



30th Anniversary Edition

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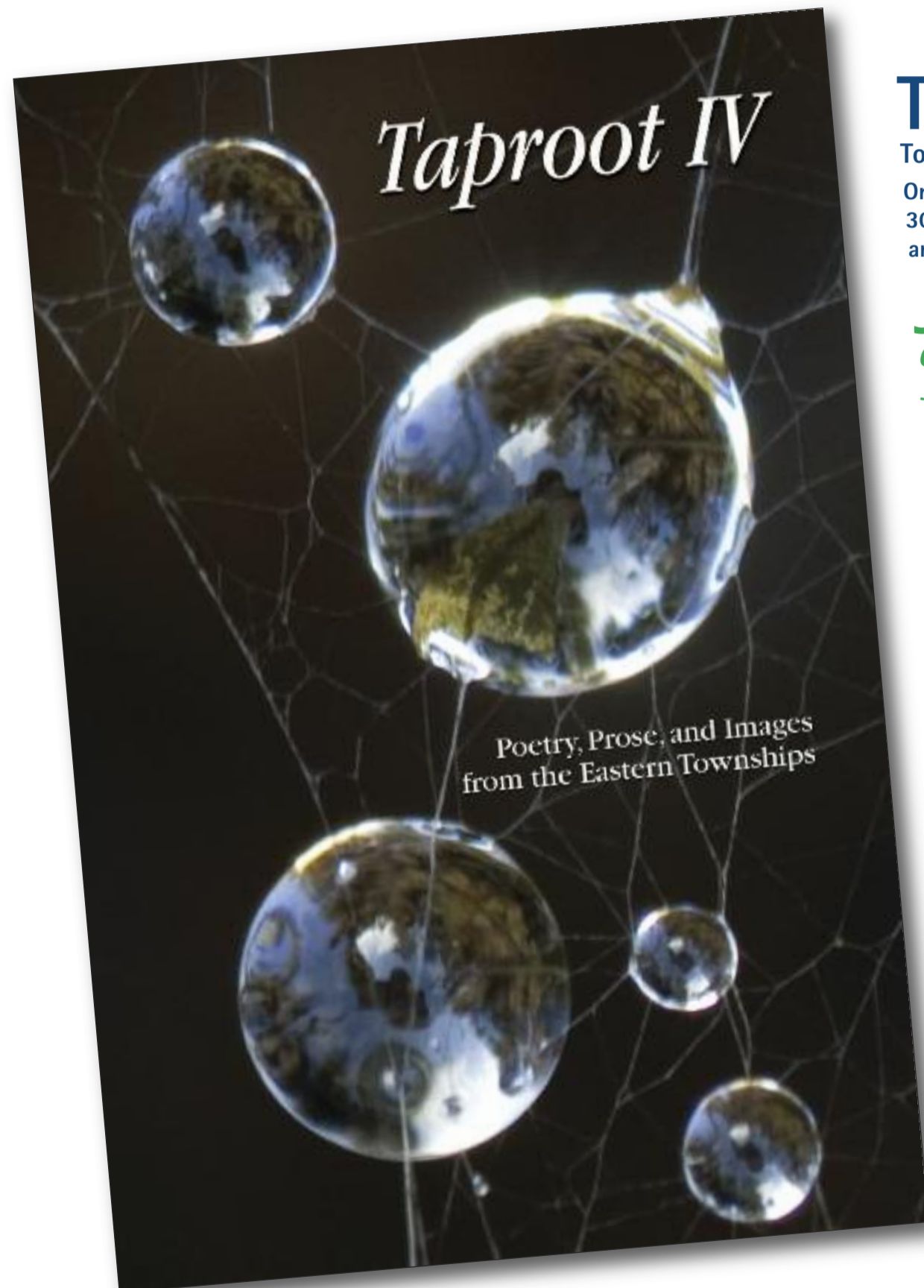
TOWNSHIPPERS

Fall/Winter 2009 Vol. 30, No. 2

FREE

Visit us online at: www.townshippers.qc.ca

Let's Celebrate! / *Célébrons ensemble!*



Townshippers' Day Ayer's Cliff: Celebrating 100 Years of Harmony in the Townships / Townshippers' Association – 30 Years Young
On September 18-19, 2009, we mark the 30th Anniversary of both Townshippers' Association and Townshippers' Day!

Journée des Townshippers Ayer's Cliff :
Fêtons 100 ans d'harmonie dans les Cantons / Association des Townshippers – Jeune de 30 ans

Les 18 et 19 septembre 2009, nous soulignons le 30^e anniversaire tant de l'Association des Townshippers que de la Journée des Townshippers!

Bilingual section / **Section bilingue**

Pages 11-20

We kick off this celebration with a Townshippers' Day Arts Gala on Friday, September 18, to launch *Taproot IV: Poetry, Prose, and Images from the Eastern Townships*.

Nous marquons le coup d'envoi de cette célébration avec un Gala des arts de la Journée des Townshippers le vendredi 18 septembre, afin de procéder au lancement de *Taproot IV: Poetry, Prose, and Images from the Eastern Townships*.

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30 years flew by – in photos! / **30 ans ont passé – en photos!**

Pages 12-15

Townshippers is the official newsletter of Townshippers' Association, a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to promote the interests of the English-speaking community, strengthen its cultural identity, and encourage the full participation of English speakers in the community at large in the historical Eastern Townships of Quebec, Canada.

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30!

By Michael van Lierop, President

I'm pretty familiar with this "turning 30" business. Earlier this year I, too, turned 30. This is a milestone I'm told. I'm not sure why – it seems my life is just beginning!

And in many ways, the same can be said for Townshippers' Association. After 30 years of growth, facing all manner of challenges, it has matured gracefully into an established and reputable community mainstay. Today it is an anchor for the English-speaking community in the Townships and as active as ever.

And so, turning 30 is a milestone.

Not only does this anniversary underline the survival of this association, but of our community. Thirty years ago, English-speaking Quebec was a very different world: the political and linguistic uncertainty generated from the first separatist government to come to power in 1976, the ensuing 1980 sovereignty referendum, mixed with a general economic malaise in the early 80s led to one of the most significant internal migrations in Canadian history. No less than 300,000 English-speakers left the province, and a good many left the Townships.

Those who stayed pulled up their bootstraps and made the best of it. It so turns out that sticking around wasn't as deadly as originally feared! Thirty years on, we see a community whose population has stabilized, and most importantly, is rebuilding its sense of identity and confidence. The level of bilingualism has never been higher. Young people are having families and staying. Opportuni-

ties abound for those willing to look, willing to seek out more education if they need it, and willing to work. Our educational institutions are focused on equipping kids to find opportunity here, not just elsewhere. The wholesale exportation of our youth has ended. Nevertheless, the challenges of low educational levels, low economic integration and low employment participation remain, and are alarming in their scope and potential consequences. This is true not only for our community but for Quebec society as a whole.

And yet, turning 30 is just the beginning!

In my view, Townshippers' Association has evolved in the past few years even more than in the past 30. Its new vitality stems in part from devotion to engaging youth in the community and integrating youth into the Association itself. The image of the Association is changing, as a new generation of English speakers take note of this institution in our community. They may not all be card-carrying members (though they should consider it!) but they know it's there, and many respect and appreciate it. The Townships Leaders of Tomorrow (now the Young Townships Leaders) Awards have, year after year, highlighted the wealth of young leaders in our community who are active, involved and making a difference. The new Townshippers Youth Council, just launched in June 2009, will quite literally revolutionize how the Association involves young people, giving them the respect and the freedom to be fully engaged in the organization.

From a demographic point of view, times are changing. While the pull of wanting to explore the world will always lure away young people, many remain or have returned and have started families, finding peace with their environment, comfort with Quebec society, and security in

Tightening purse strings

By Rachel Garber, Executive Director

The economic situation in the world has not been without impact on Townshippers' Association. Significant delays in funding for 2009-2010 and a 40% budget deficit in 2008-2009 caused a cash flow shortage over the spring and summer of 2009.

For this reason, we have put into place a plan to stabilize our financial resources. Unfortunately, it included reduced personnel hours over the summer months. Some projects – especially in health and social services – had to be put on hold while new funding programs were being negotiated by government agencies.

Fortunately, we are seeing movement on several fronts. As we go to press, we have a new contribution agreement for program funding for April 2009 – March 2010 from the Department of Canadian Heritage. The Community Health & Social Services Networks (CHSSN) reports movement on re-establishing support from Health Canada for the Networking & Partnership Initiative, which supports our Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services. *Place aux jeunes en région* reports movement in

negotiating the 2009-2010 funding envelope from the Quebec government which supports our Make Way for YOUth project. The future of the funding program which supports Townshippers' Internships project is still unknown to us.

These delays significantly reduced our ability to carry forward partnership initiatives this past summer. I am very grateful to the many community groups and public partners with whom we have developed or sustained constructive working relationships, and who have shown great understanding and patience during this period of waiting and uncertainty. We are also excited about upcoming initiatives that will be announced in coming weeks and months, as funding becomes available.

In carrying out its mission and strategic plan on behalf of the Townships English-speaking community, Townshippers' Association relies on partners who share our objectives. These include both supporting agencies and groups who work hand-in-hand with us on the ground. We take very seriously our responsibility to our community, and the important efforts we take together – as groups and as individuals – to ensure our own community's future as a contributing and equal partner in the Eastern Townships community at large.

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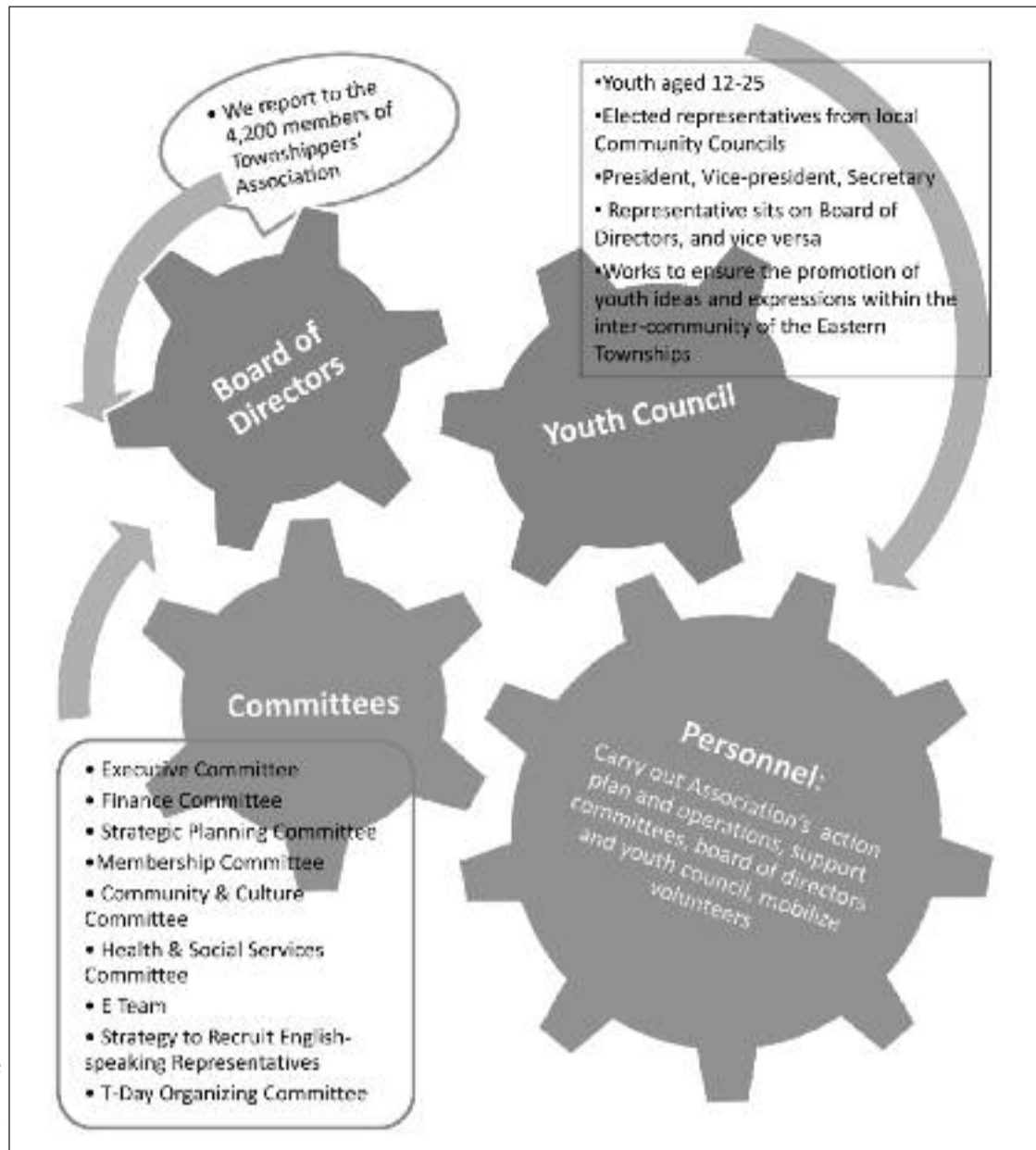
30! continued

► being English-speaking in the Townships. The “missing middle” – those in their 20s to 40s who would normally be at their peak earning potential and finding ways to contribute to their communities – have left over the past decades. Now, many of these same people are returning. While this may not help reduce our ratio of young-to-old, it does help strengthen our community. These are people who have lived fulfilling lives elsewhere and are now bringing back a tremendous wealth of energy, knowledge, and experience. They also bring back a newfound appreciation for their old home, the Eastern Townships.

