

## Local Sports

*Jutras-Plante is a member of the Senior Boys Badminton team that won the gold medal in the Galt badminton tournament.*

# Wiseman-Beese and Jutras-Plante named Piper athletes of the month

Submitted by Robert Fisk

**N**aomi Wiseman-Beese and Enrick Jutras Plante have been named the Piper Athletes of the month for April at Alexander Galt High School.

Wiseman-Beese is a member of the Senior Girls Badminton team and the top singles girl in the school even though

she is still junior age. She won the silver medal at the 47th annual Galt Badminton Tournament. The gold medal match was her only loss, but it was her great attitude and work ethic throughout the month that propelled her to the championship match. The grade 10 student also has an unmatched work ethic in the classroom where she sits on the

Principal's List.

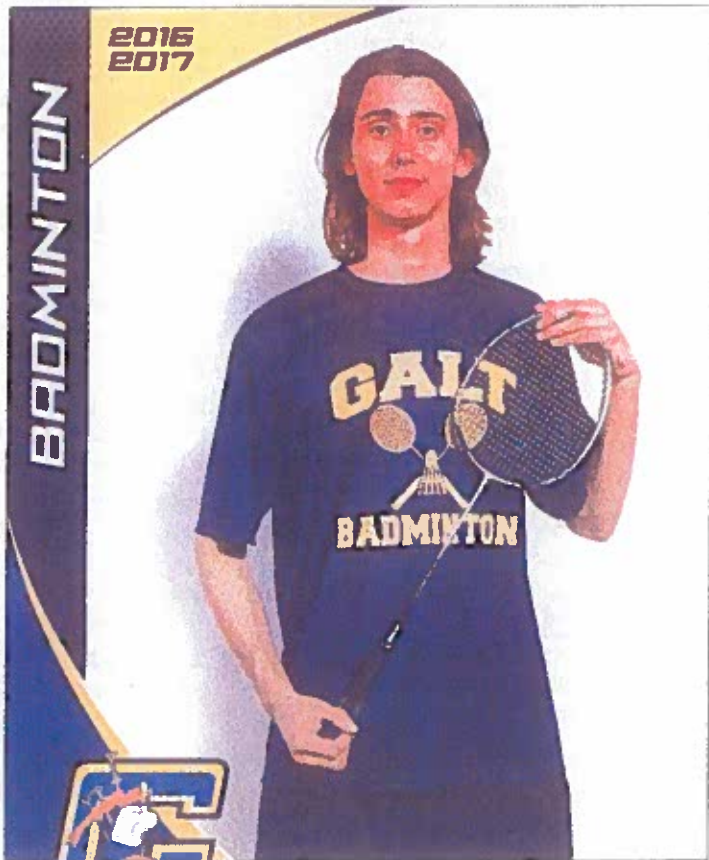
Jutras-Plante is a member of the Senior Boys Badminton team that won the gold medal in the Galt badminton tournament. The grade 11 student earned his medal through an outstanding work ethic and commitment to getting better. The Magog resident had a tough road to get to the final, but it was his willing-

ness to battle that allowed him to persevere. The 16 year old trained hard in the badminton concentration program with coach Mr. Walker and excelled in the classroom in the process with a 91% average.



COURTESY

*Naomi Wiseman-Beese*



COURTESY

*Enrick Jutras Plante*

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Article rank | 8 May 2017 | Sherbrooke Record | By Matthew McCully

# Learning Bar attends ETSB meeting to address student survey concerns

Last week two representatives from the Learning Bar, the New Brunswick company responsible for the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) survey, attended a meeting with parents and Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) members.

For several years now, the ETSB has purchased the survey service, which assembles data collected anonymously from across the country for use in pedagogical planning as well as creating a safe and productive learning environment for students, based on the answers provided in the survey.

Due to concerns raised last year by the Galt governing board, use of the survey was suspended for this school year until a number of issues could be addressed regarding the content, the security of the data collected and the way the survey was being administered.

"I thought it was very productive," said Ethan Young-lai, Chief Client Services Officer for the Learning Bar. "There were thoughtful questions and reasonable concerns," he said, adding that he felt the meeting was more of an information session than a defense of the survey.

