

Local News

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Brome–Missisquoi MP visits the Potton volunteer centre



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

Brome-Missisquoi Member of Parliament and Minister of Sports as well as Minister responsible for the Economic Development, Pascale St-Onge, stopped by for a visit at the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) in Potton on Friday, Feb. 3. The purpose of the visit was to touch base with the CABMN to discuss its annual government funded tax program that helps individuals and low-income couples file their income tax returns and obtain the benefits and credits to which they are entitled.

The CABMN in Potton has been offering this service for many

years and in fact, from March 1 to April 15, five wonderful volunteers will complete approximately 70 tax returns. This year will be no exception.

“It is important to note,” explained Jennifer McGeean, CABMN Administrator and staff member responsible for the annual income tax clinic, “that revenues per individual cannot exceed \$25,000 and per couple cannot exceed \$45,000 to be eligible for the service.”

Volunteers are trained by Revenue Canada and Revenue Quebec and most of the CABMN volunteers offering this service have been doing so for many years. It is necessary to make an appointment prior to coming in and this can be done by calling the Main Office of the CABMN at 450-292-3114 and asking for Jennifer. There is a fee of \$10.00 to cover printing costs.

Pascale St-Onge and her team were happy to hear that the service is being used by many in the area.

“We are always proud to support community organizations who help those who need it most,” said St-Onge.

Visits by the MP are always welcome at the CABMN.

“We appreciate Pascale and her staff taking the time to stop by,” said Mable Hastings, director of the



COURTESY

CABMN. “While she often has an item on her agenda to talk about, she also allows us time to ask questions and to hear about projects that we are working on and offers support when she can,” she added.

The CABMN extended their appreciation to the Federal Government for funding received in support of the Senior Centre through the New Horizons Program, noting that these funds helped to install new windows and doors in the Centre.

Moose in Waterville

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that no human intervention was required to rescue the animal, Labonté explained in an email.

Meanwhile, Morrisette and his team believe the moose would be safer away from traffic and human interaction, and off the river ice, the thickness of which is never certain.

According to the Sûreté du Québec, the moose isn't enough of an attraction to cause any circulation issues on the 108, but one local contacted The Record to point out, “While it is a truly lovely

sight, it is posing a danger to commuters given the lack of signage, as well as a problem with cars being pulled over. Also, a clear danger to Moose.”

Morrisette hopes the moose will get sick of the paparazzi and move out of town on her own.

If not, Secours Animal Estrie is considering trying to gently guide the moose to an area along the riverbank with less of an incline so she can easily and safely make a break for it.

Bill 96

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96 is the same for everyone and we are obliged to apply it since it is a law created and imposed on municipalities by the Quebec government,” he stated.

“Before, we had English versions of forms of documents available on the MRC’s website,” explained Catherine Madore, communications spokesperson for the Coaticook MRC. This was done as a courtesy to the MRC’s English-speaking community, and Madore says these documents aren’t going away entirely. “Now, we are unable to put them up preemptively on the website, but residents can still ask for English versions by contacting

us,” clarified Madore over the phone. She also re-iterated that the MRC had no choice in the matter due to the provincial legislation.

Examples of now-illegal English translations include registration forms for applying to municipal programs and activities, social media communications, and municipal announcements from various services and departments. Another example Madore mentioned was, “common winter activities” in Barnston-West and Waterville that were previously offered in both English and French that will now be exclusively in French.

The press release itself offered little recourse or solutions for anglophones set to lose access and support, noting that “online translation tools” were available to “facilitate the translation of French-language content.” Asked why the MRC had made a statement on the matter, Madore said they wished to inform and prepare their citizens of the impending change. “It is important for us to be transparent, and since we [had] no choice but to apply the law, we wanted to announce it quickly,” Madore explained.

The announcement comes as bilingual communities across the province elect to maintain said status. Chantal Bouchard, spokesperson for the Office québécois de la langue française (OQLF), stated that 44 of the 47 municipalities that had received a notice of their bilingual status had already voted to maintain it.

On Tuesday, before noon, Bouchard was asked what consequences communities like the Coaticook MRC could face if they opted to continue providing certain English documents and communication to citizens at their discretion.

She did not provide a response before press time.