



Galt's particularly popular library

Victoria Vanier, Lennoxville, Sherbrooke

As anyone who has ever visited the place knows, the Alexander Galt High School library is a dynamic and popular place. It has continued to evolve over the years as its two librarians, Judith Munger and Dale Davidson, strive to meet the changing needs

The Stratford Journal, April 4, 2018

The end of an era at Marguerite Knapp building

Tenants begin the search for new accommodations

Sherbrooke Record · 6 Apr 2018 · 1 · By Matthew Mccully

Because of the deteriorating condition of 257 Queen Street, what was once a hub of services for Englishspeakers will soon have to close its doors.



The community organizations currently sharing space in the building have been advised by the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB), owner of the property, to begin the search for new accommodations. “We don’t have funding to repair the building,” said ETSB Chairman Mike Murray. “It needs significant reinvestment to be restored to an adequate

state,” he said, adding that regular maintenance of the building is a significant expense for the board.

“The tenants have been made aware of the dilemma and have been told to look for alternatives.”

Murray said that the board hasn’t adopted a formal resolution yet regarding the future of the building, but will likely do so in one of its upcoming meetings.

While happy to provide space at a reasonable rate for what has become a onestop shop for resources and services for English Townshippers, Murray said the condition of the building has reached a point where the board is thinking of disposing of the property in the long-term.

Townshippers’ Association President Gerald Cutting said the Marguerite Knapp building would be a hard act to follow, but was optimistic about finding new quarters.

“It was the place for things English,” Cutting said, explaining there was many a time there were mutual referrals among the organizations in the building.

“It’s not a surprise,” commented Cutting, saying the association knew there would be a time, given the state of the building, that this day would come.

“We’re in search mode at the moment,” he said.

The tenants include Townshippers’ Association, the Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN), Mental Health Estrie, Townshippers’ Research and Cultural Foundation, the Lennoxville and District Women’s Centre, The Townships Sun and the Township Regional Union of Support Staff.

While sticking together would be the ideal scenario, Cutting said the various organizations have to be realistic about the situation. With so many must-haves in terms of location, space and accessibility, a number of the groups will likely go their separate ways.

“We’re really thankful,” Cutting said, for the time spent at 257 Queen.

Thanks to a partnership and rental arrangement with the ETSB well below commercial rates, Cutting said Townshippers’ was able to devote more of its base grants that would normally be used on rent for other services for the community.

Cutting said the association will hold an executive meeting in the coming weeks to wrestle with the various options.

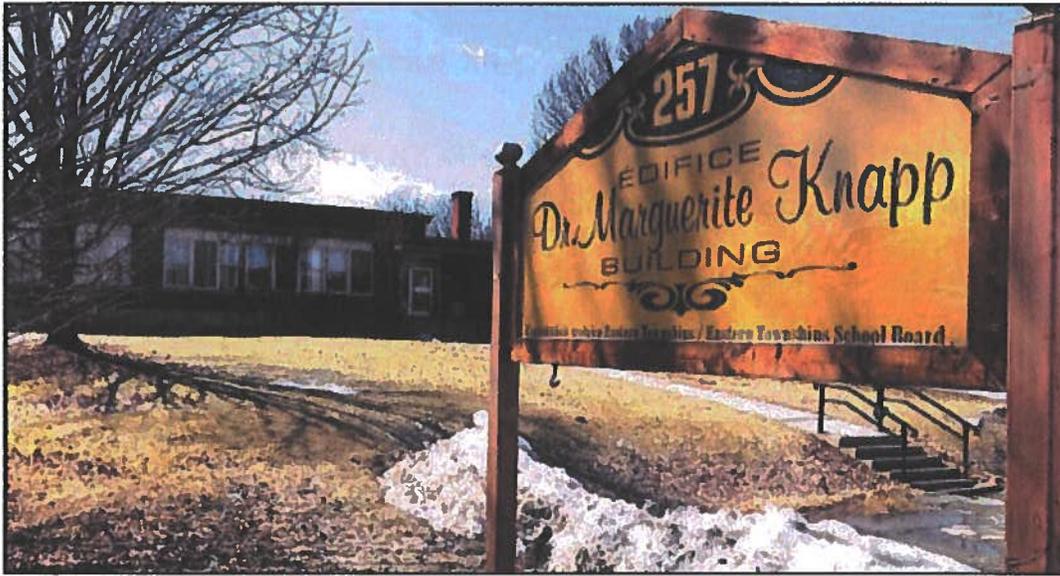
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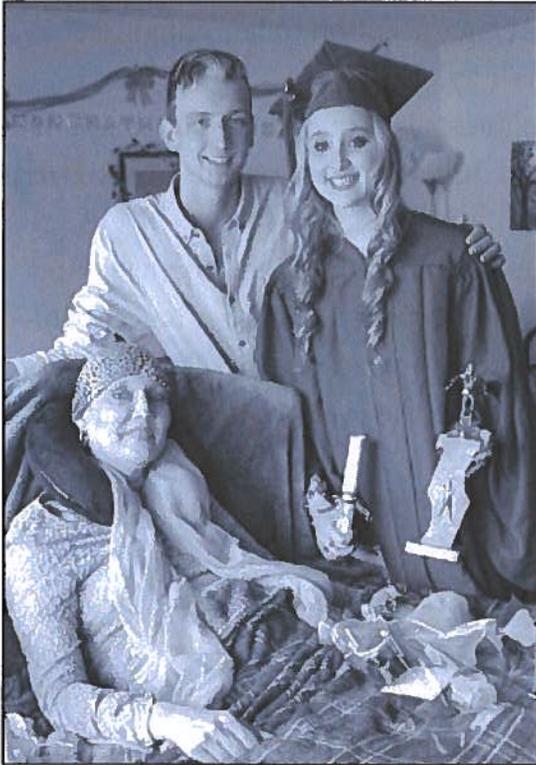
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MVHS rallies for special grad ceremony

