

# Antique buggy sale in Ulverton

By Claudia Villemaire  
ULVERTON

Gracious living today, or, in other words, the well-to-do life style, has very little resemblance to a by-gone era. With fancy four-wheeled carriages, high-stepping, well-bred horses, ladies wearing the high fashion of the time and men in high collars and top hats. They would venture out for a drive in a nearby park or guide their horse to the village church on a Sunday morning, greeting neighbours and friends travelling as well in horse-drawn conveyances.

Why do we reminisce those days of ladies large-brimmed hats, wearing gloves and handmade leather, fancy boots, dresses cut low, waists corseted to a slim A-frame shape, multiple skirts, flounces and petticoats. The wealthiest rigs would be fancy buggies, spoke wheels and leather bumpers, high-backed leather seats, a team of fancy steppers driven by a driver up front and a groom standing or sitting on a special arrangement of seat and or stand behind the passengers.

This week, the Record had the unique

chance to let imaginations turn to just this type of lifestyle. In a restored, hundred-year old barn just outside this historic village, those 'old' days took over the mind's eye and imagination took over as the first of several buggies came into view. Dozens of exactly that type of buggy or carriage and sleigh are on display, lined up and ready for the auctioneer's. Original paint, stencilling along the length of the buggy, brass carriage lamps, buffalo robes and sleigh seats upholstered in suede leather or heavy velvet, harness complete with the brasses and bells that made every outfit unique and identifiable. From the four inch deep clang of yoke and pole bells to the finest tinkle of shaft and harness bells. Even the style and size of the foot warmers, filled with hot rocks or bricks and used by the ladies on brisk Sunday outings to church or to call on neighbours and friends - it's all there, at the home of the Jutras family where the dispersal will begin May 7th.

Florian Jutras was a passionate collector and restorer of just about anything connected to the use of horses in a by-gone era. Painstakingly repairing and

restoring these antique conveyances. Going to every sale or source where this type of equipment might be available, Jutras and his wife, Aline Demanche dedicated every spare minute to this hobby. The result is a barn full of memorabilia depicting a much different life style with samples of sleighs, cutters, cariole, heavy work sleighs and wagons and even a couple of racing sulkies complete with wicker seats and high wooden spoke wheels - quite a far cry from the lightweight aluminum, spoke-wheeled bikes in use today.

Many of these antique buggies, wagons and sleighs would be a proud acqui-

sition by museums far and wide. In the meantime, the public has a last chance to visit the premises next Wednesday and Thursday between 9am and 5pm. Different arrangements are possible by appointment. For information call the auctioneers, Brian and Stephen Barrie - 819 826 1120 or 819 826 5373. The website is [www.bsbauctions.com](http://www.bsbauctions.com)

The auction will be held in a tent on location and there will be washrooms and a snack bar on the grounds. The only stipulation is to bring your own chair.



PHOTOS BY CLAUDIA VILLEMAIRE



Aline Demanche-Jutras and her daughter France standing at the antique ESSO gas pump. (Gas was pumped from the tank to a calibrated glass tank we can see in the photo)

Aline Demanche-Jutras - her memories of travelling to sales and helping her husband restore these precious artifacts still touches her heart. "I am still well and can do the outside work of maintenance, but it's time for someone else to enjoy these wonderful buggies, wagons, sleighs and all the items that go with them," she admits, sadness shadowing blue eyes as she recalls a happier time.

## Mother's Day messages

Tell us why your mother or grandmother should go out for dinner on Mother's Day and get a chance to win one of two \$50 gift certificates to Baton Rouge in Sherbrooke.



Send a 30 word message about your mother or grandmother to The Record, along with \$10, and we will publish them in the newspaper on May 5. **The deadline is May 2.**

Mother/Grandmother's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Message: \_\_\_\_\_

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