

ETSB needs a new school in Drummondville

By Matthew McCully

Eastern Townships School Board Chairman Michael Murray's report at Tuesday evening's Council of Commissioners meeting was focused on the need for a new school in Drummondville.

"The cafeteria is being used as classroom space," Murray said, adding that Pre-K classes are being held in a church basement across the street from the school.

Enrollment has been increasing steadily in recent years and the school is currently bursting at the seams. The board is hoping for approval from the ministry for a new building sooner than later. Murray said the process to have a new school built would take around two years.

The board announced the appointment of Marie-André Cloutier as Assistant Director of the International Student Program.

In her Director General's report, Kandy Mackey talked about intentionality of excellence and the importance of a positive mindset.

Rather than strive to be excellent, Mackey explained the ETSB community should wake up in the morning and make the conscious decision to be excellent on purpose. She also wished students and staff a relaxing March break.

During question period, Appalachian Teachers' Association President Megan Seline asked the board about the status about the ententes with the Val des Cerfs

school board.

Assistant Director Michel Soucy said that the two boards have met a few times and intend to accelerate the negotiation process. They have made a timeline for certain agreements by June, but Soucy said it was too soon to name them.

Seline then asked who was on the negotiating team.

Soucy replied that the DG (Kandy Mackey), the assistant DG (Soucy) and finance director (Sophie Leduc) were dealing with the Val des Cerfs ententes.

Later in the meeting Seline asked about the Our Schools survey and if it was being given to students only or parents and teachers as well.

Kandy Mackey replied that for the first year it was being given to parents and teachers as well, and there would be more details to come soon.

Audit committee presented resolutions for seven renovation projects, including bathroom renovations at Sawyerville Elementary, Butler and Ayer's Cliff Elementary, the removal of a septic tank and restoration of crawlspace at Mansonville Elementary, roof work at Massey-Vanier, Roof and front entrance work at North Hatley, and bathroom and electrical work at Parkview.

Education Services Advisory Committee presented a resolution to designate a representative to sign an agreement with the minister of culture and communication for the acquisition of books for ETSB schools.

Chairman Murray drew attention to the fact that it took just as long to read

a resolution for \$5,700 in books as it did for resolutions spending hundreds of thousands on school renovations.

"The irony is not lost on us," Murray said.

He then asked Complimentary Services Director Gail Kelso if the resolution had any impact on pedagogy or special needs students.

Kandy Mackey replied that some of the smaller schools in the ETSB could likely benefit from additional books, adding that the ETSB's travelling library could use books as well.

"How much do we have to kick in to get this \$5,700?" Murray then asked. Mackey replied that agreement for the books would not cost the ETSB anything.

For the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) report, Parent Commissioner Cindy Véronneau said there was a new project in the works to develop a list of resources for parents of students with special needs and add it to the ETSB website under a SEAC tab.

Véronneau explained that the list would include community resources from across the territory and invited parents to get in contact with SEAC with recommendations to add to the list.



School Page

Knowlton Academy

Hooked On School

KA participated in Hooked on School activity from February 12 to February 16, 2018 and will also be holding a career Fair in April. Teachers wore ribbons to support the campaign, students read with each other and exchanged books, students and teacher linked their arms in the school gym for a photo and teachers spoke with students about potential career opportunities for the future. This campaign aims to remind students, parents, people working in the education system, employers and regional stakeholders that they are all indispensable and have a role to play to encourage students to stay in school! (Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur).

We Day Celebration

On February 21, Knowlton Academy's student parliament and a few secondary One students went to the WE DAY celebration in Montreal. Each one of us had to earn our tickets by helping out, like doing We Scare Hunger, We Volunteer, etc. We had to be at our school for 6:30 in the morning. When everyone got to Knowlton Academy, we left by bus. It took us a little more than an hour and a half, and when we got there, we were all so excited. We sat in front of a huge stage with about 1000 other students from all over

Quebec. On the stage there was a massive video screen. The WE day celebration started with the Celebrity Marauders coming out and getting us

pumped. Then it started.

So many famous people came out and talked to us about their own personal stories. Some people who really stood out were Alexander Trudeau, Craig Keilburger, the founder of the WE movement, James Santos, a Dawson college shooting survivor, Theland Kicknosway, a native hoop dancer, Yves Sikubwabo, a runner and Rwandan genocide survivor, and Spencer West, a man who had no legs. It was very touching and inspiring to hear these people share their stories. For example, Spencer, the man who had no legs, was probably one of the most animated speakers! He even climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. We took a quick lunch break, and continued watching the celebration. There were also many famous singers who came out and sang their most popular hits. We even got to go up to the edge of the stage to watch them! After all that, WE DAY ended.

