

# Potton and area show heartfelt support for Ukraine



THE SCOOP  
MABLE HASTINGS

This past weekend the Mansonville Baptist Potton Valley Church held a Mechoui fundraiser to benefit Ukraine Humanitarian Global Response efforts of the Canadian Red Cross. Funds raised to support efforts in Ukraine and 7 neighbouring countries (Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Lithuania). The Red Cross work on the ground means over 1,000,000 people have been assisted in Ukraine and surrounding countries. 58,000 people evacuated to safety, 42,000 people received first aid training in Ukraine. 10,000 volunteers are providing help directly

in Ukraine. Over 1,000 metric tons of humanitarian aid were distributed in Ukraine, including food, blankets, tents, water and hygiene items. Humanitarian diplomacy at work to help protect civilians. The list of efforts being deployed by the Red Cross is lengthy and extensive.

The Mechoui Fundraiser held last Saturday in Potton saw a non-stop flow of supporters and donors; some stopped to purchase a take-out dinner of pork, potato, salad, and all the fixings or a mechoui or plain poutine while others stopped to generously donate to the cause. Needless to say, Tente Mechoui & Plus owners and staff as well as Baptist Church volunteers were busy from morning until night making this amazing effort possible. The Church covers the cost of the food and 100% of the profits go directly to the Red Cross Ukraine support funds.

Close to 600 meals were served to raise a whopping, \$15,000!

"We must extend our thanks to everyone who came and supported this effort," said one member of the congregation who worked throughout the event. "Not everyone who helped appears in this photo but the helpers were amazing and so

appreciated."

Another noted, "When you are busy you are not always thinking about things like photos however it doesn't diminish the appreciation we all feel for all who helped and who supported the event."

It is always amazing to see what a small community is able to accomplish and many organizations are noting the number of calls coming in from the public who want to help Ukraine in this heart-wrenching time. From the volunteers coming forward to offer translation skills to anyone welcoming visitors from Ukraine to others who are gathering to arrange lodging and other means of support. It's difficult to watch the horror on our televisions night after night and not want

to do something positive and helpful.

The initiative was taken by the Mansonville Baptist/Potton Valley Church in holding the weekend fundraiser and gave many the opportunity in supporting the effort to do "something" and collectively, an amazing financial donation has been made. Many in attendance felt grateful to be out and contributing in some way.

I will end this article with a quote from Ukraine's President. In his address on March 8, President Zelensky concluded his speech by saying, "Do what you can, do what you must, because greatness obliges greatness, of your state and your people. "Glory to Ukraine and glory to Great Britain."

## Easter flu

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Boileau said that there are currently 12,764 employees of the healthcare system on sick or preventative leave at the same time that the number of people in hospital with Covid swung back up above 2,000 for the first time since Valentine's Day. In the face of those statistics, however, he maintained the position that it is up to individuals to assess their own level of risk when it comes to gatherings over the Easter weekend.

Speaking of higher risk categories, Boileau said that the majority of more serious hospitalizations are among people who are 70 and older, or those who are immune compromised or unvaccinated.

He also noted that the province now has 7,500 doses of the Novavax vaccine available for distribution, with another 220,000 expected over the coming weeks. The vaccine is available for anyone 18 or older who cannot or refuse to take an mRNA vaccine like those made by Pfizer or Moderna.

**Local ERs crowded**

In the lead-up to the long weekend the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS is advising the public that local hospitals are experiencing above-average crowding in their emergency departments.

"There are lots of viruses circulating," said Dr. Stéphanie Blais-Boilard, the Deputy Head of the Regional Department of General Medicine, encouraging anyone with another option to consider not going straight to the ER if possible.

Anyone not sure if they need to see a doctor should start, Blais-Boilard said, by consulting Info-Santé at 811. Those who have a family doctor should consult through those clinics, she added, and the province's so-called 'orphan patients' should be

able to secure an appointment at a local clinic through the Quebec.ca website at <https://sante.gouv.qc.ca/en/repertoire-ressources/consultations-medicales-sans-rendez-vous/>

Dr. Genevieve Simard-Racine told local media that there are not currently any hospitalizations in the region due to the Influenza virus, although there have been confirmed cases in the region. She noted, however, that gastroenteritis, commonly referred to as the stomach flu, is also making the rounds in the area and has put a few people in the hospital.

Despite encouraging the public to consider other options, the two doctors emphasized that people who have appointments at local hospitals should not be afraid to come to them.

**Covid update:**

The Province of Quebec reported 2,060 people in hospital with COVID-19 on Wednesday, an increase of 122 compared to the previous day. At the same time, the number of patients in hospital because of the virus increased by 45, to 883.

The number of people in intensive care with Covid increased by 16 compared to Tuesday, jumping up to 83. Although the percentage of patients that were in the ICU remained unchanged at 71, 11 out of the 16 new patients fell into this category.

The province reported 13 new deaths linked to the virus, for a total of 14,592 since the start of the pandemic.

In the Eastern Townships there were 21 new Covid-related hospitalizations, bringing the local total to 146 with five in intensive care. There was also one new death attributed to the virus in the region, for a local total of 561.

Quebec recorded 40,073 additional vaccine doses administered on Wednesday, all but about 3,500 of which were fourth doses.

### THE RECORD

#### Internship Opportunity

Are you interested in learning more about your community? Do you enjoy meeting people and have natural curiosity?

The Record, the Eastern Township's only English-language daily newspaper, is seeking a reporter to cover news and events for its daily print publication and online edition, from its headquarters in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

The ideal candidate will be a university graduate in a related field with exceptional English-language writing skills, and an ability to communicate in French. Access to a vehicle would be considered essential.

This one-year internship will provide an opportunity for the right candidate to get hands-on experience working in a daily newsroom.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter with a sample of their writing and resume to

**Sharon McCully, Publisher, The Record,**  
**at [outletjournal@sympatico.ca](mailto:outletjournal@sympatico.ca)**