The next 30 years will see even more change for this community and this Association. I myself will be nearing retirement by then! Clearly, the demographic shift will have continued, and although the hole left by the “missing middle” has haunted us these past 30 years, it also means there will be fewer seniors in the future, and therefore, a more balanced equilibrium among the younger, middle and older generations. We’ve seen how the imbalance of one demographic group over another can endanger the vitality of a community, especially a linguistic minority. In time, while the community may be smaller still than it is today, or at least surely represent a smaller percentage of the overall population, it will be healthier, more bilingual, more engaged, more employed, better educated, and stronger than ever before.

So, stay tuned! The best is yet to come!

The new Youth Council has changed the shape of Townshippers’ Association, as a new generation plays a more active role.



AGM: The Doings and Goings-on

During the Annual General Meeting on Friday June 12 at the Estrimont Suites & Spas, elected by acclamation were three new board members: Andre Rowsell, Peter Riordon and Nancy Robert. Ten outgoing board members were acclaimed for another one-year term. Michael van Lierop, president, thanked departing treasurer, Bruce Durrant, for his four years of service on the board of directors.

Michael was joined by Emile Fortier to unveil an organigram of the new Association structure, which includes the Townshippers Youth Council, “a structural, permanent and open space within Townshippers’ Association for the active manifestation of youth issues.”

On June 17, the first Board meeting following the Annual General Meeting, Michael van Lierop, Gerald Cutting and Melanie Cutting were re-elected, respectively, president, vice-president. James (Jim) Kanner was elected treasurer, replacing outgoing board member Bruce Durrant. The term of office is one year. Joining them on the Executive Committee is Heather Bowman, past-president.

New board member Andre Rowsell was appointed delegate to the new Townshippers Youth Council, which was launched at the Association’s AGM. A representative from the Youth Council will sit on the board, and vice-versa. Townshippers Youth Council will parallel the legal board of directors. Comprised of youth aged 12-25, it will have its own youth president and vice-president.



Photo: Barbara Lavoie

Townshippers’ Association’s newly elected 2009-2010 Board of Directors: (back row) Jim Kanner, Mark McLaughlin, Peter Riordon, Andre Rowsell, Michael van Lierop, Gerry Cutting and Salim Hashmi. (front row) Melanie Cutting, Marion Standish and Heather Bowman. Missing from the photo are Alice McCrory, Peter Quilliams and Nancy Robert.

“I personally wish this new generation of community leaders the very best in making Townshippers’ Association more relevant, effective and active than ever before,” said newly re-elected president Michael van Lierop.



Eastern Townships Community Search Conference

*What is the most desirable future for a
vital English-speaking community
in the Eastern Townships in 2014?*

Roadmap:

*15 future-direction statements for the
Eastern Townships English-speaking community*

1. The English-speaking community grows because of efforts to retain youth and encourage immigration by promoting the Townships as a growth region for business and quality of life.
2. We are proud of our English-language heritage. Our history and culture are taught and celebrated, and we have achieved a culture of preservation.
3. WE ARE LEADERS OF CHANGE!
4. We assume leadership in environmental preservation and sustainable community development.
5. We revitalize, support and link our institutions.
6. We increase Townships employment and economic opportunities.
7. We support and enhance our English-language media to better inform, reflect and advocate for us.
8. We achieve an English language education system which fosters the development of bi-literate graduates, meets requirements in all areas of employment and entrepreneurship, and decreases out-migration.
9. We create opportunities for intergenerational dialogues and exchanges across all sectors of society.
10. Transportation and communication are funding priorities, better linking our region.
11. We have affordable housing and transportation.
12. We insure equal access, ease of use and quality of government services for all residents in their language of choice.
13. We facilitate interactions between youth and provide opportunities and resources for them to be socially pro-active in their communities, in order to foster a sense of belonging.
14. In 2014, the English-speaking community has full access to health care services at the local and regional levels.
15. We identify opportunities and create strong networks in the wider multi-lingual community, and foster understanding and mutual appreciation among cultures and language groups in the Eastern Townships.

Vehicle:

7 Action Groups

1. Culture and heritage of the Townships English-speaking community
2. Economic vibrancy
3. Education, especially bi-literacy for high school graduates
4. Sustainable social and physical development
5. Retaining youth, providing opportunities and resources for them and striving to develop a sense of belonging within their communities
6. Networking and leadership
7. Equal access, ease of use and quality of services for all residents

Liaison:

Action Group Representatives (AGRs):

info@searchtownships.ca • www.searchtownships.ca

Conveners:



Asset Mapping in Waterloo

By Maximilien Roy, Research Assistant

Summer is over, and so is the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) pilot project in Waterloo!

ABCD is a community development approach that identifies and uses the assets, talents and strengths in a community rather than emphasising the problems, needs and deficits. Focusing on the positive assets helps build the community, giving residents hope and a positive vision for themselves. Our goal was to create a bank of community members willing to share their talents, skills and knowledge. We wanted to know what citizens would like to share with their community. This way, residents from Waterloo can further their own interests while helping make their town a better place to live.

Over 100 surveys were filled out by respondents from all age groups. In all, 27 different skills were noted. Those named most often were communicating with older people, cooking, childcare, driving, reading, communicating with youth, sports and gardening. The skills named least often were nursing, massotherapy, spiritual guidance, playing cards, fundraising, emceeing and organizing activities.

The ABCD project was supported in part by the Centre d'action bénévole (CAB) de Waterville, Comité AngloFranco Committee, Town of Waterloo, Townshippers' Association, the Young Canada Works in Both Official Languages program of Canadian Heritage and local community members. The partnering community groups will receive a report containing all the information gathered.

The next step will be to determine whether it would be beneficial to do the same project in other municipalities or on a larger scale in the Eastern Townships.



Photo: Rachel Garber
Maximilien Roy, Research Assistant for the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) project.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Townshippers' Association, led by the Montérégie office staff, visits a different local community in the Townships Montérégie area every third Tuesday of the month (except September). So far, *Coffee Mornings* have gone to Cowansville, Sutton, Granby, Knowlton, Bedford, Waterloo.

The purpose is to sit down and talk with people in the Townships English-speaking community, in YOUR local community. The Townships are large! *Coffee Mornings* let mobility-challenged people – including those without cars! – take part.

Staff members lead conversation groups around needs, interests and concerns. They answer questions and give information about services offered by Townshippers' Association or our partners. Sometimes music is on the menu, or just plain fun.

Community members get to meet various staff members of Townshippers' Association and find out about their respective roles. Montérégie East staff members are nearly always present: Kate Wisdom (Community & Culture coordinator), Kate Murray and Christelle Bogosta (Montérégie East network coordinators for the Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services), and Holly Richardson (Townshippers Youth Council co-coordinator).

They may be joined by various staff members from Townshippers' head office, such as Evelina Smith (Information & Referral coordinator), Eric Akbar Manolson (RESPECT project coordinator), or Valérie Bridger (assistant executive director).

And everyone gets to enjoy coffee and nibbles in glad company. For the time and location of upcoming *Coffee Mornings*, watch the weekly e-bulletin.

Oops – you're not on the email list for the e-bulletin? You'd like to be? Drop us a quick email at: ta@townshippers.qc.ca.

Leaving 100% of your estate to your children? Splendid!

Did you know that you can leave an additional 25% to your community?

Your invitation to a unique opportunity to learn how to **LEAVE A LEGACY**

Learn strategies to optimize your legacy gift!
CHOOSE YOUR SESSION :

- **Magog** Tuesday, Oct. 6
St. Luke Anglican Church Hall, 122 des Pins (corner St-Patrice)
- **Lennoxville** Thursday, Oct. 8
Uplands Cultural & Heritage Centre, 9 Speid St.
- **Knowlton** Tuesday, Oct. 20
Brome Lake Community Centre, 270 Victoria St.
- **Cowansville** Thursday, Oct. 22
Emmanuel United Church, 203 Principale St.

All sessions are 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Free of charge. Refreshments provided. Space is limited. Pre-registration is required. Deadline: Sept. 30. Please phone 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717) or email ta2@townshippers.qc.ca



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Philanthropy • Gift planning



Alain Levesque is a dynamic, charismatic speaker who is unmatched in clarifying complex concepts. His mission in life is to "help people accomplish their philanthropic dreams!"

Alain recently released "**GEORGE'S TREE: The story of a well planned gift.**" In story form, the book also acts as a workbook and discussion starter and is an excellent planned giving tool. "This book and its lessons will forever alter your view of philanthropy by helping you to discover how easy it is to contribute to causes close to your heart."

Having worked in the financial services sector for many years, Alain is now the President of **DeVimy Group Inc.**, a financial planning firm specializing in gift planning and philanthropy.



In partnership with Townshippers' Association and Townshippers' Foundation.

Agora 2009: Leave Your Mark!

By Emile Fortier



Photo: Barbara Lavoie

Émile Fortier

The Forum jeunesse Estrie's Agora (named after the ancient Greek Agora, a place of gathering and discussion as well as a political and economic centre) has the goal of promoting youth citizenship participation. This is an annual event that debuted in 2007.

The theme of this year's afternoon-long edition of the Agora is *Leave Your Mark!* Varied activities and conferences on the topics of environment, politics, arts, sports and humanitarian work will be offered by young people who have accomplished their dreams by following their ambitions. The idea behind this year's theme is to help youth understand that implication and participation can take many different forms and can have positive impacts on both their lives and those of others.

This year's Agora will take place on Saturday November 7. More information about the location and time will be announced shortly. For further information, contact Alexandre Lavallée, the Citizen Participation Agent for the Forum Jeunesse Estrie: 819-563-1911, ext. 232 or al@creestrie.qc.ca.

About the Author:

At 16 years of age, Emile Fortier's list of involvements in his community is long, varied and VERY impressive. He is a long-time Townshippers' Association volunteer, was a dedicated member (and board member) of the Lennoxville Youth Centre for a number of years, is an active volunteer at his high school, Alexander Galt, is on the Board of Directors for TYPS (Town Youth Participation Strategies), a youth organization based in Ontario, and more. Currently, he is on the Board of Directors for the Forum jeunesse Estrie (representing Sherbrooke) and is also on the Agora 2009 organizing committee. Wow... good work Emile!

MAKING OUR WAY CONTEST
Young people committed to their communities

The Forum jeunesse Estrie congratulates Karolyn Kirby, Regional Winner of the Making Our Way Contest!

With fields of interest as diverse as football, political science, the future of agriculture in rural communities and scouting, Karolyn Kirby is one-of-a-kind. At only 22 years of age, this young woman from North Hatley already has a CV that would make most people blush. Most notably, Karolyn is involved in Townshippers' Association, the Quebec Community Groups Network and the Quebec 4-H. As president of the Hatley 4-H club, she contributed a great deal to the organization of an important youth gathering which took place in July, 2008. Karolyn is currently an Education and Political Science student at Bishop's University.

The Forum jeunesse Estrie also wishes to emphasize the outstanding involvement and engagement in community development demonstrated by the other eight candidates in this contest.

Samuel Morin	Catherine Paradis	Isabelle Martineau
Josiane Parent	Steve Bourassa	Catherine Quirion
Cynthia Foley-Choquette		Michel Gomes Sanches

The Forum jeunesse Estrie is supported financially by the Secrétariat à la jeunesse through the Youth Action Strategy.