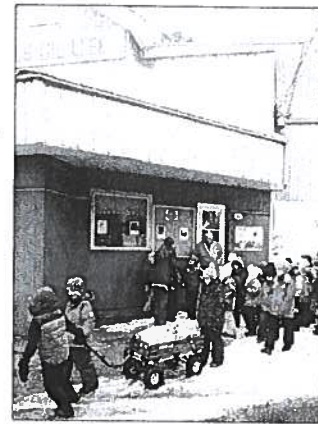
But we got to go and buy merchandise, like Rafiki bracelets. Our bus came, and we headed home. By the time we got to our school, it was almost 4:00. It had been such a great and inspiring day!

Submitted by Secondary 1



Knowlton Academy Bird Program

This week, kindergarten and grade 2 walked to Corderre's to purchase bird seed to fill the 8 brand new bird feeders that we given to the school by Bromé Bird Care. For the rest of the year the students will learn to identify the different types of birds that will visit our feeders and we look forward to participate in bird counts next year. Thank you to Judith Duncanson for arranging the project.



Terri Reed, March 2, 2018

Public Speaking

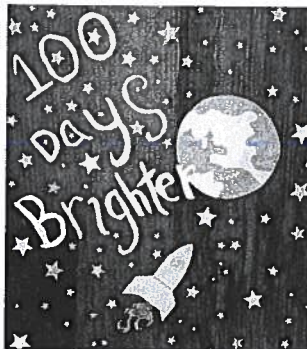
Our Knowlton Academy finalists went on the Optimist Club's Public Speaking competition at the Lake View. Lauryn Page won 1st place in the Kids Speak Out competition for the female contenders and Josef Robert won first place in the Kids Speak Out competition for the male contenders.

Gracy Jersey and Benji Cantelon placed second.

Odessa Roslin placed second in the Oratorical competition for the grade 7 students. We were very proud of all our participants!

100 Days of School

Knowlton Academy's Kindergarten class celebrated the 100th day of school on Friday February 23rd. The celebration began with a parade through the school dressed as 100 year olds, followed by a snack of 100 pieces and various games around the 100 theme. The students were engaged in building towers with 100 cups, seeing how far 100 steps would take them, guessing which jar held 100 items and much more. It is a tradition in many Kindergarten classes and tends to be one of their favourite days of the year. We are all 100 days smarter!



Ski Program

Knowlton Academy's 48th annual ski program kicked off January 30th and wraps up March 1st. It was another very successful year on the slopes thanks to all of the staff and volunteers that participated.



Bistro Program

The Bistro Program is a program designed to help students with social skills, daily living skills and to experience new foods and cooking. The program is run solely on the proceeds of tickets sold from our three Bistro Lunches that staff and community attend. New this year, we are beginning to take a trip around the world, incorporating learning about the country, along with the cuisine of the country we are visiting. The next stop will take place on May 14th when we will be visiting Jamaica! Hope to see you then!

Townshippers' Day to return this fall

Celebration of English community to be hosted by local high schools

Sherbrooke Record · 1 Mar 2018 · 1 · By Gordon Lambie

Comments by a commissioner at the Tuesday night Eastern Townships School Board Council of Commissioners meeting revealed that Townshippers' Day's return this fall will be hosted by Richmond Regional High School. Townshippers' Association President Gerald Cutting had confirmed to the Record in January that Townshippers' was in the process of finalizing a three year agreement with a new partner for the return of the event to celebrate the local English community. Tuesday night's revelation makes it clear that the partner in question is the ETSB and that the three years will cover an event at each of the board's regional high schools.

Although no formal announcement was made, in the course of the meeting Commissioner Gary Holliday made reference to discussion with members of the Townshippers' Association at a recent governing board meeting in Richmond, where it was agreed that the school would host the event.

Speaking with The Record on Wednesday morning, Cutting would not directly confirm any new details about the event, but he did say that the announcement at the meeting put the news out a little sooner than the partners had originally hoped.

"We are in the process of drafting a joint statement," the President said, noting that the organization had hoped to take more time to craft the announcement together.

