

Local News |

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Bringing the Townships to Montreal

By Cassie MacDonell
Local Journalism Initiative

“I chose the name The Townships (for my band) despite having lived all over Canada—Montreal, Calgary, Toronto—because despite how amazing the rest of this country is, I really feel like the Townships is such a wonderful and unique place and it will always be home to me. I put a lot of who I am into my lyrics, and who I am is because of The Eastern Townships,” said Daniel Porter, vocalist of The Townships.

Porter grew up as an anglophone in Coaticook, attending Alexander Galt RHS and Champlain College. Now, he has taken those experiences and formed a band in Montreal with his brother-in-law, Rinat Rashapov.

The Townships formed during the pandemic, which means the band has not played as many shows as they

would have liked to. However, there are big plans, and these plans have to do with releases to platforms such as Spotify and YouTube. “All the music was mostly done through the internet,” he said. The Townships’ Spotify page has many songs with over 1,000 streams.

“(My family) was constantly doing different activities. Of course, one of those activities ended up being music,” he said. “When we were younger, all four of us kids took piano lessons from the sweetest lady of all time, June Patterson. She gave free piano lessons to hundreds of kids over the years,” said Porter. Although the lessons helped Porter establish a music foundation, the moment he heard his brother playing rock and pop music on guitar sparked his deep interest. “When I was younger I loved bands like Bare Naked Ladies and Blink 182. My love of music evolved from there.” Indeed, The

Townships music has an early-2000s alternative rock sound. Much of the music relates to living in Quebec as a millennial. “Generally I’m a pretty happy and positive guy but I definitely have some more darker songs,” he added.

Recently, Porter and Rashapov flew down to Mexico City to record an album of 13 songs. “In the age of social media, you constantly need to be pumping out content to engage your audience, rather than just recording an album and dropping it. I’m kind of trying to use this first album as a way to grow over time where basically I’m just releasing a single every month or two, and will culminate it into one album,” he said. “Hopefully I will grow my audience in that time.”

To learn more and listen to songs by The Townships, visit <https://linktr.ee/thetownships>.



COURTESY
Rinat Rashapov, left, and Daniel Porter, right, are members of The Townships, a band that plays locally inspired music.

First Responder camp

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invited the Troy Fire Department from the US to join in the training and the day ended with a portable fire extinguisher simulation.

Tuesday the 12th was devoted entirely to First Responders and Paramedics. Starting with a CPR/AED training followed by instructions of traumatic accidents and the use of stabilization equipment. In the afternoon Gabrielle and Julie, two paramedics from the Estrie Ambulance Service Cooperative worked with the group and shared their knowledge in evacuating a person who has been in a road accident.

On Wednesday, July 13 the participants worked with the jaws of life tools. In the afternoon the use of the fire hoses and rescue training in remote areas was the focus for the group of young emergency volunteers. Cars used for simulation extrication training purposes were furnished free of charge by Metal Express.

On Thursday, July 14, the participants

had the opportunity to spend the day at the Sureté du Québec Police Station of the MRC Memphremagog. Several activities were planned throughout the day. A special thanks goes out to Megane and Alexandre, the cadets of Sûreté du Québec and to all at the station who made the visit possible.

On Friday, the last day of the camp, the youth participated in a final simulation in the afternoon at 1 p.m. at the Missisquoi North Park, Andre Gagnon sector. The public was invited to come and see the impressive skills acquired by this enthusiastic group.

The photos provided with this article are a clear indication that Potton’s future Firefighters and First Responders have demonstrated their interest, abilities, dedication and commitment to saving lives and assuring that the communities citizens are in safe hands. The smiles on the faces of the participants also clearly indicates that the CAMP 911 was an amazing experience chalked full of



COURTESY
skill building fun! KUDOS to the Potton Firefighters and First Responders along with all those mentioned who made this happen. A wonderful initiative in Potton. To the youth who spent the week in the camp, our immense gratitude and extreme pride.

Lennoxville residents

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participation in the existing group so that they can be the, “eyes and ears of the police.”

The second issue raised was the matter of truck traffic on Saint-Francis Street.

Frank Wilson, who lives on the street, said that he has observed an average of at least 30 large trucks on the street on a daily basis, despite the fact that larger vehicles are supposed to be permitted only for local deliveries.

“They’re coming right off the 410,” Wilson said. “Since that road has

opened, the truck traffic has picked up bigtime.”

The resident pointed out that there have been repeated reports of this issue to the council, the Sherbrooke Police, and the Ministry of Transport over a period of six years with no long-term solutions or options offered, and asked that a new, more significant sign be installed where Saint-Francis meets Moulton Hill Road.

“It’s frustrating when you see that very little is being done,” he said.

Borough manager André Blais told

Wilson that he needs to call the police and transport ministry every time he sees a truck that is violating the regulations, but he also questioned Wilson’s account, stating that he drives along the street twice a day and has “never seen a truck.”

Charron, meanwhile, said that the request for new signage needs to go through the system and should come at the request of as many local residents as possible. The borough president added that, as much as the calling approach might be frustrating, the more calls

with specific information that the services receive, the more likely they are to prioritize and act on the issue.

District councillor Jennifer Garfat, meanwhile, encouraged local residents to call 819-821-5555 for matters directly related to traffic circulation.

In terms of work outside of the question period, the meeting was very brief and consisted only of the approval of reports or minutes from other meetings and the decision to give \$5,000 to the mural project at Lennoxville Elementary School.