

Pottonman triathlon raises \$7,000 to benefit missisquoi north volunteer centre (CABMN)



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

In July The Record introduced readers to Marc Van Oordt an athlete with a personal dream to partake in a Triathlon. Although his original plan of participating in a large event in his native Netherlands in 2020 was not possible due to the Pandemic, Van Oordt found his own way of challenging himself. He decided to embark upon his own solo, semi autonomous triathlon in Potton making it a fundraising initiative benefiting the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN), a non-profit charitable organization that will celebrate its 40th Anniversary in 2022.

A triathlon is an event combining swimming, cycling and running (in that order) in events of different

distances. On Sept. 12 Van Oordt set out before dawn. Fourteen hours, 35 minutes and 41 seconds later with 229.67km travelled and 11,302 calories burned, Marc completed his dream in tact and was still sporting the same contagious smile he had throughout the day.

On Thanksgiving weekend Van Oordt and his wife Annabelle Ambrose delivered a symbolic cheque to the CABMN in the amount of \$7,000 which represents all of the donations received from individuals and businesses in the name of "Pottonman."

“The amount raised by Pottonman and his team of supporters is truly inspiring,” said Mable Hastings-CABMN Executive Director. “While the funds will be a tremendous help to the CABMN activities for youth, seniors, the intellectually and physically handicapped and more; the gift of getting to know Marc and his wife has been equally appreciated by the CABMN staff. These are truly good people with big hearts.”

Event's end found Van Oordt in an adrenaline rush as well as fatigued. The days that followed were filled with the realization that he had enjoyed himself and accomplished far more than he could have imagined.

“There will be other long-distance triathlons,” he shared. “Not right away



Pottonman, Marc Van Oordt receives thank you basket from the CABMN and community

however as the impact on family is a great one but if my physical health allows, in a few years time I may try it again," he added.

Event supporter Mike Cyr, a local real estate agent and former CABMN Board of Director's member was present at the event and cheered Marc on throughout the day. He was quick to share his gratitude and praise.

"I am so proud of Marc, Annabelle and their crew," he said. "Their selfless commitment to fundraise for our little community is incredible!"

“Even though it was a solo and autonomous event, I was incredibly lucky to be able to count on some very generous people,” shared Van Oordt.

Corporations and donors including: Canoe and Co., Club Orange, Owl's Head Ski and Golf, Jean Coutu Mont St Hilaire, Jean Coutu Beloeil, Ms. Isabelle Charest Member of Parliament for Brome Missisquoi, Mike Cyr-Real Estate Broker, Nubik and Resto Bolton. The

Corporate and Institutional fundraising team: Elsa de Chevigny, Patrick Guay, Valérie Leclerc, and the “D-Day Support Team” Kayak-Etienne Beaulieu, Bicycle-Line Ste-Marie, Philippe Guay, Alain Desjarlais, Alexandre Dumas, Alejandro Sandoval, Cyrille Guerin, Running: Thierry Allegrucci, Billy Malenfant, Christopher van Oordt, David van Oordt, Nicolas vanOordt – Supply: Annabelle Ambroise and Isabelle Turcotte, Coach: Pierre Svartman, Cheerleaders on site: Anik Landry and Chantal Albert.

“Finally, I must thank My #1 supporter - the woman in my life - the one who has supported me all these months, Annabelle Ambrose,” Marc shared.

Marc Van Oordt aka “Pottonman” impacted the community in so many ways, inspiring both youth and adults. More than just a race, this personal project spread a lot of joy and positivity and that is a priceless gift.



Marc Van Oordt (aka Pottonman) presents mock cheque representing the \$7,000 raised with his triathlon fundraiser.

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