The Scoop

An 80–year love story still in the making

By Mable Hastings

Valentine’s Day has always been the traditional time of year when we celebrate love both new and blossoming as well as a love that is seasoned with time. This past Saturday at the Résidence Memphrémagog held a Valentine’s celebration in honour of Adrien and Simone and their 80 years of marriage, complete with cocktails, refreshments, and music with some 68 people in attendance. The couple received congratulatory certificates from the mayor of Magog as well as Quebec Liberal Premier Philippe Couillard. One family member joked in a speech reflecting the couple’s history that the world is small. It is a long distance from Mansonville (where Adrien lived with his family) to Saint-Odilon-de-Cranbourne in the Beauce (home to Simone) but when Simone was hired by a family from Mansonville at the age of 15 to live with them, she was the only one of the group of 20 students to be turned back, since he has travelled to the United States many times before without incident. “All the other times, be it for races or training camps, or family vacations, we were not stopped and passed right through like any other Canadian citizen,” he said.

Quebec student denied entry to the United States

By Morgan Lowrie

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec student athlete says he’s not sure why he was denied entry into the United States after a five-hour interrogation in which he was asked about religion and his Moroccan roots.

Yassine Aber, a track and field athlete with the University of Sherbrooke, said he was travelling to a weekend competition in Boston on Thursday when he ran into trouble at the Derby Line, Vt. crossing on the Quebec-Vermont border.

Aber, 19, said U.S. authorities wanted to know whether he attended a mosque and how often he visited Morocco.

“They asked me very specific questions about, do I go to the mosque or not, what mosque do I go to, some specific questions about people I may or may not know,” he told The Canadian Press in a telephone interview.

“They were very precise with the questions, very targeted.”

Aber said he was also fingerprinted, photographed, and asked to turn over his phone and passwords for the duration of the interrogation, after which he was told he wouldn’t be allowed entry. He said he was given a document stating he did not have a valid passport or visa to enter the country.

Border officials also told him that, “entering the United States is a privilege and not a right,” he said.

Aber, who was born and raised in Sherbrooke, Que., says his Canadian passport is valid and does not expire until 2026. His parents moved to Canada from Morocco and have been there 25 years.

He said he couldn’t explain why he was the only one of the group of 20 students to be turned back, since he has travelled to the United States many times before without incident. “All the other times, be it for races or training camps, or family vacations, we were not stopped and passed right through like any other Canadian citizens,” he said.

The kinesiology student said university staff is helping him find a solution he hopes will allow him to travel in the future.

In the meantime, he’s considering attending a race in Ottawa next weekend instead. Aber’s incident comes after a woman from the Montreal area said she and a cousin were denied entry to the United States last Saturday.

Cont’d on page 5