A couple of rare birds have joined into the neighbor- hood and birding en-thusiasts are flocking to Lennoxville to catch a glimpse of a feathered friend. A red-bellied woodpecker, considered to be a rare bird in Quebec, though not endan-gered, has been hanging out on limbs along Spring Garden Street. First spotted by Sheila Maclean and her husband Brian Talbot who have traveled the globe on birding expeditions, this rare sighting came right in their own backyard. The red-bel- lied woodpecker is common further south in the United States, and judging by

For a better world - One Good Action at a time

By Josh Quirion Special to The Record SHERBROOKE

Local entrepreneurs Joey Roy and Alex Gagnon-Schopopad have developed a social network that is committed exclusively to the proliferation of positivism. Available for free on the App Store, their application – One Good Action – has received more than 5,000 downloads in two weeks.

The OGA mandate is simple: to create a worldwide movement that redlines the power of global community. By pro-moting global consciousness and harnessing the power of hope and inspir-ing happiness and optimism, the application was developed to subvert the overwhelmingly negative content of other pop-ular social media. As opposed to familiar “like” and “comment” icons popularized by Facebook, One Good Action offers smile and support. Moreover, if a user crosses across a particularly in-teresting update, the inspira-tion option enables them to share their appreciation with the rest of the online commu-nity.

“Our objective is to redefine the meaning of social net-work,” explained Roy. “We want individuals to connect with other individuals, but not just by using technological de-vices available at their finger-tips. Rather, we encourage people to connect with the world and the people that are immediately around them.”

To minimize the time users spend on their devices, and to draw attention to quality be-cause quantity of the application limits the usage to one daily action published. These ac-

ations are inspired by a bank of suggestions which proposes actions in relation to the earth, to human relationships, or to-self. The OGA banner is support-ed by an ensemble of ambas-
sadors from diverse areas of popular culture.

Some of the ambassadors include artist and singer Olivi-er Dion, cancer survivor Maude Hélanna Lallier, and CFL players Seydou Junior Maer and Alex Gagnon-Schopopad.

successful fundraising for Mansonville CABC

Jason Ball poses with Cheryl Clinton and marvels one of her unique jew-ellery creations, a white jade necklace that she donated for the live auction portion of the recent fundraiser to benefit the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre in Mansonville. Over 110 people came out for the supper and auc-
tion held on Feb. 20. Cheryl was one of the many generous business own-
ers and artisans who made a big success. The Volunteer Centre extends a big thank you to those who purchased tick-

ets, donated items for the auction and came out to support the event.

Riders’ Cup

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“For me this is something imperative to the project,” Pa-
pillon said, expressing that he really feels it is important for fans to have the opportunity to step right into the action with real-time and inspir-ing sport that has been steadily growing in popularity around the world.

The sport director explained that the World Championship in ice cross downhill is made of eight races that are known as Red Bull “Crashed Ice” competition. The top three men and the top-woman not already on the Crashed Ice starter list from this year’s finals in Sher-brooke will win a spot in this year’s competition in Edmon-
ton.

The competition is open to all men and women aged 16 years and older, and still has positions open for the qualifying rounds on Friday and Satur-
day morning. Those under 18 must provide proof of parental consent, and all prospective participants must have equip-
ment that meets with the com- petition standards in order to step onto the track.

Jean-François Ouellet, direc-
tor of innovation and develop-ment with Destination Sher-brooke said that the tourism agency is very proud to host the event.

“This demonstrates the abili-
ty of our infrastructure to host an event of international cal-
ero,” Ouellet said. “We expect

significant returns for the city.

He said that the welcoming of the extreme skating compe-tition was “mission accom-
plished” in terms of making the City of Sherbrooke shine again.

“It’s been two years of talk-
ing with Destination Sher-
brooke to get here,” Papillon explained. “It’s something new, so no one knew exactly what was going to happen.”

In terms of recent prepara-tions, the head organizer ex-
plained that work started on the construction of the track on Feb. 17, though preliminary 3D modeling was done off site in advance. He described a process of first shaping the snow and then spraying the track with large amounts of water from fire hoses.

“There’s no Zamboni,” Papil-
lon said, explaining that the surface of the course needs to be meticulously maintained with manual adjustments. “It’s a lot of work, especially at the end, to get it as flat as possi-
ble.”

Despite the work involved, the organizer said that the Sherbrooke track currently has among the best conditions pos-
sible.

Qualifying rounds begin on Friday afternoon and run through Saturday morning, with the finals taking place on Saturday night. Organizers rec-
ommend showing up by at least 5:30 p.m. to get a good sight-
line. Parking for the event will

be at the University of Sher-
brooke with a shuttle service to the ski hill as the hill will re-
amain open to skiers and snow-
boarders during the competition.

The week-long recreational use of the course is open to be-
ginners, intermediates or elite athletes although the same age and equipment restrictions as for the competition apply. The track is designed to provide a challenge to participants while remaining safe for all levels of experience. $46 buys a period of two hours. Space is limited and tickets must be purchased online.

More information on the competition and ticket pur-
chasing is available at the event website, www.riderscup.ca.