

# Pelletier wants Brome Lake to be everyone's playground

## Knowlton Academy students dip-dipping and swinging their paddles after a canoeing lesson



By Ann Davidson

**T**hanks to TBL's Marc Pelletier who is determined to get more people using Brome Lake as a year round playground, students from both elementary schools in Knowlton have been given the opportunity to experience what it is like to paddle a canoe. And, yes, they were left keen and bright and wanting to do it again.

"Are you cold, are you having fun, do you like it, do you want to come back? The answers from every student asked: Yes (shivering and shaking). Yes. Yes. And yes. The training program that highlighted water safety, manoeuvring techniques, on-water drills and games, and an opportunity to have a splash in the lake was clearly a resounding success. Even Lily-Anne Willy who was reticent to participate, was clearly thrilled with the adventure.

And the timing was just right with the summer break coming up in two weeks. They will be more prepared if they are able to take the opportunity to venture out on the water again in a canoe.

Pelletier, founder of Les Amis des Sentiers, says that being able to offer lessons to students from both elementary schools located in Knowlton was made possible through collaboration with TBL Community Service, the Optimist Club of Brome Lake, Knowlton Scouts, Brome Lake Boat Club (BLBC) and some generous private citizens.

"The local Optimist Club (of Brome Lake) organized and absorbed the cost of hiring a certified instructor through the Fédération québécoise du canot et du kayak." Pelletier also says that all the canoes were supplied by the neighbouring BLBC, the Knowlton Scout troop and several private citizens. As decreed by government regulations, they were all equipped with emergency kits fastened to the hulls. With the support of Barnes

Home Hardware and donations, Pelletier was able to buy 15 government-approved life jackets that will be kept in a locker managed by TBL Community Services.

It turns out that the Scouts also have a stock of canoes that Pelletier is hoping can be retrieved for other events that would give people the opportunity to participate in a similar workshop/on-water-type of experience. According to Pelletier, the leader of the Knowlton Scouts group, Justin Cuplinska, is eager to cooperate with Pelletier on other events that would be similar. He also says that BLBC President Shane Valen seems willing to offer their canoes again for special events.

Jean-René Boiron is an instructor who has done a lot of work with Scouts and other youth organizations. He quickly captivated all the students with his lively demonstrations that included balancing, holding the paddle and stroking, getting in and out of the canoe, what to do in the event of a capsize, and how to right the boat after capsizing.

Andre Bourbeau at TBL Community Services has given exemplary help by accommodating with storage and allowing non-motorized watercraft to be launched at Douglass Beach.

"He is very supportive of this initiative and allowing people with standup paddle boards (SUP's), canoes and kayaks have access to the lake at Douglass Beach is a big opportunity for more people to get out and have some summer fun," concluded Pelletier.

St-Edouard students will do the training session on June 22. A similar course is being offered free for residents (maximum 20) the afternoon of June 22. Everything is supplied. Register early by sending Marc Pelletier a private message via

Facebook.

(<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=marc%20pelletier>)

*The Record, June 13, 2017*

# Galt Athletes honoured

see article page & more page 15



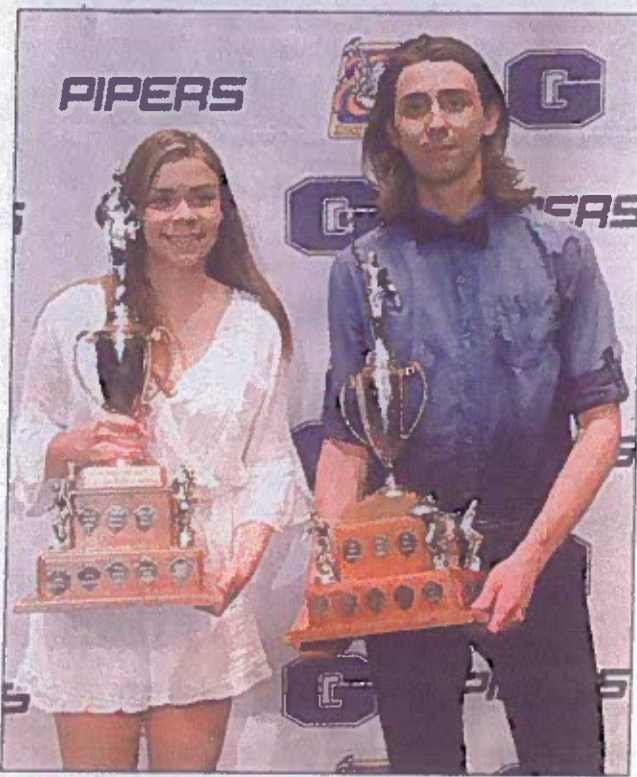
photos courtesy Alexandre Galt Heigh School