"In the absence of information, misconceptions arise," Young-lai said, adding that he appreciated the opportunity to explain the security features in place that protect the privacy and anonymity of the data collected.

One of the biggest concerns raised, according to Young-lai, was that parents felt left out of the process and not properly informed.

"I think they really turned a corner on being heard on that," Young-lai commented.

"There were some great ideas," he said, regarding what could be done to strengthen communication and ensure that students are aware that the survey is completely voluntary.

ETSB Chairman Mike Murray also believed the meeting was constructive.

"They (The Learning Bar) laid out the entire survey, its purpose, the mechanics of it, and the benefits," Murray said, feeling everyone in attendance was satisfied.

"There seemed to be a broad consensus," he commented, with the exception of one parent who Murray said "clearly wasn't listening to what they were being told."

The message received by the board, according to Murray, was that the survey was not the issue so much as the way it was being administered.

Parents were worried that it was not made clear to students that they were free to opt out of participating.

In a previous meeting, the board adopted a resolution to suspend the TTFM survey until May 4, after the meeting with parents and representatives from the Learning Bar.

When asked if they now intend to move forward with the survey, Murray said that even before the meeting, the board had decided not to rush to get it done by the end of the school year.

There are pedagogical advantages to administering the survey in the autumn, Murray added.

Murray said the board will spend the coming months to address any lingering concerns, and focus on the way the survey is implemented in ETSB schools.

"We acknowledge that we can do better," Murray said, wanting parents and students to be at ease with the process.

Murray pointed out that the various committees involved in the TTFM discussion are consultative bodies. The decision regarding whether or not the survey will be used in ETSB schools ultimately lies with the board.

The Record contacted two parent commissioners for their perspective on the meeting, but they could not be reached over the weekend for comment.

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Article rank | 9 May 2017 | Sherbrooke Record | By Gordon Lambie

# Cookshire elementary gets the gift of art

The students and staff of Cookshire Elementary School received a special gift on Monday afternoon from the graduating art class at Alexander Galt Regional High School. To a mix of oohs and aahs from the assembled student body, the visiting high school artists unveiled fifteen canvasses featuring a colourful array of Canadian animals.



GORDON LAMBIE

**Things are looking a little brighter at Cookshire Elementary this morning after the school was given 15 brand-new works of art by the secondary five art students at Alexander Galt Regional High School yesterday afternoon.**

"These are amazing, I'm so proud," said Galt art teacher Sigal Hirshfeld, explaining that the idea for the project came from the Cookshire school's interim principal, Tina Jacklin, while adding that it fits into a broader mission she has of making art relevant for her students by bringing it out of the classroom and into the community. "Art is meant to be seen and enjoyed."

Jacklin explained that the fifteen canvasses that were used had been on display in the school in the past.

"They were really outdated," the interim principal said, explaining that the thought of refreshing the artwork in the school led her to thinking of Hirshfeld and her community-oriented classroom.

Though many of the students seemed shy or insecure about their creations in presenting them, each was greeted like a great master by the elementary school audience.

"I like how they worked really hard on every single one," said one Cookshire student at the end of the assembly.

Thirty students worked on the project in total, taking on canvasses in teams to brainstorm, sketch, arrange and paint the final product. Hirshfeld said that although each team had a different animal to work with, an effort was made to create a unifying feeling to the pieces as a whole. Part of the way this was accomplished is that each animal, be it beaver, bear, lobster or skunk, is presented on a background of colourful tissue paper arranged in more or less abstract patterns.

"They're very talented and diverse students," the Galt teacher said. "I thought it would be a nice project for them."

The full menagerie includes an otter, a deer, a mallard duck, a moose, a cougar, a wolf, a loon, a skunk, a lobster, orca whales, a fox, a Canada Goose with several goslings, a raccoon, a grizzly bear, and of course, a beaver. Each canvas has been coated with a special varnish so that it will be washable and will receive a custom-made wooden frame sometime within the next year.

Both Jacklin and Hirshfeld highlighted the value of the project and the presentation day for the students, young and old. While the Cookshire students get to see new art coming from students who stood where they did not so long ago, the high school students get an opportunity to give back while also receiving positive and unfiltered feedback from a real-world audience.