Photo: Courtesy of Forum Jeunesse Estrie

The *Forum jeunesse Estrie's* Board of Directors is composed of 17 enthusiastic and energetic young people from the Estrie, but it is also managed by a motivated and dedicated staff of three: Caroline Massicotte, Information Agent, Alexandre Lavallée, Citizen Participation Agent, and Dominique Desautels, Development Counsellor. Visit the *Forum jeunesse Estrie's* website for more information about the Forum or to contact one of these friendly and helpful people!

Forum Jeunesse Estrie

By Michelle Lepitre, Make Way for YOUth / Desjardins Migration Agent

The *Forum jeunesse Estrie* is an organization that works to advance youth initiatives in the Estrie and acts as a regional springboard for youth to express themselves. It accomplishes its goal by encouraging the coordination and mobilization of young people with partners, by playing an advisory role in terms of youth issues and by supporting initiatives created both by and for youth.

Starting this year, ALL youth and/or organizations who are interested in the mission and activities of the forum are invited to become members for free. All members of the *Forum jeunesse Estrie* receive a monthly newsletter, are welcome to participate on committees and in the forum's activities, and can present themselves as candidates for the Forum's Board of Directors during the Annual General Meeting in May.

For more information about the *Forum jeunesse Estrie* or to sign up as a member, visit: www.forumjeunesseestrie.qc.ca or contact Dominique Desautels, Development Counsellor, at 819-563-1911, ext. 228 or dd@creestrie.qc.ca.

For youth who live outside the Estrie region, there are forums for you to join too! Visit the Secrétariat à la jeunesse's website at <http://www.jeunes.gouv.qc.ca/> and choose « organismes jeunesse » to find out more about the *Forum jeunesse* in your region, as well as how you can become part of the action!

What's in it for
YOUth?



- Top 40 job prospects
- Leadership awards
- Make new friends
- Share ideas and opinions
- Make a difference in your community

Contact Michelle:
819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717)
ml@townshippers.qc.ca
michita@hotmail.com

www.topportunity.ca

History! Writing! Art!

Townshippers' Association Youth Contest

By Michelle Lepitre, Make Way for YOUth / Desjardins Migration Agent

Are you a grade 5 or 6 teacher looking for a fun and educational activity for your class during the coming year? Or do you know a young Townships between the ages of 10 and 12 who enjoys history and wants to learn more about where he/she comes from? If so, we have exciting news for you! This year, Townshippers' Association is planning a contest for students in grades 5 and 6 that will incorporate all kinds of fun things (History! Writing! Art!).

Want more details? We can't say too much just yet (more details will be available after Christmas), but here is a little teaser: contest participants will be asked to write (and illustrate) a short story featuring a famous, historical figure from the Eastern Townships.

Not only will this contest be a great chance for youth to learn more about this wonderful area they call home (the Eastern Townships), but it will also give them a chance to share their talents with other Townshippers. For further information about this contest, contact Michelle Lepitre, Make Way for YOUth/Desjardins Migration Agent, by phone at 819-566-5717 (toll-free: 1-866-566-5717) or by e-mail: ml@townshippers.qc.ca.



Photo: Barbara Lavoie

Last spring's Townships Superhero Comic Strip Contest was a great success, with over 30 young artists participating. One of the winners in this contest created the "Eastern Townships Super Horse," a superhero whose goal was to help save all Townshippers from a dark, evil force at work in the Townships. When she attended the Comic Strip Reception at the Estrimont Suites Et Spa in Orford on June 12, 2009, the proud artist and her friends sported beautiful T-shirts featuring the "Super Horse."



Make Way for YOUth ESTRIE

Offering recent (or soon-to-be) post-secondary graduates **FREE** cultural, recreational and networking activities.
Explore opportunity in the Estrie!

Friday and Saturday,
September 18 and 19, 2009:
Memphrémagog and Coaticook MRCs

Friday and Saturday,
November 13 and 14, 2009:
Val-Saint-François and des Sources MRCs

Friday and Saturday,
January 22 and 23, 2010:
Haut-Saint-François et Granit MRCs

To sign up for these **FREE** activities, or to receive more information, contact:

Michelle Lepitre

Make Way for YOUth/Desjardins Migration Agent
100-257 Queen • Sherbrooke, QC J1M 1K7
Phone: 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717)
E-mail: mwfy@townshippers.qc.ca

Our **REGION** ...Your Future!
Helping you get settled, find work and contribute to your community



Make Way for YOUTH Photo Contest

By Michelle Lepitre, Make Way for YOUTH / Desjardins Migration Agent

Are you in secondary level 4 or 5? Do you like photography? If so, Make Way for YOUTH has the perfect opportunity for you!

Participate in this year's Make Way for YOUTH photo contest by sending us three pictures that capture the spirit and energy of your community or the area where you live. Along with your pictures, include a 200-word explanation of what these pictures mean to you.

Contest entries will be judged locally by a team of Townshippers' Association volunteers. Out of all the entries, one grand prize winner and one runner-up will be chosen and each will receive a special prize package. A small reception and photography display publicly honouring all participants will be organized in the spring of 2010.

All contest entries will also be submitted to the *Place aux jeunes* regional and national competitions. Youth will have a chance to win a digital camera and an activity package that will allow them to re-discover their region with family or friends (this package is worth \$1500). Contact Michelle Lepitre, Make Way for YOUTH/Desjardins Migration Agent, for more information about this contest.

To enter, send your entries (by regular mail or by e-mail) before 5 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 2010, to:

Michelle Lepitre, Make Way for YOUTH/Desjardins Migration Agent

Regular Mail: 100-257 Queen, Sherbrooke, QC J1M 1K7

E-mail: mwfy@townshippers.qc.ca

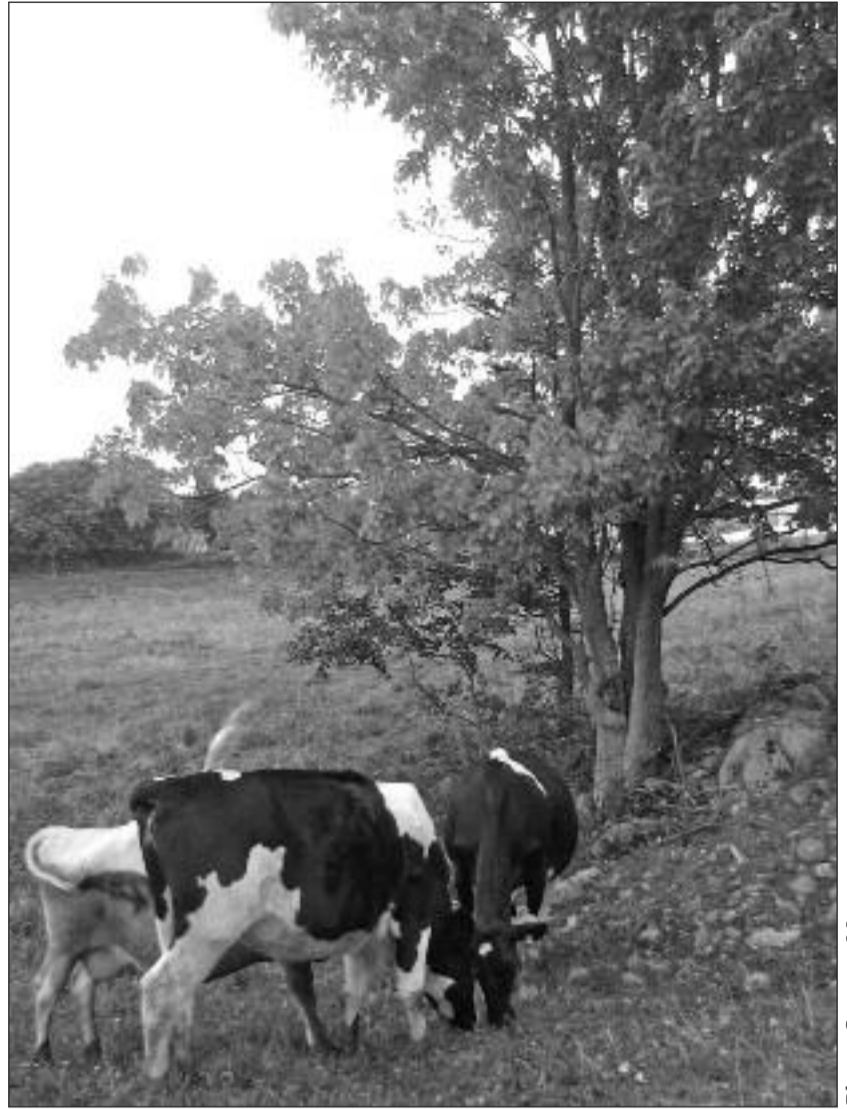


Photo: Summer Mason



Photo: Emily Mastine



Photo: Esther Slater



Photo: Emily Coddington

Participants in last year's contest may have photographed a wide range of landscapes and objects, but there was one thing they all had in common: they managed to capture the beauty and freshness of the Eastern Townships in their works.

Youth Council and Activities

By Stacey Vaughan

Stacey Vaughan, a young woman from Stanbridge-East, was a member of the youth task force who put together the proposal for a Townshippers' Association Youth Council during a retreat held last January. Here is what she has to say about her experiences (so far) with the Youth Council:

“Participating in the Youth Council work group was both intriguing as well as amusing. When we first arrived at our retreat, we had a blast switching from room to room and from bed to bed searching for the ideal roommates and the best bed. We all got to know each other by spending the evening watching movies and eating everything from cookies to old Halloween candy.

“The next morning it was time to buckle down and start the flow of ideas for the proposal. Michelle was great at combining work and play and everyone had a blast expressing their ideas on small post-it notes and arranging them on posters hanging from the wall. It gave us a chance to really see what we wanted and what we needed to incorporate into our proposal.

“I am interested in being part of the youth council because I would really like to see leadership of the minority in a group that is meant for those of adulthood. I believe that a youth council requires a say in the governing of an association; our say is important

because decisions affect us too. I believe Townshippers' Association is optimistic about having young leaders join their table because they know there are always going to be new ideas to be thought.”

The Townshippers' Association Youth Council is already starting to take shape. Thanks to project support from Canadian Heritage, two co-coordinators have been hired to kickstart the Council's activities: Alanna Fernandes, working out of the head office, and Holly Richardson, working out of the Montérégie office. Plans for the first youth gathering are already in the works! For more information about the Youth Council and its activities, contact Alanna or Holly:

Alanna:

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About the Author:

17-year-old Stacey graduated from Massey-Vanier Regional High School this past June. In the fall, she will be attending Champlain Saint-Lambert and studying liberal arts. When asked what she hopes to do in the future, Stacey said that she thinks she might like to study law. Thanks for all of your hard work Stacey... and good luck!



Photo: Michelle Lepitre

To begin work on the Youth Council proposal, workgroup participants answered three big questions during an early morning brainstorming session: What is a youth council, Why is a youth council important, and Why should youth join. Once the youth had answered the three questions in their morning brainstorming session (and after they had papered the walls with their post-it notes!), it was time for everyone to organize the notes into groups and themes. All the participants helped to group together similar ideas and then three brave volunteers summarized all the ideas for each question, creating a few concrete, general statements about youth councils. Afterwards, the youth felt ready to get to work creating their proposal for a Townshippers' Association Youth Council.

Young Townships Leaders Awards

By Michelle Lepitre, Make Way for YOUth / Desjardins Migration Agent

Two individuals and one group received awards during this year's Young Townships Leaders Awards ceremony on Friday June 12 at the Estrimont Suites & Spa in Orford. They were 18-year-old Danika Bouchard of Sherbrooke, 19-year-old Jessica Coleman of Sherbrooke and the Tierra del Fuego Community Resource Centre & Trading Post group, also from Sherbrooke.

When asked what winning an award meant to the Tierra del Fuego group, Alanna Fernandes, one of its co-founders, had this to say:

“The Tierra del Fuego: Community Resource Centre & Trading Post is a unique project, one which is often misunderstood and easily stereotyped. Despite that, deep down in my heart, it feels necessary, vital and enriching to be a part of it. Given this new project's quirks, attending the awards and being recognized for our efforts meant a lot. It gave us co-founders a sense of recognition, it gave our project a legitimate edge, it made, as we like to joke at the Tierra headquarters, our efforts real. Being outwardly acknowledged in such a positive way helped us co-founders to feel like our humble efforts of the past year really meant something, not only to those who have directly benefited from Tierra del Fuego, but to those who are a part of the general community. We are extremely grateful to have been recognized in such a light, and are looking forward to our second year.”

