

A grandmother's love to support the "Benny Run"



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

Mathilde (Krausser) Bennett (Tilly) is a proud mom and grandmother who was raised in the Sugarloaf Pond area of Potton. She now resides in Highwater, where she has lived for over 50 years and she and her late husband Lou raised their only daughter, Dina.

Dina is now grown and working in Montreal with children of her own. Dina's 11-year-old son, Ben was diagnosed with autism when he was 2½. His grandmother, Mathilde is trying to do all she can to support her daughter and grandson in a special fundraiser event taking place in early November.

"I'm very proud of my daughter and my grandchildren," said Mathilde. "Ben is now 11 and

his sister Naomi is 9 and they bring such joy to my life. I just want everyone to know about this fundraiser and I hope that people will support the cause," she said.

2014 marks the fifth year of the annual "Benny Run," where Dina will run a half marathon, 21 kilometres. The event will take place on Nov. 2 in Oka, where Dina aims to raise money for the autism clinic at the Montreal Children's Hospital.

"I run to support the Children's Hospital, because diagnosing autism can mean waiting a very long time on a waiting list," explains Dina. "More research is needed to help support and understand autism," she continues. "Every year more kids are being diagnosed and we need strategies and programs to help children in the first six years of life. Once pathways are established, it is very hard to rewire behaviour and cognitive function."

Ben is now in Grade 5 at a mainstream school where he is doing well. He loves to read and write, is improving in French and struggles with Math. He loves to tell jokes, builds Lego like a master and complains about homework. Dina credits all of the help they have re-

ceived in getting Ben where he is today.

"I am so proud of Ben," shares his mother. "He is my superhero!"

There are two ways to donate to this cause: Go directly to the Montreal Children's Hospital donations page at www.childrensfoundation.com/fundraiser/benny-run-2014 or you can give a donation to Mathilde by calling 450-292-3922.

She has the donation forms and she will send them to the Children's Hospital in your name.

If you prefer to donate to the race itself, the profits from the race entries will go towards the West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped, another great organization.

"Whatever way that people may wish to donate is appreciated," said Dina. "I know that these organizations have made a huge difference in my son's life and there are so many children who need help and support."

The Children's Foundations motto is "Raising funds, raising hope." For Mathilde, the kindness of her neighbours, family and friends is very much appreciated.

"Over the past five years, my



COURTESY

Mathilde Bennett with her grandchildren Naomi (left) and Ben (right).

daughter has raised over \$15,000 for the Montreal Children's in doing the Benny Run," says Mathilde. "If I am able to

help in some way, I'm happy to do it not only for Ben but for all the children out there who need support."

Keeping the all-horse plowing tradition alive in Bishopton

By Claudia Villemaire
Record Correspondent
BISHOPTON

The proof is in the pudding, they say, and for nearly 10 years the organizers of the yearly all-horse plowing match just outside the village here have been examples of determination that proves the proverb.

Once again nearly a dozen teams turned out, stalwart men and yes, one woman, gripped the plow handles and completed the required "land," struggled with the opening furrows, laid sod down in even rows and finished with the always-challenging final furrow, arms tense, mouth set and the unique language connection a plowperson has with the team, a steady ripple of words and commands only heard at such an event.

Knight George and his family were at the helm of this year's event, rounding up competi-

tors, sponsors and local support for this exhibition of plowing the old-fashioned way which never seems to lose popularity.

Competitors trailer their teams from far corners of the province, determined to show off not only their prowess but the efficiency of a well-trained team.

Bishopton, a short detour from the main Weedon-Thetford Mines highway, is a destination that treats the traveller on Route 255 south from Danville to a panorama of hills and valleys, colorful slopes in their autumn splendor, patchworks of fields dressed in various shades of green, a view of Lime Ridge where a viewpoint of mining operations beckons a passerby to stop and enjoy the view with little traffic and few farms to hinder this glimpse of nature at its best.

At the match itself, as competitors complete the challenge of the finishing furrow, teams



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The award winners gather after the plowing match last weekend.

are rewarded with hay and water, their harness removed and a crowd gathers at the snacks trailer to hear the results announced and receive their awards.

In the professional class, Jacques Bachand came first with 91 points and two competitors tied with 85 points for second place. The amateur class winner was Gabriel Lapierre with Richard Rouleaux in second place. Daniel Lebeau placed second with his 'sulky' or trailer plow in his class.

Martin Descoteaux, besides being the oldest plowman present, earned third place in this class.

Jason Taylor earned first place in the amateur class and the only female competitor, Laura Mosher earned her first place as well.

The Denis Fontaine Memorial Trophy was awarded to Jacques Bachand and a special

prize in recognition of his willingness to help out at local fairs and plowing matches was presented to Kevin George.

Also included in the photo at left are Knight George and Chantale Breton, organizers of

the event.

"All in all, we were well pleased with the turnout," Chantale and Knight George commented. "There's another plowing event just a few miles from here going on today too, so that meant competitors had to decide which one to go to. We'll have to coordinate our plans next year."

The Georges also thanked "the municipality for its support, sponsors, competitors and folks who stopped by proving there's still a demand for this type of competition when plow people and their four-kegged partners can turn a straight furrow, the first step in getting ready for the next crop year."



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Nearly a dozen teams furrowed the ground in Bishopton last week.



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The scenery along Route 255 never disappoints.