

# Ayer's Cliff students help with local Christmas basket campaign

Sherbrooke Record · 18 Dec 2017 · 1 · By Matthew Mccully

Grade 5 and 6 students from Ayer's Cliff Elementary School joined a dozen volunteers at Beulah United Church on Friday to help sort and prepare Christmas baskets for local families in need during the holiday season.



"They've been coming for the last 1520 years," said Dean Young, a member of the ad hoc committee for the Ayer's Cliff Christmas Basket annual campaign.

"They love it," Young said, explaining that the kids enjoy getting into the Christmas spirit and also having a sense of ownership in helping out their local community.

According to Young, volunteers explain the purpose of the baskets and what kind of impact it will have on the families receiving them, which resonates with the students, he said.

"They kind of go away with a little glow in them," Young said, adding the students are happy to have helped.

This year the campaign prepared 27 baskets, a record for the local initiative.



# THE RECORD

THE VOICE OF THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS SINCE 1897

## Parkview Elementary food drive

Another example of generosity in the Eastern Townships

The Record, December 19, 2017



COURTESY OF PARKVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Parkview Elementary students with the items collected at the school's annual food drive.*

By Matthew McCully

members who might need a little boost during the holiday season.

The most recent came from Parkview Elementary. Carrying on an annual tradition, the school population collected non-perishable goods for those who are

less fortunate.

The items collected will be distributed by SOS Dépannage to local families in need.

# You're a Merry Merry Mess, De-stress. */ from a Massey-Vassar Student*

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Sherbrooke Record · 20 Dec 2017 · 6 · By Cassandra Pegg

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It's a hectic time of year, that's no secret. There are exams to be taken, assignments to be written, shopping to be done, studying, planning, working, socializing, gift-wrapping, decorating, cleaning and trying to get enough sleep to make all these things happen (a nearly impossible feat).

It's easy to get lost in the buzz of the holiday season. Christmas is a glorious season of giving and love but when you have mom rushing through armed with a vacuum in one hand and a recipe book in the other, dad swearing about the stupid fake tree he's attempting to put up, Mariah Carey blaring from the radio, dogs and kids and cats all running around demanding food or attention, it can be a little bit difficult to find your zen.

That's why I'm here to remind you that as crazy as things might get, it's so important to remember to take a day or two or three to yourself, whatever you can manage. People need time to relax and breathe once in a while and two weeks off in the cold of winter is the perfect time for it. Take a bath, go outside, hang out with people who invigorate you. Or don't hang out with anyone at all, whatever melts the stress away the best, you should do it.

So do your homework, go to work, finish your chores but remember to do some things for yourself as well. Enjoy the break, you've earned it.

Stamstead Journal, Dec. 20, 2017

## Young students deliver in Galt play

**Victoria Vanier, Lennoxville,**

Alexander Galt's Drama students performed their Christmas play last week, the drama/comedy "Searching for David's Heart" written by Cherie Bennett. "The play went very well. We had small, intimate audiences and it was perfect for the type of play that this was. We had nothing but positive reviews and some even said it was the best play of the last five years. A lot of people got emotional and the students really did amazingly on the stage," commented Drama teacher and the director of the play, Olivia Louise Grenier. The play's main roles were all filled by first year students, two of whom are enrolled in Galt's Performing Arts Concentration program. The Drama department will produce another play in the spring.

## Kandy Mackey prend la tête de la C. S. Eastern Township

La Tribune

**SHERBROOKE — Kandy Mackey devient la directrice générale de la Commission scolaire Eastern Townships (CSET), à la suite du départ de Christian Provencher.**

L'organisation en a fait l'annonce, mercredi. La nomination a été adoptée à l'unanimité par les élus scolaires.

Mme Mackey a occupé le poste de directrice générale adjointe à la CSET durant les quatre dernières années et agissait à titre de directrice des services pédagogiques depuis 2012. « Elle est devenue un membre clé de l'équipe de la haute direction et possède plus de 21 années d'expérience au sein de la commission scolaire en tant qu'enseignante, directrice d'école et directrice de service », peut-on lire dans un communiqué.

