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6 juin 2017 La Voix de l'Est LA TRIBUNE

Eastern Townships souhaite le maintien de 11 circonscriptions

En vue des élections scolaires, la Commission scolaire Eastern Townships (CSET) souhaite maintenir le nombre de circonscriptions électorales à 11. La CSET a adopté un projet portant sur la division de son territoire en 11 circonscriptions. En 2014, la CSET, qui avait droit à huit circonscriptions selon la législation, avait fait une demande pour en obtenir quatre. Elle en a finalement obtenu trois. En vue du scrutin qui aura lieu le 4 novembre 2018, l'organisation devait refaire la demande à Québec. « À chaque élection, il faut refaire la demande », précise le secrétaire général de l'organisation, Éric Campbell. La CSET justifie ce nombre par l'étendue de son territoire, qui va de Bedford à Drummondville en passant par le secteur de Lac-Mégantic. La population est conviée à prendre connaissance de ce projet de division soit en se rendant dans les écoles, au centre administratif ou par l'entremise de l'avis public publié dans les journaux du territoire. Les citoyens qui sont en désaccord peuvent manifester leur opposition par écrit à la direction générale de la CSET d'ici le 22 juin. Si le nombre d'oppositions reçues est supérieur à 100, la commission scolaire tiendra une assemblée publique afin d'entendre les commentaires à ce sujet.

Voix de l'est, June 6, 2017

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Article rank | 6 Jun 2017 | Sherbrooke Record | By Ann Davidson

Knowlton Academy garden building bee a success

Raised beds await the busy hands of students

In stark contrast to the nasty, bone chilling temperature that forced almost everyone back into winter wear this past Saturday, the weather-maidens cooperated for the ambitious multi-generation volunteers who came out on Sunday to help build the framework for 13 raised gardens on the grounds of Knowlton Academy in TBL.



ANN DAVIDSON

Three generations of volunteers cooperated, learned, shared the joy of building 13 raised garden beds at Knowlton Academy this past Sunday morning.

Grandparents, parents and students convened in the early morning sun donning tools, and heavier equipment and lots of yummy refreshments for the day ahead. They went home at the end of the day with blisters, dirt under their fingernails, sore muscles, topped with a bit of over sunning. They carried pride with them for successfully meeting their goal to provide the students with gardens to work in during this school year and forever.

Prior to the building bee students have been working on suggestions for names of the project considering it as the "growing ground," designing images with their ideas, and nurturing the seeds they have planted in their classrooms that have already sprouted and are awaiting transplant.

Chris Marks, the grandparent of a young student attending the school, reminisced about playing hockey years ago on a rink that was then in the same location as the gardens, while Corey Smith showed some of the youngsters how to use an electric drill and some other tools.

The Knowlton Academy Greenhouse and Garden Project has been strongly embraced by the school community and supported by the Eastern Townships School Board, the Town of Brome Lake, and the MRC Brome-missisquoi. It is being carefully crafted to ensure its longterm presence at the school and within the community and is regarded by the ETSB as a pilot project that could serve as a model for other schools to foster in the future. It is intended to serve as a community-wide activity including regular interaction with the seniors. The goal is to provide the platform for students to connect with nature, develop skills and knowledge that will serve to sustain them in a region that is historically an agricultural zone and currently valued for its eco- and agro tourism. The project intends to provide a hands-on, living laboratory that connects food growing to food preparation.

Money is being raised to cover the cost of the program. A vigorous effort by the organizing committee to raise enough funds to build the greenhouse and to cover the cost of some of the activities along with unforeseen expenses has been underway since last fall. Although there has been a lot of success on this front, to date, half of the approximately \$80,000 project has been committed. Once the infrastructure is completed the annual cost of running the "garden to table program" is anticipated to be less dramatic. Thanks to the generosity of Louise Penny and Brome Lake Books, a special fundraising concert in the tent that will be installed in Coldbrook Park, Knowlton, will be held in August to help push the project into place by the time the students return to school. Already the lineup of musical talent is guaranteed a good time for all.

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2/17/2017
MAGOG, QUEBEC

The Eastern Township School Board Submits A Proposed Electoral Map

Magog

In view of the school board elections scheduled for November 4, 2018, the Eastern Townships School Board has adopted a proposal for the division of the territory into 11 electoral wards.

The School Board invites the population to consult this proposed electoral map by either, visiting one of its schools or centres, its central administration office or to consult the public notice that will be published in newspapers across the territory starting June 2, 2017.

