

Hélène's fund: 'This one's on Hélène'



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

Hélène's Fund was created following the death of Hélène Forget, a resident of Sutton who loved children. Hélène was like a second mom to many of her sibling's children and played a vital role in the lives of her nieces and nephews as well as many others both family and friend.

Affectionately known as, *Ma Tante Hélène* (Aunt Hélène), by her family, this is a perfect way to honor her memory.

Hélène was a long-time member of the Sutton Legion and she was often seen at the Foyer Sutton Foyer helping with the elderly.

She and her mom would knit mittens and hats for the homeless and her strong belief and devotion to family life made her well aware of the lack of family that others might face. After a short battle with cancer, Hélène died in 2014 at the age of 71.

Her siblings started the donations made toward this fund in hopes that something could be done in her memory that would make a difference to youth, parents and families; even if only in some small way.

As in all towns and cities at various times, parents can find it difficult to make ends meet, let alone find money for "extras" that kids sometimes need. Families cannot always afford to send their children to activities that are positive and needed in a child's life.

Through the Mississquoi North Volunteer Centre Youth Program, "Hélène's



COURTESY

Hélène Forget, whose death in 2014 led to the establishment of Hélène's Fund at the Mississquoi North Volunteer Centre.

Fund," was created in late 2014. Hélène's Fund allows Youth Centre staff

to provide, at their discretion, any youth arriving at the centre hungry or who needing some help with fees for an activity, to be provided with an "at cost meal," or help with fees while being told, "This one is on Hélène."

At Hélène's place, no one went hungry, especially a child.

Since the idea for Hélène's Fund surfaced, others have donated to the initiative and throughout the year, donations made at random, to help with these types of situations, can go into this fund which is always being managed by the Youth Centre staff and at their discretion.

Hélène's Fund initiatives and gestures will always be attached to the message that, "this one is on Hélène and someday in the future; we hope that in her memory, you will pay it forward."

If you would like to donate to "Hélène's Fund," you can do so by contacting the Mississquoi North Youth Centre at 450-292-4886 or by visiting the website at www.cabmn.org.

Mansonville Elementary gearing up for 2015-16 registration

By Mable Hastings

With the 2015-2016 school registration year right around the corner, Mansonville Elementary School is proud to share some information about what they have to offer at the "little school with the big heart."

"Many changes and improvements have been made throughout the past school year," explains MES secretary, Tara Graves.

"We have a dynamic team that looks to make our school a welcoming bilingual environment as we strive for excellence and recognize every child's potential."

Mansonville Elementary offers a bilingual pre-kindergarten program for four-year-olds on Wednesdays and Thursdays, all day between 8:05 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.

The school boasts small class sizes; intervention plans adapted to student's individual needs, a daily breakfast program, an iPad for each student in Grade 3 and up, project based learning/experiential learning, performing arts and a ski program. The list goes on.

"It is because of all of the wonderful things that we offer and the many dedicated staff members that we have grown from 21 to 34 students," said Graves. "We care about the students that we teach," she added.

Last year, the school held an open house for all students with English eligibility and they did the same again this year last Friday, for ages 3 and up.

Various activities were planned for those 3 to 4 years old throughout the morning with the school's Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Cycle 1 [Grades 1 and 2] students.

The registration period for 2015-2016 school year continues to Feb. 6 and those interested can stop by the school anytime to pick up a registration package.

Didn't make it to the open house? Just give Graves a call and she will set up a time for you to visit the school with the Principal, Nathalie Chartrand.

If you are not sure if your child is eligible, Graves can help you. She can be reached during school days from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. by calling 450-292-5622, extension 11101.

"Our school welcomes visitors and potential students who might want to come in and see what we are all about," concluded Graves. "Just call and make an appointment and we will be happy to show you around and if, in the end you decide to join us at MES, it will be our pleasure to welcome your child."



COURTESY

Registration for 2015-16 is going on now for those wishing to have their children join the nearly three dozen students at Mansonville Elementary.

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