

L'archipel Restaurant in Cowansville one year on

Sherbrooke Record · 27 Jun 2017 · 12 · By Louise Smith

In June 2016 co-owners Jo Sevigny and Chloe Ostiguy opened up L'archipel Restaurant on Rue Principale in Cowansville. Their goal was to support community food suppliers and to produce good-tasting local food dishes. They are in a continuing state of constant innovation. They want to create a space for innovative food for the body and soul. The restaurant recently supported **Heroes' Memorial** when it gave a gift certificate for a fundraiser. The owners are local young people and they want to support the community as a whole.



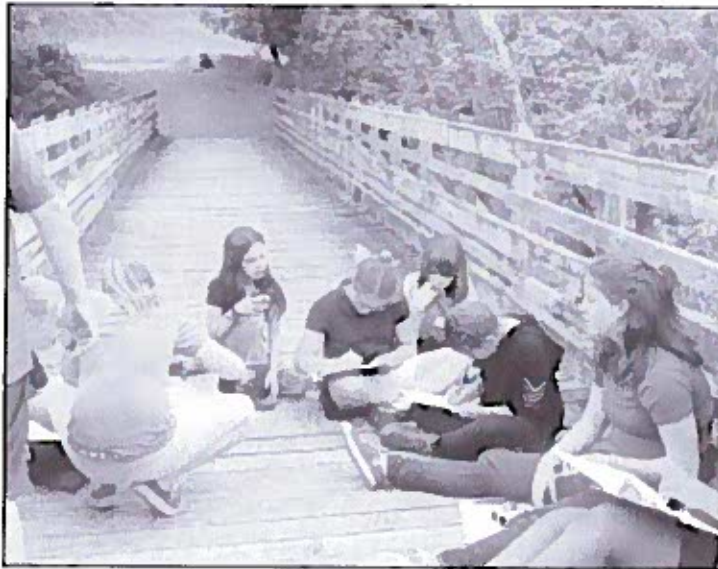
They have a monthly newsletter that will soon be bilingual. A new front is happening to the restaurant. The seating area in the back overlooking the lake is a drawing card when the weather is cooperative and a dock has been installed. People on the lake in boats or pedalos are able to tie up and come into the restaurant for a meal. The view for the fireworks of both St. Jean Baptiste and Canada Day over the lake is magnificent.

It is worth a look and the business is growing steadily. Come by and give them a look.

KA students go bird watching on field trip

Sherbrooke Record · 27 Jun 2017 · 3 · By Ann Davidson

“And from Humming-bird to Eagle, the daily existence of every bird is a remote and bewitching mystery.” —Thomas Wentworth Higginson, “The Life of Birds,” *Out-door Papers*, 1868e



Over the past couple of weeks students and their teachers from Knowlton Academy have taken advantage of a pedagogical guide made available to them by Renaissance Lac-brome (RLB). It took four years to discover this treasure that relates to environmental science but if the interest and enthusiasm manifested by all are indicators, there is no question that the program will be put to good use for many years to come. A couple of classes at Knowlton Academy had the privilege of finally taking advantage of both the intellectual material and the equipment as well as the deep knowledge imparted by biologist, Dr. Michel Delorme of Renaissance Lac-brome (RLB) who accompanied them on their trek. And it was no disappointment.

The biologist says that with a stream and walking path running by both school properties, students have an ideal outdoor laboratory giving them a hands-on experience while learning about the importance of the wetlands that nourish the lake. He marvelled at the four or five natural habitats within such a short range and said that the students had the opportunity to learn so much about many different birds in their own backyard — their calls, their markings, their behaviours, their food and nesting zones. Perhaps the experience will drive one or a number of them to become ornithologists, ichthyologists, or herpetologists.

Binoculars and worksheets in hand, the students stopped along the way to search for the song-makers in the trees and reeds. Observing and recording as they recorded what they saw, they drew pictures and matched them to the images that had been provided to them. They rested on the bridge over the stream and compared with each other their sightings.

Because of a significant proliferation of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that plagued Brome Lake in 2006, RLB has continued to mobilize its forces to ensure that actions be taken to stop the lake from further degradation. A number of projects that resulted in increased partnerships were implemented to protect the lake. To this day RLB promotes and encourages best possible environmental practices and undertakes ongoing research regarding fish and plant life within and beside the waterway.

The organization has found many ways to create awareness among all the stakeholders. In 2013 RLB and the Town of Brome Lake shared the \$10,000 cost of recruiting then student of Environmental Science Lisa Gravel so that she could

embark on the preparation and publication of a didactic guide for teachers of students in the third cycle of elementary school. These companion guides have since been distributed to schools that have welcomed them as tools for their pedagogical curriculum across the province. An additional \$3,000 grant from Td-canada Trust covered the cost of the equipment for the two TBL elementary schools. Each of the two schools located in Knowlton were presented with suitcases each containing 15 pairs of binoculars and clipboards for the students' worksheets.