Citizens who object to the proposed division can express their objection in writing to the Director General of the School Board by June 22, 2017. If more than 100 objections are received, the School Board will hold a public meeting during which persons who are concerned by this issue may voice their concerns.

To obtain more information on the division of the territory into electoral wards, please contact Éric Campbell, Secretary General at 819 868-3100, extension 55025, or visit www.etsb.qc.ca.

St Anns Journal, June 7, 2017

ETSB students in annual competitions

Victoria Vanier

Waterloo Elementary School hosted the Annual Grade 3 Math Competition on May 5th, welcoming fifteen teams from eight ETSB schools. After a morning of solving all different kinds of math problems, both of the top awards, for highest overall score and for teamwork, went to the Parkview Power Packs from Parkview School, in Granby. The other schools taking part were Cookshire, Heroes', Knowlton Academy, Princess Elizabeth, Sherbrooke, Sutton and Waterloo.

Students from the three ETSB high schools took part in the annual public speaking contest of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Promise Rocheleau, from Richmond Regional, won in the junior category, with "Technology is Making us More Disconnected". Second prize in the junior category went to Ember Gendreau from Massey Vanier Regional for her speech "Understanding the use of Antibiotics in Livestock Farming". Alexander Galt High School's Journey Bardati received an honourable mention in the junior category. Massey Vanier Regional's Dominic Newsham also received an honourable mention in the senior category. The winner in the senior category was Helen Yao, of Stanstead College, for "Fanfiction is Real Literature". Kelly Frendo of Bishop's College School took second place in the senior category.



photo courtesy

Ogden teen shares love of music

Victoria Vanler, Ogden

You don't often see a sixteen year old directing a music and dance finale performance on a famous stage, but that's just what the audience did see, last Thursday, during the "Art Without Borders" event at the Haskell Opera House, in Stanstead. Ogden
see Learning, page 8

Victoria Vanler, June 11, 2017

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Learning from the best

resident Nicolas Tremblay-Coté, a student in La Ruche high school's music concentration program, directed the Stanstead College Jazz Band and a choir of Sunnyside and Jardin-des-Frontieres students as they performed a piece Nicolas wrote himself for the occasion, called "Sans Frontieres".

"I have been playing the piano for nine years now. An aunt of mine who taught piano said I had perfect form for piano and that I must learn. I liked it a lot for the first two years, then I didn't like it at all for about two years, but my parents pushed me. The first few years are always hard when learning the piano; I see it in the students that I teach piano to today," said Nicolas in an interview with the Stanstead Journal.

Nicolas began his piano lessons with Allyna Harris, the famous founder of the Choromondo Women's Choir, almost nine years ago and continues to study piano with her today. "And last year I also started taking lessons with Eric Akbar Manolson. With Eric I've been learning to improvise while I'm playing and to compose more," said Nicolas who began writing music while he was in elementary school and also plays the trumpet.

This young piano prodigy is a familiar face to many in the area, having played in public since he was young on numerous occasions and often accompanied by his father, Benoit Tremblay. "I've played piano at the Maison Stevens, at Seniors residences, at the Stanstead Public Market, at Jardin-des-Frontieres school, and at the Georgeville-Fitch Bay Community Supper," he said. "And last Friday I played at the



Nicolas Tremblay-Coté playing his favourite instrument at home.

photo courtesy

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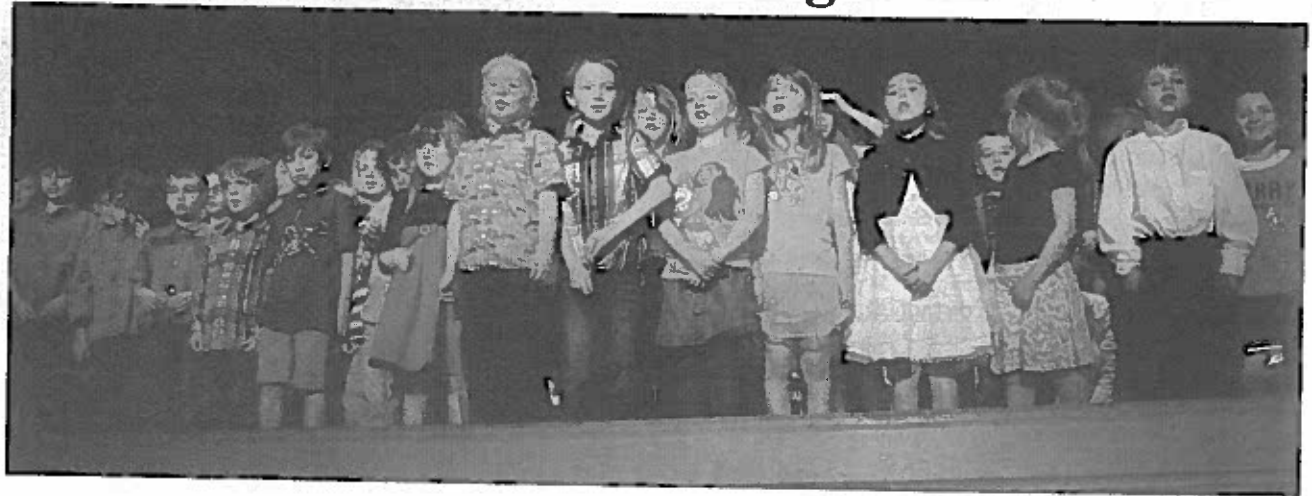
Local kids take to Haskell stage

