

Letters

DEAR EDITOR:

St. Francis Elementary School held its first ever Christmas Market on Saturday, November 25th. The Christmas music rang out from the speakers and the ambiance was festive. Over 500 people stopped in to visit and start their holiday shopping where they had over 30 artisans to buy from along with freshly made baked goods, Scholastic books, crafts made by students and more. There was an abundance of things to choose from! Many visitors warmed themselves up with a hot bowl of pumpkin soup at the St. Francis Café and indulged in some delicious sweets.

At 12 :30 p.m., Geneviève Manseau and Mandy Hinds (aka The Elf) had over 30 children join them for a special Christmas storytime and at 1 :00 p.m., Santa himself arrived to greet all the children, take pictures and hand out candy canes.

This was one of the most successful events ever held at our school, helping us raise over \$3000 for our school. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in our Christmas Market whether by baking, volunteering, renting a table or coming out to shop. Our community came together to make this Christmas Market a huge success!

MANDY HINDS (PPO CHAIRPERSON AT
ST. FRANCIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)

The Record welcomes your letters to the editor. Please limit your letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit for length, clarity, legality and taste. Please ensure there is a phone number or email where you can be reached, to confirm authorship and current town/city of residence. Names will not be withheld but the address and phone number of the writer are not published, except by request. Preference is given to writers from the Eastern Townships.

The Record Dec 5, 2017

Unveiling of Canada 150 bench by Fordyce Women's Institute for Heroes' Memorial's Peace Garden

Sherbrooke Record · 5 Dec 2017 · 12 · By Louise Smith

Wednesday, November 22 was a bit wet and chilly but the atmosphere was warm and sunny all around the new bench being dedicated to Heroes' Memorial School from the Fordyce Women's Institute. The ladies in the institute had raised \$800 in funds to purchase a bench from a local woodworking factory, Rustix, on Fordyce Road.

The Record, Dec. 5, 2017



When Heroes' Memorial first started its Peace Garden project a smaller bench had been installed by the school, but it was stolen. The Fordyce Women's Institute wanted to replace the bench and to have something special to mark Canada's 150th birthday. This time Rusty Padner, along with Randy Johnson, screwed the bench to metal postings and then set everything into a cement base. This bench is not going to go anywhere!

Wednesday afternoon the senior students and kindergarten came out to join the ladies at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Canadian and Canada 150 flags were provided by Denis Paradis' office, but all the funds for the bench were raised by the Women's Institute members after a request for federal funding was not forthcoming. Anne Stairs, the principal of Heroes' Memorial, and Norma Sherrer, the president of the Fordyce Women's Institute cut the blue and gold ribbons to the cheers and flagwaving of all those present.

The bench is supposed to last a good 20 years at least. It will be around for Heroes' Memorial's centennial in 2023 and hopefully for many more years to come.

Community groups and the school have formed strong bonds over the years and it is to be hoped that this practice will continue far into the future.

Pinch hitting at L'entre-deux campus Brome Missisquoi

Sherbrooke Record · 5 Dec 2017 · 2 · Dishpan Hands Sheila Quinn

On Friday morning, it was business as usual in the Campus Bromemissisquoi's hairdressing school and salon. We were readying ourselves for our first practical class in the salon itself, going over what we had for the midday theory class and then the last portion of the day, where we would be in the salon again. Our class (the three-day per week group) were thrilled that we would finally be learning the uniform haircut on a mannequin head that had a full head of hair (rather than on the partial heads we had started working on, to learn how to first cut a single section straight).



We had all greeted our teachers, and things were about to get rolling when Christina, our practical class teacher for the morning came to call on me and one of my classmates – could we see her please? We left our stations and went to see what she needed.

We were greeted by Madame Lynda, a teacher in the Food and Beverage Service Program, and Eric, another management staff member for the school. Of the usual dozen students in that portion of the food services programs, only six had been able to attend school that day. 'Tis the time of year when there is a lot going on, but that didn't change things for the sixty-six reservations they had for that day's lunch hour meal.