Sherbrooke Record · 5 Apr 2018 · 1 · By Matthew McCully

High school graduation is a proud moment that many parents look forward to sharing with their children.



For Gail Mayo, facing the final stages of a six-year battle with cancer, the dream of seeing her daughter Erika graduate seemed to be slipping away until Massey-vanier High School organized a special bedside ceremony last week, helping Mayo's wish come true.

"They gave us this gift," Mayo said, grateful to the school for the extraordinary gesture. "It was very thoughtful. That was my last wish," she said.

Mayo received a diagnosis of breast cancer on June 26, 2012. She was 43-years-old at the time.

"I've been fighting since then," she said, explaining that the cancer metastasised almost immediately. She has been undergoing treatment every three weeks since her diagnosis.

From the time she realised her life would be cut short, Mayo maintained a goal of seeing her two children, Zackary and Erika, graduate from High School. Zackary, now 19, is currently studying at McGill. Erika, 16, is in her final year at MVHS.

"I don't know if I'll make it until May," Mayo said, pointing out that she learned recently that the cancer spread to her brain, causing paralysis below the breast bone.

Kathy Harris-miltimore, who works at MVHS, was aware of Mayo's struggle.

"It's so difficult to express in words. That was her wish. That's all she wanted," Harris-miltimore said.

"In November, when she (Mayo) found out she only had four to six months, I went to see Julie," Harris-miltimore said, explaining how the decision to hold the special ceremony came about.

"We were so honoured to do it for them," Harris-miltimore said. "She is such a tough lady. We are all in awe of her strength and determination; and she passed it on to her daughter."

The graduation ceremony took place on Tuesday, March 27.

Because Mayo's Cowansville apartment is small, the guest list was limited to family and close friends, as well as Harris-miltimore, MVHS Principal Julie Edwards and teachers Deunisia Wiazowski and Jennifer Owen.

According to Harris-miltimore, a local florist donated mother/daughter corsages and a nearby bakery donated cupcakes for after the ceremony. Harris-miltimore accompanied Mayo's close friend Kimberly Boudreau to pick up some decorations, for which MVHS picked up the bill. Boudreau went to Mayo's apartment the night before the event to decorate and prepare for the ceremony.

"We all went in stressed out," commented Harris-miltimore, not knowing what the mood would be like given the circumstances.

"Gail had everybody at ease," she said. "It was all about happiness. It was really uplifting."

The bedside graduation ceremony was authentic in every way from the gown, to the entrance music and speeches. Jennifer Owen also presented Erika, the graduate, with an MVP swimming trophy.

"You always remember your most important days," Harris-miltimore said. While the goal was to help Mayo and her family create lasting memories, she said the ceremony had an impact on everyone in attendance. "This is one day that's going to stick with me forever. This is what it's all about," she said.

"This is the hardest part. Things are winding down," Harris-miltimore said, explaining that Mayo and her children have so many difficult things to think about right now. "This gave them a nice chunk of happiness," she said.