Centre d'Arts Orford with the Harmonie de La Ruche," added Nicolas who has also appeared twice on the TVA television show "La victoire de l'amour".

A very busy teenager, Nicolas also worked on the organization of the "Art without Borders" event. "We have been working on the show since December. The goal was to give something special to the community and to bring people together, and it worked marvelously. There were 409 people in attendance at the show; the Haskell was full!"

Directing his own composition, which took him thirty-eight hours to write, as the finale of the event was an experience this musician won't soon forget. "I was directing the Stanstead Jazz Band while Cynthia directed the singers and Lee Ann directed the dancers, as they watched me. While this was going on, the chalk artist Francois Bergeron and two young local artists that he is teaching, Elyse Gaucher and Logan Beasse, drew three trees that were illuminated," said Nicolas. "And my father was also on stage playing guitar!"

This young pianist seems totally immersed in music, even teaching piano classes of his own. "I have ten students now, different ages but all beginners." So it was surprising to hear his answer when asked what he had planned for the future. "Right now I don't have any idea. There are lots of things I want to do, maybe work in my father's business, or maybe go into writing music. I spent more than one hundred hours writing a piece for the *Harmonie de La Ruche*, and I really liked that. I think the future will decide what will happen."



photos courtesy

Stanstead students perform on the Haskell Opera House stage at last Thursday's show.

event's final number.

"I think the organizing committee will continue the project, perhaps do an event every one or two years. We certainly have enough talent around here to do it. We're looking at different options, such as maybe holding a musical festival, and in the future we'll try to reach performers in Vermont," said Ms. Castonguay, an Ogden resident who is studying for her Master's degree in Social Work.

Stanstead musician **Mike Goudreau** singing with some budding performers during the Art Without Borders event at the Haskell Opera House.



"Art Without Borders" packs House

Victoria Vanier, Stanstead

Last Thursday's unique activity at the Haskell Opera House, which had local children performing with professional musicians on stage, and featured a live chalk art performance, drew the community out in droves. "I was so touched by the response of the community. I heard that the Haskell Opera House has not been that full in a long time," said Cynthia Castonguay who initiated the original idea for the event. "I had a vision but I was really amazed how everyone that took part really put their heart in it. Everyone shared their vision too so it became a real community effort."

The free admission show, called "Art Without Borders", featured Stanstead professional musician Mike Goudreau, the Choromondo Women's Choir, the Stanstead College Jazz Band, Nicolas Tremblay-Coté, students from the two elementary schools, Lee Ann Chase and her dancers, and many others. Local Chalk artist Francois Bergeron, who travels around the world to perform, created a giant work with two of his apprentices during the

see Local, page 9

There was lots of action at the Haskell Opera House, last Thursday, with spectators, performers and musicians after the show.



stanstead-journal.com

June 7, 2017

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Local kids take to Haskell stage



photos courtesy

Stanstead students perform on the Haskell Opera House stage at last Thursday's show.

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Stanstead musician Mike Goudreau singing with some budding performers during the Art Without Borders event at the Haskell Opera House.



Bill 105 has yet to level the political playing field for parent commissioners

By Matthew McCully

“I had 19 elections in eight years to be a parent commissioner,” said Paul Laberge, chair of the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) Central Parents’ Committee, during Wednesday’s meeting.

“So who has to work to get this spot?” Pointing to a major disconnect at the school board level, Laberge alleged that despite the adoption of Bill 105, now in effect, which gives more power to parent commissioners, they still find it a challenge to see their priorities reflected in the budget, their concerns addressed in policy and have their voices carry the same weight as other elected commissioners.