Although Cutting was clearly enthusiastic about the idea of talking about Townshippers' Day, he explained that both Townshippers' and their new partner had agreed to wait on sharing any details until both groups were ready to do so together.

The Townshippers' Association announced the cancellation of the 2017 Townshippers' Day in April of last year, citing declining interest in the event and difficulties in getting new communities to host. At the time, Cutting told the Record that the annual gathering was being put on hiatus in order to find a more sustainable way of operating and to look at what would make the events interesting and exciting for visitors.

In the months following the decision, the association gathered feedback on Townshippers' Day from a range of sources and engaged in a significant reflection process.

"It was always coming back this year," Townshippers' Executive Director Rachel Hunting said, echoing Cutting's statement that although an official announcement is imminent, the parties involved in the new partnership are not ready to talk about the details yet. As a result, it remains to be seen what may have been changed about Townshippers' Day based on the feedback of the local community, other than the idea of partnering with the local school board.

Massey-vanier Athletics

Sherbrooke Record · 1 Mar 2018 · 7

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-Our Massey-vanier Wrestling team was very successful this year finishing 4th out of 10 teams in the RSEQGMAA league despite having only 7 wrestlers. 3 wrestlers medalled at the Provincial Championships in Saint-césaire, QC on February 24. Jordan Messier won bronze, Nick Bates won silver, and Charles Blanchard won gold medals. With his first place finish at the provincials, Charles qualified and will attend the Canadian Nationals Championship in Edmonton, Alberta in April.

2-The bantam girls basketball team captured the ETIAC banner as regular season champions and then defeated Stanstead College in a playoff final to win the ETIAC playoff trophy on February 21st. The lady Vikings went undefeated in the Eastern Townships league this season.

3-The junior girls basketball team qualified for the QSSSA Dunn Provincial Tournament and will compete in the one day event on February 28th at Centennial Regional High School in Greenfield Park, QC.

4-The senior boys basketball team are currently in 2nd place in the RSEQ Montérégie Division 3 league and are striving for a championship banner. Playoffs in that league are scheduled for the 2 final weeks in March and the final tournament is April 7-8.

5-The senior girls basketball team qualified for the QSSSA Macleod Provincial Tournament and will compete in the two day event on March 1-2 at Howard S. Billings High School in Chateauguay, QC.

6-Spring athletics begin after March break, and Massey-vanier will compete in many different sports across numerous leagues. Rugby, Badminton, Tennis, Golf and the return of Track & Field are all on the Spring schedule.

7-The Massey-vanier Athletic Awards are scheduled for Friday, May 25. An early dinner will be followed by the awards banquet in the MV Auditorium. An always popular event, our Viking athletes and their achievements from the athletic year will be on full display. More information about the evening will follow closer to the event date.

Columbian student visit at Knowlton Academy



COURTESY

For several years now, our students have been very lucky to receive visits from students from different schools. This year a group of 34 students from Columbia came to Knowlton to visit our school. They skied 4 times with our school ski program and participated in many different activities with all the classes. Look for more Knowlton Academy news in tomorrow's Record.

Board won't bend on bus policy

Sherbrooke Record · 1 Mar 2018 · 3 · By Matthew Mccully

Local parent Mike Pezzi worries every time his 11-year-old son walks down the narrow shoulder of the road to reach the school bus pickup spot.



Pezzi said his repeated requests to the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) have been denied for a pickup in front of his home even though the bus passes by his address twice during the route.

Pezzi lives in Saint-françois-xavier-debrompton on Rue Principale, which is a provincial road (Route 249).

His son is required to walk along the shoulder of the road. There is a sidewalk on the opposite side of the street, but Pezzi said it is not cleared in the winter.

“It’s not a long walk,” Pezzi said, explaining that it is roughly 160 metres, the equivalent of four houses down the street. “It’s not a question of distance. It’s a safety issue,” Pezzi said, explaining that there is substantial traffic and the 50km/h speed limit is not respected.

Pezzi added that the recent freezing and thawing has made the walk very icy.

According to Pezzi, the bus passes by his house in the morning on its way to pick up a high school student further down the road. When he sees it pass, his son heads out and walks down the road to board the bus at the predetermined stop.

Pezzi first asked his son's bus driver if she could make the additional stop in front of his home. She said Pezzi had to contact ETSB transportation coordinator Bruce Banfill.

