

# Community Aid seniors men’s group meets for first time in over a year

By Michael Boriero

After spending the past year interacting online due to the pandemic, Lennoxville and District Community Aid’s seniors men’s group met in the flesh, and not behind a computer screen, at Centennial Park on Friday.

“They have been meeting by Zoom for part of the past year, but not everybody was able to join in, so now they are all meeting together,” said Sylvie Fowlis, director general at Community Aid, an organization that works with elderly folks in the area.

The men’s group gathered under the park’s gazebo, sitting at a distance in foldable camping chairs, wearing masks and cracking jokes. They were accompanied by a Community Aid volunteer, who listened to their concerns and needs for the summer.

It was a difficult process connecting the group online, according to Fowlis. They had a volunteer attend the Zoom meetings to help guide the men through the modern day communications platform. But not everyone was able to make it online.

“It was a minority, maybe a third of the people that felt comfortable

and got used to meeting, or had the equipment, or were connected to the internet, you know, it was all these various types of things that were happening and prevented them,” said Fowlis.

There were eight men at the park Friday, but the director general told The Record that the number can vary, it depends who wants to come out. And they are all in their 70s and 80s, she said. The OPALS group, which is mainly women, will meet a third time on Thursday.

While the men’s group is mainly catching up, discussing current events, and things they would like to see from Community Aid, the women’s group holds social exchanges and exercise classes from time to time, Fowlis continued.

Although they all need to continue respecting Quebec’s health and safety measures, Fowlis said this is an important outlet for seniors in Lennoxville. They have struggled, like so many in the province, to find freedom and stimulation.

“They were struggling, and I’m not saying necessarily the people that are there, but in general, a lot of people what they expressed was that they were struggling with the fact that they couldn’t meet with people, keep in touch with people as much



MICHAEL BORIERO

as they were used to doing,” Fowlis said.

However, she has noticed that while it has been rough for them, many seniors are taking the COVID-19 pandemic very seriously. They are extra cautious, she said, with several members refusing to meet in person until they receive their second dose of vaccine.

“They have gone through a hard time, let’s not forget that. We’ve found it hard, but they have also found it very difficult, but they have been very good at it, too,” said Fowlis.

# The recycling of expanded and extruded polystyrene in Potton

THE SCOOP  
By Mable Hastings

On June 9, 2021 a press conference was held at the Municipality of Potton’s ecocentre in Mansonville to announce an exciting new initiative in the township.

NexKemia Petrochemicals Inc. announced its pride in partnering with the Municipality of the Township of Potton as well as Eco-Captation, to make the recycling of expanded and extruded polystyrene (polystyrene foams) possible for the residents of the Municipality of the Township of Potton.

NexKemia, as a leading producer of expandable polystyrene (EPS) in North America, is keen to help facilitate the recovery of this material, as it is 100% recyclable.

“This is the first of several announcements to be made in the coming months regarding NexKemia’s involvement in the circular economy. These many actions will have a significant and positive impact on our future

operations,” says NexKemia General Manager, Pierre Beaudry.

Citizens can now bring their expanded and extruded polystyrene directly to Potton’s ecocentre, operated by the municipality. The facilities, provided by NexKemia, are used to accumulate EPS foam before it is sent to Eco-Captation. Eco-Captation then pre-conditions the recycled EPS material and distributes it to companies using PS in their operations. This whole process ensures that EPS products are recycled, closing the loop.

“This is a first step in the right direction. The current polystyrene recycling model must be as close as possible to citizens so that it is easy for everyone to recover it. We thank the Municipality, as well as Eco-Captation for their help” says Nexkemia’s Business Manager, Stéphane Trépanier.

Eco-Captation is a proud partner of this initiative. This company currently processes more than 300 tons of polystyrene annually, coming from several municipalities and



NexKemia Polystyrene initiative

COURTESY

ecocentres in Quebec and it plans to increase its recycling capacities significantly in the years to come. Most recently, the latter has acquired cutting-edge technology using artificial intelligence in order to be able to increase their production capacity.