

From past to present—a tribute to potton seniors



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

On Friday, Jan. 20, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. invited guests will attend the opening of an exciting photo exhibition celebrating some of Potton's seniors. On Saturday, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the exhibit will be open to the public. The vernissage will take place these first two days at the "Feather in the Wind" Senior Centre of the CABMN located at 309 Principale in Mansonville (the "hall" of the former St. Paul's Anglican Church). The exhibit will then relocate to the Potton Library at 2 ch. Vale Perkins (upstairs in the Town Hall) where it will be on display from Jan. 24 to March 24 during regular library hours.

The conception and original idea for this photo tribute to some of Potton's seniors stemmed from the collaborative thoughts of Danielle Poitras, volunteer and project coordinator and Monique Gilbert who was working with seniors at the CABMN Volunteer Centre at the time. After two years of pandemic isolation the two felt that images being shared in a variety of media sources were focused on the physical appearance of the senior population rather than the human being behind the images portrayed.

"Behind the image of an aging body is a person who has left their mark on their community history and vitality," shared Danielle Poitras. "We wanted to emphasize this and celebrate the lives as a whole of each of the seniors interviewed as part of this project," she added.

In the summer of 2022, Poitras and Gilbert presented a project where persons 80 years of age who agreed to partake, would be interviewed and photographed by volunteers highlighting the road travelled by each individual taking all on a walk down "their" memory lane.

"The project was also a great way to bring people together for a common goal," said Monique Gilbert. "The isolation of the pandemic left many feeling distant from neighbours and friends and this was a way to bring people together."

Approximately thirty seniors were randomly

selected and approached and, in the end, twenty-three agreed to participate in the project. Over thirty additional volunteers from all walks of life took on the roles of reporters doing the interviewing and write-up on each senior while others became photographers capturing the spirit of each individual through their lens.

To fully represent the life of each senior, the exhibition includes a photo of the individual in their younger years alongside the one taken recently by the photographer. The results of the efforts made in photographing the expressive smiles, the community pride and the story shared are truly amazing and are sure to pull at the heartstrings of all who view them.

"We hope that readers and visitors who attend the exhibition will experience a new look at aging and see beyond the wrinkles celebrating them as the roads taken in a life rich with experience and love," said Poitras.

Poitras has no lack of ideas and her vivacious approach is infectious! Through her involvement with "Acts of Love," Danielle has brought so much to the CABMN Volunteer Centre and the Potton community. She strongly stresses however that the things she does are a group effort with many hands and hearts contributing to the projects she initiates.

"Many volunteers and individuals have given time and love to this project," said Poitras. "We are very grateful to all who have so generously supported bringing this to fruition and we thank all who have contributed in a variety of ways."

The photo project was supported by a variety of organizations and businesses including: The Centre d'Action de la Missisquoi Nord (CABMN), the Caisse Desjardins, Owl's Head Ski and Golf, the Municipality of Potton, the Quebec Government, Townshippers Association and the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) group as well as the Acts of Love organization.

For everyone involved from the photographers



Danielle Poitras, Project Coordinator hopes that those who attend this exhibit will see seniors in a new light

and "reporters," to those partaking in the layout and printing, editing, compiling and the seniors themselves, this will truly be a special event instilling community pride and celebration.

They say that a picture is worth a thousand words and in its journey from past to present this tribute will not disappoint.



2022 Babies!



Proud parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, show off your pride and joy in our "Babies of 2022" edition of The Record to be **published on January 27, 2023.**

Mail or email a colour photograph of the baby with: baby's name, birth date, parents' name, hometown and 10 words describing the little tyke, along with \$20. (taxes included), daytime phone number and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to

**The Record at 6 Mallory St.,
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FROM PAST TO PRESENT Photo Exhibition & Life Stories

A collage of the youthful faces of those celebrated in this tribute vernissage