

Ayer's Cliff Elementary celebrates long-awaited new playground

Sherbrooke Record · 20 Nov 2018 · 1 · By Emilie Hackett Special to the Record

The hundred-some students at Ayer's Cliff Elementary School (ACES) have enjoyed playing in a brand-new playground since the beginning of the school year. Principal Tracey Harding inaugurated the playground on Nov. 19 in the presence of staff, students, Ayer's Cliff mayor Vincent Gérin, school commissioner Claire Beaubien, community members, and donors such as resident Stanley Holmes. The playground had not been updated in at least 25 years.



Requiring an investment of nearly \$50,000 for the first phase, ACES hopes to raise another \$50,000 for its second phase of the playground, which will cater to the older students. They hope to inaugurate the second phase in the spring. "We were inspired by the American Ninja Warrior obstacle courses. We want to challenge our older students to

be active, and at the same time, we will be able to use the obstacle course during our gym classes," explained Stephanie Fournier. Fournier is the head teacher at ACES and has been teaching physical education for the past 14 years.

Tracey Harding, Principal at ACES since August, took over the project after previous Principal Catherine Zahra transferred to Princess Elizabeth Elementary School in Magog. In collaboration with the ACES Home and School Association (H&S), Zahra "wanted to make the school

playground more attractive for the students to foster a more active lifestyle while having fun," said Harding. "We have received so much positive feedback since the beginning of the school year, from the kids but also from the community members who frequent the playground after school hours."

Amy Rediker, Chair of the ACES H&S, added that they "started working with the designer, Susan Muir, and once we had some ideas in place, we started looking at how we could raise the money to make it happen. We never thought that we would be able to raise funds so quickly." According to Fournier, Ayer's Cliff "is like a family. We're so proud of our community's generosity. It has been an amazing group effort."

In the planning stages since 2016, the project was realized quickly with the help of several members of the community who donated time and money to the cause. The ACES H&S raised funds through softball tournaments, spaghetti suppers, snow pitch tournaments, and running a canteen at the annual Ayer's Cliff Fair.

Funding for the next phase is already underway with a generous donation of \$10,000 from the Tilloston Foundation. However, ACES will need about \$50,000 to complete the project. The H&S is organizing a spaghetti supper on Saturday Dec. 8, at 5 p.m. at ACES to raise funds for the playground's second phase. More information about the supper can be found at www.ayerscliff.etsb.qc.ca/.

Christmas craft sale at Heroes' on Saturday

Sherbrooke Record · 20 Nov 2018 · 8 · By Louise Smith

One of the biggest craft sales of the season will be occurring on Saturday at Heroes' Memorial School in the basement. It will run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The Parent Participation Organization's lunch specials are so popular that they need more kitchen space.



The staff room kitchen space was just too tiny! Instead of entering from rue Sud, people will have to enter from the Davignon door or the back door facing the Legion.

A wide variety of vendors will be at the school. The PPO will also have a garage sale type table. There will be crafters, vegetables for sale, jewelry, wooden ornaments, baked goods, and a wide variety of other vendors. There will be community tables too. The Township Grandmothers to Grandmothers, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Royal Canadian Legion (branch no. 99) will have tables to raise funds for their charitable organizations. Ms. Menard's class will be selling recycled bags to help raise funds for a trip in the spring.

With over fifty tables in the basement, there is bound to be something for everyone on your Christmas gift. This event is one of the biggest fundraisers for the Parent Participation Organization. The money from renting the tables goes to a good cause as well – the Heroes' Memorial Bursary Fund. Students who have graduated from Heroes' Memorial or Farnham Elementary School can apply for a bursary when they finish high school and plan on pursuing further studies.

Instead of buying gifts imported from all over the world, why not find things made right here in the Townships?