Certificates of merit were also awarded to Emily Desormeaux of Ogden, Alanna Fernandes of Sherbrooke, Lesley Tarasoff of Sherbrooke and Lindsay Young of Ayer's Cliff. The achievements of these four young women are varied and impressive and their nominations were certainly well-merited. Congratulations to all!

The co-MCs of this year's awards ceremony (seen here flanking Townshippers' Association Youth Coordinator, Michelle Lepitre) were representatives from Champlain College - Lennoxville's Student Representative Council, or SRC, one of the supporting partners of the 2009 edition of the Young Townships Leaders Awards.



Photo: Barbara Lavoie



Photo: Barbara Lavoie

The winners of this year's Young Townships Leaders Awards pose together after the ceremony. Absent from the photo is winner Danika Bouchard, who was unable to attend the ceremony because she was in Uganda, volunteering at an orphanage.

Wanted: Young Graduates to Settle in the Estrie!

By Michelle Lepitre, Make Way for YOUth / Desjardins Migration Agent

Do you know a recent (or soon-to-be) graduate of a vocational training, college or university program? Is this graduate between the ages of 18 and 35? Might he or she consider calling the Estrie region home? If so, you should definitely tell that person about Townshippers' Association's Make Way for YOUth project, which is offering a group of new graduates a chance to test out the Estrie region via FREE exploratory activities.

Participants in these exploratory activities will have opportunities to meet local employers and make important personal contacts in the region, all while getting to experience local cultural and recreational activities that will give them a real taste of what the Estrie has to offer.

The first exploratory activity for 2009-2010 is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 18 and 19, 2009, in the Memphrémagog and Coaticook MRCs. Among other things, participants will visit the Bleu Lavande lavender farm in Fitch Bay to learn more about this exciting local company, tour the historic town of Stanstead, check out the Coaticook Gorge, participate in networking events with local entrepreneurs and other professionals and participate in one of the largest annual cultural events in the Eastern Townships: Townshippers' Day. Places for this activity are still available but promise to go quickly...sign up today so you won't miss out!

Two other exploratory activities are also in the works: one which will allow participants to explore the Val-Saint-François and des Sources MRCs on Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14, 2009, and another in the Haut-Saint-François and Granit MRCs on Friday and Saturday, January 22 and 23, 2010. Watch for more details about the activities or contact the migration agent for information.

Make Way for YOUth offers other services as well, including a weekly e-bulletin listing current job offers and fun activities in the Estrie and individual support services. If you are a young English-speaking student who would like help to polish your CV, or if you are a recent graduate or are new to the region and are looking for a job, a house or apartment, or information about other services available in the Estrie, contact the migration agent.



Photo: Iseult Séguin-Aubé

Participants in the 2008-2009 Make Way for YOUth exploratory activities visited Mount Orford in September, 2008. These participants not only had the chance to experience the beauty of fall in the Townships, they also networked with local business people and artists in a Yurt at the top of the mountain.

For more information about these services, or to register for the Exploratory Activities, contact Michelle Lepitre, the Make Way for YOUth/Desjardins Migration Agent for the Estrie English-speaking Community at 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717) or mwfy@townshippers.qc.ca.



Photo: Iseult Séguin-Aubé

A networking activity in Waterville brought Make Way for YOUth participants together with a group of Townships artists and artisans to discuss life in the Eastern Townships, as well as some of the more entrepreneurial aspects of making a living from your art.

Voir en vert

Par Ronan O'Beirne, adjoint à la Journée-T

La Journée des Townshippers Ayer's Cliff sera un événement des plus colorés cette année, depuis les maquillages multicolores des visages au bleu du ciel, et le tout revêtira une distincte teinte de vert. Anaïs Renaud et son Équipe verte triment dur pour s'assurer que l'événement de cette année épouse la tendance des Journées-T respectueuses de l'environnement.

Depuis 2006, quand la Journée des Townshippers a eu lieu sur les terrains de l'Exposition de Richmond, les récents comités organisateurs de la Journée-T ont réduit de manière significative la quantité d'ordures générées par l'événement – ce qui n'est pas une mince tâche compte tenu du fait que jusqu'à 10 000 personnes y participent à chaque année. L'année dernière, seulement un sac d'ordures a été produit et le public a rangé tous ses achats dans des sacs de tissu réutilisables.

La Journée-T Ayer's Cliff en fera autant : comme pour les années précédentes, les vendeurs de nourriture serviront leur délicieuse boustifaille dans de la vaisselle compostable. Les visiteurs sont aussi invités à apporter de la maison leurs propres sacs réutilisables, afin de réduire l'usage du plastique.

Mais Anaïs et son équipe vont aller encore plus loin cette année, avec l'espoir que leurs efforts à l'occasion de la Journée-T puissent avoir un effet durable. Au cours des années précédentes, il y avait une équipe de bénévoles à chaque station de recyclage, qui triaient les déchets dont les visiteurs se débarrassaient simplement. Cette année, les visiteurs disposeront eux-mêmes leurs restants dans des bacs appropriés. L'objectif est d'éduquer les Townshippers, de manière à ce qu'ils prolongent leurs efforts de recyclage longtemps après la Journée-T. Mais rassurez-vous – il y aura des bénévoles sur place pour répondre à toutes les questions que vous pourriez avoir.

Étant donné le charme naturel des Cantons-de-l'Est, nous sommes redevables au milieu qui nous entoure. Cet événement vert ira loin en vue de faire en sorte que les Cantons demeurent magnifiques pour encore longtemps.

2009 – a Year of Anniversary Celebrations

By Ronan O'Beirne, T-Day Assistant

This year's Townshippers' Day festivities will be a huge celebration of two very important anniversaries. First, the town of Ayer's Cliff is marking its centennial – yes, it's been 100 years since the beautiful municipality was incorporated. And on top of that, T-Day is marking its own birthday with the event in Ayer's Cliff.

Of course, Ayer's Cliff didn't just spring up out of the ground in 1909. The town had been around for more than a century before then, under a different moniker until 1904, when "Ayer's Flat" became "Ayer's Cliff" to sound more appealing. It was five years later – one hundred years ago – that the municipality was officially incorporated.

Today, Ayer's Cliff is home to just over 1000 residents, and remains a beautiful place to visit or to live. Though small, it houses everything you could possibly need in a town, including a handful of bed & breakfasts, two schools, and a new library that just opened in 2004.

And it was 30 years ago that a group of like-minded Townshippers banded together to form an organization that is now 4000 strong. It was in the same year – 1979 – that the first Townshippers' Day was held in the town of Lennoxville. Since then, Townshippers' Association has grown in size and strength, and continues to represent the English-speaking community in the Eastern Townships.

Happy anniversary to all!

Special thanks to the Townshippers' Day Ayer's Cliff Organizing Committee, led by Dr. Mary Pearson and Elaine Batrie, who have been working hard for almost a full year to make T-Day a great success! Committee members were Peter McHarg, director of logistics; Julie Langlois, assistant for logistics; Salim Hashmi and James Kanner, Townshippers' board members; Kate Wisdom, Townshippers' staff support; Mike Goodsell, director of entertainment; Jennifer MacKinnon, director of food services; Colleen Keet, director of children's activities; Irene Humphrey and Lynn Wood, directors of seniors' activities; Anaïs Renaud, director of the green team; and Patrick Proulx, Ayer's Cliff town councillor.

Un grand merci au Comité organisateur de la Journée des Townshippers Ayer's Cliff, avec Dr. Mary Pearson et Elaine Batrie à leur tête, qui travaille d'arrache pied depuis plusieurs mois. Le Comité est composé de Peter McHarg, directeur - Logistique; Julie Langlois, assistante à la Logistique; Salim Hashmi et James Kanner, membres du Conseil d'administration de l'Association des Townshippers; Kate Wisdom, membre du personnel de l'association des Townshippers; Mike Goodsell, directeur - Divertissements; Jennifer MacKinnon, directrice - Alimentation; Colleen Keet, directrice - Activités pour enfants; Irene Humphrey et Lynn Wood, directrices - Activités pour les aînés; Anaïs Renaud, directrice - Équipe verte; et Patrick Proulx, conseiller municipal.

2009, une année d'anniversaires à célébrer

Par Ronan O'Beirne, adjoint à la Journée-T

Les festivités de la Journée des Townshippers de cette année constitueront une formidable célébration de deux anniversaires très importants. Premièrement, la Municipalité d'Ayer's Cliff fête son centenaire – oui, voilà déjà 100 ans qui se sont écoulés depuis l'incorporation de cette magnifique municipalité. Et en plus, l'Association des Townshippers profite de l'événement à Ayer's Cliff pour célébrer elle-même ses 30 ans d'existence.

Bien sûr, Ayer's Cliff n'a pas simplement jailli du sol en 1909. La municipalité existait déjà depuis plus d'un siècle, sous un toponyme différent jusqu'à 1904, alors que le nom d'« Ayer's Flat » est devenu « Ayer's Cliff », pour faire plus attractif. Ce n'est que cinq ans plus tard – il y a 100 ans – que la municipalité a été officiellement incorporée.

Aujourd'hui, Ayer's Cliff est le foyer de plus de 1000 résidents et demeure toujours un endroit magnifique à visiter ou pour y vivre. Bien que de petite taille, la municipalité possède tout ce dont vous pouvez avoir besoin dans une ville, y compris plusieurs gîtes touristiques, deux écoles et une nouvelle bibliothèque, qui vient tout juste d'ouvrir ses portes en 2004.

Et c'était il y a 30 ans qu'un groupe de Townshippers partageant les mêmes préoccupations et les mêmes sensibilités s'est rassemblé pour mettre sur pied un organisme qui est maintenant fort de ses 3000 membres. Ce fut cette même année – 1979 – que s'est tenue la première Journée des Townshippers dans la ville de Lennoxville. Depuis lors, l'Association des Townshippers a grandi en taille et en rayonnement et continue de représenter la communauté d'expression anglaise des Cantons-de-l'Est.

Joyeux anniversaire à tous!



Photo: Ronan O'Beirne

Dr. Mary Pearson and Elaine Batrie, Chair and Co-chair of the Organizing Committee. / Dre Mary Pearson et Elaine Batrie, présidente et co-présidente du Comité organisateur.

Seeing Green

By Ronan O'Beirne, T-Day Assistant

Townshippers' Day Ayer's Cliff will be a colourful event this year, from painted faces to blue skies, and the whole thing will have a distinct shade of green. Anaïs Renaud and her Green Team are working hard to make sure this year's event follows the recent trend of eco-friendly T-Days.

Since 2006, when Townshippers' Day was held on the Richmond Fairgrounds, recent T-Day committees have significantly reduced the amount of waste generated by the event – no small feat, considering up to 10,000 people attend each year. Last year, just one bag of garbage was produced, and the public stored all their purchases in reusable fabric bags.

T-Day Ayer's Cliff will follow suit. As in previous years, the food vendors will

serve their delicious goods on compostable dishware. Visitors are also encouraged to bring their own reusable bags from home, to cut down on the plastic used.

But Anaïs and her crew are going even further this year, with hopes that their efforts on T-Day can have a lasting effect. In previous years, there was a team of volunteers at each recycling station, sorting through visitors' refuse, which was simply dropped off. This year, the visitors will be putting their odds and ends into the proper bins by themselves. The goal is to educate Townshippers, so that they carry on their recycling efforts long after T-Day is over. But don't worry – there will be a few volunteers on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Given the natural charm of the Eastern Townships, we owe a lot to our surroundings. This green event will go a long way to ensuring that the Townships stay beautiful for a long time to come.

1979

Townshippers through the years...

1993



1993

Townshippers through the years...

2002



2002 *Townshippers through the years...* 2005



2005

Townshippers through the years...

2009



Keeping Entertained on T-Day

By Ronan O'Beirne, T-Day Assistant

From square dancers to Celtic singers, Townshippers' Day 2009 will have a full line-up of great performances. Entertainment will be offered at numerous places in and around the Fairgrounds, with acts ranging from local favourites Le Vent des Cantons to the beautiful Choromondo World Music Choir.

Plein de divertissements la Journée-T

Par Ronan O'Beirne, adjoint à la Journée-T

Des danses carrées aux chants celtiques, la Journée des Townshippers 2009 offrira un programme complet de spectacles tout aussi captivants les uns les autres. Les divertissements seront présentés à plusieurs endroits sur les terrains de l'Exposition comme à l'extérieur, avec des prestations allant du groupe local Le Vent des Cantons jusqu'au magnifique chœur de musique du monde Choromondo.

