office. She also got a thorough knowledge of the organisation and the people who help to make it so successful. It came as no surprise that there were many Ex-Brits working within the organisation, either as volunteers in the office or, as tutors to adults. In fact the President of the organisation is an Ex-Brit who worked at Rolls Royce until retirement.

A short time after she got the job as Admin Assistant another Brit volunteered to help in the office and they worked together on many projects. Sue did the job for a year and saw a couple of Program Directors come and go. She then decided to apply for the job of Program Director because much of the work was very much within her area of expertise. "I was very fortunate to get the job about 18 months ago. I truly love my work, the volunteers are amazing and the students who often have the most awful stories regarding their lack of education are an inspiration". Sue says she feels that she has found her niche in Quebec and feels fulfilled and happy at last. "My friend and neighbour Suzanne said to me 'Never give up' when I was at my lowest whilst trying to find work. I didn't and here I am telling others my story!".

Literacy Unlimited are always looking for volunteers to work in the office, do short term project work, or to train as tutors, so if you are interested give them a call at:

514-694-0007

[www.literacyunlimited.ca](http://www.literacyunlimited.ca)

### **Timeline: Canada A chronology of key events:**

**1774** - The Quebec Act recognises the French language and the Roman Catholic religion in the colony.

**1776 onwards** - Loyalist refugees from the American War of Independence settle in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.

**1783** - Fur traders in Montreal set up the North West Company. The company builds up a network of trading posts across the west and north; its expeditions reach the Pacific coast.

**1791** - Quebec divided into Lower Canada (present-day Quebec) and Upper Canada (present-day Ontario).

**1800s** - Immigration picks up. Thousands of newcomers from England, Scotland and Ireland arrive each year.

## *That Christmas Feeling All Year Round*

I have recently been accompanying a first rate financial planner on visits to families interested in becoming financially secure. The look of amazement followed by a beaming smile when the "penny drops" reminded me of a child opening their "top of the list" Christmas present. Without exception people are truly amazed at the **potential of their current financial situation** and express the age old adage "I wish we had done this years ago".

Once the planner had studied the assets, liabilities and discussed financial goals he explained in simple terms the most efficient way to manage their finances. Without exception this resulted in a **drastic reduction in the number of years to pay off the mortgage, tax efficiency and improved cash flow**.

So do yourself a favour in the New Year and check that you are running your finances in the most efficient way possible. Make every penny you earn work as hard as possible for you and your family.

For a **free** information session with a financial planner, with **no obligation**, contact [finance@britclub.ca](mailto:finance@britclub.ca) or telephone 514 432 4986.

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## *Finance - Investing*

What do you need to do to make sure your investments work for you?

1. **Preserve** Your Capital
2. Grow your capital at a **reasonable** rate of return
3. **Minimise** the tax you pay

Most people have a strong desire to become financially independent and maximise their wealth creation opportunities.

But, **how do people become wealthy?**

1. Set a goal and develop a plan  
Successful people are goal driven and **have a plan**, a road map, to reach that goal.
2. **Use other people's expertise**  
"Jack of all trades master of non". None of us are experts at everything. Use good quality expertise to maximise your potential. Do not fall into the "They cost far too much" trap. If they make money you make money.
3. Use other people's money  
Most people will tell you their best investment was buying their home. How did they buy their home? By using the bank's (Other people's money).
4. Pay yourself first  
Money leaves your grasp all the time; bills, food, gas, taxes, etc. How many people have investments on their list? Most of your money goes to other people so why not **actively pay yourself** also.
5. Buy quality investments; hold them for as long as possible  
Minimise risk **by investing in top quality companies** with a proven track record. Hold them for as long as possible to minimise fees and taxes incurred by buying and selling often. Holding also "smoothes out the bumps" in the stock market.  
[finance@britclub.ca](mailto:finance@britclub.ca)

**It has come to our attention that Emmerdale on CBC (3:30 p.m.) weekdays has been cancelled. To complain call the CBC at General Information 1-514-597-6000 who are logging calls, or use the web form at <http://www.cbc.ca/contact/index.jsp>. You can also write to Audience Relations, CBC, P.O. Box 500 Station A, Toronto, ON, Canada, M5W 1E6. (Thanks Len and June for the info.)**