L'entre-deux is open on Thursdays and Fridays, and serves an amazing meal of several courses (and several choices) coffee, tea and dessert all for around the \$14 - \$15.00 mark, in a lovely atmosphere no less.

Madame Lynda and Eric had some to ask our teachers if they could spare a few students to help with set-up and food service for the day. My classmate and I were happy to oblige.

While the food industry is wellknown (in particular with the sensationalism on reality food television shows) for drama, hotheadedness and rather explosive personalities, we were fortunate to be welcomed into the team for the day. We helped with table set-up, and were taught how to fold the cloth napkins into a fortune cookie-type of structure that sat at each setting.

We learned the coat check procedure, and then went to the kitchen to learn how to call out orders for bread for the tables. (Don't tuck anything under your armpits, hook your fingers through the metal baskets and you can carry two at once, pats of butter plated and carried in the other hand.) We learned the layout, the table numbers, and checked the chart for which server was responsible for which tables so we would know who to refer to if a client required something.

We were treated to dinner on the house – potage, a delicious veal, vegetables and rice dish, and fruit salad with just a hint of cinnamon.

Then we slipped on our hairnets and made our way back through the kitchen. The two chefs of the day were located on one side of the set-up for plating food. Chef André, always in full white uniform and tall chef's hat, oversaw the entire group. The chefs shouted commands and the assembly line on the other side of the food installation station shouted responses, mostly "Oui, chef" in unison.

Guests began arriving almost as soon as the large glass doors were unlocked. We began coordinating coats and hangers, handing over numbered tickets for outerwear retrieval upon departure.

As soon as things slowed down for arrivals, my classmate and I made our way to the floor. We began watching for our cue – once food selection was made and menus were collected, we were to provide bread for the table.

In no time, it was clear that we needed to just be our toes and fill in wherever they needed us. Servers took care of serving the lovely cocktails, another student present as a student for the day filled water glasses, we helped to serve, learning to put "protein towards the tummy" – meaning that the meat should indicate the positioning of the plate towards the guest. We cleared plates, served more tables, and began coffee prep. All along, everyone was busy, from those cleaning plates to the cooking staff to the other servers, yet gracious. Students thanked one another, recognized help and stepped up quickly when something was missing, or when someone was in need of support.

Some guests learned of our transition from hairdressing to the restaurant for the day, and commented on how we had risen to the challenge. We hoped that one day some of the class would visit us in the salon.

At the end of our shift, a pair of guests even visited the salon with us, curious about making how the salon functioned, and interested in making appointments for themselves.

This is a time of year in particular, when many of us will be called upon to help out doing things that we might not be familiar with, or that we might not even have a single clue about, as everyone has a bit of a busier stretch with the approaching holidays. Here's to expanding our horizons, and helping one another out. My classmate and I both agreed that it was a challenging, but fun experience, and that we both learned a few things we will take with us.

For more information on reservations at L'entre-deux, or to learn more about their programs, contact Campus Bromemissisquoi at (450) 243-7901.

Stamstead Journal, Dec. 6, 2017

Provencher-Brazeau And McLean Named Piper Athletes Of The Month

**Bob Fisk,
Special collaboration, Lennoxville**

Loralie Provencher-Brazeau and Sam McLean have been named the Piper athletes of the month for November.

As a member of the Bantam girls basketball team Provencher-Brazeau has helped lead her team to a 7-1 record to start the season. As a power forward she has recorded a double-double (points and rebounds) in every game and has been the teams top scorer. The thirteen year old is just as dominant in the defensive zone in which she is given the task to shut down the opposing teams big player. The Sherbrooke resident also excels in the classroom in which she is part of the Principals List with an 85% average. She will continue to improve her basketball skills in the sports concentration program as the season progresses in hopes of helping her team bring home back to back RSEQ Championships under head coach Tracey Chantler.