Ayer's Cliff bandstand

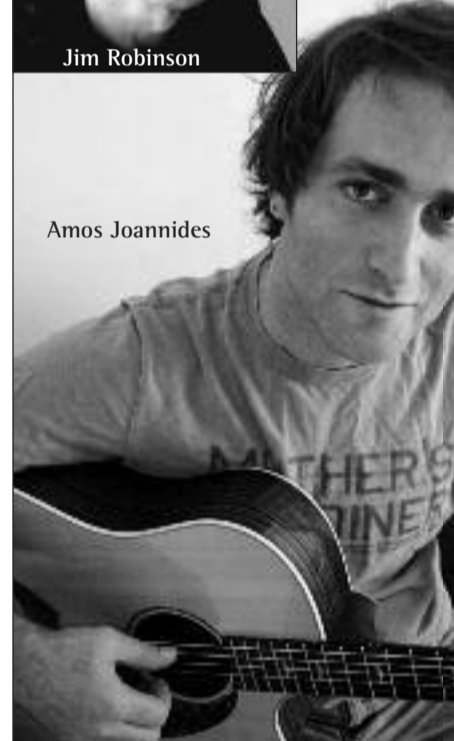
Ralph Steiner

Choromondo

Patrick Lesyk & Gary David



Jim Robinson



Amos Joannides

Main Stage / Tribune principale

10 a.m. / 10 h - Opening Ceremonies /

Cérémonies d'ouverture

12 noon / 12 h - Ralph Steiner (*Folk, pop, country*)

1 p.m. / 13 h - Jim Robinson (*Country*)

2 p.m. / 14 h - Amos Joannides (*Folk, pop*)

3 p.m. / 15 h - Patrick & Gary (*Celtic*)

Dance Stage (Expo Building) /

Scène de la danse (Pavillon des expositions)

11 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. / 11 h et 13 h 30 - Brome Squares

11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m. / 11 h 30 et 14 h 30 -

North Country Swingers

12 noon & 2 p.m. / 12 h et 14 h -

Rainbow Country Cloggers

12:30 p.m. & 3 p.m. / 12 h 30 et 15 h -

Le Vent des Cantons

Beulah United Church / Église unie Beulah

1:30 p.m. / 13 h 30 - Choeur Choromondo Choir

(World music / *musique du monde*, directed by /
sous la direction de Allyna Harris)

2:30 p.m. / 14 h 30 :

David and / *et* Elaine Vachon (folk, bluegrass)

Ayer's Cliff Bandstand /

Kiosque à musique d'Ayer's Cliff

11:30 a.m. / 11 h 30 - Harmonie de Coaticook

(Folk, pop, world - all instrumental /
musique du monde - instrumentale)



Choromondo



Elaine & David Vachon

Lots to do!

By Ronan O'Beirne, T-Day Assistant

Children's Activities

Kids will have plenty to keep themselves occupied and amused on T-Day, so be sure to bring them to:

- The Kiddie Corner, where they can tie-dye T-shirts, get their faces painted, and participate in a bunch of arts & crafts activities.
- An inflatable bouncy castle, by the Children's Corner.
- The Animal Corner with Ben Cunnington, where they can meet and greet a wide range of barnyard animals, including bunnies, chickens, a pony and an alpaca!
- Free wagon rides around the Fairgrounds!

Youth Activities

Not to be left out, the youth of the Townships will have their hands full at Townshippers' Day 2009! Some of the activities they can check out on the big day are:

- Exhibits in the Youth Building, featuring job opportunities, artisans and groups from Champlain Regional College – Lennoxville and Bishop's University.
- A softball game in the afternoon, featuring the Astral Media Softball Team, made up of staff from Virgin, CHOM and CJAD radio stations in Montreal, and the Ayer's Cliff Blues.
- Dunk tank – Throw a ball at a target and someone gets wet!

Seniors' Activities

With the Main Building of the Fairgrounds set aside for them, Townships seniors will have an absolute bundle of fun and informative things to do. Here are just some of the events lined up for them:

- Door prizes with health items
- Old Tyme music by The Castaways
- Exercise class with the Flame
- Music by Janice Graham of Sawyerville
- Glucose testing by Diabète Estrie

Don't Forget...

Everyone, young and old, can participate in many of the T-Day activities. Sentiers Massawippi will be hosting two walks on the Tomifobia Nature Trail: one with information on the beautiful surroundings (1 p.m.), and another featuring local history (2 p.m.). Also, be sure to swing by the Ayer's Cliff Library, at the corner of Main & Tyler streets (just turn left out of the Fairgrounds). The Library will be open for the duration of T-Day, featuring a used book sale and an array of fascinating historical documents from the town.



Photo: Ronan O'Beirne

Make sure to come by the Ayer's Cliff library on T-Day for a fascinating glimpse into this town's storied history.

Beaucoup de choses à faire!

Par Ronan O'Beirne, adjoint à la journée-T

Activités pour les enfants

Les enfants auront plein de choses à faire pour se tenir occupés et s'amuser pendant la Journée-T; donc assurez-vous de les amener :

- Au Coin des enfants, où ils pourront nouer-lier-teindre des t-shirts, se faire maquiller le visage et participer à un tas d'activités artistiques et d'artisanat.
- Au Coin des animaux, avec Ben Cunnington, où ils pourront se familiariser avec un vaste éventail d'animaux de ferme ou de basse-cour, incluant des lapins, des poulets, un poney et un alpaga!
- Un jeu gonflable près du Coin des enfants
- Faire des randonnées gratuites en chariot autour des terrains de l'Exposition!

Activités pour les jeunes

Pour ne pas être en reste, les jeunes des Cantons-de-l'Est en auront plein les bras à la Journée des Townshippers 2009! Parmi les activités qu'ils ne voudront pas manquer le grand jour, mentionnons :

- Les expositions dans le pavillon Jeunesse, comprenant des offres d'emploi, des artisans et des groupe du Collège régional Champlain – campus de Lennoxville et de l'université Bishop's.
- Une partie de balle-molle dans l'après-midi, mettant en vedette l'équipe de balle-molle Astral Media, composée d'employés des stations de radio Virgin, CHOM et CJAD de Montréal et l'équipe locale Ayer's Cliff Blues.
- Plouf – Atteignez la cible, la trappe s'ouvre et quelqu'un tombe à l'eau!



Activités pour les aînés

Avec le pavillon principal des terrains de l'Exposition réservé à leur intention, les aînés des Cantons-de-l'Est auront un programme complet de choses amusantes et instructives à faire. Voici un échantillon d'activités prévues à leur intention :

- Des prix présence avec articles santé
- De la musique du bon vieux temps avec les *Castaways*
- Une classe d'exercices avec *The Flame*
- De la musique par Janice Graham de Sawyerville
- Des tests de glucose par Diabète Estrie

À ne pas oublier ...

Tout le monde, jeune et moins jeune, peut participer à de nombreuses activités de la Journée-T. Les Sentiers Massawippi accueilleront deux randonnées pédestres sur le Sentier nature Tomifobia : un avec de l'information sur les environs magnifiques (13 h) et un autre consacré à l'histoire locale (14 h). Aussi, n'oubliez pas de faire une saucette à la Bibliothèque d'Ayer's Cliff, au coin des rues Principale et Tyler (tournez à gauche en sortant des terrains de l'Exposition). La Bibliothèque sera ouverte pendant toute la durée de la Journée-T; elle tiendra une vente de livres usagés et présentera un ensemble de documents historiques fascinants sur la municipalité.

Shhh... we're auctioning...

By Ronan O'Beirne, T-Day Assistant

Townshippers' Day Ayer's Cliff will feature one of the best-loved events from T-Days past – the silent auction! This year's auction is already racking up some very exciting items, and the deadline for submissions is yet to come, so keep bringing them in!

Bidding at the auction will be open from 9 a.m. – when the T-Day site opens – until 3 in the afternoon. Items will be available to view in the Horticultural Building on the Ayer's Cliff Fairgrounds (see site map, page 24), so come by and bid on such enticing items as hockey sticks, a brand new blender, a granite countertop and a rail pass for a lovely trip on the Windsor-Quebec City corridor, courtesy VIA Rail. And so much more!

Proceeds from the silent auction help support Townshippers' Day/Youth Townships, so both donors and buyers can know their contributions go to a good cause – while getting a good deal on some very special items. Do you have something to contribute to the silent auction? You can drop it off at Townshippers' Association, 257 Queen, in Lennoxville. The deadline for donations is September 15, so you've still got a bit of time!

Below is a sampling of items donated so far. The list will only get bigger, so make sure to check www.tday.ca for updates!

- Brand new Hamilton Beach blender
- Wine-making kit
- Vacuum cleaner from Canadian Tire
- Subscription to the *Stanstead Journal*
- Granite counter top, by Granit Design
- A machine-stitched, hand-tied quilt by Esther Basset
- Passes to play 18 holes at the Dufferin Heights Country Club
- Uncorrected proof copy of Louise Penny's new novel, *The Brutal Telling*
- Collectible coins and stamps from Canada Post
- \$70 discount on one night's stay for two at *Simplement Jeanne*
- One-day passes to *Bleu Lavande*
- SherWood hockey ticks
- VIA Rail gift certificate
- Lots of cool stuff from Bombardier Recreational Products

Shut!... nous misons...

Par Ronan O'Beirne, adjoint à la Journée-T

La Journée des Townshippers Ayer's Cliff mettra à l'affiche une des activités les plus Ltaproot prisées des dernières Journées-T – l'encan silencieux! L'encan de cette année est déjà en train d'accumuler quelques pièces des plus excitantes et, comme le délai pour soumettre des articles n'est pas encore expiré, apportez-nous-en!

Les enchères seront ouvertes à compter de 9 h – heure d'ouverture du site de la Journée-T – jusqu'à 15 heures dans l'après midi. On pourra examiner les articles dans le bâtiment de l'Horticulture sur les terrains de l'Exposition d'Ayer's Cliff (voir le plan du site, page 24); donc, venez faire un tour et misez sur des articles séduisants, comme des bâtons de hockey, un mélangeur tout neuf, un comptoir de granit et un laissez-passer pour un agréable voyage en train sur le corridor Québec-Windsor, courtoisie de Via Rail, et bien d'autres choses encore!

Les recettes de l'encan silencieux seront utilisées au soutien de la Journée des Townshippers/des Jeunes des Townships, donc autant les donateurs que les acheteurs sauront que leurs contributions servent à une bonne cause – tout en faisant de bonnes aubaines sur certains articles très spéciaux. Possédez-vous quelque chose que vous pourriez donner à l'encan silencieux? Vous pouvez venir le porter à l'Association des Townshippers, 257, rue Queen, Sherbrooke (arrondissement de Lennoxville). La date limite pour la réception des dons est le 15 septembre, vous avez donc encore un peu de temps devant vous!

Ci-dessous, un échantillon des articles donnés jusqu'à maintenant. La liste ne peut que s'allonger; donc assurez-vous d'en vérifier les mises à jour sur le site www.tday.ca!

- Un mélangeur Hamilton Beach tout neuf
- Tout le nécessaire pour faire du vin
- Un aspirateur, de Canadian Tire
- Un abonnement au *Stanstead Journal*
- Un comptoir de granit, de Granit Design
- Une courtépoinde piqué à la machine et noué à la main, par Esther Basset
- Des droits de jeu de 18 trous au Club de golf Dufferin Heights
- Une épreuve non corrigée du nouveau roman de Louise Penny, *The Brutal Telling*
- Une collection de pièces de monnaie et de timbres de Postes Canada
- Un rabais de 70 \$ pour un séjour d'une nuit pour deux au gîte touristique *Simplement Jeanne*
- Des laissez-passer d'une journée à *Bleu Lavande*
- Des bâtons d'hockey de SherWood
- Un certificat-cadeau de VIA Rail

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Arts Gala and *Taproot IV* Launch

By Brenda Hartwell, *Taproot IV* co-editor

Celebration is in the air! Festivities to mark the Association's 30th anniversary will kick off T-Day with an Arts Gala and the Launch of *Taproot IV: Poetry, Prose, and Images from the Eastern Townships* on Friday, September 18, at 7 p.m.

