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Article rank **23 May 2017** Sherbrooke Record By Louise Smith

# Butler Elementary School also has a Canada 150 Garden to showcase

On Friday, May 5, it was Bedford's Butler Elementary School which had cause to celebrate. The students and staff took pride in showing off their tulip garden planted last fall as part of the Canada 150 Garden Project promoted by the Versey Seed Company.

The ceremony began with a bilingual singing of "O Canada" led by Mr. Viens, the school's music teacher, on his guitar. Two students in Ms. Newton's class presented their acrostic poems on Canada. The celebration had a yummy ending with a Canadian flag cake made up of a multitude of red and white cupcakes.

All year long this special birthday of Canada will be celebrated. At both Farnham and Butler schools, the bonus is that each year these gardens' tulip displays will return in the spring.

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# Farnham Elementary's Canada Tulip Garden is in bloom

Tulips inside the school and without! On Monday, May 1, the staff, parents, and students of Farnham Elementary had a celebration to welcome the blossoming of their Canada 150 Tulip Garden. In the fall all the students helped to plant the bulbs in stripes of red and white in front of the school.



PHOTOS BY HOLLY BAILEY

The bulbs were closely studied by the students at that time before they went into the ground. Some could not believe that a flower would come out of what to them looked more like an onion than the promise of a tulip!

But the red and white tulips are beautiful! The bulbs were provided by the Versey seed catalogue as part of its Canada 150 garden project. The nice part about this project is that the tulips will return again next year.

To add to the celebration a collection of red and white iced cupcakes were arranged to resemble the Canadian flag. As it was shared, it was a hit for sure! What a great way to start the party for Canada's 150th birthday! Red and white cupcakes made up a delicious Canadian flag!

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Article rank **23 May 2017** Sherbrooke Record By Louise Smith

# Heroes' Memorial fundraiser 'with a twist' – May 27

## Wrestling show to support student activities

Last year two wrestlers from the Academie de Lutte in Sherbrooke came to Heroes' Memorial to speak to some students about what it is like to have a career in wrestling.

They had such a good experience that they offered to do a fundraiser. It has taken nearly a year to get it all in place, but the event is happening on May 27 at the Pavillion de Sport, the arena on the Massey-vanier campus in Cowansville, 340 rue Mercier. Funds raised will go towards student activities at the school.

About 30 wrestlers will be participating, including, "Johnny," "Muundo," "Mack Jr.," "Big Foot," and "Chopper" among them. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the show starting at 7:30 p.m. The seats are general admission and will fill up as people enter. VIP seats will be on the rink surface around the central ring. VIP tickets are \$15 and general admission tickets are \$10. There are many door prizes being donated by local businesses. Refreshments will be available as the cantine will be open. Sponsoring the event is Stevanovic (dentistry), Pierre Beaudry (notary), G Zone video store, Salon pour Lui, Letterage Graffico, and the Town of Cowansville. The town has donated the use of the arena for this event.



Tickets are available at the office of Heroes' Memorial (entrance on Davignon Blvd.), from Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (450-263-1612). They will also be available at the door. It will be a memorable evening.

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# 'Enfant Soleil' pays it forward

Everyone has a story to tell. On Friday afternoon, there were probably a few hundred shoppers that passed through the Walmart in Cowansville. On their way through the door they may have seen a young man holding out a container, asking for donations. That was Matthew Gibson. He had the day off school from Massey-vanier High School, so he decided to volunteer to gather donations at an Opération Enfant Soleil fundraiser.

Matthew has been an ambassador for the non-profit organization ever since 2015 when he was chosen to be the official Enfant Soleil representative for the Monteregie region.

Even though he completed his year, Matthew has remained involved with Enfant Soleil and its umbrella group, the Children's Miracle Network, to share his story of determination with peers and encourage support for the foundation, which raises money for pediatric care.

When he was around 12-years-old, Matthew didn't feel well. He had chronic stomach pain and was often tired and lethargic.

At first, his family doctor couldn't pinpoint any visible symptoms, but upon further testing, Matthew received a diagnosis of Crohn's disease.

"The best way I could illustrate it is you know when you have a cancer sore?" Matthew said. "You can tolerate it, but it's annoying," he said, pointing out that there is a sharp reminder it's there every time you eat.

"I had about 20 centimetres of cancer sores in my intestines," he explained.

While Crohn's can be managed with medication, Matthew's doctor recommended that he avoid aggressive treatment with hard drugs that had major side effects.

The alternative was several three to four month stints over a four-year period where Matthew couldn't eat at all. He had to endure a liquid diet through a feeding tube.

"It was to kind of give my intestines a break," he said. "It was like a big protein shake, but it didn't taste good at all."

Thanks to a machine provided by Enfant Soleil, Matthew was able to use the feeding tube at home rather than be hospitalized. He was fed up to 3,000 calories per night, he said, and also had to do feedings during the day.

Matthew said he used to binge watch *Storage Wars*, his favourite show at the time, while being fed. At 12-years-old, Matthew said he weighed around 60 lbs.

Now 17, he is around 135lbs, and close to six feet tall.

His 20 centimetres of excruciating intestinal pain is down to four centimetres, making Matthew the patient with the best results from the treatment regiment, according to his doctors.

Matthew credits his recovery to a positive attitude and a strong family support network.

"I didn't get discouraged," Matthew said. Because his parents noticed he had a competitive spirit, they told him, "This is just a challenge in life that you need to go through."