"I've been on cloud nine since it happened," Mayo said. "It's been a lot on my kids. This gave them a happy day," commented Mayo.

"When you're going through a hard time and people step to the plate and make your day better, it's incredible," Mayo said, overwhelmed by the grand graduation gesture.

The ceremony not only made her wish come true, but confirmed to Mayo that there is a strong network of people looking out for Zackary and Erika.

“They’re under their wing. They understand,” she said.

Mayo is currently in her home with support from a medical team.

“I just take it one day at a time. I’m trying to push the limits,” she said. If her condition deteriorates, she will move to a palliative centre in Bromont where she has an end-of-life plan prepared.

“There’s no other way but to fight,” Mayo said, adding that humour is the best medicine.

“As they say, you live for today, hope for tomorrow.”

School Page

Parkview Elementary

On Monday, March 26, the Palace Theater in Granby was the venue for the Third Annual Ecoles en Spectacles / Schools Spectacular. Francophone and Anglophone, elementary and high school students came from different parts of the area with talented and very excited students! Categories were Dance and Singing and there is always a trophy for the best group in each category.

The show debuted with two-time defending dance champion Mont Sacre-Coeur performing a Hip-Hop dance mix that set the mood for the rest of the evening. Song renditions ranged from Allelujah to Rap! Six hundred audience members were seen and heard either clapping or cheering for the wonderful students on stage. These students were ready and smiling on stage due to the dedication of their teachers and coaches.

We were fortunate enough to have Mr. Charles Brunelle emcee the show as well. His sense of timing and wit allowed the show to flow seamlessly.

According to the judges Valerie R. Dube (CSVDC) Maxime Ferland (CSVDC and ETSB) and Robert Ossington (Knowlton Theatre) judging the students was not an easy feat! There was much deliberation amongst the judges but they finally came to a unanimous decision.

Mont Sacre-Coeur and Parkview tied for first place in the Singing Category and Massey Vanier Dance Troupe The Verve won first place for Dance.

The students put on a performance that people are still talking about. So much that the word is spreading and more and more schools want to be in on the fun! Maybe next year we might need to rent the balconies?

The Record, April 4, 2018



One of 4 Massey Vanier Dance Squad in action



Parkview Glee Club performing a mash-up of Play That Song, Fight Song and Glory



Parkview Glee Club awaiting judges result



Massey Vanier The Verve this year dance category winners



Ex acquit winners Parkview and Mont Sacre-Couer celebrating the results of the singing competition



All dance squads assembled on stage celebrating Massey Vanier's victory

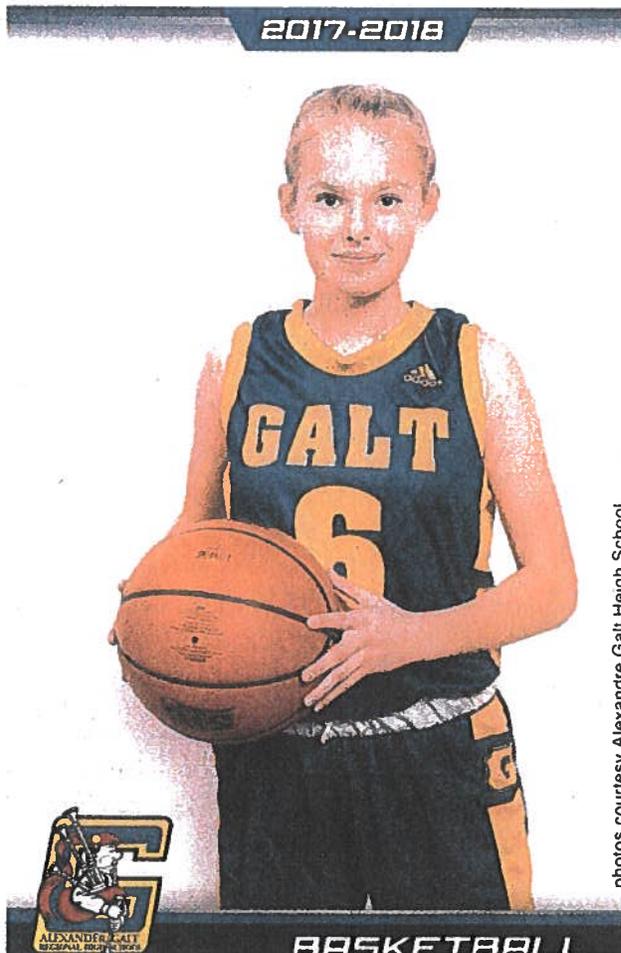
SPORTS

The Gilpin's Named Piper Athletes Of The Month

**Bob Fisk,
Special collaboration
Lennoxville**

Hannah and Rowan Gilpin have been named the Piper athletes of the month for March at Alexander Galt High School.