Pezzi said since October, he has raised the concern with Banfill as well as the director of Operations Michel Soucy and Secretary General Éric Campbell, all of whom denied the request.

Pezzi said he was told Soucy had contacted the local French school to find out how their students from that area get to school. According to Pezzi, because the French students in the vicinity walk to school, he said he was told it was acceptable for his son to walk on the same road to the bus.

"Just because they do it, doesn't mean it's right," Pezzi said.

"They won't do something until someone gets hurt. I don't want my son to be the example," he said.

Compounding Pezzi's frustration is the fact that he is a former bus driver himself for Auto-bus B. Dion.

He said he cannot understand why one additional stop, requiring no detour, and in the interest of his son's safety, was being refused.

"It's a matter of a minute. It would take 5-10 minutes per week, if that," Pezzi estimated.

The Record contacted Transportation Coordinator Bruce Banfill for an explanation. He referred the question to ETSB Communications Consultant Sharon Priest.

Priest confirmed that the board had received a request for consideration in that area. She explained that based on the distance the student is required to walk, and the parameters of the transportation policy, the request was denied.

No decision yet on new building for overcrowded Drummondville English school, minister says

Ministry of Education waiting for 2018 budget to respond to requests for school expansions, renovations

By Julia Page, [CBC News](#) Posted: Mar 01, 2018 6:00 AM ET Last Updated: Mar 01, 2018 6:00 AM ET

Staff and students at Drummondville's only English elementary school will have to wait until June to find out if the province will pay for a bigger school to accommodate the steady growth in enrolment.

Quebec Education Minister Sébastien Proulx is promising more money is coming for school renovations and expansions, but he can't say if any of it will be allocated to the [overcrowded Drummondville Elementary School](#).

He said he, too, is waiting to see what's in the budget, expected to be tabled in March.

"I'll be able to provide answers to the school board at that time," he told CBC.

"I know there are pressing needs," Proulx told CBC, but he said his ministry is dealing with several requests for renovations or expansions at the moment, from both English and French school boards.

Drummondville Elementary has seen its student population steadily increase since it opened in 1998 with fewer than 100 students. It's now running at full capacity, with an enrolment expected to top 250 next September.

- [Drummondville's only English elementary school full to bursting, but no new building in sight](#)
- [Faced with overcrowding, French school board looks to English counterpart for help](#)

Many of the students are francophones whose parents are eager to have them become fluent in English, and who have English eligibility certificates by virtue of their parents having done some of their primary schooling in English in Canada.

"Everyone knows that it's a good step for your future," said Sylvie Faucher, whose two sons attend Drummondville Elementary. She's worried that if the school doesn't get more space, it will have to eventually turn away applicants.

Matter of 'simple equity' says school board

The Eastern Townships School Board has made requests for expansion money for the Drummondville school for the past four years, but so far, they've gone nowhere.

Chair Michael Murray said the initial request was for extra square footage. Since 2012, enrolment has increased by 25 per cent, and Murray said now the board is asking for a brand new building.

The school — built in the 1950s — has already had to split its cafeteria in two, to create more classrooms, and has no more physical space to accommodate any further growth in the number of students.

"Every aspect of the school is inadequate," said Murray.

Murray said he hasn't heard from the Ministry of Education since sending in this latest request.

"We feel it is urgent that the situation be addressed so that people who choose to attend an English school aren't penalized, relative to those who attend French schools," he said.

Murray said the city of Drummondville is growing, and two new French schools have been built in recent years.

- [Villeray parents decry condo plans next to overcrowded school](#)
- [Montreal school boards slam province's handling of school fee debate](#)

He said he is concerned parents will choose to send their children to the newer schools, even if they are eligible to attend English school, because they have better, modern physical facilities.

"It's simple equity that we're asking for," he said, "a situation where our facilities are as adequate, as sufficient for good modern pedagogy as those of our francophone counterparts."

A spokesperson for Kathleen Weil, the minister responsible for relations with English-speaking Quebecers, said her ministry cannot directly intervene in the Ministry of Education's files.

But Weil's office said her mission is to represent the needs of the English-speaking population in the government's policy making.

- [Kathleen Weil's task is to mend disconnect between government and Anglo communities](#)

Weil said she had the opportunity to speak with Murray as well as Sébastien Proulx about Drummondville Elementary School.

"I will continue to follow the file closely," said Weil in a written statement.

With files from Angelica Montgomery