

# Lieutenant Governor honours community leaders

Sherbrooke Record · 23 Apr 2018 · 1 · By Gordon Lambie Record Staff

The Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, Michel Doyon, was in Sherbrooke on Sunday afternoon to present the Lieutenant Governor's Medal to 42 individuals from the region in recognition of outstanding contributions to their communities.



“Your implication, engagement, and generosity mark the way for all those who will follow in your footsteps,” Doyon said, adding that without the 28 students and 14 seniors receiving the medals, the towns and cities in which they live would be very different places.

Three levels of award were given out by the Lieutenant Governor. The first, the bronze, is specifically for students under 29 years of aged who have distinguished themselves in a recognized educational institution through not just academic success, but sustained and inspiring community and social involvement. Among the recipients of this medal on Sunday were

# Concerned parent still waiting for the bus to stop

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Sherbrooke Record · 27 Apr 2018 · 3 · By Matthew Mccully

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In February, The Record was contacted by Saint-françois-xavier-de-brompton resident Mike Pezzi, concerned about his 11-year-old son's safety, walking along the shoulder of Route 249 to the school bus stop.

Months later, Pezzi and his son, now 12, are still waiting for answers.

Beginning in October, Pezzi approached the bus driver as well as the Eastern Townships School Board to request bus pickup and drop-off in front of his home to ensure his son's safety. His request was denied.

Pezzi's next step was to contact the Student Ombudsman.

He also went to the March ETSB council of commissioners meeting. Pointing to a measure in the board's transportation policy where the board has the authority to approve the designation of zones, Pezzi asked that the board consider designating the stretch of road to the bus stop a danger zone, which would entitle his son accommodations for a safe pickup.

Pezzi returned to the council of commissioners at the April meeting held this past Tuesday, asking for an update.

According to Pezzi, he was told that a sub-committee has been formed to look into the situation. That committee is expected to meet with the transportation committee on May 8, and the findings will be brought before the council for a decision, he said.

Pezzi received a response from Student Ombudsman Christian Beaudry.

In a letter to Pezzi, Beaudry explained that the safety of pedestrians lies within the jurisdiction of the municipality and not the school board, so he was unable to address the complaint.

"Your complaint refers to a bus pickup and drop off safety issue. As I understand it, there is a safety issue because the sidewalk used normally by your son to reach the bus stop is not cleared or maintained in winter. Had the sidewalk been cleared from snow and ice, there would be no safety issue," the letter from Beaudry reads.

Pezzi was well aware of the municipality's decision not to clear the sidewalks, a decision made by referendum three years ago in town.

According to Pezzi, citizens living in rural areas of the municipality objected to their tax dollars being spent for snow removal for the citizens living in town.

He added that the sidewalk on his road is old, cracked and narrower than a standard sidewalk so plowing it would likely pose challenges for snow removal equipment.

“Winter is the worst,” Pezzi said. Since it was not cleared, his son walked along the shoulder of Route 249 (Rue Principale) roughly 160 metres to get to the bus stop.

With the snow gone, Pezzi said the safety issue is minimal. His son can use the sidewalk, but he is worried he will face the same problem next winter. The combination of snow and ice with substantial traffic and many drivers not respecting the 50 km/h zone is a big concern.

“It’s a matter of minutes,” Pezzi said, regarding the stop in front of his house, which would require no detour or additional driving.

Pezzi is a former bus driver for Autobus B. Dion.

“As a former driver, I’ve done those things,” Pezzi said, explaining that he wouldn’t need to be asked twice to ensure the safety of a student in his charge.

# Report des élections scolaires en 2020 ?

## Les commissions scolaires de la région ouvertes à l'idée

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**SHERBROOKE** — Les commissions scolaires de la région voient d'un bon œil la proposition du ministre de l'Éducation Sébastien Proulx de repousser les prochaines élections scolaires en 2020. Le scrutin était initialement prévu pour novembre 2018, soit à peine un mois après la fin des élections provinciales.