The original *Taproot* anthology was printed 10 years ago as part of Townshippers' Association's 20th anniversary celebrations. We are truly fortunate to have a regional association which recognizes the vital contribution artists and writers bring to a culture, and how essential they are to a vibrant society. Townshippers' Association has stood solidly behind the *Taproot* initiative by acting as publisher for all four volumes, actively promoting the creative arts within our community, so it is with great joy that we launch our newest anthology as part of the Association's 30th anniversary celebrations.

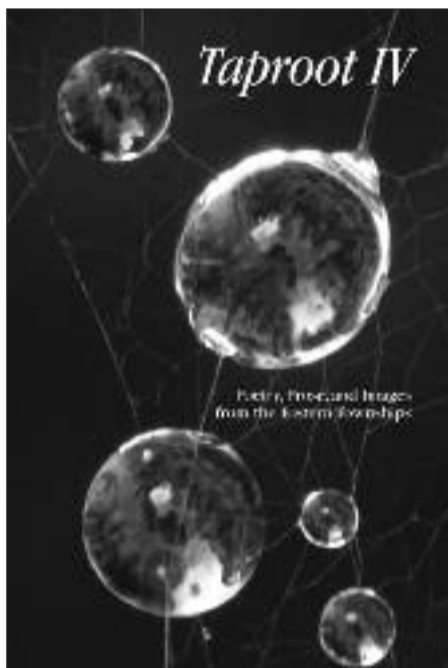
Taproot IV: Poetry, Prose, and Images from the Eastern Townships has been a labour of love for its editors Brenda Hartwell, Carolyn Rowell and Ann Scowcroft. After sifting through a towering pile of potential material, they have compiled an eclectic and exciting mix of poetry, stories and photographs. The work contained in this volume is not bound together by a common thread or design; it is a sampling of masterful work created by people who live at least part of their lives in Quebec's Eastern Townships. It is a celebration of form, theme, setting, style, and language. *Taproot IV* contains pieces that will touch your heart with their beauty, diversions to tickle your funny bone, and works that will surprise you with apt metaphors and unique insights. And thanks to the generosity of Townshippers Research & Cultural Foundation, Literacy in Action, and our private patrons, we are able to offer up this unique collection of local works at an affordable price!

This summer may have been one of the wettest in memory, but it has not dampened our collective creative spirit. In fact, we will gather to rejoice and celebrate our vibrant culture on **Friday September 18 at 7 p.m. in the Old Union Church Hall in Massawippi (On Route 208, near Route 143).**

The program will feature both words and music. Several *Taproot* contributors will read samples of their work and local singer/songwriters will provide musical interludes. Visual artists whose work has been selected for past and present *Taproot* covers (Barbara Verity, Denis Palmer, Bernice Sorge, and Dade Dudgeon) will provide a rich visual backdrop to the evening by hanging a few of their pieces upon the walls. Following the program, guests are invited to meet the writers, artists and musicians and schmooze over refreshments. *Taproot IV* will be on sale for the very first time that evening and all the following day at the Townships Expressions booth on the T-Day site.

Forget the rain and put on your glad rags! It's time to fete the creative soul of our community. Works from this region merit a showcase and a celebration, soooo let's party!

If you are unable to attend the launch or T-Day, *Taproot IV* will be on sale at local bookstores in early October. For your shopping convenience, we also accept mail orders. For more information, please contact Cathy Turner at 819-566-5717 (toll free 1-866-566-5717) or email ct@townshippers.qc.ca. Order several copies—they make wonderful, affordable Christmas gifts!



Gala des arts et lancement de *Taproot IV*

Par Brenda Hartwell, coéditrice de *Taproot IV*

L'air est aux célébrations! Les festivités soulignant le 30e anniversaire de l'Association marqueront le coup d'envoi de la Journée-T avec un gala des arts et le lancement de *Taproot IV: Poetry, Prose, and Images from the Eastern Townships* le vendredi 18 septembre, à 19 h.

La première anthologie *Taproot* a été imprimée il y a dix ans dans le cadre des célébrations du 20e anniversaire de l'Association des Townshippers. Nous avons vraiment la chance d'avoir une association régionale qui sait reconnaître la contribution vitale que des artistes et des écrivains apportent à la culture et à quel point ceux-ci sont essentiels à une société dynamique. L'Association des Townshippers a soutenu fermement l'initiative *Taproot* en agissant comme maison d'édition des quatre volumes et en se faisant activement la promotrice des arts et de la créativité au sein de notre communauté, de sorte que c'est avec une immense joie que nous lançons notre toute dernière anthologie dans le cadre des célébrations du 30e anniversaire de l'Association.

Taproot IV: Poetry, Prose, and Images from the Eastern Townships est le fruit d'un travail d'amour de ses éditrices Brenda Hartwell, Carolyn Rowell et Ann Scowcroft. Après avoir passé au crible une imposante masse de matériel potentiel, elles ont compilé un mélange éclectique et excitant de poésie, de récits et de photographies. Les œuvres contenues dans ce volume ne sont pas reliées par un fil conducteur commun ou par un plan d'ensemble; il s'agit d'un échantillonnage d'œuvres magistrales créées par des gens qui vivent ou ont vécu au moins en partie leurs vies dans les Cantons-de-l'Est du Québec. Il s'agit d'une célébration de la forme, du thème, du décor, du style et de la langue. *Taproot IV* contient des pièces qui vont toucher votre cœur par leur beauté, des divertissements qui vont titiller votre fibre espiègle et des œuvres qui vous surprendront par la pertinence de leurs métaphores et la profondeur unique de leur propos. Et grâce à la générosité de la Fondation des gens des Cantons-de-l'Est pour la recherche et la culture, de *Literacy in Action* et de nos parrains privés, nous sommes en mesure de vous offrir cette collection unique d'œuvres locales et ce, à un prix abordable!

Cet été aura peut-être été, de mémoire, l'un des plus pluvieux que nous ayons connu, mais il n'aura pas refroidi pour autant notre esprit créateur collectif. En fait, nous nous rassemblerons pour nous réjouir et célébrer notre culture dynamique le **vendredi 18 septembre, à 19 h, à la salle de l'église Old Union à Massawippi (sur la route 208, près de la route 143).**

Le programme comprendra des paroles et de la musique. Plusieurs contributeurs de *Taproot* liront des extraits de leurs œuvres et des chanteurs/chansonniers locaux présenteront des intermèdes musicaux. Les artistes des arts visuels dont les œuvres ont été retenues pour les pages couvertures des anciens *Taproot* comme du nouveau (Barbara Verity, Denis Palmer, Bernice Sorge et Dade Dudgeon) fourniront un riche décor visuel à la soirée en accrochant quelques pièces sur les murs de la salle. À la suite du lancement proprement dit, les invités seront invités à rencontrer auteurs, artistes et musiciens et à jaser en prenant des rafraîchissements. *Taproot IV* sera en vente pour la première fois le soir même et toute la journée du lendemain au stand d'Expressions des Cantons sur le site de la Journée-T.

Oubliez la pluie et mettez vos belles fringues! C'est le temps de rendre hommage à la créativité au sein de notre communauté. Les œuvres produites dans cette région méritent une vitrine et une célébration, alors faisons la fête!

Si vous n'êtes pas en mesure d'être présents au lancement ou à la Journée-T, *Taproot IV* sera en vente dans les librairies locales à compter du début d'octobre. Pour votre commodité, nous acceptons les commandes par la poste. Pour plus d'information, veuillez communiquer avec Cathy Turner au numéro 819-566-5717 (sans frais : 1-866-566-5717) ou par courriel à l'adresse ct@townshippers.qc.ca. Commandez-en plusieurs exemplaires – ils feront de merveilleux cadeaux de Noël et ce, à prix modique!

Exhibitors Galore!

By Ronan O'Beirne, T-Day Assistant

The exhibitors all promise to be star attractions at Townshippers' Day this year. With close to one hundred artisans, community groups, heritage groups and others, there's guaranteed to be something for everyone to enjoy.

More than 40 artisans have signed up to come sell their handiwork, and what a selection they have to offer! Honey products from *Miel Pur Delice*, gourmet jellies from the Veranda Boutique, children's clothing from *La Petite Souris*, and a sampling of regulars from the much-loved Ayer's Cliff Farmer's Market. There's much, much more - we couldn't even try to fit them all into this newspaper.

Other exhibitors include government agencies, schools, and businesses. Get information on job and education opportunities in the Townships and government services.

While you're in the Horticultural Building for the silent auction, make sure to have a gander at the many historical societies who will have set up shop. More than ten of them will be there, from all over the Townships: Lennoxville, Magog, Stanstead - everywhere! Stop by and chat about what's new on the heritage scene.

Of special note - Townships Expressions, Townshippers' Association and Desjardins will be in the exhibit area B. We hope to see you there.

All the exhibitors will be scattered across the Fairgrounds, so make sure you come by the buildings marked A, B and C on the site map (see page 28). Don't forget about the midway, either, where we'll have close to a dozen *more* exhibitors to catch your eye.

Exposants à profusion!

Par Ronan O'Beirne, adjoint à la Journée-T

Les exposants promettent tous d'être les attractions vedettes à la Journée des Townshippers cette année. Avec près d'une centaine d'artisans, groupes communautaires, sociétés d'histoire et autres, il y en aura pour tous les goûts, c'est garanti!

Plus de 40 artisans se sont inscrits pour offrir en vente leurs œuvres et c'est tout un choix qu'ils ont à offrir! Les produits du miel de *Miel pur délice*, des gelées gourmandes de la Boutique Veranda, des vêtements pour enfants de *La Petite Souris*, et un échantillon de producteurs réguliers du très apprécié Marché de la ferme d'Ayer's Cliff. Et encore beaucoup, beaucoup d'autres - nous ne pouvons même pas tenter de les insérer tous dans cet article.

Parmi les autres exposants, mentionnons des agences gouvernementales, des écoles et des entreprises... l'endroit idéal pour obtenir de l'information sur les possibilités d'emploi et de formation dans les Cantons et les services gouvernementaux.

Pendant que vous êtes dans le Pavillon de l'Horticulture pour l'encan silencieux, ne manquez pas de filer un coup d'œil vers les sociétés d'histoire qui y ont établi boutique. Une dizaine d'entre elles seront là, de tous les coins des Cantons-de-l'Est : Lennoxville, Magog, Stanstead - partout! Arrêtez-vous un instant pour jaser sur ce qui se passe de neuf sur la scène du patrimoine.

À noter tout spécialement - Expressions des Townships, l'Association des Townshippers et Desjardins seront sur place dans l'aire d'exposition du Pavillon B. Nous espérons vous y voir.

Tous les exposants seront éparpillés un peu partout sur les terrains de l'Exposition; donc, assurez-vous de vous rendre vers les pavillons identifiés par les lettres A, B et C sur le plan du site (voir page 28). Ne manquez pas aussi la zone des jeux forains, où il y aura une douzaine d'exposants *supplémentaires* pour vous en mettre plein la vue.



Brown



Thompson

PLAY SPORTS, SEE MY FRIENDS,
TRAVEL AROUND, STOP WORKING,
I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.

BUT MAKING SURE I HAVE INCOME FOR LIFE
TO ENJOY MY RETIREMENT TO THE FULLEST,
I CANNOT DO THAT ALONE.

Retirement can last a long time! Making sure you have enough money to enjoy it, that's important.

When I meet with people like Mrs. Brown and Mr Thompson, I take time to discuss their dreams, their projects and their finances. I often notice that it would be to their advantage to have a financial cushion within their retirement income plan. I then suggest they include a life annuity from Desjardins Financial Security.

Knowing that you have a guaranteed stream of income to cover your basic needs is reassuring.

And you, have you thought about a life annuity to cover your current expenses to age 83, 87... 93, 98, 102?

MEET WITH YOUR FINANCIAL PLANNER.

For managing your assets, it's more than a bank. It's Desjardins.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

▣ LIFE ANNUITIES

desjardins.com/yourassets



Desjardins

Conjuguer avoirs et êtres

* The Financial planner represents Desjardins Financial Services Firm Inc.

OUTSTANDING!

The Outstanding Townshippers Banquet June 12 at the Estrimont Suites & Spa highlighted the contributions of five award recipients: Alice Gunhouse in supporting natural caregivers, Denis Palmer in creating art that mirrored and fostered community life, Maureen Quigg in fostering cancer awareness and support for research, Judith (Judy) Ross in supporting persons dealing with mental illness, and Martha Shufelt in literacy.

