

Excel in the Estrie! Essay Contest invites 2016 High School Grads to share successes!

Townshippers' Association
SHERBROOKE

Calling all high school seniors! Share your story about overcoming hurdles and you could win cash by entering an essay in the 4th Excel in the Estrie! contest.

Launched alongside the annual *Hooked on School Days* in Estrie, which runs from February 15 to 19, Make Way For YOUTH, a project from Townshippers' Association that supports youth retention, wants to hear YOUR stories about what academic, social or personal challenges you have faced and overcome on your way to graduation.

MWFY and its supporting partners, the Centre des Jeunes Lennoxville Youth Center and Global Excel Management, will award three prizes \$250

each to winning essays at Townshippers' annual general meeting this June. Details to follow. Winning submissions will also be featured in the Fall/Winter issue of Townshippers journal.

Class of 2016, this year entry is easier than ever with an online option!

To enter write a minimum of 500 words about any challenges you encountered on your path to secondary educational success and what you did to overcome them. Your story could inspire others to keep on the path to success in education! We also want to hear about how you can see yourself, five years from now, living and working in the Townships.

Submit your essay by April 29, 2016 at 4:00 pm using the online submission form found under the YOUTH section

at www.Townshippers.org. You can also download an entry form from that page and submit either electronically to mwfy@townshippers.org, by fax at 819-566-0271 or by mail to: Townshippers' Association, Excel in the Estrie!, 100-257 Queen, Sherbrooke, QC J1M 1K7

Eligibility

The essay contest is open to all graduating high school seniors in the historical Eastern Townships' English-speaking community who are attending an English language secondary school and who have been accepted to a post-secondary institution in the Estrie region.

For full rules and regulations, visit the youth section at [\[www.Townshippers.org\]\(http://www.Townshippers.org\). If you have additional questions or are without online access, contact Jenny Ménard, Make Way for YOUTH Migration Agent, at \[mwfy@townshippers.org\]\(mailto:mwfy@townshippers.org\), 819-566-5717 \(toll-free: 1-866-566-5717\).](http://www.Township-</p>
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About Townshippers' Association

Townshippers' Association is a non-profit, non-partisan community organization that has been serving the English-speaking community of the historical Eastern Townships, since 1979. For more on the Association and its activities, connect online at Townshippers.org or contact Townshippers' in Sherbrooke at 100 - 257 Queen St. 819-566-5717, toll free: 1-866-566-5717 or in Lac-Brome at 3-584 Knowlton Rd. 450-242-4421, toll free: 1-877-242-4421.

A casual evening of stories and songs with Stratford Festival actress Lucy Peacock

THE SCOOP



MABLE HASTINGS

Potton residents may or may not recognize the face in this photo but fourth-generation classical actress Lucy Peacock still considers Potton her home. Peacock will perform at the Mansonville Anglican Church on February 26 in a show to benefit the Ken Jones Respite program for physically and intellectually challenged adults; a proud program of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CAB) family.

"I am delighted to come back to Potton and I hope my evening of stories and songs will be another kind of respite for a winter's evening," said Peacock. "I have produced and hosted similar evenings at Stratford. They are very casual and easy going. I always say "this is not a show it is a share," really it is just about connecting with the community and sometimes about helping them connect with each other."

Lucy Peacock and her family moved to Mansonville during Christmas of 1972 from Montreal.

"My mother was a true Pioneer," Pea-

cock explains. "The little log house we all crammed into, the wood stove, the summers spent together in the sunshine swimming in the river and the winters tromping down the lane to catch the school bus," she reminisces. "This all sounds very idyllic as I am a hopeless romantic and I know my mother must have had some terrifically challenging, even desperate times on her own with seven children in tow but she is an extraordinary woman with fathoms of fortitude."

Although Peacock left the area more than thirty years ago and some of her siblings too have moved to other parts of the world, her mother and four siblings and their families still live in Potton. Lucy spends time with them at least twice a year at the beginning and end of each of her Stratford seasons.

"Mum still lives down that lane (not in the log house, it eventually fell over) with my two handicapped siblings, Bridget and Tom. She has given them, all of us, a bountiful life which we could flourish in. It is most definitely my home; the love...home."

Like many from the area, Lucy attended Massey Vanier High School in Cowansville. She recalls that Massey Vanier had an amazing drama program and she was taught by a wonderful man named Eugene Jousse. She attended CEGEP at Champlain Lennoxville but, the Bishop's Theatre Department was where she could be found most of the time and she appeared in some of the Bishop's stage productions.

"That is actually where I met Bernard

Hopkins who passed away a year ago, and Michael Mawson (1946-2000), she said fondly. "They were such extraordinary teachers and both became my very dear friends. I also met my husband Christopher Thomas there 39 years ago. We have been married 31 years and have 2 beautiful sons who are both theater artists."

This casual evening of stories and songs on February 26th at 7:00 p.m. came about when Lucy was approached by her sister-in-law June Peacock (a member of the Ken Jones Respite Committee). The Thursday program has been attended by Peacock's siblings, Tom and Bridget for years. Lucy was very happy to do the show as a fundraiser for the program.

"Although I know from my siblings that it is a great opportunity for them to get out of the house and socialize with their peers, the importance of the Respite Care is also for the caregivers of special needs people. The caregivers are the ones who need the respite from the day to day challenges of caring for and living with the handicapped. Such enormous demands must be asked of them, every single day of their lives." Peacock said.

Peacock is currently in a sold out run of Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale* with some dear friends and colleagues in a very small venue in the East End of Toronto. Her eldest son Harry is also currently in a production of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* at the same time so she says that it is pretty grand to be in the city together and both acting.

The first week of March Lucy will return for her 29th season at the Stratford Festival through to October. She will appear in *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller and she is also doing a play called *John Gabriel Borkman* by Henrik Ibsen.

"Both will be challenging, interesting roles," she stated. "I am so very lucky to do what I love to do, in the place I love to do it, with the people who I love to be with."

The upcoming casual evening of stories and songs with Lucy Peacock is a real gift to Potton and a wonderful, not to be missed fundraiser for the Ken Jones Respite Program. Tickets are limited at \$25.00 per person and the event will be followed by a wine and cheese meet and greet following the show. Reserve your tickets TODAY by calling June Peacock at 450-292-4473.

To find out more about Lucy Peacock and the Stratford Festival visit: www.stratfordfestival.ca and to find out more about the Ken Jones Respite Program visit: www.cabmn.org



ALLEGRA FULTON
Lucy Peacock

2016 Calendars still available!

The Record has produced a beautiful 2016 Calendar with scenes from the Townships.

Only \$5. while quantities last

Drop by our office at 1195 Galt St. East, Sherbrooke or 5-B Victoria, Knowlton to pick up your calendar