› LES ÉLÈVES DE L'ACADÉMIE KNOWLTON MANIFESTENT EN SILENCE



En soutien aux laissés-pour-compte du monde entier « dont la voix n'est pas entendue », une centaine d'élèves de 5^e, 6^e année et 1^{re} secondaire de l'Académie Knowlton ont marché en silence dans les rues de Lac-Brome, mardi, avant de tenir une vigile muette à la chandelle au parc Coldbrook. « Il y a tellement d'endroits dans le monde où les gens ne sont pas écoutés », explique Sheila Perry, enseignante de 1^{re} secondaire et instigatrice de l'événement ayant comme slogan « Démonçons en silence ». Les plus jeunes ont de leur côté observé 15 minutes de silence avant la récréation du matin. Depuis 2017, l'Académie Knowlton fait partie du mouvement canadien WE, qui amasse des fonds et soutient les causes des plus défavorisés dans le monde. **PASCAL FAUCHER** — PHOTO ALAIN DION

› LES 2FRÈRES À COWANSVILLE

Après avoir vendu plus de 120 000 exemplaires de leur premier album *Nous autres*, les 2Frères présentent *La route*, qui connaît un aussi grand succès. Plus d'un an après sa sortie, le duo composé d'Érik et de Sonny Caouette, continue de faire déplacer les foules. Le vendredi 23 novembre, il s'arrêtera à l'auditorium de l'école Massey-Vanier de Cowansville. Les billets sont en vente au www.sur-lascenedavignon.com, à la billetterie située au 608, rue du Sud à Cowansville, ou par téléphone au 450-263-6666. Des billets seront également disponibles à la porte le soir du spectacle. — PHOTO FOURNIE

PAR LA SCÈNE D'AVIGNON



Sutton celebrates volunteers with new book and art exhibition

Sherbrooke Record | 21 Nov 2018 | By Matthew McCully



To celebrate its 35th anniversary, the Sutton Volunteer Centre (CAB) has put together a book, RETROLABO du CAB, featuring a series of ‘then and now’ portraits of volunteers, accompanied by profiles and stories of the volunteers, compiled by Grade 5 and 6 students from Sutton Elementary School.

“It’s a project that’s very local,” explained CAB Director Janna Hubacek.

The project was initiated by local artists Stéphane Lemardelé and Isabelle Grenier, who, according to Hubacek, have participated in several socially involved initiatives in the Sutton area.

“They were inspired by a book they found in England,” Hubacek said, which involved the re-staging of photos years, sometimes decades after they were taken.

“They saw the concept and were waiting for an occasion to use it. That’s how it kind of came to be,” she said.

The book includes then and now pictures of 35 participants from the CAB, accompanied by texts written by Sutton Elementary students.

The CAB volunteers, employees and

clients participating in the project met one-on-one with the Grades 5 and 6 students, for journalistic style interviews, Hubacek explained.

“The people talked more broadly about their life, about giving back, not just about the CAB,” she said.

The students then took what they learned and put together texts, some French, some English, to accompany the pictures. Some were poems or stories written by individual students, others were documentary style write-ups put together by the entire class working together.

While it was Stéphane Lemardelé and Isabelle Grenier who organized the project, the photos featured in RETROLABO du CAB were taken by local photographers Éliane Excoffier and Tristan Corbeil Lapointe.

“This project was meant to bring people together in paying homage to our entire community as well as the individual at the heart of all volunteer work,” commented Hubacek. “Pictures of yesteryear and today turn into the CAB’S very own family album told in the magical way that only children can,” she added.

Since its founding by the Sutton churches in 1983, approximately 50 community members have been lending a free helping hand each year to the Sutton Volunteer Centre to ensure the delivery of its various services.

The CAB’S new book RETROLABO du CAB will be launched during a 5 a 7 on Nov. 30 at the Marché Couvert in Sutton, located at 35, Principale St. south.

In addition to being a book launch, the event will be a vernissage for the exhibition of the photos featured in the book. The photos will remain on display at the Marché for the remainder of the season, Hubacek said.

Tea and Talks at Richmond CLC

Sherbrooke Record | 21 Nov 2018



Teatime is 2 p.m. at Richmond Regional High School for its newest community outreach project. Dubbed Tea & Talks, it is a chance for English-speaking seniors – of the golden age variety, not teenaged students about to graduate – to get together and socialize.

“It’s pretty simple, really. It’s tea. And we talk!” said Alice Weare, who has been leading the project as the CLC Seniors Outreach Project Assistant since September. Alice was drawn to the idea of creating a seniors’ social activity when she found herself newly retired from many years as an activities coordinator at a seniors’ residence. “There are programs out there for people who want to play cards, and programs for people who want to do exercise, or to learn. This is just a social program. It’s like instead of going to your friend’s house for tea, you come to a community gathering place, and you can come by yourself or with friends,” said Alice.

