

Louise Penny visits Knowlton Academy

The Record, Feb. 7, 2017



COURTESY OF LOUISE PENNY

It may be difficult to see, but buried deep within this picture is award-winning author Louise Penny. She is surrounded by students from Knowlton Academy during her visit to the school on Friday. While it was her first time working with that age group, Penny said she was astonished by what the students had to say. "It's a wonderful school," she added, "Loved it." The Knowlton Academy students appreciated their visit with Penny, and Sec. 1 students are currently preparing a school page to discuss what they learned from the talented local author. It will be published later this week.

Galt artists present “Endless Paw-ssibilities”

By Gordon Lambie

The Alexander Galt High School Arts Concentration Program will be holding its third annual art exhibit and auction this year on Tuesday, February 21, at the Lennoxville United Church. Breaking with the pattern established in its first two years of donating the proceeds to the Bishop's and Champlain refugee student sponsorship program, this year the students have decided to paint for the benefit of The Pet Connection.

Sigal Hirshfeld, the teacher who oversees the program, explained that this year's change in benefactor was the idea of student Audrey-Anne Deslauriers. Although the art teacher had not necessarily been looking to shift the focus of the project, she said that the amount of work done by Deslauriers to advocate for the work being done by Lennoxville's Jen Young really demanded recognition.

“She really did the research, prepared a PowerPoint, presented it to the class and persuaded the students that this is what we should go for this year,” Hirshfeld said. “The Students had a much more immediate connection with the topic. They all have pets; they all understand the bond that humans

and pets have and connected well to that cause.”

Deslauriers shared that it was her family's own experience of adopting a cat from the pet connection, as well as the work done by Young to help nurse a dying cat back to health that inspired her to speak up for the Pet Connection.

“I really wanted to help (Young) so that she could do that for more people,” the student shared, adding that she had thought about the idea as early as last year. “I was also thinking that doing a different cause every year would really help spread support through the community.”

Deslauriers' classmate, Brooklyn Leclerc, said that the idea really resonated with her because of the role that The Pet Connection plays in the local community.

“I really liked Audrey-Anne's idea because everybody likes animals,” Leclerc said. “Jen, she really helps (the animals) and takes care of them and really wants to tell the community to adopt her animals.”

While the auction has taken place at the high school itself in past years, Hirshfeld said that this year the event has been moved to the local United Church in an effort to build a closer connection with the community. A victim of its lo-

cation, the art teacher said that the school doesn't always feel like an accessible location to people even as close by as Lennoxville.

“We changed venues because it is a local Lennoxville business so I thought it would attract more people if we actually do it in town,” Hirshfeld said, saying that she wants the event to develop more of a “community vibe.”

Léa Côté, another of the students in the class, said that she is excited about the new location.

“It's very different; a different cause and a different location,” Côté said. “It's a good change, I think. It gives everyone here a chance to take more risk.”

Sharing that she wants to work on comics professionally in the future, Côté said that she has been inspired by the auctions and the concentration program to take her work further than she might have otherwise.

“I like these events because they help us get used to putting our work out there,” the student said.

The “Endless Paw-ssibilities” art exhibition and auction will take place between 7pm and 9pm on the night of February 21 at Lennoxville United Church.



Local Sports

Gilpin helped lead the Bantam girls Pipers basketball team to a perfect 4-0 record in the month and atop the RSEQ standings.

Gilpin and Brazel named Piper athletes of the month

Submitted by Robert Fisk

Hannah Gilpin and Michael Brazel have been named the Piper athletes of the month for January at Alexander Galt High School.

Gilpin helped lead the Bantam girls Pipers basketball team to a perfect 4-0 record in the month and atop the RSEQ standings. The Lennoxville resident averaged 13 points a game and several key assists. The veteran grade 8 student is the point guard on the team and is relied upon heavily to bring the ball up the court. She is often matched up against the opposing teams best player. She is a quiet leader and leads by example on the court. The 13-year-old perfects her bas-

ketball skills in the sports concentration program and is also on the Honor Roll list.