« Il y a une discussion qui est en cours avec l'ensemble des partis politiques », a expliqué le ministre Proulx jeudi. « Étant donné la proximité avec le scrutin provincial, mais surtout avec l'intention de plusieurs parlementaires et des commissions scolaires de vouloir réfléchir à un mode de votation électronique qui pourrait favoriser la participation aux élections », le gouvernement évalue la possibilité de repousser le prochain scrutin scolaire à 2020, a-t-il poursuivi.

Tous les partis à l'Assemblée nationale auraient manifesté leur appui à la proposition, a confirmé le ministre, précisant que seul Québec solidaire n'avait pas transmis pour l'instant une réponse.

Yves Gilbert, président de la Commission scolaire des Hauts-Cantons, accueille cette

proposition avec enthousiasme. « À la Fédération des commissions scolaires, les présidents, on a réfléchi à ça et on trouvait qu'avoir une élection scolaire tout de suite après une élection provinciale, ça n'avait pas beaucoup de sens. J'ai l'impression que globalement on accueille ça favorablement », mentionne-t-il.

L'année 2020 a été ciblée puisque des élections fédérales se tiendront en 2019, et que 2021 amènera ensuite de nouvelles élections municipales. « Ça ferait comme un cycle d'élections, avec un scrutin chaque année : municipal, provincial, fédéral puis scolaire, et on recommence. Je ne trouve pas ça bête, si on veut donner une chance à la démocratie de faire son œuvre », poursuit M. Gilbert.

Si le report a lieu, les élus en poste verront donc leur mandat prolongé, comme ça a été le cas lorsque les élections scolaires de 2011 ont été reportées en 2014. Leur mandat durerait 6 ans plutôt que les 4 ans prévus.

### VOTE ÉLECTRONIQUE

La possibilité d'instaurer un système de vote électronique en 2020 pèse également lourd dans la balance, alors qu'on espère qu'il permettra d'engendrer des économies, mais surtout d'augmenter le très faible taux de participation. Rappelons que celui-ci était de

4,86 % à l'échelle de la province lors des dernières élections. En Estrie, il était de 7,6 % en moyenne dans les trois commissions scolaires francophones, et de 15 % dans la commission scolaire anglophone Eastern Townships.

M. Gilbert est également favorable à cette idée : « Aujourd'hui, la vie est rapide. Les familles ont trois ou quatre enfants, le soir ils ont des devoirs à faire, la fin de semaine il y a des activités familiales, des tournois de hockey... Je crois que c'est un moyen qui pourrait faciliter la participation des familles qui ont des enfants à l'école, et qui sont une cible qu'on doit considérer pour qu'ils puissent choisir leurs porte-paroles à la commission scolaire. Ça peut également être un bon moyen d'aller chercher les personnes âgées. » AVEC LE SOLEIL

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— Yves Gilbert



# ETSB looking to branch out vocational services with other Estrie boards

By Matthew McCully

**D**uring Tuesday evening's Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) council of commissioners' meeting, the board adopted a resolution to study the possibility of joining forces with neighbouring French boards to better meet the vocational training needs of businesses in the region.

According to ETSB Chairman Mike Murray, the plan is a next step to the recently launched Concomitance (2-4-U) project, which is a collaboration among the ETSB, Des Sommets, Hauts-Cantons and Région-de-Sherbrooke school boards.

Students enrolled in Concomitance

have the opportunity to pursue a vocational training program offered at any of the four school boards in addition to core studies at their home school, eventually graduating with a high school diploma as well as a vocational training certificate.

The program is a response to a province wide labour shortage.

Murray explained that the study approved by council on Tuesday will look at ways the four Estrie boards could work collectively to meet the needs of regional employers by regrouping services and resources.

"We want to go out to employers and

say, what do you need?" Murray said.