The Tea & Talk project is funded by the Table de concertation pour les aînés de la MRC du Val-saint-françois, a regional roundtable for the wellbeing of senior citizens. Through the same funding, projects aiming to reduce the isolation of seniors are also being carried out by the volunteer centres (Centre d’action bénévoles) of Windsor, Richmond and Valcourt. The roundtable table dedicated funds specifically to support the Englishspeaking community, and approached Richmond Regional High School to do so.

Why is a high school involved in a seniors’ outreach project? Through the Community Learning Centre (“CLC”) approach, Richmond Regional High School has held a dual mandate to support student success and the community vitality of the English-speaking community since 2011. CLC Schools develop partnerships to help educators leverage community resources and integrate real-world, authentic and engaging learning opportunities for students. In turn, the schools become access points for community organizations and service providers to offer programming and resources to students, their families and the English-speaking community at large.

One of RRHS’ longest standing CLC partnerships is with Townshippers’ Association, for the Community Health Education Program (CHEP) DVD and videoconference presentations. The idea of Tea & Talks was developed in partnership with and continues to be supported by Townshippers’ as an activity complementary to CHEPS, which has amassed a steady audience of primarily seniors in the past years.

There have been two sessions of Talk & Talks already, with 12 people in attendance at the last one. Guest speakers included writer and humourist, Ross Murray; outreach worker, Suzanne Gallagher; and a counselor from the Centre des Femmes du Val-saint-françois, Arianne Gravel. Guest speakers can talk on a variety topics, answer questions and generally stimulate conversations both in large groups or smaller ones that branch off organically. With Tea & Talks, we hope that these discussions can help spark connections and

even perhaps inspire seniors to organize or engage in other activities to help reduce their isolation. Intergenerational projects with the high school students could certainly a potential!

The next Tea & Talk will be on Dec. 4 with the local pharmacist invited as our special guest. A session is also planned for Feb. 5 with a naturopath and in March (date tbd), likely with a Stpatrick's Day theme.

For more information, contact Siumin Jim at 819-826-3702 ext. 24026 or jims@etsb.qc.ca.

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WE NEED A HELPING HAND THIS HOLIDAY!

ALEXANDER GALT CHRISTMAS BASKET CAMPAIGN 2018



The AGRHS Christmas basket campaign has been a long-standing tradition in the community. Over the years we have been fortunate in being able to rely on several partners and community members to help us fill the baskets with some staples and all the trimmings of a holiday meal. Thanks to great success last year, this holiday season we will continue to focus on raising funds rather than food items (any such donations will be taken to the local food bank), baskets will be created from the funds received.

With the help of our local partner Lennoxville's Provigo Robert Lafond, we are able to create baskets filled with daily necessities, holiday essentials and fresh produce. Your overwhelming support has allowed us to move forward to better answer the needs of the community and we thank you.

The baskets will benefit families from Alexander Galt Regional High School sector (elementary and high school).

We hope we can continue to rely on your support, as it remains very important for the success of our Christmas basket campaign.

Please, make cheques payable to
(tax receipts for donations of \$10 and over will be issued):

AGRHS Christmas Basket Campaign
and mail to: **AGRHS, P.O. Box 5002, 1700 rue College, J1M 1Z9**

Thank you for your generosity!

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Playground project part one is done!



Ayer's Cliff Elementary School students get ready to cut the ribbon at the inauguration of Phase 1 of the school's playground makeover, a \$49,000 project that was completed for the beginning of the school year. Seen behind the children are Stanley Holmes in the middle, Ayer's Cliff mayor Vincent Gerin to the right, A.C.E.S. principal Tracey Harding at the far right, and several teachers, as well as more students in the background having fun on the new equipment.

Ayer's Cliff

The students at Ayer's Cliff Elementary School (ACES) have another reason to be active and love the outdoors this school year with the upgrades and improvements to their school playground. With an investment of over \$49,000, phase one of the

playground rejuvenation project was completed for the beginning of the school year. The new installations and upgrades are designed to promote a healthy, active and social lifestyle while providing stimulating and safe facilities for the students of Ayer's Cliff Elementary School.

See Playground, page 3

Playground funds raised by Home & School Ass.