Focusing on learning more about the relevance of the wetlands, the guide in particular centres on the lake and its surrounding environment and wildlife and provides students with work sheets, games and activities that they can play while on a field trip. Although originally tailored for students of Brome Lake, it also considers the Yamaska River, St. Lawrence lowlands, watersheds in Quebec, watersheds in Canada. The guide goes farther afield by taking a look at the Mississippi and Amazon watersheds. The principles within the two documents can be applied to life in the wetlands anywhere, and therefore the product is not exclusive to Brome-lake. Ironically, Delorme says that schools across the province have fostered and used the guides while, until this past couple of weeks, the schools that they originally produced it for had not.

Delorme says that it is possible that in the transition between departing and arriving principals, the kits containing 15 pairs of binoculars along with the two teaching guides and clipboards for the students must have gotten lost in some dark closet. Thrilled that finally "the one at Knowlton Academy has been found and dusted off," he concluded that with these two adventures under their belts, the objective of the plan within was a huge success. "I know that each of the students will have taken away some knowledge today and that there will be at least one thing that they will remember tonight and forever. Now that the Knowlton Academy students have had this positive experience, I am hopeful that there will be many more occasions. Let's hope that the same will happen for the St. Edouard students who have still not taken advantage of what we (RLB) have provided."

Stanstead Journal, June 28, 2017

Editorial • Letters
Columns • Comments
Forum

Dear Editor

I would like to thank everyone that was involved in our Fund Raising Spaghetti Dinner for the Ayer's Cliff Elementary School Lunch program. We would like to start with a big Thank you to our volunteer Breakfast ladies and some of their husbands who worked hard donating their time; cooking Spaghetti sauce and baking. Jake and Linda spent hours in the hot kitchen preparing and cooking the noodles. Angie did all the paper work and was a great encouragement to everyone. Pat gave us much needed wisdom. So many other friends helped too and we just want everyone to know that each one was important and truly appreciated.

We had great success and raised over \$2,000. None of this could have happened without the hard work of our volunteers and those that came to eat our delicious best ever Spaghetti dinner.
Thanks again

Helena Brodie and Pricilla Pyle
Helena Brodie
2082 Round Bay Road
Ayer's Cliff



\$1.09 before tax in Canada
\$1.25 in USA
PM 40012185

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Stanstead, Stanstead Townships, Stanstead East, Ogden, Ayer's Cliff, North Hatley, Hatley, Waterville, Georgeville, Magog, Lennoxville, Barnston, Derby Line

Card presented today to Bibeau

Stanstead Journal, June 28, 2017



photo Stanstead Journal

Caaden Markwell is seen here with the birthday card that he made for Canada and had all the students of Sunnyside Elementary sign.

Closing ceremony at Sunnyside

Stanstead Journal, June 28, 2017



photos Stanstead Journal

Sunnyside principal **Steve Weary** speaks to students and parents at the school's Awards Ceremony last Friday.

Canada birthday card signed, sealed, delivered

Sherbrooke Record · 29 Jun 2017 · By Matthew McCully

Last week The Record interviewed eight-year-old Caaden Markwell, who had just completed a birthday card for Canada's 150 years since confederation.



Caaden had worked on the card for three months, and also had every student from his school, Sunnyside Elementary in Stanstead, to sign the card, covered in maple leaves and iconic Canadian symbols.

He was hoping to get the opportunity to somehow deliver the card 'to Canada.'

Yesterday, Caaden brought his Canada birthday card to Comptonstanstead Member of Parliament and Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Marie-claude Bibeau, who accepted the card on Canada's behalf.

"I'll show it to Justin," Mme. Bibeau told Caaden, as he explained all the decorations and special elements included in the card.

"This is the nicest one I've received," she added, impressed by all the work Caaden had done.

When asked about his summer plans now that the card is complete and handed over 'to Canada', Caaden described a jam packed schedule with baseball, biking and four-wheeling until school resumes.

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ETSB says have a very, very, very relaxing summer

Sherbrooke Record · 30 Jun 2017 · 1 · By Matthew McCully

The Eastern Townships School Board held its final council of commissioners meeting before breaking for the summer.

“Have a very, very, very relaxing summer,” said Director general Christian Provencher, to the board as well as the rest of the ETSB community.

During the meeting, a number of administrative appointments were made.

James Lemaitre, currently Principal at Asbestos -Danville –Shipton Elementary School at 50 per cent will increase to a 70 per cent position.