Hannah played an instrumental role in helping lead the Junior Girls Basketball team to a bronze medal finish in the tough RSEQ AA league. The Lennoxville resident notched 14 points and 8 assists in the RSEQ bronze medal game in which she defeated Marie Rivier. The young point guard played big minutes in the final game of the regular season by scoring a team high 16 points and 10 assists to help propel her team into the play offs. The 14 year old demonstrated



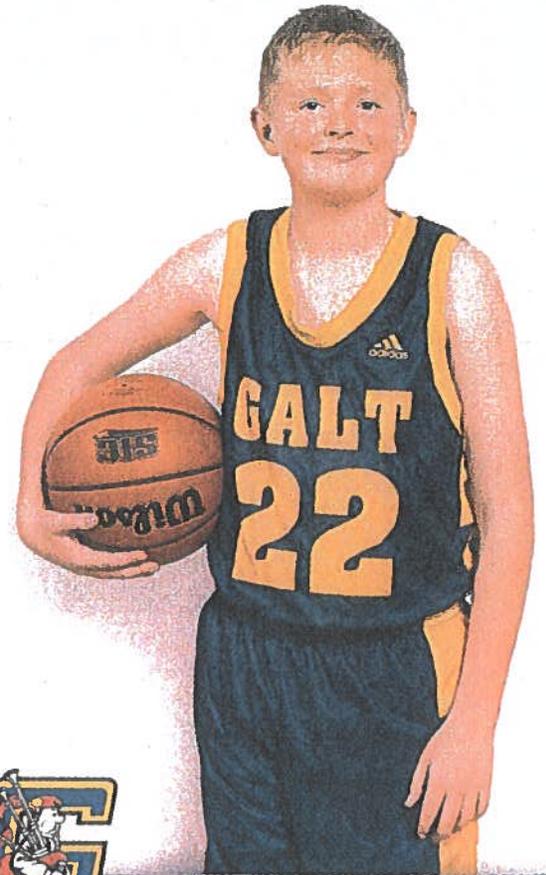
photos courtesy Alexandre Galt High School

Stanstead Journal, April 4, 2018

a calm demeanour on the floor down the stretch as the games became more meaningful and played her best basketball of the season. The grade 9 students also hit two clutch free throws with 3 seconds left in the semi final of the QSSSA Provincial Championships and was the games high scorer with 15 points. The team came up three points short in the gold medal game after an eventful comeback.

Meanwhile her younger brother Rowan put up some pretty good numbers of his own as a member of the bantam boys basketball team that played in the RSEQ AA league. The young versatile player was the team's highest scorer in the final two games of the regular season including the play offs. Like his sister, the 12 year old showed no signs of panic on the court and gobbled up several rebounds at both ends of the floor. The grade seven student was often matched up against the opposing teams best defender because of his versatility and basketball IQ. With the season over

2017-2018



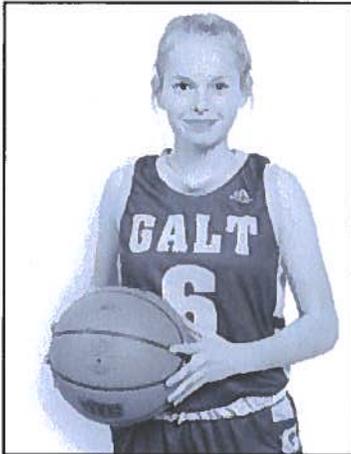
BASKETBALL

the brother-sister combo will continue to perfect their basketball skills in the sports concentration program and elite programs throughout the summer. In the meantime they will continue their strong work ethic in the classroom where they both sit on the Honour Roll.