A project that has been in the planning stages since 2016, started with new play structures and upgrades to the area used by the younger students. "The ACES Home and School Association (H&S) in collaboration with the school's previous principal wanted to make the school playground more attract for the students to foster a more active lifestyle while having fun," stated new Principal Tracey Harding. "We knew we wanted to upgrade the playground for the children. We started working with designer, Susan Muir and once we had some ideas in place we started looking at how we could raise the money to make it happen. We never thought that we would be able to raise the funds so quickly, but the community has been very generous with their time, donations and supporting our fundraising," expressed Amy Rediker Chair of the ACES H&S. Through softball tournaments, spaghetti suppers, snow pitch tournament's and a canteen at the annual Ayer's Cliff Fair to name a few, the H&S raised the necessary funds in just under two years.

Funding for the next phase is already under way through the measure Embellissement des cours d'école 2017 - 2018, and a generous donation of \$10,000 from the Tilloston Foundation.

Heroes' Classroom Happenings

Sherbrooke Record · 22 Nov 2018 · 4

This fall teachers at Heroes' have been passionate about making the classroom a fun place to learn. Over the past few weeks, each teacher in their own way has contributed to making learning an adventure. At Hallowe'en Grade 4 teacher, Merida Wisdom, took her students to a dark room in the basement where she had made an electric campfire surrounded by all the school's artificial Christmas trees. To the sounds of the moaning wind in the woods and hooting owls student shared the best of the spooky stories that they had written.

Also at Hallowe'en Secondary 1 teacher Lisa Bates contrived at zombie challenge that rivalled the class party. Students watched a video that introduced the escape room back story: They arrive at school on Halloween to learn that their teacher has been infected with a zombie virus. They find a book in the library on zombies, but the page with the antidote has been ripped out. They must solve puzzles and riddles in the book to find the ingredients to the antidote to save their teacher!

They ran out of time to actually complete the antidote, but they all enjoyed the candy they received after solving each individual puzzle successfully.

Cycle 1 was treated to a Hallowe'en Batman visit from a post-grad student at the University of Sherbrooke. Victor Grivegne-dumoulin, an Eastern Townships biologist, brought skeletons of different bats to school as a way of describing the species in our area. He also talked about bats as endangered species, their habitats, and the positive impact they have on our environment.

The Brome County Historical Society did a school-wide visit memorializing the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. They kept students fascinated with artefacts and stories from the era. Thank you, Jeremy Reeves and Abbey Lacroix for your captivating presentation on the war and the Hundred Days Armistice.

Cycle 2 and Secondary 1 made a trip to Knowlton the following week to view the entire collection as well as to get a look at a war trophy, the famous Fokker D.VII biplane. It has been on display at the Brome County Historical Society Museum in Knowlton, since 1921. The only one of the fleet to have survived in Canada, it is the only one of three left in the world that is still held together by its original fabric skin.

Last week, students from Grade 3, and Grade 5 were transported on a vacation of the mind, during an afternoon trip to the Gabrielle-giroux-bertrand Library in downtown Cowansville. Storyteller Stéphanie Bénéteau kept the students engaged with fable, riddle and song. Thank-you Aude Mcdermott for inviting us. Indeed, "Le Conte est Bon"; merci!

We are looking forward to a visit soon from a local person of interest, Melissa Haney. She is a local, native, female pilot. We are blessed by all the extras, staff, parents and community members do to support Heroes'.

They Will Rock You

Galt Drama Pays Tribute to Queen

Sherbrooke Record · 23 Nov 2018 · 1 · By Emilie Hackett Special to the Record

Starting this weekend on Friday, Nov. 23, the students of Alexander Galt Regional High School's new Performing Arts Concentration program will be presenting "We Will Rock You," a tribute to



Queen. Pulling out all the stops, over 65 cast members will be performing 27 songs by the infamous group with their own live band.

Producer and performing arts teacher Adriana Lyons could barely

hide her excitement: "This is our first year building up a musical in only two months. As our first Performing Arts concentration play as well, we wanted to go all out. We actually chose the hardest play possible, because we wanted to challenge ourselves to go above and beyond."

"We Will Rock You" seamlessly integrates the Queen universe into a three-hour show. It is based in a distant future where technology has taken over, social interaction is limited through computer communications and rock and roll has died. Galileo, a dreamer and a rebel, wants to discover the long-forgotten world of rock and roll and is joined by Scaramouche on the quest for music of the past with the help of the Bohemians. They will perform many iconic Queen songs, such as "Bohemian Rhapsody," "We Are the Champions," "Best Friend," and more.