The Record was invited by Parent Commissioner Ken Waterhouse and CPC chair Laberge to attend the last meeting before summer break, which included a review of concerns raised throughout the year, many of which remained unaddressed.

The meetings are normally closed to the public.

The Tell Them From Me survey, a point of contention between the board and the CPC since March of 2016, has served as a catalyst for parent commissioners to assert their newly acquired rights, to no avail, according to Waterhouse.

At the March 28 council of commissioners meeting, Waterhouse proposed a resolution drafted by the CPC to suspend the survey for this school year to give the board an opportunity to evaluate all

aspects of the survey and address parent concerns.

After discussion among the commissioners, the resolution was amended to suspend Tell Them From Me until after a May 3 meeting, scheduled to address those concerns.

Representatives from The Learning Bar, the company that sold the survey to the ETSB, attended the meeting, intending to shed light on the benefits of Tell Them From Me.

“They tried to sell it to us,” Waterhouse said.

According to Laberge, the Learning Bar representatives realized quickly they were wasting their time at the May 3 meeting.

“I think we all understand the survey. We know the benefits,” Laberge said, explaining that the issue is with the board and how the survey is managed and administered.

Following up on the issue, Waterhouse told the CPC that at the recent council of commissioners executive meeting (the in camera session held before the public meeting), he brought another resolution to the board asking that the suspension of the survey, by then expired, be extended, and that a clear policy regarding surveys be established.

The resolution was rejected as written and met with contempt, according to Waterhouse.

It’s not up to the CPC to demand these types of things, was the response Waterhouse said he received.

“We took a loss,” Waterhouse said, on what was proposed in the resolution, explaining that an amended version was eventually accepted.

Waterhouse added that he was refused ‘permission’ to read the original resolution in full during the public meeting, wanting it on record in the minutes.

That was one of three times, Waterhouse said, where he was cautioned by the board not to bring up an issue in the public meeting that other members felt had been ‘dealt with’ in the executive.

The CPC members then had a candid

discussion about school budgets, which require governing board approval.

Some members claimed they were asked to approve envelopes of funding without comparisons from previous years and without knowing where additional de-centralized grants were going.

One member pointed out that the two most important tasks a governing board has are the adoption of the budget and the educational project.

“The board spends a lot of time and energy,” he said, “when they finally bring it to us, it’s the day of here it is, please adopt it.”

Other members agreed they felt rushed to adopt budgets.

A common refrain when the figures are questioned, according to Laberge is, “Oh, you just don’t understand.”

“I think it’s presented in a confusing fashion so that we are confused and we won’t ask questions,” another member said.

By a show of hands, only five of the close to 20 CPC members in attendance said they clearly understood the budgets their schools had adopted.

The CPC members agreed they would like to see a standardized model for school budgets, including a tally sheet showing the expenditures from previous years for comparison.

Laberge then delivered his year-end report.

In short, Laberge explained that the issues raised by the CPC in the 2015-2016 school year were identical to the 2016-2017 school year.

“We’re just repeating ourselves,” Laberge said.

Speaking as a parent commissioner, he said he felt criticized when making



suggestions, excluded from democratic participation, and offered no feedback after raising concerns with the board.

What Laberge said he would like to see is positive collaboration, timely feedback, a clear way of communicating issues between the board and parents.

Waterhouse chimed in, going so far as to add no name calling to the list.

"We won't stop volunteering, communicating the only way we can, suggesting improvements," Laberge concluded, adding that he would continue working for the best possible life experience for all ETSB students.

While Laberge insisted his report would be delivered to the board coming from him as a parent commissioner, other members agreed with what Laberge said in the report and said it was an accurate reflection of the views of the CPC as a whole.

"We're not giving up," Waterhouse went on. "The three of us (referring to Laberge, himself and parent commissioner Mary Gilman), we want to see change."

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Article rank | 9 Jun 2017 | Sherbrooke Record

RRHS Awards and Recognition Night 2017

Accepting New Crafters for the RRHS Autumn Artisan show



COURTESY

Last year the Autumn Artisan show was a huge success. We had a great variety of artists and crafters. Door prizes were given away every hour, including a grand prize of a weekend cottage getaway for two. There was a canteen on site and a brunch on the Sunday. With visitors surpassing 2500, the first year was enjoyed by all. This year the show will take place from September 30th to October 1st, 2017. We are accepting new exhibitors and looking for unique talents. For information please contact 819-349-4490.

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