Brazel helped lead the Junior boys basketball team to 5-2 record and a birth in the tough RSEQ AA play offs. The Ayer's Cliff resident averaged 15 points and 10 rebounds a game. The 14-year-old forward maintains a calm leadership presence on the floor and battles hard in the post. The grade 9 student has been part of the sports concentration program for three years and will continue to perfect his skills basketball skills in the program. He also demonstrates a good work ethic in the classroom by being on the honor roll.



Hannah Gilpin



Michael Brazel

The Record, Feb. 8, 2017

Named Piper Athletes Of The Month

Bob Flsk, Special collaboration

THE STAFF HAS READ YOURS, FEB 8, 2017

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Hannah Gilpin

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photos courtesy

Michael Brazel

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Tillotson Foundation Supports Piper Basketball

Bob Fisk
Special collaboration

The Tillotson Foundation donated \$7500 to help the seven basketball teams at Alexander Galt High School to purchase new basketball uniforms.

The new Adidas uniforms are a much-needed upgrade from the existing uniforms that had been used for twelve years. The student athletes are excited and thrilled with the new uniforms and they look great.

The Piper Classic kicked in the other half of the money to help purchase the uniforms. The Piper Classic is an annual golf tournament that helps to raise money for all inter-scholastic sports at Galt in honor of John Haller a former teacher and coach. The tournament will take place on Saturday, July 1st this year at the Milby Golf Club.

On behalf of the Athletic Committee and student athletes we would like to thank the Tillotson Foundation for their gracious donation.

Seen here (left to right):
Britney Labrie,
Michael Brazel,
Jarod Stone, Erika Smith,
Evan Gass, Eryn Costello
and **Hannah Gilpin.**



photo courtesy Alexandre Galt High School

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Letters

DEAR EDITOR,

The end, Feb 8, 2017

The students of KNOWLTON ACADEMY were spellbound last Friday when LOUISE PENNY (acclaimed, illustrious and oh so humble, world-wide, best-selling Mystery Writer and a resident of our charming village of Knowlton Lac Brome. She was invited by Renalee Gore (principal) to talk to the Gr. 5, 5/6, Sec. 1 about herself and the fine craft of writing. The students were 100% focused and asked intelligent, well thought out questions. A round of applause to the three cycle 3 teachers, Sheila Perry, Charlotte Coles and Chantal Dessureau. Their principal couldn't have been happier with the students excellent participation. Before I retired I remember Louise Penny speaking to one of our teachers workshops when she had just written her first novel STILL LIFE..Now 12 book later, she is just as lovely an so unassuming, and oh so kind. We, invited guests were just as thrilled.

SHERYL TAYLOR
RETIRED RESOURCE TEACHER
FASHION BLOGGER



Priorité à la lutte au décrochage scolaire

Le 30 juin dernier, le plan d'action 2006-2016 pour contrer le décrochage scolaire et augmenter la qualification des jeunes estriens prenait fin. Les partenaires de la table estrienne de concertation interordres en éducation (TECIÉ), à travers l'instance du Projet Partenaires pour la réussite éducative en Estrie (Projet PRÉE), ont convenu que le travail de mobilisation de la collectivité estrienne pour faire de la réussite éducative des jeunes un enjeu prioritaire dans le développement de la région devait se poursuivre.

Des travaux ont débuté au printemps dernier afin de se doter d'un nouvel alignement stratégique au regard de la persévérance scolaire. Cet exercice a permis aux partenaires de réaliser un bilan des 10 dernières années, d'élaborer les portraits locaux de la réussite

éducative et de mener des consultations locales. Cette démarche a mené à l'adoption, en novembre dernier, de l'alignement stratégique 2016-2020 pour favoriser la persévérance scolaire et la réussite éducative des jeunes Estriens.