The show is completely student-run and is directed by level 5 student Emily Fortin. Fortin explained that although she "started drama in level 2, I never thought I would end up directing

an entire show! It's definitely been a challenge, to tell my friends that it's time to be serious and rehearse, but I really love this leadership role." Lyons celebrated Fortin's involvement so far and mentioned that she had only been improving along the way.

The Record also spoke with lead singer Thomas Bilodeau, a level 4 student who will be performing on stage as an actor for the first time ever. "I've always liked being involved and I've sang at Galt before," Bilodeau said. "However, the acting part is definitely a challenge. It's always a bit scary to be on stage." Bilodeau will be performing in a dozen songs, taking on Freddie Mercury's iconic voice.

Overall, the play has been a great group effort and has also reached several people in the community, according to Lyons. "We have had so many community members come to help with the show. We have Lydia Toussaint, a Galt alumna, who comes in once or twice a week as a vocal director, and Louise Thibault-gearey, a voice tutor at Bishop's, who has come in over the last two months to give the vocalists some tips and tricks," she explained.

Moreover, Bruce Giddings, a theatre technician at Centennial Theatre, has also come by the Galt auditorium to help the students build the set. Olivia Grenier, who directed the spring play last year, also helped design all the costumes for "We Will Rock You."

"We Will Rock You" will run through this weekend and the next, on Friday and Saturday Nov. 23 and 24, and Friday Nov. 30 and Saturday Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. at Alexander Galt. Tickets are \$12 and can be reserved by calling Christine Rousseau at (819) 563-0770 ext. 22056.

Bishop's Commerce Society rallies for LES food drive

Sherbrooke Record · 23 Nov 2018 · 3 · By Emilie Hackett Special to the Record

The Bishop's University Commerce Society (BUCS) is holding its annual Christmas Food Drive for the Lennoxville Elementary School (LES). Every year, the BUCS campaigns with the Bishop's University students to receive cash donations and non-perishable food items. These donations are then sent to LES for their annual Holiday baskets campaign. Members of BUCS, a society affiliated with the Bishop's Business department, have placed a dozen donation bins around the campus to incite student participation.



The LES Holiday baskets are sent out to less fortunate families in Lennoxville who have children attending the school. Turkeys and fresh foods are also added to the baskets along the non-perishable food items accumulated during the BUCS food drive.

This year, BUCS has teamed up with the Bishop's Gaiters' basketball teams and will also be campaigning for donations at the next basketball home games at Mitchell Gym on Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. for the women and 8 p.m. for the men. Around a dozen of players on both teams are business students at the university. BUCS hopes that the Gaiters' community fan-base will help increase the local contributions to the food drive. Upon delivery day, on Dec. 7, several student-athletes will join the BUCS members and Bishop's staff to help distribute the donations.

On top of the basketball home games and the bins placed around campus, BUCS also holds its annual Christmas party at the Golden Lion Pub and requires two non-perishable food items and \$5 as an entry fee. All proceeds go back to LES. "Last year, more than 200 people attended," explained Simal Manek, the BUCS Vice-president of Engagement. "It took three full trips in my car between the pub and the campus to bring back all the non-perishable food items we received!" she added.

BUCS is a student run organization founded in 1988, this year marking the society's 30th anniversary. From organizing social events, organizing workshops, and increasing exposure for the Williams School of Business, BUCS is home to over 550 business students and professors. Since the early 1990s, the LES food drive has been their main charity event.

"Last year, we roughly calculated that we received 1,500 items and about \$250 in cash donations," specified Charlene Marion, coordinator of Experiential Learning at the Williams School of Business. Along with many other staff members, Marion has been involved with the BUCS food drive for quite a few years.

Manek mentioned that the level of engagement is often high amongst the students: "Last year, we had someone come in with several boxes of cookies and had brought comic books and colouring books. It was really special." Finally, she admitted that "as Bishop's students, Lennoxville is our home away from home. We like to give back to our community because they give to us so much every year."

Those who wish to donate can do so by visiting the Bishop's Learning Commons where donation bins have been placed. BUCS members will also set up a kiosk on Dec. 1 at the Gaiters' basketball games.