Partage/Share food bank celebrates its volunteers

**The Scoop**

**Mable Hastings**

**Pottton**

The Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre Partage/Share food bank celebrated its volunteers on March 6 at a get-together organized by Partage/Share chairwoman Norma Clifford. “Following the successful distribution of our Christmas boxes in December,” explained Clifford, “I wanted to take a moment to thank the outstanding volunteers who came together to make the initiative a success.”

For over 20 years, the Partage/Share food bank volunteers have been filling annual Christmas baskets in December to help families in need during the holidays. On Friday afternoon, all of the program’s volunteers who help not only at Christmas but throughout the year, were invited to come to a gathering where a homemade cake made by committee member Jane Peacock was served as well as coffee and tea.

“Today, we celebrate you, our volunteers because without your help, programs like Partage/Share would not be possible,” explained Clifford.

The volunteers attending the get-together included members of the Partage/Share committee who were impressed to hear statistics presented by volunteer centre executive director Alison Hannan, regarding the program and all that it accomplishes. “70 per cent of volunteer hours go directly to the distribution of food, not only at Christmastime but throughout the year,” said Hannan. “30 per cent goes to the functioning and administrative work that ensures that the services are maintained,” she added.

The Partage/Share committee is made up of: Norma Clifford (Chairwoman), Claire Rodrigue, June Peacock, Wanda Leonard and new committee member, Charles Laurin from Bolton East. The group is assisted by the volunteer centre main office staff.

Norma Clifford presented each of her committee members with flowers to thank them for their hard work. She also purchased two lovely plants and names of the volunteers were put in a pot with two winners drawn. If you would like more information about Partage/Share or any of the other centre programs, contact their website at www.ca.bnn.org or call the office at 450-392-2114. Partage/Share is very active throughout the year in raising funds to enable the purchase of food. Donations are always welcome.

**The Canadian Press**

**Montreal**

The Quebec Court of Appeal has ordered Bell ExpressVu to pay $137 million, including interest, to Quebecor subsidiaries Videotron and TVA for failing to prevent the piracy of its satellite signal between 1999 and 2005. The court determined Bell’s inadequate efforts to prevent stolen access to ExpressVu’s signal cost broadcasting partners such as Videotron, Coegeco and Star Choice substantial revenues.

By gaining free access to Bell viewers could watch Vidéotron programming at no cost, reducing the number of paid Vidéotron subscribers and royalties paid to specialty channels of the French-language TV network that had been distributed by Bell since 1998. The unanimous ruling by Quebec’s highest court upheld a lower court decision that said the satellite TV division of BCE’s Bell neglected to implement appropriate security to prevent piracy of its ExpressVu service. Bell said it strongly disagreed with the ruling and will seek leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

**MAGOG**

Magog Solidarity Market has been forced by financial realities to cease operations. Currently, the market has about 40 active consumer members who have been able to purchase the products of some 50 producers.

**MAGOG**

**Record Staff**

**Magog**

Magog Solidarity Market calls it quits

Opened in 2008, the market had been having an increasingly difficult time to increase its membership. In addition, the website on which members placed their orders is obsolete and, according to management, a new version would have been too expensive. A meeting to dissolve the Magog Solidarity Market will be held on March 17.

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