## ***Strange But True British Laws:***

1. It is illegal to eat mince pies in England on Christmas Day. But nip across the border into Wales or Scotland, and you can tuck into this festive treat to your heart's content. It is one of the odd old laws on the statute book, although rarely enforced by even the keenest police officer.
  2. Another says Santa Claus must deliver to English houses by midnight on 25 December - although that at least gives him time for the rest of the world.
  3. It is legal for a male to urinate in public, as long it is on the rear wheel of his motor vehicle and his right hand is on the vehicle.
  4. A bed may not be hung out of a window.
  5. Taxi drivers are required to ask all passengers if they have smallpox or the plague.
  6. Any person found breaking a boiled egg at the sharp end will be sentenced to 24 hours in the village stocks (enacted by Edward VI).
  7. Any boy under the age of 10 may not see a naked mannequin.
  8. It is illegal to be drunk on licensed premises.
  9. You can shoot a Welsh person all day on a Sunday, with a longbow in the Cathedral Close, Hereford.
  10. It is no more relaxing for the Welsh if they make another expedition just across the border, to Chester. There, an ancient law that says Welsh people can be shot with a bow and arrow inside the city walls and after midnight.
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## ***History - New France***

Samuel de Champlain was part of a 1603 expedition from France that traveled into the St. Lawrence River. In 1608, he returned as head of an exploration party and founded Quebec City with the intention of making the area part of the French colonial empire. Champlain's Habitation de Quebec, built as a permanent fur trading outpost, was where he would forge a trading, and ultimately a military alliance, with the Algonquin and Huron nations. Natives traded their furs for many French goods such as metal objects, guns, alcohol, and clothing.

Helen Desportes, born July 7, 1620, to French habitants Pierre Desportes and his wife Françoise Langlois, was the first child of European descent born in Quebec.

From Quebec, Voyageurs, Coureurs des bois, and Catholic missionaries used river canoes to explore the interior of the North American continent, establishing fur trading forts on the Great Lakes (Étienne Brûlé 1615), Hudson Bay (Radisson and Groseilliers 1659-60), Ohio and Mississippi Rivers (La Salle 1682), as well as the Prairies and Missouri River (de la Verendrye 1734-1738).

After 1627, King Louis XIII of France introduced the seigneurial system and forbade settlement in New France by anyone other than Roman Catholics. Sulpician and Jesuit clerics founded missions in Trois Rivières (Lavolette) and Montréal or Ville-Marie (de Maisonneuve and Jeanne Mance) to convert New France's Huron and Algonkian allies to Catholicism. The seigneurial system of governing New France also encouraged immigration from the motherland.

New France became a Royal Province in 1663 under King Louis XIV of France with a Sovereign Council that included intendant Jean Talon. This ushered in a golden era of settlement and colonization in New France, including the arrival of les "Filles du Roi". The population would grow from about 3,000 to 60,000 people between 1666 and 1760. Colonists built farms on the banks of St. Lawrence River and called themselves "Canadiens" or "Habitants". The colony's total population was limited, however, by a winter climate significantly harsher than that found in France; by the spread of diseases; and by the refusal of the French crown to allow Huguenots, or French Protestants, to settle. The population of New France lagged far behind that of the 13 Colonies to the south, leaving it vulnerable to attack.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec#Fall\\_of\\_New\\_France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec#Fall_of_New_France)

## Other News & Events

### Suspect in U.K. prostitute murders to be held until May

A 48-year-old man charged with killing five prostitutes in eastern England will remain in custody until May, a judge decided Tuesday.

Steve Wright, a former forklift driver, appeared briefly in Ipswich's Crown Court before Judge John Devaux on the murder charges. He did not enter a plea and did not ask for bail.

Wright was charged Dec. 21 with the murders of Gemma Adams, 25, Tania Nicol, 19, Anneli Alderton, 24, Paula Clennell, 24, and Annette Nicholls, 29.

Their bodies were found in rural areas around Ipswich, 110 kilometres northeast of London, over an 11-day period last month.

<http://cnews.canoe.ca>

### Alternative Christmas Day message

A Muslim woman in a full-face veil went head-to-head on television with Queen Elizabeth II, delivering an alternative Christmas Day message on religious integration.

At the same time the 80-year-old monarch's Christmas message to Britain and the Commonwealth was broadcast, a woman known only as Khadijah spoke on Channel 4 television about why she wore the niqab in public and called for tolerance.

"We are seen as oppressed. Since I've started covering I feel much more liberated, which I know a lot of people possibly won't be able to understand," she said.

"I don't wear the niqab to separate myself from society. I want to be part of this society - - this is where I choose to live. I hope that society is more accepting of my personal

choice. It's not about separation."

Khadijah's appearance comes amid a debate about the extent of religious and ethnic integration following last year's home-grown Islamist extremist suicide attacks in London. She also said that Britain was the best country for people to practise their religion freely.

"My alternative Christmas message this year is peace on earth and good will to all humankind, regardless of race, colour or creed," she said.

### Weather hampers New Year revelry

Edinburgh's Hogmanay street party was among a string of events cancelled as bad weather hampered New Year's Eve celebrations across the UK. A firework event in Newcastle was called off and one in Liverpool moved to 5 January, while in Belfast an outdoor concert was scrapped.