Dix objectifs stratégiques ont été identifiés afin de poursuivre le travail de concertation autour de l'enjeu de la lutte au décrochage scolaire. La valorisation et la promotion des différents parcours de formation menant à la réussite et au marché du travail, la mise en place d'actions permettant aux enfants une meilleure préparation à l'entrée à l'école et l'accroissement de l'intérêt pour la lecture chez les 0-20 ans et leurs parents sont quelques exemples de priorités de travail du Projet PRÉE pour les quatre prochaines années.

L'action du Projet PRÉE prend appui sur les forces vives du milieu et vise à répondre aux besoins des communautés locales. C'est dans cette optique que les différents intervenants du Projet PRÉE travaillent avec les communautés à identifier

des actions efficaces basées sur la recherche et les pratiques probantes. Et cette construction collective représente le cœur du projet. Nous avons en effet tous et toutes un rôle à jouer pour faire de l'éducation une valeur portée par l'ensemble de la communauté estrienne.

Pour de plus amples informations sur les actions du Projet PRÉE consultez le site reussiteeducativeestrie.ca

Christian Provencher,
Marie-France Bélanger,
Coprésidents de la TECIÉ
et du Projet PRÉE



Pour nous écrire

Courriel : redaction@latribune.qc.ca

Télécopieur : 819 564-8098

Poste :
Opinions des lecteurs
1950, rue Roy, Sherbrooke
Québec, J1K 2X8

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Celebrated author visits Knowlton Academy

By KA Secondary One

It is no mystery why students at Knowlton Academy were so excited last Friday. They were getting a visit from award-winning, New York Times #1 Best selling author Louise Penny. Penny interacted with students from grades 5 to Secondary One for two hours. She shared her knowledge and life lessons with honesty and humour.

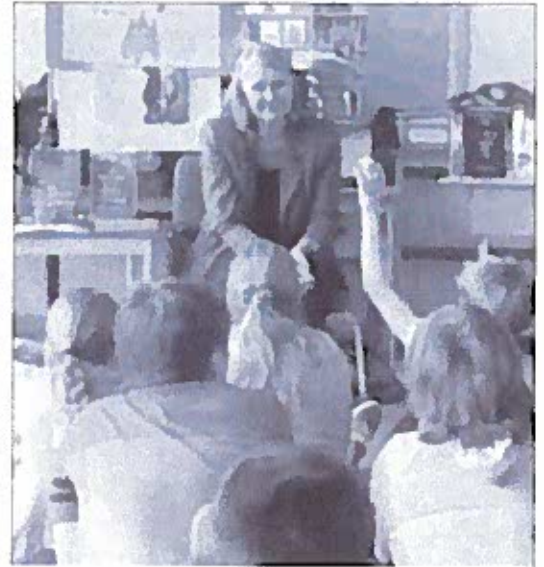
One of the first things Penny commented on was a sign she had noticed that was posted outside the school library. "I am courageous" it read. Penny stated that she wished that someone had encouraged her to be courageous when she was younger because fear had stopped her from doing many things. She asked the students to be brave and surround themselves with people who believe in them. She also told them to ask for help when they need it.

Penny admitted that she asked for help when she was struggling with writing her second novel and the advice she received changed her life. She was told that the wrong person was trying to write the book, the critic. She had been looking for perfection instead of just writing. And that was the advice she gave the young writers- stop listening to the inner critic, write with joy and gratitude, just write.

Penny compared her writing process to sculpting. She throws everything together for the first draft then she chips away to find the gem. In answer to a question by one of the students, Penny also acknowledged the importance of creating a mood and how words evoke a feeling in the reader. Another piece of knowledge she shared was that she believes that the setting of a story should be treated like another character.

Penny sets her novels in the fictitious Eastern Townships town of Three Pines and her love for the people and beauty of this special part of the world was evident throughout the afternoon. She asked the students to share some of the words they would use to describe their town and was so impressed by the offerings that she said she might use some in her future books.

After receiving an extended round of applause and reminding the students to check out her Facebook page Penny stuck around for many more minutes to sign autographs for everyone who requested one and have one on one conversations. This was an unforgettable afternoon for everyone in attendance. Louise Penny is a true inspiration, no mystery there.