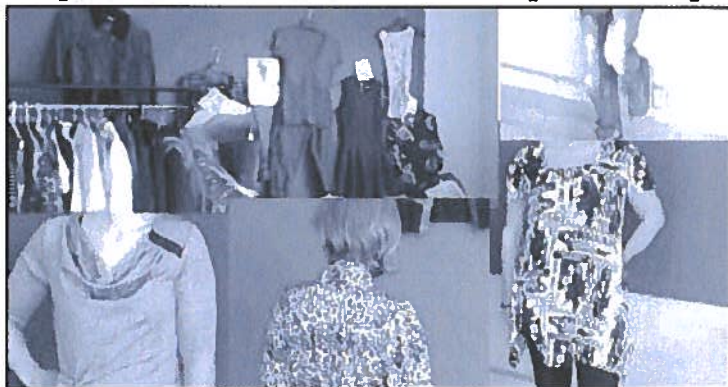
Murray described the idea as a compliment to current programs, where workshops and sessions could be organized using teachers and school resources at remote locations to help employees at a business upgrade or diversify their training to meet specific needs.



# Social Participation Class opens Friperie to the public

Sherbrooke Record · 24 Apr 2018 · 4

The Social Participation Class, located at the New Horizons Adult Education Centre is a program for adults with learning and social adjustment difficulties. It offers an individualized and inclusive approach as well as support to acquire the skills to integrate & flourish in everyday activities. The program aims to surround the student with support both at school and in the community. Some of the skills and competencies developed are; problem solving, communication, personal & social, managing daily life, domestic, family, and work. To help support and foster these new acquired competencies, the group has been holding a second hand store every Wednesday at the school for students, offering them clothing, books and plants at a very good price. To further the goal of the program, the students will be opening their "Friperie" (second hand store) to the public on April 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



We hope you will come meet them and their teacher and show support for this worthy project. All profits will go towards the activities of the class as well as the end of year trip.

We hope to see you there!

Manon Lessard, Teacher, Social Participation Class

# TBL pedestrian struck by car succumbs to brain injury

Sherbrooke Record · 24 Apr 2018 · 1 · By Ann Davidson

After a week of many prayers and healing wishes, the TBL community is fraught with sorrow with the news that its dear friend, Christian Garon, succumbed to serious brain trauma sustained over a week ago when he had been struck by a car while walking home from work. He passed away on Saturday morning at the CHUS Fleurimont.



The beloved resident of TBL for over 40 years has always been known as a kind and gentle soul who worked hard and cared about everyone he knew and didn't have a mean bone in his body. Remembered for his working days at Knowlton Academy, The Pub and most recently Café Florale, Christian, as everyone knew him, along with his good friend John who worked at the Duck Farm, have created an indelible mark on the community with their magnetic personalities; Chris being more shy and retiring, John being predictably outgoing, complementing each other, both everpaving the way to general understanding and acceptance that the community is more enriched by their presence.

Too painful a loss for some who have been central to Christian's life for many years, the devastation that they will not see him again leaves them with broken hearts and devoid of words.

As First Responder Alan Bowbrick said, "Christian has been a part of the

Christian Garon, longtime resident of Knowlton and employee at Café Florale, has succumbed to brain trauma after being struck by a vehicle over a week ago. Knowlton fibre, the fabric is torn without him."

Ben Page, like so many others, remembers Christian for his trademark big smile. "He was the best worker at The Pub." Faye Davis spoke about how Christian would greet staff at Knowlton Academy with his big smile in the mornings when they would be arriving at work. Songstress Sarah Biggs said that she always loved Christian's "gentlemanliness, reliability and his steadfastness. He was gracious and polite." In the dental practice at which Biggs works she says that he was one of the nicest patients to serve.

John Schmidhauser reminded that

Christian had a very special gift, he could hear an old tune on the radio and tell you exactly what year it came out; pretty amazing. "All of the Knowlton community shall miss our dear friend, but we all have fond memories to remember him by."

According to sources, Christian's life was recently rounded when he and his siblings reunited a few years ago after a lifetime of separation.

People who have known Christian since before he and John moved to Knowlton, concur with everyone's opinions about him. Ron Creary reflected on Christian as a kind, gentle, and thoughtful person; always ready to help and always with a good word and a kind smile.