La CSET a aussi annoncé la nomination de Michel Soucy au poste de directeur général adjoint. M. Soucy œuvre au sein de la CSET depuis juin 2012 à titre de



Kandy Mackey est la nouvelle directrice générale de la Commission scolaire Eastern Townships (CSET).

directeur des opérations où il était notamment responsable de divers dossiers tels que l'entretien des bâtiments et des terrains, le transport scolaire et les technologies de l'information.

Rappelons que M. Provencher a quitté la commission scolaire anglophone pour la Commission scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke (CSRS), où il est entré en poste mercredi.

*La Tribune, Dec. 21, 2017*



# Ayer's Cliff Elementary enjoys Christmas dinner thanks to local volunteers

On Wednesday December 20 the students of Ayer's Cliff Elementary School were treated to a royal feast of turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, vegetables, cranberry sauce and cake. All of the food was donated, and with many of the turkeys were among those auctioned off by the 4-H at this past

year's fair to support the Children's Wish Foundation. Instead of keeping these turkeys, several groups donated them to the school for the Christmas dinner. Guy Patry, owner of the local grocery store, and his wife Danielle donated all the other food necessary to feed 100 students and staff. The home and school as-

sociation as well as the breakfast program ladies all volunteered their time to prepare the wonderful lunch. Many volunteers from the community cooked the turkeys and helped serve the lunch. The Mayor of Ayers Cliff, Vincent Gérin stopped by for the event as well as Reverend Lee Ann Hogle from Beulah

United Church, who was present to offer grace. After enjoying the meal and thanking all who provided it, the students enjoyed an extra long recess playing in the snow.

Submitted by Jennifer Mackinnon  
Secretary Ayers Cliff Elementary



Guy Patry and Mayor Vincent Gérin filling their plates



# Meet the new ETSB heads

Sherbrooke Record · 21 Dec 2017 · 3 · By Matthew McCully

During a special meeting of the Council of Commissioners held Tuesday evening, the Eastern Townships School Board announced the appointment of Kandy Mackey as Director General and Michel Soucy as Assistant Director General.

## Meet the new ETSB heads



MATTHEW MCCULLY

*Kandy Mackey has been appointed the new Director General of the ETSB. Michel Soucy, previously Director of Operations, has been appointed to fill Mackey's vacated position as Assistant Director General.*

Both nominations were approved unanimously by the council.

Mackey has over 21 years of experience with the ETSB as a teacher, principal and director. She has been Director of Pedagogical Services since 2012, and held the position of Assistant Director General for the last four years.

Soucy has a background in senior management with real estate and financial organizations, and has been Director of Operations, overseeing the buildings and grounds, school transportation and information and technology dossiers with the ETSB since 2012.

According to ETSB Chairman Michael Murray, the council is delighted with the nominations and confident that there will be a smooth

transition that will allow the board to seamlessly move forward and ensure continuity of its priorities.

Also on the agenda was a resolution for an investment plan for the James Strickland Fund, a bequest donated to the ETSB by the late Lennoxville resident

In August, the liquidators of Strickland's estate handed a cheque in the amount of \$160,488.55 to the ETSB, officially launching the James Strickland Fund to support meal programs for elementary students in the ETSB.

The board resolved to put \$150,000 in a conservative investment portfolio and use the interest earned to support meal programs at Lennoxville Elementary and other elementary schools.

The board acknowledged the new sex education mandate passed down by the Education Ministry on Dec.14.

"We have no official details yet," Murray said. A pilot program had been in place in some schools in the province for the past two years, Murray added.

As of September, sex education will be mandatory in all schools across the province. "It will be offered at all levels; whether it will be once in elementary and once in Secondary or every year, we don't know yet," commented Murray. He did say that professional development would be given to ensure teaching staff would be properly prepared.

By June the ETSB is required to provide the education ministry with its commitment to success plan (formerly known as the strategic plan).

Murray invited any interested commissioners to join the steering committee to develop the plan.

Sitting on the committee would require a significant time commitment, Murray added, saying that t draft should go for consultation by March.

The board announced that the spring conference hosted by the ETSB this past spring had a financial surplus. Murray said the surplus entitles the ETSB to a \$14,500 rebate, which he said the board will put to good use.