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Galt students give politics a go

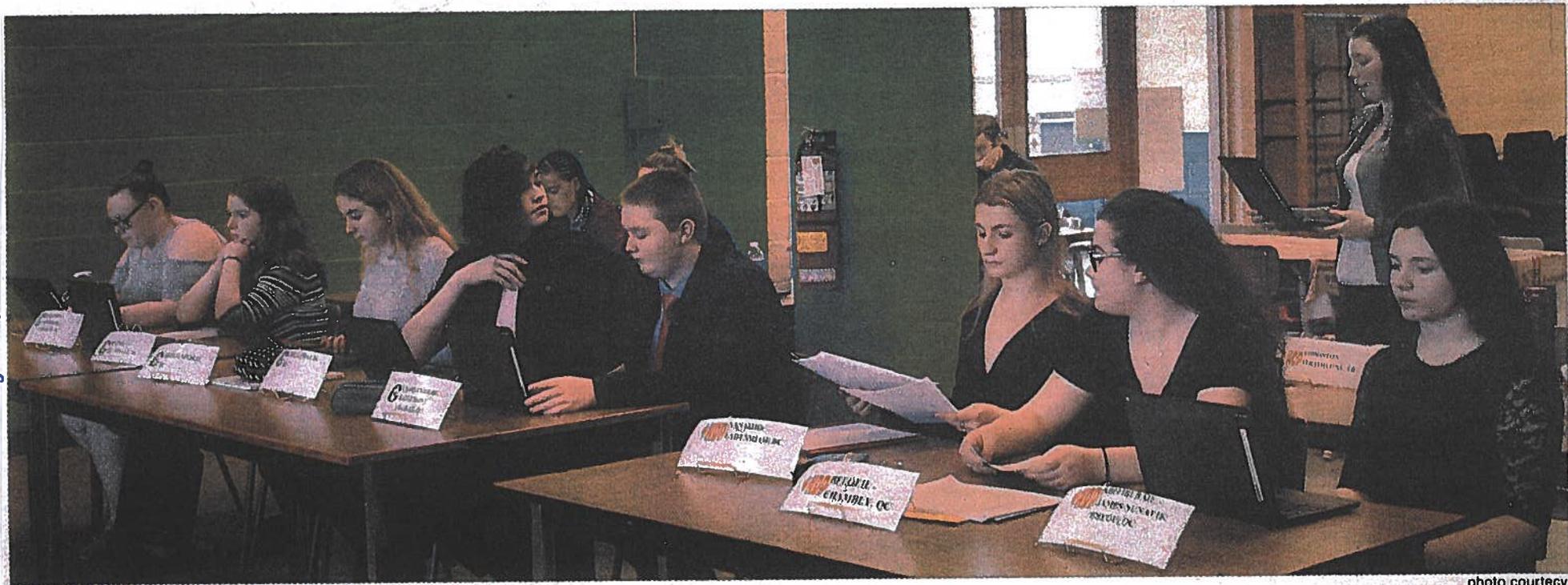


photo courtesy

Galt students representing Conservative and NDP Members of Parliament during a session of Model Parliament.

Victoria Vanier Lennoxville,

Alexander Galt High School's Model Parliament sessions, organized by Cycle 2 English teacher Meagan McKinven and Cycle 2 History teacher Drew Pollock, began last week in the school's library. The sessions take place over a two week period. The students first begin working on the project in December and they are divided into Liberals, Conservatives and the NDP, depending on the results of the Vote Compass survey that they take. This year the

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STANLEY VANIER, 4, 10, 15

from page 7

Jean Charest to speak at Model Parliament

students are working with the following Ministries: Status of Women, Indigenous Affairs, Natural Resources, Environment and Public Safety. During the sessions, the students are responsible for question periods, debate of legislation, working with Bills, developing amendments based on their party's values and passing legislation.

"The students are also responsible for creating party websites, individual MP websites, reaching out to the individual MPs they will be representing for guidance through interviews, and creating campaign ads. The culminating activity for this project is visiting the House of Commons and sitting in on question period at the end of April," explained Ms. McKinven. "This is always exciting for the students as they have a greater understanding of the procedures of question period and are able to see a live session of something they have just completed which brings this project full circle and generally engages them in a new way, politically," added the teacher.

This year's guest speaker at the final Model Parliament session on April 13th will be former Quebec Premier Jean Charest who will speak to the students about his career in politics and why it is important to be actively engaged in our political system.

Diversity Circle tackles timely topics

of the high school's student population in engaging and creative ways. They were both flattered and honoured when, on February 14th, teachers at the school recognized them with some kind words and special gifts for their dedication.