Christine Cole summed him up as a person who saw the hearts of people, the good in people. "Christian experienced joy. Just going out for coffee and knowing the people around him, being able to speak to one and all, knowing most of their names. He was happy with his life and didn't need to be more than what he was — a friend to all.

"We've seen this last week, loved by many. A page from Christian's story might be that we all learn to be more accepting of others, taking a moment to appreciate what we have, and doing our best to be kind to each other."



# Students get up close to wide choice of careers

## Second annual Career Day at Knowlton Academy

Sherbrooke Record · 24 Apr 2018 · 6 · By Ann Davidson

Knowlton Academy held its second annual Career Day last Friday, April 20. Organized by teacher Sheila Perry, the gym walls were lined with volunteers from myriad professions who came to give the students a closer look at their own career paths and experiences within.



“It was hard to compete for students’ interests with the guy beside me!” joked lawyer Owen Falquero, who spoke about the judo teacher who had just broken a plank of wood with his bare hands.” Rowing champion, Marilou Duverney Tardif and the customs officers were also popular drawing cards for the students.

From architecture, physiotherapy and medicine, museum curator, teaching, communications, space-junk engineering, to being a vineyard owner, interior designer, cabinet maker, pilot, pharmacist, mechanic, firefighter, customs officer, minister, chemist, cop, dog trainer, forensic technologist, naturalist, biologist, hair dresser, and so many other professions, the resounding message to the students from those who took time out of their work days, is to follow what you like to do. “The best job ever is the one you like to do,” said Will Allan, underwater photographer, film maker, shark conservationist, and professional diver who has worked with a team to produce more than six feature videos and hundreds of published images.

“Make sure that nobody gets in your way. If you think you can do it, you can get it done,” advised chemist Dominique Charland. “Whatever you like, follow it and do it.”

“I am privileged because I make a living at something I love to do,” said Alex Roslin whose book “Police Wife: The Secret Epidemic of Police Domestic Violence” was named last week as a finalist in the 2018 Arthur Ellis Awards for Excellence in Canadian Crime Writing — best non-fiction crime book category.

Bradley Daignault of Alexander Galt Regional High School and Taylor Dubois of Richmond Regional High School as well as Ignacia Cabrera and William Savary of Champlain College.

The second level, silver medals, were given to individuals 65 years of age or older who have demonstrated serious and sustained commitment to their communities through ongoing volunteering. Among the 13 recipients at the Sherbrooke ceremony were Raymond Fortier of Richmond, who was recognized for his work with Saint Anne's Church as well as the Richmond Fair,

Orford Township launched a new website on Friday, completing a project which began in the autumn of 2016.

The address of the new site remains the same, ([canton.orford.qc.ca](http://canton.orford.qc.ca)) but the site's designers claim that visitors will soon forget the old version, which had been online for a decade. The new site has different versions that adapt to the screen on which it is displayed, offering options better suited to computer, tablet or mobile phone.

On the home page, a tab called "Communiquons" allows citizens to interact with the municipality directly to submit comments or complaints. The content of the pages has been completely revised and simplified for greater communication efficiency.

Information on the site has been divided into three sections: Municipality, Citizen, and Living environment and tourism.

The content of the site is in French only.

and former Sherbrooke police chief Michel Carpentier, who has committed his retirement to a variety of causes including organ donation and obesity awareness.

Claude Metras of Sherbrooke was the sole recipient of the Lieutenant Governor's gold medal, reserved for situations of exceptional merit, in recognition of his long-term and significant contributions to arts and culture in the city.

"You are all examples," the Lieutenant Governor said. "These medals are the mark of our appreciation for the spirit you put into helping others." The Lennoxville community marked Earth Day one day early this year by holding its annual community cleanup day. According to Borough President Claude Charron the event had an excellent turnout, with over 150 people coming out to help with a little spring cleaning in and around the heart of the community. Groups represented by volunteers included Bishop's College School, the Lennoxville Scouts and Girl Scouts, and Hope Community Church. Charron also pointed out that Sherbrooke Mayor Steve Lussier and his family came to pitch in.