Before adjourning, Murray made a point of congratulating Parent Commissioner Cindy Véronneau on her presentation to Kathleen Weil, Minister Responsible for Relations with English-speaking Quebecers recently at Richmond Regional High School.

Véronneau is the board's representative on the Special Education Advisory Committee; she spoke to Weil about the need for access in outlying areas to services for special needs children.

According to Murray, Véronneau's presentation resonated with Weil to the point that during her noon hour speech, she singled out Véronneau, highlighting the needs she had outlined earlier.

Véronneau`s diligence earned a round of applause from the other commissioners.



## Kandy Mackey est la nouvelle DG de la CS Eastern Townships

Kandy Mackey devient la directrice générale de la Commission scolaire Eastern Townships (CSET), à la suite du départ de Christian Provencher. L'organisation en a fait l'annonce, mercredi. M<sup>me</sup> Mackey a occupé le poste de directrice générale adjointe à la CSET durant les quatre dernières années et agissait à titre de directrice des services pédagogiques depuis 2012. «Elle est devenue un membre clé de l'équipe de la haute direction et possède plus de 21 années d'expérience au sein de la commission scolaire en tant qu'enseignante, directrice d'école et directrice de service», peut-on lire dans un communiqué. La CSET a aussi annoncé la nomination de Michel Soucy au poste de directeur général adjoint. M. Provencher a quitté pour la Commission scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke.

**LA TRIBUNE**

# Holiday fun at Sunnyside



Stanstead Journal, Dec 20, 2017

photo Stanstead Journal

Miss **Trudy Kincarre** directing her pre-K class as they rehearse for Wednesday's performance.

## **Victoria Vanier, Stanstead**

**S**unnyside students are having a fun-filled week as they get ready to start their Christmas vacations. All the students were busy on Monday rehearsing for the Christmas Concert which takes place this evening at the school. On Tuesday the

students took part in the school's "Santa Shoppe" where they bring in a small gift or item for the Santa Shoppe table, then they get a chance to return to the table and pick out gifts for their parents. On Thursday, members of the PPO (Parent Participation Organization) will cook and serve a turkey dinner to all the students and staff. Friday is reserved for class parties!

Young added that the donations collected this year were close to double what they usually get.

The initiative was first organized by Reverend Doreen Moffat, former reverend of Beulah United Church around 20 years ago.

Her intention was to bring together all the community organizations with a desire to help during the holiday season to join forces and create Christmas baskets rather than duplicate efforts.

For years now, local churches and countless other groups and businesses work together each year and contribute to the baskets.

"It's too many to name; there are so many people who want to help," commented Young.

The families on the list to receive a basket are from the Ayer's Cliff area; the names come from the Magog food bank, local schools, or through word of mouth.

They could include a family that just had a baby, an older couple where one partner broke a hip, or a single parent trying to make ends meet. Others might be a recommendation from a perceptive neighbour, aware of a need but also aware that not all families feel comfortable coming forward to ask for help.

The baskets are often tailored specifically to the needs of the family.

The Christmas baskets are picked up through school or Beulah United, or delivered by volunteers. Most reached their destination over the weekend.

"Some families are surprised," Young said, when someone arrives at their door with a basket. "Well, somebody knew you could use it," he replies.

The IGA grocery store chain has a campaign where it makes pre-prepared bags of non-perishable essentials available for \$10. Anyone wanting to help out can buy a bag, which goes to local food banks for distribution. This year, Young said the Ayer's Cliff Christmas Basket campaign received over 150 bags of food.

According to Young, one local donated \$1,000 worth of pork to add to the baskets.

The Ayer's Cliff Christmas Village committee also gave all of its extra candy bags to the campaign to add some sweet treats.

Young said the campaign also receives financial donations which it uses to add some perishables to the baskets for a Christmas dinner.

There is no shortage of people willing to help out, Young said. There were originally 26 baskets prepared, and then at the last minute, someone came forward on behalf of a community member currently in a difficult situation.

"The guy told me If you don't have something, let me know, I'll do something myself," Young said.

Beulah United maintains a small food bank year-round that is stocked regularly by community members. They also keep a small financial reserve for emergencies, so preparing one more basket was no problem, Young said.