"All the kids from that school go to Galt," Hirshfeld said. "It's a nice close to the circle for the graduating students and an opening of the circle for the Cookshire students."

The art teacher said that she is actively looking for new projects for the future.

"We always keep an eye out for new ideas, so if somebody reads this article and wants to commission us, go for it. We'd be happy to," Hirshfeld said. "The word is out there that there is this willingness to step out of the school and do more for the community."

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Article rank | 9 May 2017 | Sherbrooke Record | By Ann Davidson

# Knowlton students sweep public speaking contest

Congratulations are in order for three young orators, all from Town of Brome Lake, who came home from the district finals as winners from all three categories during the Optimist Club's public speaking competition called "L'art Oratoire." Because Aiden Meacher had won last year at the elementary school level the grade six student was obliged to compete against high school students. Going up against 7- to 11-year-olds was no easy feat but Meacher's hard work paid off. With several years to go before heading to postsecondary education, the \$2,500 bursary he won will surely come in handy when the time comes.



Meacher's mom was proud of her son and said, "He spoke with lots of energy and enthusiasm." According to Lucy Hoblyn of Brome Lake Books, this experience is all thanks to the Optimist Club. "A special thanks goes to Claude Boulianne and Micheline Viau-defoy of the Optimist Club of Lac-brome for all their support.

Mcauley and Meacher are both students of Ms. Blum's class at Knowlton Academy while Micah Lemaître is in grade 5 at École primaire St. Edouard. Students came as far afield as Drummondville and St-jean-sur-richelieu, Thetford Mines, and Ste-hyacinthe.

Flanked by winners of the "Kids Speak Out" competition, Ben Mcauley on the left and Micah Lemaître on the right, it was Aiden Meacher who won the "Oratory" category of the annual public speaking competition sponsored by the Optimist Club.

# SPORTS



## Wiseman-Beese and Jutras-Plante Named Piper Athletes Of The Month

2016  
2017

BADMINTON



**Bob Fisk,**  
Special collaboration  
Lennoxville

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2016  
2017

BADMINTON



# Sunnyside Circus packs gym

ST Anns' Journal, May 10, 2017



photos courtesy Sunnyside Elementary School

A circus drummer ready for action!



A hula hoop and circus scarves performance by some of the school's youngest. See more page 9.



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A circus gymnastics demonstration 'a la Cirque de Soleil' at last Thursday's SunnyCircus.

**Victoria Vanier, Stanstead**

Every student at Sunnyside Elementary had their moment on stage, last Thursday, for the school's annual circus show. There were many different circus acts includ-



Older students amazed the audience with a seventeen student pyramid at Sunnyside Elementary's annual circus show.

ing juggling, circus gymnastics, unicycle riding, devil sticks and a really impressive human pyramid. "We had a packed house for the circus - it was another amazing performance by our students!" commented the school's Secretary, Heather Stratton.

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Article rank 11 May 2017 Sherbrooke Record By Gordon Lambie

# Bishop's Bridge reconstruction likely to close College for the summer

There's traffic trouble ahead for Lennoxville. According to Lennoxville Borough President David Price, the ministère des Transports, de la Mobilité durable et de l'électrification des transports (MTQ), Quebec's transportation ministry, has given unofficial notice that the Bishop's Bridge on College Street will be down to one lane from June 6 to 18, and closed completely to traffic from June 18 to August 18.

"We have the unofficial time that they want to close down," Price said, explaining that the ministry has informed the city, the university, and the Sherbrooke bus company while emphasizing that those start dates are not completely certain until the ministry announces the work publicly.

According to Price, the reason why the work is expected to take the better part of the summer is that the problematic deck of the bridge is being completely rebuilt.

"They're going away from that experimental surface," the Borough President said, referring to the sandwich plate system which was installed in 2005 and which has needed repair and reinforcement almost annually since that time.

Though Price acknowledged that there will be traffic problems, he expressed appreciation for the fact that the work is not supposed to start until after the Bishop's Convocation, when the traffic back and forth across the bridge will be particularly high.

If the work does begin on the sixth of June, then it lines up directly with exam season at Alexander Galt Regional High School and this at the same time that Glenday Road, one of the possible detour routes to the school, has been closed between Bartlett Road and Mitchell Street for the installation of waterworks.