McLean has helped jump start the Senior Boys basketball team to a 4-2 record to begin the season by averaging 10 points and several assists every game. The shooting guard also plays a huge veteran presence on the floor with his calm and sportsmanlike demeanor. The Grade 11 student has really honed his basketball skills by being part of the sports concentration program in which he has trained in multiple sports like hockey and soccer as well. The Lennoxville resident has a great work ethic off the court as well and is just as competitive in the classroom as indicated by his 90% average. The sixteen year-old and his teammates have their eyes set on making a run at the RSEQ AA Championships.



photos courtesy AGHS

Provencher-brazeau and Mclean named Piper athletes of the month

Sherbrooke Record · 6 Dec 2017 · 7 · Submitted by Robert Fisk Alexander Galt Regional High School

Loralie Provencher-brazeau and Sam Mclean have been named the Piper athletes of the month for November. As a member of the Bantam girls basketball team Provencher-brazeau has helped lead her team to a 7-1 record to start the season. As a power forward she has recorded a double-double (points and rebounds) in every game and has been the teams top scorer. The thirteen year old is just as dominant in the defensive zone in which she is given the task to shut down the opposing teams big player. The Sherbrooke resident also excels in the classroom in which she is part of the Principals List with an 85% average. She will continue to improve her basketball skills in the sports concentration program as the season progresses in hopes of helping her team bring home back to back RSEQ Championships under head coach Tracey Chantler.

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Anyone up for some high school drama?

Sherbrooke Record · 7 Dec 2017 · 4 · By Gordon Lambie

Theatre fans in the Lennoxville area are in luck, with not one but two different high school plays coming up over the next two weeks.

First, starting tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. the Bishop's College School Players' Club is mounting a production of *Murder on the Rerun*, a murder-mystery comedy written by Fred Carmichael.

Set in a Vermont ski lodge, the play offers a witty yet suspenseful look at the life of Hollywood celebrities through the eyes of Jane, an Oscar winning screen writer who was pushed down the stairs and Kitty, an angel from "up there" who is trying to earn her wings. While taking the audience through the journey of discovering Jane's killer, director and BCS Drama teacher Miranda McGie said that the work also shines a light on celebrity culture.

"I tend to pick plays that mock society," the director said, "and our society idolizes celebrities."

<http://sherbrookerecord.pressreader.com/sherbrooke-record/20171207/textview>

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Student Actress Grace Gardner, a veteran of the BCS stage, said that she particularly enjoys the way that the play explores the idea of life after death. Cast in the role of Kitty, the would-be angel, Gardner is in the position of trying to sort out the details and balance the moral scales among a group of off-again, on again egocentric friends.

"They're very self-important, stereotypical celebrities," Gardner said, adding that the production has been a fun experience.

Murder on the Rerun runs from December 7 to 9 starting at 7:30pm each night.

The following weekend, Alexander Galt Drama will be presenting a Christmas story of love and loss in Searching for David's Heart by Cherie Bennett.

"I've been wanting to do a drama for a while," said Galt Drama teacher Olivialouise BCS cast (Top) Thuy Anh Doan, Ivannia Gomezgil Yaspik, Sebastian Colley, (Bottom) Robert Bohong Fu, Violetta Zeitlinger Fontana, Grace Gardner and Leah Annia Plante-wiener Grenier, explaining that she tries to keep each play different from the one before it so that students get a varied experience of the performing arts.

In brief terms, Grenier said that Searching for David's Heart is about a Christmas miracle. Set in the present day, the story deals with contemporary family struggles, the challenges of growing up, and the pain of losing someone close. Looking at the upcoming production, the teacher said that the story is one of the more challenging that has been put on in her time at the school because of its realism and the complexity of its staging.

This will be Kevin Parnell's sixth time involved with a play at Galt but because of the nature of the show, and his role as the titular character of David, he said that this time is very different.

"The goal isn't necessarily to make people laugh," Parnell said, noting that most of his previous roles have been in comedies. This time around he is faced with the challenge of connecting with the audience without necessarily relying on humour. "I've really learned a lot."

With a cast of only 13 actors, which Grenier pointed out is small for a high school production, there has been more time for the actors to develop their characters and really dig deep into what motivates them. This, the drama teacher noted, is important in the context of a story where there is no fantastic setting or magical force to fall back on.

Searching for David's Heart will be presented at the Alexander Galt Auditorium from December 14 to the 16th at 7:30pm