The **CALDWELL-CROOK-HEATH-VIGNEUX AWARD** (physical education appreciation award) was won by **Brad Daigneault** and **Naomi Wiseman-Beese**.



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# Athletic Awards at AGRHS



*St Ansted Journal, June 13, 2017*



## Victoria Vanier

Alexander Galt High School held its 48<sup>th</sup> annual Athletic Awards on June 7<sup>th</sup>, handing out trophies and special prizes to the school's top athletes.

The Cycle 1 Athletes of the year were **Xavier Fisk** and **Hannah Gilpin**.

The CALDWELL-CROOK-HEATH-VIGNEUX AWARD,

for Athletic Appreciation, went to Brad Daigneault and Naomi Wiseman-Beese whose brother Alex won the award last year. The Sports Concentration Awards went to Lillie Jacklin, Abdul Barry, Paige Lavoie and Jacob Gilbert. The "G of Excellence" Awards, for playing a minimum of fifteen sports at Galt, went to Chelsea Moore. The Jennifer Daignault Award (Volunteer Appreciation) was won by Andrew Hynd.

Athletes of the Year were Hannah Gilpin, Xavier Fisk, Chelsea Moore and Enrick Jutras Plante.

The ELLA F. HOY TROPHY, based on Academics, Athletics, Sportsmanship & Leadership, was awarded to Chelsea Moore. The REG NEWTON MEMORIAL TROPHY, also based on Academics, Athletics, Sportsmanship & Leadership, was awarded to Enrick Jutras Plante. Many other awards were given out to athletes in the individual sports of soccer, football, basketball, cross-country running, hockey, swimming, curling, badminton, rugby, golf and flag football.

Cycle 2 Athletes of the Year were **Chelsea Moore** and **Enrick Jutras Plante**.

Alexander Galt High School's athletes brought home no less than fifteen championship banners this year, including the ETIAC banners in Cross-country running, bantam girls soccer, bantam boys soccer, senior boys soccer, curling and golf, and RSEQ banners in bantam boys basketball and bantam girls basketball.

Winners of the Sports Concentration Awards were **Lillie Jacklin**, **Jacob Gilbert** and **Paige Lavoie**.



photos courtesy Alexandre Galt Heigh School

Seen here is the *Reg Newton Award* winner, **Enrick Jutras Plante**, and the *Ella F. Hoy Trophy* winner, **Chelsea Moore**.



KEEPING IN TOUCH

# Coaticook senior wins essay challenge

**C**aroline Fiset, a senior at Alexander Galt Regional High School, was named the winner of this year's Excel in the Estrie essay challenge following Townshippers' Association's Annual General Meeting on June 9, in Orford.

Each year in celebration of school perseverance, Townshippers' Make Way for YOUth (MWFY) project challenges high school seniors to share stories about how they have excelled in school and how they see themselves living and working in the Townships in the future.

Caroline's submission focused on the struggles of attending school in her second language, from studying in another language and making the honour roll, to adjusting to a new social group. Her essay also conveyed her sense of achievement and pride in her success, as well as her gratitude for being given the opportunity to become bilingual.

The 17-year-old Galt graduate will begin her special care studies at Cégep de Sherbrooke this fall and hopes to go on to study psychology, with the goal of staying in the region—helping others and having an impact on their lives.

Caroline accepted her \$500 award—made possible with the support of the Government of Canada, the Lennoxville Youth Center, and Global Excel—and her winning essay can be read in the fall issue of Townshippers' journal.

