

## LOCAL NEWS

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## School supplies class action to go ahead

By Matthew McCully

In mid-April, the Quebec Court of Appeal ruled that the class action suit filed by a Saguenay mother against Quebec school boards for charging

school fees can continue.

The lawsuit, filed by Jonquière mother Daisye Marcil on behalf of the parents of 900,000 students in the province, was authorized in December.

School boards then filed an appeal,

citing errors in law and suggesting the group that could be compensated in the class action was too large.

Just over a week ago, Quebec Court of Appeal Judge Jean-François Émond refused the appeal, allowing the class ac-

tion to move forward.

Marcil wants reimbursement for fees paid as well as \$100 in punitive damages per member of the class action.

## Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (Cab) celebrates 35 years



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

On Saturday, April 29, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CAB) will celebrate its 35th anniversary with a sold-out dinner and dance benefit being held at the Mansonville Elementary School.

Incorporated in 1982, the CAB opened its door in Magog as the Eastern Townships Citizen Advocacy with a mandate to locate, match, and support volunteer citizen advocates with persons needing assistance. In 1984, it relocated to Mansonville to serve the population of Potton and East Bolton where it continuously increased its services (volunteer drivers, respite services, job training...).

In 1986, the organization received major funding from the United Church of Canada after becoming a program of the Mountain Valley Outreach Mission

In 1993, it became a member of the Federation for volunteer organizations in Quebec (FCABQ). Further health and social services were added as well as youth programs, support groups, referrals, counselling and crisis intervention. Today, it also supports community development and volunteer action. The CAB's mission is: To improve the quality of life while developing volunteerism.

In 1995, Citizen Advocacy returned to its original independent charity status and gradually broadened its territory to include the western sector of the MRC Memphremagog (Potton, East Bolton, Stukely Sud, Stukely Village and Eastman). A capital campaign in 2002 enabled the construction of a permanent home for the volunteer centre's youth programs as well as the Ken Jones Centre program for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Since 1990, the organization has benefitted from space (shared with the CLSC-CIUSSE) and provided rent-free by the Municipality of Potton. As well, the youth and Ken Jones Centre have benefitted from a \$35,000 cycling fundraising campaign, an initiative made by Jacques Marcoux in 2008-09 that resulted in many improvements being made to the Youth Centre property, including a recreational/sports area in the backyard and a mirrored dance floor in the basement where many programs are held.

Starting with a staff of three, the CAB



COURTESY

Co founders, Murielle Parkes and Ron Coughlin

now has a staff of eight working in two different buildings. Annual volunteers have increased from the 50 boasted in 1988 to approximately 150 active volunteers who help the CAB to achieve its mission and for which the CAB owes a debt of gratitude.

Since its inception, over 3000 youth have passed through and benefitted from the weekly programs, with some youth still involved as mentors and volunteers. The program has been so successful it has attracted youth from adjacent communities as far away as Cowansville and Eastman, uniquely wel-

coming youth ranging in ages from 5-20+ in 7 weekly programs. It is seen as a model by many.

Expected at the 35th anniversary event are many friends from the past, including co-founders, Ron Coughlin (the first president) and Murielle Parkes the first Executive Director and now a member of the Board of Directors.

For more information about the CAB visit the website at [www.cabmn.org](http://www.cabmn.org) or call the Main Office at 450-292-3114. Those still wishing to attend the event are welcome to give their names to the receptionist.

## Estrie MRCs provide \$500,000 for Sherbrooke airport infrastructure

Record staff  
SHERBROOKE

The Chair of the Table of Estrie MRCs (TME) and prefect of the MRC des Sources, Hugues Grimard, the prefect of the MRC du Haut Saint François, Robert G. Roy, and the mayor of Sherbrooke, Bernard Sévigny, announced a contribution of \$500,000 for the upgrading of certain infrastructures at the Sherbrooke airport.

This money comes from the winding up of the surplus funds of the Estrie Regional Conference of Elected Officials (CRÉ de l'Estrie) following the dissolu-

tion of that organization in 2015. The Transition Committee, made up of elected representatives from the entire region of Estrie, wanted to reserve this important sum to signify the importance of a regional airport infrastructure.

"We are proud to contribute collectively to this major regional project, the development of the Sherbrooke airport, Grimard said. "It is an essential tool for the economic growth of the Greater Estrie region."

Roy, of the Haut-Saint-François MRC, believes the economic benefits of having a functional airport will benefit all sur-

rounding municipalities. "Investment in airport infrastructure demonstrates the support and priority given by elected officials in the region to this regional economic development tool that will eventually help boost the business and tourism links of the region," he said.

For his part, Sherbrooke Mayor Sévigny, welcomes this major support. "The necessary work at the airport involves the installation of a de-icing area and the upgrading of drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. The day we can host commercial flights, we will be ready," he said.

The immediate area of Sherbrooke

has a population of close to 300,000 people within a one-hour drive of the airport. The City of Sherbrooke will invest \$1 million in 2017-2018 and the objective remains to connect Estrie passengers through a hub-and-go airport allowing them to connect on domestic and international flights. To learn more about the development of the Sherbrooke airport, visit [sherbrooke.ca/dossieraeroport](http://sherbrooke.ca/dossieraeroport).

The TME is made up of all the MRCs in the Eastern Townships, namely those of Coaticook, Granite, Haut-Saint-François, Memphremagog, des Sources, Val-Saint-François, and Sherbrooke.