"I know there are many people worse off than me," Matthew said, which is the reason he stays involved with Enfant Soleil and the Children's Miracle Network, to pay his positive attitude forward.

Matthew recently had the opportunity to travel to Ottawa as one of the Quebec representatives for the Children's Miracle Network.

He had the chance to meet with other families from the network with children battling sickness and exchange stories.

"I met one little kid from Newfoundland with a feeding tube," Matthew said. Not wanting him to feel discouraged, Matthew told him, "Hey, I went through that for four years, but look at me now."

As an ambassador for the non-profit organization, Matthew also got to meet Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, play twister with super heroes, skate with some pro hockey players, and even hang out with Miss America and Miss Teen U.S.A. during a recent trip to Orlando.

"I'm really grateful," Matthew said, for the recovery he has had thanks to the support he received from Enfant Soleil.

"They definitely have an impact on families," he said.

Matthew finishes high school this year, and then intends to study pure and applied sciences at Cégep de Granby next year.

While he has no set schedule, he said he will continue, whenever possible, to volunteer his time to share his story and encourage kids to stay strong and positive in the face of adversity, and continue to help fundraise for Enfant Soleil to help the organization that helped him.

## 'Peace' in the Sutton cafeteria

May 23, 2017



OLIVIA RANGER-ENNS

Anne-Marie Lavigne, the founder of Sutton's brand new art school, has partnered up with Montreal artist MC Baldassari to create a unique mural at the Sutton School. The students participated 100 per cent and contributed to designing the mural that decorates the cafeteria walls. The theme is peace.



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# Talented Sutton Elementary students take the stage Friday



Sutton Elementary School is in the final stages of preparing its annual talent show, which

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Article rank | 23 May 2017 | Sherbrooke Record

# Talented Sutton Elementary students take the stage on Friday

Submitted by Anne Emanuelli



Sutton Elementary School is in the final stages of preparing its annual talent show, which will take place this Friday, May 26, at the school. Students from K-grade 6 from the French and English school boards will have the chance to shine bright on stage, displaying a variety of talents with their artistic performances.

The young artists, in groups and solo, have been preparing and rehearsing for several months, offering a varied programme of music, song, dance, magic and theatre. Created by the students, and performed by them in front of an audience gives each enterprising performer the experience of the stage, which in turn gives them self-esteem and confidence. All aspects of backstage and décor has been made by and with the students.

Such an event requires energy and commitment of a devoted team. In this case, the enthusiasm of our students was matched by the collaboration of teachers and volunteers alike. Particular support was given by the spearhead organisation, Espace Sutton, who not only provided the gymnasium with acoustic panels in 2015, but also equipment and hours of volunteer time

The show will take place this Friday, May 26 at 6.30p.m. at the school, located at 19 Highland Street, Sutton.

The ticket price is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children, and free for kids under fiveyears-old.



Tickets are available at Sutton school by calling 450 538-2318, or at the door the night of the show.

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Article rank | 25 May 2017 | Sherbrooke Record

# What did you learn today?

Dear Editor:

At its annual spring conference during the weekend of May 25/27, in Bromont, Quebec, the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA) intends "to look for ways to better meet the needs of its nine member boards."

Ideally, it should disband because the association has outlived its usefulness. Let's analyze.

The QESBA came into existence in 1998/99, when boards went from being confessional (Catholic and Protestant) to linguistic (English and French).

The association cannot serve the boards' needs because they are different as day and night.

At any rate, I recall in 1998, to get anything done between schools, organizations, and the government, took forever.

Today's high-tech communication tools where everything is done in "real time," the Internet has generally replaced the fax machine and paper letters. Email and texting are more popular than the telephone.

Consequently, parents today are more educated. After school, parents are more likely to ask, "What did you learn today?" as opposed to, "What did you do today?"

As far as student achievement is concerned, with or without the QESBA, our students do quite well.

This conference could easily be considered as a financial opportunity that could benefit all English schools, classrooms, and students in Quebec.

The boards should consider dropping their memberships to the QESBA.

Take the membership fees, and invest the funds of about \$1,000,000 into their schools, and deal directly with the government.

Lastly, elected school boards are manned by commissioners, many of whom I have known for years.

They are, generally, smart and range from lawyers, business people, retirees, and so on.

This upcoming weekend they should ask themselves:

"What is it that QESBA does that we cannot do ourselves to benefit our students?"

Chris Eustace (retired teacher) Montreal

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Article rank | 25 May 2017 | Sherbrooke Record | Record Staff MAGOG

# Christian Vachon foundation raises \$12,000

Nearly 400 riders took off from Magog's Plage des Cantons Beach on Saturday as part of the Memphré Challenge. Recognized by the Fédération québécoise d'athlétisme, this event is an annual feature for the families in the region.



COURTESY OF MARCO BERGERON

The Memphré Challenge has been organized for the last seven years for the benefit of the Christian Vachon Foundation, and brings together adults and children for four different races and the long awaited P'tit défi, obstacle course for young people of 3 years of age and older.

The challenge is coordinated by a team of volunteers, parents, and teachers from the Magog Montessori School and is an annual fundraiser for the Christian Vachon Foundation's Learning Disability Program, of which the Magog Montessori School is a partner. The program employs two resource teachers who follow up the primary students in the region with the support of the Foundation.

Since its inception, the Memphré Challenge has raised \$92,000 for the Foundation, which supports about 100 students in the region.

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