To learn more about MWFY and this Essay challenge, visit [www.Townshippers.org](http://www.Townshippers.org) or contact the MWFY Migration Agent at 819-566-5717.

## Application deadline: New Horizons for Seniors Program

The application deadline for the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) is looming. Community-based projects, led or inspired by seniors, that can help them make a difference in the lives of others and in their communities, have

until June 23 to apply for a grant of up to \$25,000 per year through the program.

Offered by the Government of Canada, the program is designed to help seniors improve the quality of life in their communities by participating in social activities and leading active lives.

To be eligible for the grants, projects must address one or more of the program's five objectives: promote volunteerism and mentoring, expand awareness of elder abuse, support the social participation of seniors and provide capital assistance for new and existing projects and programs.

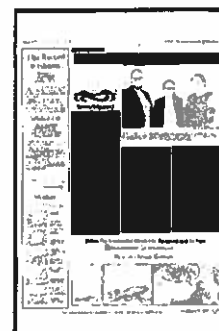
Applications must include the Standard Grant Application for Funding form, available for download at [www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eforms](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eforms). The Application for Funding Guide, which can be downloaded from <https://www.canada.ca/search?search=new-horizons-seniors-community-based/applicant-guide>, provides instructions on how to fill out the form and lists mandatory additional information.

Completed applications and all required documents, must be submitted by June 23, 2017, at 11:59 p.m., either in person at your local Service Canada office [visit [www.servicecanada.gc.ca](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca) to find an office near you] or by mail to: Service Canada, New Horizons for Seniors Program, 1001 De Maisonneuve Boulevard East, Fourth Floor, Suite 400, Montreal, Quebec, H2L 4P9. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

Contact Service Canada with questions or for assistance with the application process, at 1-866-233-3194 or [QC-PNHA-NHSP@servicecanada.gc.ca](mailto:QC-PNHA-NHSP@servicecanada.gc.ca).

For more on Townshippers' Association and our activities, keep reading this weekly column in The Record and visit our website [www.Townshippers.org](http://www.Townshippers.org). You can also follow us on Twitter @Townshippers and [Facebook.com/Townshippers](https://www.facebook.com/Townshippers)

pers. Connect with Townshippers' offices in Sherbrooke at 100 - 257 Queen, 819-566-5717, toll-free: 1-866-566-5717, or Lac-Brome at 3-584 Knowlton Rd, 450-242-4421, toll-free: 1-877-242-4421.



# New St-Francis playground open for business

By Gordon Lambie

**W**hile the school year is winding down for the summer across the Eastern Townships, there's something happening today at St-Francis Elementary in Richmond that the whole school community has been building up to for a long time. The fence surrounding the school's new playground equipment is coming down.

"The main attraction is basically done," said Mandy Hinds, chairperson of the school's Parent Participation Organization (PPO). "As of Friday the fences will be down and it will be open for business at recess."

Hinds said that work has been going on in the play yard for only a few weeks now, although the process of fundraising and preparing the site dates back to last year. She acknowledged that the play structures have been the main focus of the children's attention, but pointed out that it was only one of many phases of work in the overhaul of the yard.

"We still have plans to build an outdoor classroom-gazebo type structure," the PPO chair said, adding that there is also an outdoor basketball court in the plans that should, hopefully, be in place

by the end of the summer. After that, she continued, it's just a matter of "finishing touches" in the form of landscaping and walking paths that might vary depending on what remains of the budget.

Although the fences only come down today, Hinds shared that the St-Francis students have had the special opportunity to "test run" the equipment over the last two days. On Tuesday students from kindergarten to grade three got to play while grades four to six tried it out on Wednesday class by class. She said her own daughter came home on Tuesday calling the new playground "awesome."

Even with more work ahead, the PPO chair said that she has been really impressed by the community support so far.

"We planned to have four installation days, but we had such a great response from our parents and teachers to come and help that we got all of that work done in three," Hinds said. "In fact, we did way more work in three days than we had anticipated doing in four."

Similarly, she said that the PPO is now made up of "expert fundraisers" because of the work done to prepare for this project over the last year.

"(The students) have been eagerly awaiting this day," Hinds said