North Hatley Elementary Principal Catherine Zahra will increase from a 30 to 40 per cent position. Waterloo Elementary Principal Catherine Canzani’s position will increase from 50 to 60 per cent, and Martin Vigneux was appointed Centre Director at New Horizons Adult Education Centre for the coming year.

The budget for the upcoming school

year was adopted. Chairman Mike Murray pointed out it may be worthwhile to publish a summary of the budget on the ETSB website.

“It could answer a lot of questions,” Murray said.

Other annual housekeeping matters were addressed during the meeting, including the confirmation of the head office and schools and centres administrative structures, and signing officer changes were made where needed.

A long list of building renovation projects were approved, capitalizing on the absence of the students from schools and centres.

On the list of upcoming plans are schoolyard improvement projects at Galt, Lennoxville Elementary and Farnham Elementary schools.

Richmond Regional and Galt are slated for gym rejuvenations. A new roof was approved for Butler Elementary, and the boiler will be replaced at Sutton Elementary. Installation of a ventilation system was approved for Massey-vanier, as well as basement floor repairs for Knowlton Academy, parking lot work at Princess Elizabeth, exterior wall repairs at ADS, and surface water drainage at Richmond Regional.

The board had a discussion about the class action suit involving 68 Quebec school boards regarding school fees.

One commissioner pointed out that an email sent out to all parents was unclear and some dismissed it as spam.

Secretary General Éric Campbell explained that the ETSB was not responsible for the content of the email; it was prepared by the plaintiff and the ETSB was ordered by the court to forward it to all parents because the board had the email list available.

The email explains the nature of the class action, and explains how parents not wanting to participate can opt out.

During the meeting, Murray said that for the first time in 48 years, the ETSB and Val-des-Cerfs governing boards at Massey-vanier had a meeting together.

Among the things discussed was including ETSB students in the passion program, which offers a number of specialized programs taught by professionals instead of teachers.

Murray said that the likely first step will be to blend intramural sports, and then potentially combined school sports teams.

“It’s been offered since 2005,” one commissioner pointed out, adding that the board should support and encourage partnerships of that type.

Letters

Sherbrooke Record · 30 Jun 2017 · 6

DEAR EDITOR,

People assume that school board politics is above municipal, provincial and federal politics. That is not so. Actually, the world of politics in education works at a lower level than any other organization in our society. Why is that? The answer is school boards are masters of propaganda, and can easily create a picture that everything is done in the best interest of the children. It is this image that makes school boards accountable to no one.

Consider what happened at the webcast Pearson Council meeting on June 27, when the Board adopted its "Budget 2017-2018."

Even before I could ask any of the written questions, which I had submitted earlier in the day, out of the blue, Acting Chair Noel Burke, threatened to "ban" me from Public Question Period time. This is totally undemocratic ; it is against Article 168 of the Education Act.

Imagine a prime minister, premier or a mayor, even thinking of banning the opposition, or anyone, to ask questions on the finances of the public institution.

Now think about these facts: the Board's budget is about \$300 million, soon homeowners will receive their everincreasing school tax bill, - and I was the only 'public.' Part of these taxes go toward administrative expenses.

My questions were about the expenses of the Quebec English School Boards Association (QESBA), which refuses to divulge its budget of about \$1 million.

Next week, ten commissioners are off to Whistler, B.C. to attend a "Congress," where they will pretend to be important, and come back with nothing for our English schools. Recall, last year, in Winnipeg, led by businessman, Marcus Tabachnick, the Association bashed defunct Bill 86 - a most progressive school board reform bill.

My other questions dealt with QESBA'S vice-president Suanne Stein Day, who is chairperson of the scandalplagued Pearson board. Following last year's ethics violations, she is on leave for an unknown period of time and still receiving a salary, in which, the secret amount was set at a closed door meeting led by strong supporter - the Acting Chair.

This secrecy reinforces the idea that school boards ought to get out of the school-tax collection business.

That said, everyone agrees that a wellfunded public education system is central to the well-being of society, but , in Quebec, most everyone seems to also agree the way school taxes are levied and collected is unfair.

Two key factors are whether one is a property owner registered in either the French or English school board , in the same area, and whether one lives on or off Montreal Island.

Let's also take into account the recent victory by parents who launched a classaction lawsuit against the province's school boards because of annual school fees they have to pay for educational tools.

No child should be deprived of anything educational because of socio-economic factors. While academic success is important in a well-rounded education, so is the participation in extracurricular activities.

It's time to modernize the way we fund our public school system. The burden of school funding should fall on the state. Here is an idea.

The Liberal government should consider raising the province's sales tax by about one per cent and dividing the funds equitably.

For the common good , and given the social and economic benefits of education, let's call it an 'Education Tax.'

CHRIS EUSTACE MONTREAL, QC

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