

Access to local businesses for persons with disabilities: a simple solution in Mansonville



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

In the framework of the plan being put into place in Mansonville by the "Coeur Villageois-Heart of the Village," a committee that strives to promote tourism and culture for all and the Municipality of Potton as well as the Misisquoi North Volunteer Centre, a working meeting was held recently to evaluate the needs of persons with disabilities in regards to their accessibility to local businesses and the possibility of eliminating obstacles to assure access whenever possible for all.

Beyond the maintenance and improvements to the sidewalks, it was determined that access to certain businesses is compromised simply by the fact that some doorways have too high a threshold. For example, the Village Euro-Deli owned by John Mierzwinski, even though it has a ramp leading to its door, it has a threshold to enter of three inches and this constitutes a problem and obstacle for some. A simple solu-

tion; install a threshold ramp made of rubber superimposed on the threshold to create a small slope.

This solution was the brainchild of Kéroul, which according to its website is key consultant for Tourism Quebec regarding accessibility, a non-profit organization which, through information and lobbying, promotes and develops accessible tourism and culture <http://www.keroul.qc.ca/> Kéroul profits from the expertise of Technoflex International, a manufacturing company that produces recycled rubber products and these rugs are distributed in most hardware stores. Easy said, easy done, the first prototype of the rubber ramp was installed giving access for all to this local business.

The results attained by Mansonville comes at a great time as the "International Day of Tourism" is celebrated each year on the 27 of September under the guise of the World Tourism Organization <http://www2.unwto.org/>, promoting tourism and culture for all. Mansonville, in the township of Potton, was a leading town with its Mayor, Louis Veillon as a signatory in the declaration, "One world for all," a term that was adopted at the world summit held in Montreal in 2014 under the efforts of Kéroul.

The simple solution in regards to entrances to some businesses, mentioned above is the answer to a problem that frequents the access to many businesses and community buildings. This was the



COURTESY

Bolton-East Mayor, Joan Westland-Eby next to the same type of rubber ramp which provides easy access for all to the Saint Patrick Anglican Church in East Bolton.



COURTESY

Roger Marcoux and John Mierzwinski "A mini ramp constructed of recycled rubber facilitates access to the Euro-Deli in the Village of Mansonville for Roger Marcoux who can now frequent the business owned by John Mierzwinski"

case in Bolton-East where a rubber threshold rug was added to complete the access ramp into Saint-Patrick's Anglican Church, adjacent to East Bolton's Town Hall.

The development of resources like "Coeurs villageois" or "Heart of the Village," is a project of Eastern Townships Tourism, which strives to make villages

welcoming, beautiful and authentic, attracting tourists and developing tourist services in the region. The project clearly contributes to the improvements in the quality of life for all citizens and embraces a welcoming message for everyone.

25th anniversary of the Lennoxville Art Group



MATTHEW MCCULLY

A vernissage was held at Uplands Cultural and Heritage Centre on Sunday afternoon, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Lennoxville Art Group (LAG).

Over 50 members of the public attended the vernissage, which featured the work of 24 local LAG artists.

Jean Stefano, seen here, is one of the four remaining charter members of the LAG. Her painting, seen on the right, is featured over the mantle in the Uplands gallery, accompanied by the work of Dorothy Ross, Leta Dustin, and Glenys Groves, the other original group members.

"Most of us retired from other work and then took up painting," Stefano said, adding that they likely did a bit of painting along the way, demonstrating an interest. The retrospective show will remain at Uplands until the end of October, Stefano said.

St. Pats Old Boys Association



MATTHEW MCCULLY

It was a historic moment for the St. Pats Old Boys Association (SPOBA), who voted unanimously in favour of the devolution of their camp and all assets to the Quebec Society for Disabled Children (SEHQ).

SPOBA secretary treasurer Dave Tuargeon, SEHQ executive director Jean Duchesnea and SPOBA president Larry Pye officially signed the papers on Saturday afternoon.

Read Tuesday's Record for the full story about how the camp and the SPOBA, now dissolved, will move forward.