Glasgow's Hogmanay party was also cancelled due to the weather.

### Little Festive Cheer For Airline Passengers

UK flights are returned to normal after dense fog caused days of disruption for thousands of travellers. British Airways, which had the largest number of cancellations, has apologised for its delays, and drafted in extra staff to clear the passenger backlog.

At the height of the chaos, thousands of passengers were forced to wait for news of flights in temporary marquees outside Heathrow in freezing temperatures.

BA used larger planes on many European routes to transport more passengers and clear the backlog, while about 4,000 travellers were taken to their destinations in coaches laid on by the company.

More than 1,000 flights were cancelled around the UK because of the fog.

### Britain Struggles to Cope With Wave of Immigration

In MANCHESTER, a gritty northern city once famous for its textile exports, two bus companies have had their operating licenses suspended for employing Polish drivers who cannot read English road signs. In the Romanian capital of Bucharest, a new bus station opened this week to cater for yet more people keen to travel to Eastern Europe's favourite destination.

As both Romania and Bulgaria became the European Union's newest members on Jan. 1, Britain braced for a new wave of immigration.

After the EU expanded eastwards in 2004, the London government hopelessly miscalculated the number of likely economic migrants looking for a better income in Britain than at home.

Government agencies anticipated 13,000 people a year but now concede that about 600,000 East Europeans -- the majority Poles -- arrived in Britain between 2004 and 2006.

The government claims that most have taken jobs the British don't want to do, but evidence is emerging that cost-cutting companies are employing foreigners in place of native labor.

And critics argue that the country's infrastructure and social fabric is being undermined by the biggest wave of immigration since the Roman legions arrived over 2,000 years ago.

According to the independent watchdog Migrationwatch UK, Britain is now receiving an immigrant a minute.

<http://worldpoliticswatch.com>

## **Health - GlucoAid**

**"The simple and compact way of controlling your intake"**



**Have you been told that your blood sugar is high or have you been diagnosed with diabetes?** The GlucoAid wheel is the exciting new way to help you control your sugar level and avoid, postpone or reduced your medication.

The GlucoAid system is aimed at helping people monitor their carbs and calories intake by simply turning a wheel. Although there are **over 270 items of information** in the system it is simplicity itself; easy to learn and easy to use.

Loosing weight and controlling carbs intake can help people to avoid developing diabetes. Using the GlucoAid wheel, diabetic people could use less medication (or avoid medication) and have a better control over their health. In fact, diabetic people controlling their carbs intake greatly increase their chances of avoiding associated health problems (heart and vascular disease, kidney, visual and neurological complications). GlucoAid wheel eases carbs counting for insulin users and should help them to better achieve their glycemia target.

Glucoaid is endorsed by the Treehouse Child Care Centre, Hudson. You can buy the GlucoAid online at [www.britclub.ca](http://www.britclub.ca)

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## **Watch British Television**

**A couple of suggestions regarding watching UK TV.**

1) Watch channel 4 live: <http://geo.channel4.com/player/simulcast/index.jsp> but you need a program which hides IP address.

2) Use a good web sharing program i.e. <http://www.isohunt.com/>. You'll first need to load Azureus software which actually downloads the Torrents. [http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/azureus/Azureus\\_2.5.0.0\\_Win32.setup.exe?use\\_mirror=puzzle](http://prdownloads.sourceforge.net/azureus/Azureus_2.5.0.0_Win32.setup.exe?use_mirror=puzzle). To watch the shows import to media player or another program such as DivX ([www.divx.com](http://www.divx.com)). Of course you can also burn your selections to DVD (external DVD burners available from Best Buy for about \$80). If you can't find the program you need on isohunt you can also look on: Torrent spy, mininova, The pirate bay. All of the above is FREE, don't pay for any of the programs, all is available to download FREE. Popular UK TV shows are usually available to download about a day after shown in the UK.

3) SLINGBOX Watch LIVE UK TV anytime on your computer. Have not tried this yet but plan on buying very soon. <http://uk.slingmedia.com/page/slingbox.html>. This can be bought online from Dixons for about GBP149.99. <http://www.dixons.co.uk> (in search insert: 157886) You'll need a kind relative in the UK who has a highspeed internet/cable TV service. In Canada you need highspeed internet. The box plugs into the back of UK TV set top box. Back in Canada you need to be sent the software which comes with the box. Thats it, it should work.

You can change channels etc etc but if the person back in the UK changes the channel or switches the set top box off your screwed !

Submitted by: Clive Seacombe, Montreal.

# Classified Ads

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## The Treehouse Child Care Centre



### FUNDRAISER

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*Que de Bonnes Choses*,  
and the *Hudson & St-Lazare British Club*

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Via the internet:

St-Lazare & Hudson British Club - [www.britclub.ca](http://www.britclub.ca)

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