The nominators of Alice Gunhouse cited her 11 years of varied, compassionate and arduous volunteer work with the Brome-Missisquoi Caregiver Support Group, opening its doors to the English-speaking community in the region. "She convinced me," declared Sonia Lessard of the Brome-Missisquoi Caregivers Support Group, "that it's not even possible to question the necessity of bilingual services... Ten years later, I am proud to say that everything at the Regroupement exists in English as well as in French."

Denis Palmer of Sawyerville was nominated for his decades of community-oriented artwork. Again and again, he generously donated his skills and time for community causes. But more than that, he created a body of work that is imbued with his love of his community and his close observation of it. Jackie Hyman sketched the portrait of Denis Palmer, "the best figurative artist in the Townships." His humble acceptance speech closed with the admonition "if you see me drawing you – please hold still."

Maureen Quigg was acknowledged for her creative and active approach to a variety of cancer-related endeavours. Her nominators described her as a concerned health professional, dynamic volunteer, excellent communicator, a cheerful, calm organizer, and a role model for healthy active living. "There are so many fine, wonderful people doing fine, wonderful things," she declared as she accepted her plaque from Michael van Lierop, president, and Brenda Hartwell, member of the Community & Culture Committee.

Judith (Judy) Ross's nomination was motivated by her decade of innovative work to create a support network in the Estrie region for English-speaking persons dealing with mental illness. Despite seemingly overwhelming difficulties, her determined and courageous efforts led to the creation of Mental Health Estrie, which is today a non-profit charitable organization offering support groups, activities, a resource centre and educational events for hun-



Photo: Barbara Lavoie

2009 Outstanding Townshippers Martha Shufelt, Maureen Quigg, Judy Ross, Denis Palmer and Alice Gunhouse.

dreds of people. "One person can make a difference," Judy said after accepting her award, "but it takes a group to make an impact, and an impact is what's needed."

For 25 years, Martha Shufelt has been active in varied community initiatives, but most notably in her work at the Yamaska Literacy Council, where she has served on the board of directors, taught one-on-one, recruited, done publicity, trained tutors, trained students to train peers, and been a spokesperson and scout for literacy. She was a driving force in developing the Literacy Volunteers of Quebec, a provincial umbrella organization. Presenter Marie Watier described Martha Shufelt as "a diminutive woman of many talents." An active volunteer with an untold number of groups, Martha wondered "I don't know why everybody doesn't volunteer. Volunteering isn't about what you give, it's about what you get back."

"Our community is truly fortunate to have such outstanding people working for us," said Rachel Garber, executive director.

Supporting Partners / Partenaires de soutien

Townshippers' Association relies on the generous support of many businesses, organizations and individuals for Townshippers' Day, Youth Townships and Taproot IV. Our most sincere thanks!

L'Association des Townshippers compte sur l'appui généreux de plusieurs entreprises, organismes et individus pour la Journée des Townshippers, Jeunes des Cantons et Taproot IV. Nos plus sincères remerciements!



- Granit Design • IGA Gazaille (Magog & Knowlton) • Kezber 1 Solutions • Memphrémagog MRC • The Record • The Townships Outlet • Everest Equipment Co. • Jean Charest, le premier ministre et député de Sherbrooke • Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, Présidente du Conseil du trésor, Ministre responsable de l'Administration gouvernementale, Ministre de la région de l'Estrie et député de Saint-François • Pierre Paradis, député de Brome-Missisquoi • Pétroles W.W. Crook • The Townships Sun •

Thanks to our many other contributors – including donors to the Silent Auction – and thank YOU for your \$2 parking donation! / Merci à nos nombreux autres contributeurs – incluant ceux et celles qui ont contribué à l'Encan silencieux – et à VOUS pour votre don de 2 \$ pour le stationnement!

Wonderful Works by Townships Writers and Musicians

By Bev Taber Smith

Townships Expressions has a wealth of local books and CDs to satisfy all your tastes, so stop by the Townships Expressions booth on T-Day. You will be amazed at the wonderful talent of local musicians and writers. Any one of the new books (mentioned below) will become a treasured part of any library.

Fifty Years but not yet Extinct, published by the St. Francis Valley Naturalists' Club shows that members have done more than just watch birds. They identified the Johnville Bog and the Kateville Marsh (L'île du marais) as very special ecosystems and were influential in having them proclaimed conservation areas. Graphs and spreadsheets of evolving bird populations, news clippings, photos and carefully researched information make this a fun-to-read book and an important contribution to local history.

My Father's People by Joan Windle Barnes is the story of Joan's grandparents, Sam and Pearle Windle, and their lives in Bolton and Knowlton. The

book follows the family line back to the earliest settlers in the area and is full of fascinating Townships history, including many historic photos.

The Vermont-Quebec Border: Life on the Line, by Matthew Farfan, is a visual record of life in the villages, towns and countryside in a unique part of the world – the region that spans the imaginary line separating Quebec from Vermont. The border has played an important role in the history and the everyday lives of people living along its length – in communities in both Vermont and Quebec, and it will undoubtedly continue to shape these communities in the years to come. This book includes about 200 rare early images from northern Vermont and the Eastern Townships of Quebec and offers insights on a range of issues, including customs, security, smuggling, cross-border trade, international friendship and cooperation.

Townships Expressions has two additions to its large collection of local musical talent. *My Name is Amos* by Amos Joannides demonstrates the love



Credit: Arcadia Press

affair that Amos has with his guitar. In travels from Europe to Thailand, and endless Greyhounds throughout the United States, he came to understand that music is a master means of communication. In time, Amos stumbled upon the healing qualities of music and vibration. Music for Amos has come to symbolize health, peace, wholeness and integrity. This might be what draws his fans so close.

Over the Bridge by Michael Ayles, our second new CD, features a mix of instrumental pieces both traditional and more recent compositions. You will hear Michael on voice, flute and banjo, as well as Yann Falquet (guitar), David Clark (fiddle) and Paddy League (bodhran). Originally drawn to the folk world by an interest in Irish music, Michael first came to hear Quebecois music at the sessions in Montreal where he played regularly. Since then, he has devoted himself to absorbing as much of the two different repertoires as possible, learning countless dance tunes and songs in both idioms.

With over 100 books and CDs on display, obviously we cannot sing the praises of each and every one. There's only one solution: come and browse this immense and interesting selection of local talent at the Townships Expressions tables in Exhibitor's Building B. For gift-giving anytime, stop in at the TA office or visit our webpage www.townshippers.qc.ca/C-townshipse.aspx.

Cultural Partners

Townshippers' Association's cultural partners provide a 10% discount on regularly priced tickets to Association members upon presentation of your membership card. Here is a sample of what our partners have to offer. Check out their websites for more information!

Arts Sutton Gallery
www.artssutton.com

Piggery Theatre
www.piggery.com

Centennial Theatre
www.centennialtheatre.ca

Sunshine Theatre Productions
www.sunnymead.org/sunshine

Musique chez nous
www.ubishops.ca/ccc/cultural/mcn

Knowlton Players:
www.knowltonplayers.com

Orford Arts
www.arts-orford.org

Theatre Lac Brome
www.theatrelacbrome.com

Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke
www.mbas.qc.ca

Orchestre Symphonique de Sherbrooke
www.css-oss.com

September 13, The Orchestre Symphonique de Sherbrooke presents *Tour du monde en dansant* at the Frontenac Esplanade outdoor concert at Cite des Rivières (in case of rain it will be at the Granada Theatre). This will be followed by Vivaldi's Four Seasons on September 19 at 8 p.m. at the Salle Maurice O'Bready at the University of Sherbrooke.



A Country Music Concert, Piggery Theatre, at 8 p.m. on October 18 featuring Doc Walker, 2009 Country Recording of the Year Juno Award winner.



Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy at Centennial Theatre on Wednesday September 30 at 8 p.m.



If you did not get to see the summer-long exhibition by Sutton resident John Ballantyne at the Sherbrooke Fine Arts Museum, you still have a chance to go. His beautiful paintings of Eastern Townships fairground buildings and other landscapes remain on display until October 6.

Have a Question? Get an answer... In English

By Evelina Smith, Information & Referral Coordinator

Are you looking for an English-speaking family therapist? Would you like to have a pre-natal course in English? Are you new to the area and would like to know about cultural events? Or do you want to find an organization to advise you on career opportunities? If so, contact Townshippers' Association's Information & Referral Service!

The Information & Referral Coordinator has a dedicated phone line and email address, and a confidential answering machine in case you would like to leave a message after hours. If we don't know the answer we will direct you to someone who can help you. The service is free, it's confidential, and it's in English!

To reach the Information & Referral Service call 819-566-2182 or toll free 1-877-566-2182. The email address is info@townshippers.qc.ca.



Do you have a question regarding a legal matter? We know someone who can help...

For the fourth consecutive year, Townshippers' Association, in collaboration with the Université de Sherbrooke's law faculty, is pleased to offer a legal information service in its Sherbrooke office. The service will begin in September and run until the end of March 2010.

This year we are pleased to welcome Mathieu Tanguay as our law student. Mathieu will be available to give information on subjects related to various legal questions. However, as a student, he will not be able to give legal counsel or advice.

To reach Mathieu you can call him at 819-566-2182 or toll free 1-877-566-2182. You can also email him at legalinfo@townshippers.qc.ca. All calls and emails are strictly confidential.

Mathieu will have regular office hours established shortly. To find out his office hours, simply call the number above.

The English-Speaking Community, Historical Eastern Townships

First Official Language Spoken (2006 Census)
Design & Layout: G.D. Myers (1999)
Townshippers' Association, 2008



Totals: 42,285 English-speaking / 677,555 Total Population (6.24%)

Number of English speakers

8,490 (19.2%)

% of total population in MRC

The map shows the number and percentage of English speakers in each of the MRCs in the historical Eastern Townships. The 2006 census revealed population numbers very similar to those of 2001. Of note is that the population numbers fell in Sherbrooke and rose in the Coaticook MRC because Waterville moved from the Sherbrooke MRC to join the Coaticook MRC between the 2001 and 2006 censuses.

With Respect to Our Elders

Avec respect pour nos Aînés

Townshippers' Association's new intergenerational program for seniors and more!

Le Secrétariat aux aînés and the RESPECT project

Townshippers' Association is one of three community organizations in the *Estrée* region to receive funding under the Québec government's *Soutien aux Initiatives visant le Respect des Aînés* program. Our project is called With Respect to Our Elders, or the RESPECT project for short. Over the next three years, we will be working in all parts of the historical Eastern Townships, inviting people of different ages to get together and appreciate one another in new ways.

The Importance of Partnering

Partnering to create new programs is an important aspect of the RESPECT project. Together with CSSSs, schools, volunteers and other organizations, we collaborate on projects such as:

The *Seniors are Cool* project in Stanstead, where younger and older people will be interviewing one another to produce a book and a multimedia presentation.

The *Adopt a Grandparent, Adopt a Grandchild* project in Cowansville and other parts of the Montérégie region.

And others are in the works!

Intergenerational Gatherings!

Q. Where would you find a group of fascinating people...ages ranging from 3 to 98 years old...sitting in a circle...learning about their talents, their

passions and their connections together?

A. At the next Intergenerational Trails Council meeting on Wednesday September 23 at 7 p.m. at the Amédée-Beaudoin Community Centre, 10 rue Samuel-Gratham, Lennoxville.

Q. Where did you find over 40 musicians and dancers of all ages and musical styles, drumming and song-writing workshops, great food, great door prizes and more?

A. At last spring's Great Intergenerational Music Festival! This fall's event promises to be even more spectacular. The New Great Intergenerational Music Festival! All free! On Saturday and Sunday November 14 and 15 at the Amédée-Beaudoin Community Centre, 10 rue Samuel-Gratham, Lennoxville.

The RESPECT project coordinator

Eric Akbar Manolson received his first grant to create a *Community Activity and Resource Exchange* project in 1975 in Sutton. Since then he has worked widely in hospitals, seniors' residences and day care centres, successfully ran his

own business and coordinated a series of participatory music/dance events at the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta, Georgia. To reach Eric, please call Townshippers' Association at 819-566-5717 (toll-free 1-866-566-5717) or e-mail hal@townshippers.qc.ca.



Eric Akbar Manolson, RESPECT project Coordinator.

Photo: Mahicans Diamond



Eloah, our youngest participant, was a three-year-old boy.

Photo: Barbara Lavoie

The Intergenerational Wisdom Story Contest

If you were walking down a country road with someone you cared about who was either 50 years older or 50 years younger than you, and you could share one story about one thing important to you that you learned in your life, what would it be?