Upon consultation with the school and the board's transportation director, Eastern Townships School Board communications consultant Sharon Priest said that Galt has received no official word from the MTQ, but is considering its options nonetheless.

"We have heard the rumours that the bridge could be down to one lane in June," Priest said adding that, "we are examining the options and are looking into solutions to lessen the impact of students possibly arriving later at school."

Price acknowledged the difficulty faced by the high school students, although he pointed out that with the dates given the bridge should still be partially open while the school's Ministerial exams are going on. After that, he said, the work is supposed to be completed before the school year begins again.

"It'll be a regular traffic tie-up as usual, but at least there'll be back and forth on it," The Borough President said. "After that it's a complete shut down."

Of greater concern to Price at this point is the fact that the MTQ has yet to confirm whether or not pedestrians will be able to use the bridge while it is closed.

"There's no way you can close down College Street and not be able to at least walk to the campus," he said. "That's very disturbing."

"There's nothing solid, that's the problem," said Borough Councillor Claude Charron, saying that he has taken a large number of calls from concerned citizens. While explaining that there are negotiations currently taking place on the subject of the bridge work, he added that, "it's not easy with the MTQ."

According to Price, a meeting has been scheduled for Friday morning to clarify the details of the work to come.

Dominique Gosselin, communications agent with the Estrie offices of the MTQ told The Record that she could not provide an official clarification on the nature of the work on the bridge, how long it will be going on, or what is planned in terms of detours at this time. Asked about when the information will be publicly available, she simply said "as soon as possible."

# The little tutoring program that could

## Phelps Helps announces two new programs

By Matthew McCully

When Phelps Helps was founded in 2012 by Stanstead community members Catherine Vander Linden and Jeanie Markwick, they had a simple goal; try to reduce the 35 per cent drop-out rate of students in the area.

In its first year, operating a single tutoring program for high school students managed by director Katie Lowry, Phelps Helps had five students.

Now in its fifth year of operation, Phelps Helps has 75 students from both elementary and high school, enrolled in five different programs.

Thanks to consistent community support and recent funding from the provincial and federal governments, Phelps Helps announced two new programs the organization will soon offer to increase support for local students in the English and French communities.

"We picked up a lot of traction this year," Lowry said at a press conference yesterday to introduce the new programs.

"To get an endorsement from the federal and provincial governments; we never thought we would get here," Lowry said. "We're really proud to get to this point."

Phelps Helps originally targeted students in Grades 7 and 8 based on statistics that suggested the following year was a make or break time, based on drop-out rates.

After seeing the impact the program had on students, Lowry said, "we need to do more, we have to get bigger, we have to go younger."

And so they did.

Currently, Phelps Helps offers a homework program and an education program for elementary students, a high school tu-

toring program, a peer mentoring program pairing high school with elementary students, and a one-week summer day camp in August for kids aged 10-13.

According to Lowry, Phelps Helps has grown to meet the needs demonstrated in the community, and the new programs are the next logical step in the process.

The two new programs, Phelps en français and the Graduate Support Program, will extend Phelps Helps' offerings to the local French community, and also continue support to students following graduation as they pursue post-secondary studies or enter the job market.

Phelps en français will involve a third evening per week of homework support and tutoring, taking place completely in French.

Lowry explained that one of the biggest obstacles for Anglophone students in graduating high school is completing the compulsory French requirement.

Being in an entirely French environment will give students an opportunity to concentrate on their language skills without slipping into English if they get stumped, according to Lowry. It will also open the door to French students from elementary and high schools around Stanstead who could benefit from tutoring. Lowry added that French students are welcome to attend any of the English programs currently offered by Phelps Helps.

The Graduate Support Program will formalize some things Phelps Helps was already doing, Lowry said.

While getting students to graduation is Job one for Phelps Helps, Lowry said, "It doesn't end there."

"First entering the job market is not so easy," she said.

"We want to make sure all the logistics are covered," Lowry said, explaining the new program will help recent grads with CV writing, school and student loan applications, and help eliminate any other obstacles they may have in moving forward with future studies or finding gainful employment.

The new programs will involve two new hires, Lowry said, pointing out she and operations manager Clea Corman would be spread too thin across seven programs.

