

Sweet contributions bring “community” to volunteer centre

By Mable Hastings

As a non-profit charitable organization, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) serving the MRC Memphremagog west is often supported through the generosity of people in a variety of ways. It might be through the time and talents given in volunteering, it may come by way of a monetary contribution or it may be a gift in kind. Each of these ways are accompanied by a smiling face, supportive words and a generous heart.

I always find it important to take a moment to reflect from time to time on the wonderful heartfelt contributions of others and the various ways that a helping hand gets extended.

Recently the CABMN Senior Services



Bourassa's team of Belgians, Kelly and King, collecting sap

team organized a maple fun day with games at its Senior Centre. The event was a sugaring party of sorts where seniors came together to enjoy taffy on snow, beverages, games and more... As a highlight, someone suggested that a sugar shack might be approached to donate cones with maple syrup as a special treat for the seniors to enjoy. The CABMN had the pleasure of being given the name of Daniel Bourassa a local maple sugar producer. This local sugar shack is located in Potton and has a wonderful longevity and history as a family farm dating back over 100 years.

Located on Province Hill road in Potton, this family owned farm is open to the public and one can purchase a variety of delicious sweet treats every season however it is not a meal serving “sugar house”. The farm remains in the original Caron family as Daniel Bourassa is a great grandson of the original owner, George Caron who officially bought the farm in August 1920. The family began their farming using horses and to date, horses are still used from time to time and a beautiful team resides on the farm.

After being asked, Mr. Bourassa arrived at the CABMN with boxes of freshly made maple cones to donate for



GAIL SEYMOUR

Daniel Bourassa (middle) poses with Senior Services Team of the CABMN, left to right, Marie-Claude Joly, Lucie Beaudoin, Angelle Laplume and Linda Orefice

the event. Along with the sweet treats he provided a history of the farm and one could hear his pride in carrying on the traditions of his hardworking family and ancestors as he spoke. He and his lovely wife Manon enjoy the outdoors and are fulfilled in keeping the farm in operation.

For Potton seniors the sweet treats were a big hit at the maple party event.

It is truly the efforts and kindness of Mr. Bourassa and others like him who help to make the activities and programs of the CABMN special and unique. For the CABMN staff and volunteers this kind of support is encouraging and puts a touch of community in everything they do. There are many ways to “give” and Mr. Bourassa is an example of how sweet giving can be!

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