Un combat quotidien

**DENIS
DUFRESNE**

ÉDITORIAL

denis.dufresne@latribune.qc.ca



La lutte au décrochage scolaire est un combat de tous les jours et la 8^e édition des Journées de la persévérance scolaire en Estrie est là pour nous le rappeler.

Cette semaine de sensibilisation organisée par la Table estrienne de concertation interordres en éducation (TECIÉ) et le Projet Partenaires pour une réussite éducative en Estrie (PRÉE) comporte pas moins de 275 activités dans les écoles, les organismes communautaires et les bibliothèques, entre le 13 et le 17 février.

Hier, lors du lancement des Journées de la persévérance scolaire en Estrie, la coordonnatrice du Projet PRÉE, Josiane Bergeron, a rappelé que la réussite scolaire est l'affaire de tous: enseignants, parents, professionnels des services éducatifs, employeurs et organismes de lutte à la pauvreté.

Et la mobilisation donne des résultats: entre 2003 et 2015, le taux de diplomation est passé de 65,2 pour cent à 73 pour cent dans le secteur public en Estrie, alors qu'il est de 74,9 pour l'ensemble du Québec.

Il s'agit incontestablement d'un progrès, mais il reste encore beaucoup de chemin à faire puisque le taux de diplomation visé par le gouvernement du Québec d'ici 2020 est de 80 pour cent, incluant

les secteurs public et privé. Le taux actuel pour l'ensemble du Québec (public et privé) est de 78,8 pour cent.

Toutefois, il n'existe pas de données régionales combinant les taux de diplomation des secteurs privé et public, ce qui rend difficile toute comparaison avec les données nationales.

Le Projet PRÉE, qui a vu son financement être réduit de 950 000 \$ à 500 000 \$ en 2015, demeure malgré tout sur les rails et est en attente d'un nouveau financement du ministère de l'Éducation.

En novembre dernier, l'organisme a adopté une stratégie 2016-2020 axée notamment sur la valorisation et la promotion des différents parcours de formation, une meilleure préparation pour l'entrée à l'école des nouveaux élèves et l'accroissement de l'intérêt pour la lecture chez 0-20 ans et leurs parents.

La réussite scolaire dépend de multiples facteurs: il y a bien sûr le milieu de vie et le taux de pauvreté, mais aussi la valorisation du savoir et la disponibilité de ressources suffisantes à l'école, notamment pour les élèves avec des difficultés d'apprentissage.

Or, le gouvernement Couillard a imposé au cours des dernières années d'importantes coupes

budgétaires dans les services aux élèves — techniciens en enseignement spécialisé, orthopédagogues et psychoéducateurs, notamment — avec les impacts que cela peut comporter pour des jeunes qui risquent de traîner des carences le reste de leur vie.

Par exemple, en 2014-2015, la Commission scolaire de la Région-de-Sherbrooke avait même dû supprimer l'aide aux devoirs et réduire le budget de certains programmes comme la « Stratégie persévérance et réussite » pour les jeunes du secondaire!

À l'heure de l'économie du savoir, il est inadmissible qu'un élève sur cinq quitte l'école sans diplôme ni qualification et risque ainsi de se retrouver avec des emplois précaires et faiblement rémunérés.

Josiane Bergeron signale à ce propos qu'un jeune décrocheur gagne en moyenne 15 000 \$ de moins par année que celui qui termine son secondaire V et a deux fois plus de chance d'avoir recours à l'assurance-emploi.

Hier, un sondage Léger révélait que 70 pour cent des employeurs québécois ont de la difficulté à recruter de la main-d'œuvre et dans 37 pour cent des cas, il s'agit d'emplois exigeant une scolarité du secondaire.

Le gouvernement Couillard a certes annoncé dans son budget 2016-2017 un réinvestissement de 330 millions \$ sur trois ans dans le réseau primaire et secondaire.

Mais après des compressions de 950 millions \$ depuis 2010-2011, selon la Centrale des syndicats du Québec, il faudra faire bien davantage pour bâtir le Québec de demain.