The funding that will help launch the two new initiatives was provided by the community Innovation Fund (CIF), a federal pilot program managed by the Quebec Community Groups Network. The focus of the project is youth employability.

Phelps Helps is the only organization in the Townships to receive CIF funding. Lowry added that Phelps Helps is the newest group involved in the pilot project. "I think we are around 30 years younger than the other organizations," she commented.

Phelps Helps was awarded \$83,522 from the CIF to assist with the launch of the two new programs.

An additional \$20,000 was recently allotted to Phelps Helps from the Quebec Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sports, which Lowry said will be spread across the needs of all Phelps Helps programs.

Lowry was joined at yesterday's press



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Article rank 12 May 2017 Sherbrooke Record By Matthew McCully

# Sherbrooke Elementary production of 'Dreamcatcher' brings the school together with music

Around 60 students from Sherbrooke Elementary (SES) are involved in the school's upcoming production of Dreamcatcher, a musical by John Jacobson and Mark Brymer.



MATTHEW MCCULLY

**SES music teacher Tracey Rivette during rehearsal on Wednesday afternoon for the upcoming production of Dreamcatcher**

According to music teacher Tracey Rivette, most of the staff at the school had a hand in the production in one way or another, either with the actors, the set design, tickets and promotion, or letting Rivette borrow students from classes for short rehearsals.

"It's really been a team thing," Rivette said, "I couldn't do it without their support."

The story of Dreamcatcher, according to Rivette, has a double meaning. While on the surface it is about dreamcatchers, which protect dreams while people sleep, there is a character, the trickster, trying to take away the other character's dreams of a better world.

"It's about believing in yourself," Rivette said, a solid message for the young students.

"We sell tickets, but that's basically just to pay for the sound," Rivette said, explaining the main purpose of the show isn't to turn a profit.

"It's an opportunity for the kids to perform." "I've missed it," commented Rivette, saying the school hasn't done a musical in a few years.

In previous productions, Rivette said the students usually sang to pre-recorded music or worked with a pianist.

For the first time, the SES Grade 6 rock band will be playing most of the songs for the show.

"Now that we have actual instruments in our classroom, we can do that kind of thing," she said.

The 15-member band will share the parts, playing a variety of instruments including guitar, bass, keyboard and drums, among others.

"The lovely thing is they just want to try everything," Rivette said.

Smoothing out the transitions and switching of players in between songs while the actors are performing has required a lot of coordination, Rivette said.

Rivette and the students began working on the show in January.

"You can't put together a musical working half-an-hour a week," Rivette said, explaining she and others involved have been working during recess, lunch hours and spare periods in addition to the weekly Wednesday rehearsals.

While the rock band has been working on the songs, the choir, comprised of around 40 students from Grade 2-6 have been learning their parts, and teacher Matthew Johnson has been working on the actors.

Set design is being handled by art teacher Celine Lacompte with the help of Norm Marsh, who have prepared around 18 dreamcatchers to hang on the set and around the gym.

Isabelle Goulet is taking care of tickets and promotion, Rivette added, saying it is a whole school affair.

The poster for the show was made by a Grade 3 student taking a water colour painting options class. "She's so proud," Rivette said, again pointing out how many students and staff have helped with the show.

Rivette agreed a production of this size has a ripple effect throughout the school.

"The Grade 1 students can't wait for Grade 2 so they can get involved," Rivette said.

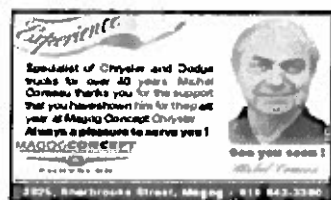
Rivette said the Grade 5 rock band will perform a number of songs before Dreamcatcher begins on Thursday.

"They will be the next generation," Rivette said, wanting them to get some stage experience.

There will also be a brief African drumming demonstration before the show.

"It's all part of hooked on school," Rivette explained. "How do we get the kids to love school, to want to come," she said.

When she first started rock band six or seven years ago, Rivette got a maximum of 10 students. Now, there are as many as 18 interested in learning instruments and playing music.



Dreamcatcher will take the stage on Thursday, May 18 at 7 p.m. at SES.

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