In an interview with the Stanstead Journal, Ms. Munger spoke about what, besides the book lending, has been going on at the Galt library this school year. "We devoted the month of September to First Nations issues," said Ms. Munger. The library's first special 'display' of the year, a table or two at the entrance to the library that features books, websites, newspaper articles, images and more on changing themes throughout the year, focused on the Canadian Residential School system. "We ordered orange t-shirts for 'Wear Orange T-Shirt Day' (the day that people wear an orange t-shirt to remember a six year old girl who wore a new orange t-shirt to her first day at Residential school, only to have it taken away from her permanently when she was given her uniform), but

Not to be put off, the librarians cut out small orange paper t-shirts, wrote facts about Residential schools on the small t-shirts, and then stuck them up around the school, including on the wall in the cafeteria where the students line up for lunch. Talk about going the extra mile!

A new and particularly interesting activity that began last year at the library is the weekly 'Diversity Circle' that is open to anyone and takes place during the lunch hour. Organized in collaboration with Student Services staff, the students who take part sit in a small group and discuss specific topics. "The school's wood shop was making Adirondack chairs so I asked if the library could have some. We were given the chairs, eight of them, that the woodworking students didn't bring home and Dale painted them in the colours of the rainbow. They were perfect for the Diversity Circle because it's not a conference but an exchange. I think it is important for the students to be able to look each other in the eyes during these

March being Nutrition Month, some of the topics recently discussed were the benefits and disadvantages of the types of drinks that teens consume, and vegan diets. "We made three dips and served them with pita breads and carrot sticks and had the students guess which one was vegan, with prizes for those who guessed right. The activities have to be fun!" said the librarian. A transgender person will speak during one of the Diversity Circles in April and Circles that took place earlier in the year covered subjects such as concussions and brain injury, how to recognize fake news, consumerism, homelessness, and violence against women. An especially popular Diversity Circle featured former NFL player and motivational speaker Alvin Powell who spoke with the students and signed autographs.

The library's Bistro, an area equipped with small tables and chairs where students can enjoy free herbal teas with their lunch, is well-used by an average of about one hundred students each lunch



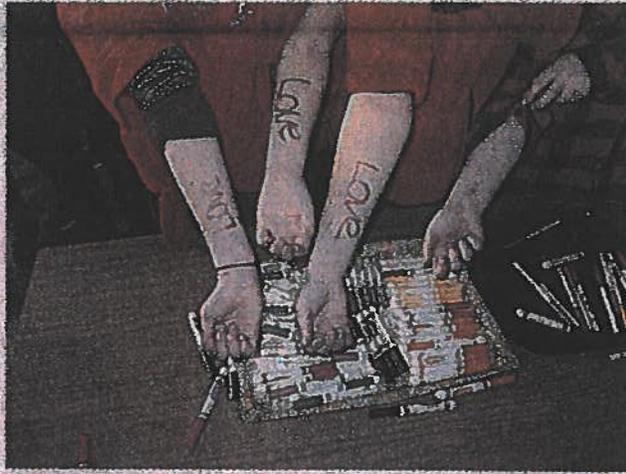
photos courtesy

Galt librarians **Judith Munger** and **Dale Davidson** after being honoured by Galt staff on Valentine's Day.

Stanstead Journal, April 4, 2018

Bistro is so popular given that the school has a spacious and bright cafeteria. Ms. Munger commented: "It's a 'respect' zone. It's loud but there is no screaming or running allowed. Teachers serve the free herbal tea and that gives students and teachers the chance to talk informally. I think the students feel like it's a place that belongs to them; many of them often ask if there is anything they can do to help." She added: "The local Odd Fellows Unity Lodge no. 8 gives us a monthly donation to buy the herbal teas for the students. We'll start serving cold herbal teas in May because it can get hot in some classrooms in May and June and the kids really need to drink a lot."

Another activity that goes on in the library is a now annual benefit Art auction which is put on by the students and teachers in the school's Visual Arts Concentration Program. "This year, on March 23rd, they sold their art to raise money for Bishop University's Mae Sot Education Project. It's a nice chance for the students to get involved in charity work," said Ms. Munger. Upcoming events include a public speaking contest in April and the celebrating of the International Day against Homophobia in May. "I'm very excited that we will be getting rainbow



Over five hundred students came to the library to write "Love" on their arms during the TWLOHA event to raise awareness about suicide



The Visual Arts students' benefit art auction was held in the library.

bracelets for the students this year," said Ms. Munger with enthusiasm.

Now that April is upon us, the school's two librarians are already making plans for next year's activities. "I've found a publishing house where we can get

bilingual books in French or English and First Nations languages. I think it's important to hear the stories of the cultural genocide of our First Nations people in their own voices," Judith concluded.