Send your submission to Eric Akbar Manolson, Respect project coordinator, at hal@townshippers.qc.ca, drop it off on Townshippers' Day at either the TA booth or at the Seniors' Activities' building, or bring it in person to Townshippers' Association at the head office in Sherbrooke or the Montérégie office in Brome Lake.

Stories will be judged by their ability to inspire people, their sincerity and their enjoyableness. Prizes will be given for the top 20 stories. Judges' decisions will be final. Enter as often as you like.

We are looking for you...

The RESPECT project is looking for someone for the following part-time positions:

- Program specialist,
- Music and artistic specialist,
- Person with strong design and computer skills

If you have relevant experience and enjoy working with people of all ages, please contact Eric Akbar Manolson at 819-566-5717 (toll-free 1-866-566-5717) or hal@townshippers.qc.ca.

PLUS: The RESPECT project regularly needs seasoned volunteers with imagination and networking skills to be part of our team, and to help set up programs for isolated seniors in different areas of the Townships.

Appreciation

With Respect to Our Elders is made possible in part by support from the *Secrétariat aux aînés* of the *Ministère de la Famille et des Aînés*, Government of Quebec.

Is it possible to have fun over 90?

Photo: Barbara Lavoie

➔ And don't forget your heirloom baking recipes for the Intergenerational Cookie Contest and Holiday Feast, coming to the Estrie and the Montérégie East regions! (See photo opposite.)

Partners for Health & Social Services

Over the past five years, Townshippers' Association has hosted two networks in the Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Services project. One was in Montérégie East (Brome-Missisquoi and Haute-Yamaska MRCs) and the other was in the Estrie region. (The Megantic English-speaking Community Development Corporation – MCDC – hosted a third Townships network in the Thetford Mines and surrounding area.)

These networks enabled community groups and public service providers to better work together to improve access to and availability of health and social services in English. Information exchange played a big role – informing service providers about particular needs of various English-speaking communities in the Townships and strategies to meet them, and informing community members about services that are offered and how to obtain them.

This exchange was a rich ground for creating new approaches for improving the health situation of the English-speaking minority in the Townships, which has, on average, lower levels of education, employment and income than the French-speaking majority. Shared initiatives took many forms, some of them enduring well beyond the life of the project. We are extremely grateful for the excellent collaboration of personnel in the CSSSs* and ASSSs** and community groups with whom our coordinators worked, and their willingness and hard work to improve access. This has made our job a pleasure!

Through the Networking & Partnership Initiative, the Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services project was supported by Health Canada, and administered by the Community Health & Social Services Network (CHSSN). We are very grateful for the resources provided by these splendid partners.

Unfortunately, funding was delayed this year for this initiative while a new 4-year funding program was negotiated. We anticipate this program will be up and running in the coming months. For more information, contact



The discussion was lively among Caroline Viens, chair of the Estrie Network's steering committee; Charles Lamontagne, *agent de planification, de programmation et de recherche* for the ASSS de l'Estrie; Eric A. Manolson, coordinator of the In Respect to Our Elders project; Kate Murray, coordinator of the Montérégie East Network; and Christine Nadeau of the CHSSN. Not pictured: Shannon Keenan, coordinator of the Estrie Network; Nancy Beattie, dean of students at Champlain College – Lennoxville; Kathy Richan, director of Literacy in Action; Norma Husk of Info Santé; and Russ Kueber and Tracey Leotta of the CHSSN.

Shannon Keenan (sk@townshippers.qc.ca, 819-566-5717, toll free 1-866-566-5717) or Kate Murray (km@townshippers.qc.ca, 450-242-4421, toll free 1-877-242-4421).

*CSSS = *Centre de santé et de services sociaux, comprising CLSCs and hospitals in local areas*

**ASSS = *Agence de santé et de services sociaux, coordinating services in an administrative region such as the Estrie or the Montérégie*

Speech therapy in English?

In April, Townshippers' Association set up a month-long speech therapy clinic in Cowansville. It brought five English-speaking speech-therapists-in-training and their supervisor from McGill University to offer their services full-time for school children in the Eastern Townships School Board (ETSB) and the Val des Cerfs School Board.

An immediate outcome? Their supervisor decided to bundle up her considerable expertise and move to the Townships to fill a long-vacant position at the ETSB! Welcome, Jan Claessen!

The speech therapy clinic was part of the Townships-Montérégie Training and Human Resources

Development Project. The "Internships Project" has brought English-speaking health and social services students to the Montérégie East area of the Townships over the past three years. Completing internships in the area is a good way to encourage new graduates to settle in the region and get jobs in Townships institutions. (Until April, the CHUS headed a similar initiative – PRIESH – for the health and social services institutions in the Estrie administrative region. It was coordinated by Cynthia van Vliet.)

"It is very difficult to find professionals who speak both English and French well enough to offer such professional services as speech therapy, social work or nursing, for example," said Michael Caluori who

coordinated the Internships Project for three years. "This project has helped bring such people to the region, people who would normally not have come here to look for a job."

This project was supported by Health Canada, and administered by McGill University. We are very grateful for the resources provided by these splendid partners. However, the future of this project remains uncertain, as a new funding program is still being negotiated. At Townshippers' Association, the project has been coordinated by Michael Caluori (mc@townshippers.qc.ca; 450-242-4421, toll free 1-877-242-4421). Look for news about the Internships Project – we really hope to restore this important initiative!



Bakers and testers at the 2008 edition of the Intergenerational Cookie Contest and Holiday Feast. Photo: Barbara Lavoie

We Can! Act Now.

By Doug Hooper, playwright

Once again, the writing team of Laura Teasdale and Doug Hooper are setting their artistic sights on a social theatre cabaret, the third in a series. *We Can! Act Now.* will be slightly different from the first two. It will revolve around the problems of a young professional woman who feels powerless to change a world she finds troublesome and depressing.

Through her personal acceptance that she can make a difference, and with the help of others and the community, she not only changes her own world, but also improves the world for others as well.

As always, lively, humorous and original music, dance and drama will make this a show for all, and a fugue-like treatment will give a new and interesting twist to the popular format.

Two years ago, "We Can Act" was conceived as a union of the CLSC with the artistic community to present information in a humorous and entertaining format, in the hopes of increasing awareness and use of health services by English speakers. The show followed characters throughout the important stages of their lives, and presented information about the myriad services

that are available. Thematic and original songs and dances tied the scenes together.

The show's success led to "We Can Act Too," which dealt with the issues of communicating effectively, and taking individual responsibility for health needs.

The shows were well attended by appreciative audiences, and after the shows the majority of audience members reported they were more aware of services, and felt more comfortable about using them.

Audiences will be invited to attend shows in both the Montérégie and Estrie parts of the Townships near the end of November. Hooper and Teasdale are pleased to be once again working together on a project that has been both rewarding to create, and is helpful for the community.

The *We Can! Act Now.* project is carried out by Townshippers' Association and is made possible in part by the collaboration of health and social service partners in the Townships, and by the support of the Community Public Health Strategy of the Community Health & Social Services Network (CHSSN) and Health Canada.



Deal of a Lifetime – Diabetes

For the past two years, Townshippers' Association has participated in the Canadian Diabetes Strategy, a community-based program of the Public Health Agency of Canada. The Quebec initiative for the English-speaking minority is headed by the Canadian Italian Community Services of Quebec in Montreal.

We are very grateful for the resources provided by these splendid partners. Although funding has been delayed this year as a new funding program is being set up, we anticipate participating once again, this time with a focus on informing youth, children and their parents about ways to prevent and detect the onset of diabetes.

At Townshippers' Association, the project is coordinated by Kate Murray (km@townshippers.qc.ca; 450-242-4421, toll free 1-877-242-4421). Look for news about the Deal of a Lifetime – Diabetes.

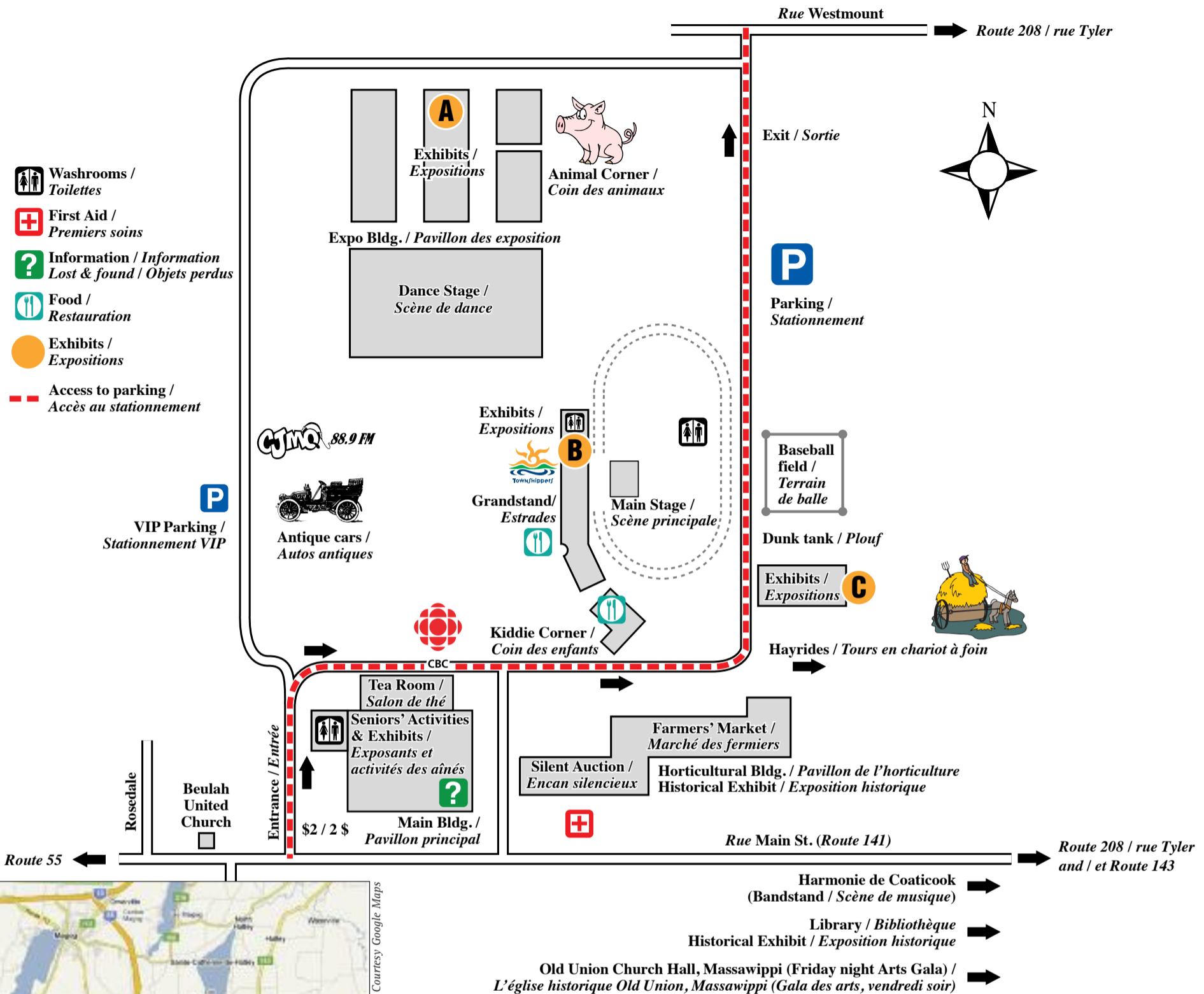


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YAMASKA LITERACY COUNCIL



Directions to Ayer's Cliff

From Montreal and points west

- Take Autoroute 10 East.
- Take Exit 121 to merge onto QC-55 South.
- Take Exit 21 (toward Coaticook/Ayer's Cliff) and turn left on Route 141.
- Follow Route 141 to Ayer's Cliff.
- The Fairgrounds are on Route 141/Main, on your left as you go through town.

From Quebec or points east

- Take Autoroute 20 East.
- Take exit 173 to merge onto QC-55 South.
- Stay on QC-55 South as it merges onto Autoroute 10 West.
- Take Exit 121 to remain on QC-55 South (towards Stanstead and the US border).
- Take Exit 21 (toward Coaticook/Ayer's Cliff) and turn left on Route 141.
- Follow Route 141 to Ayer's Cliff.
- The Fairgrounds are on Route 141/Main, on your left as you go through town.

From Sherbrooke

- Take Wellington south (it becomes Queen Street in Lennoxville).
- Go straight south on Route 143.
- Turn RIGHT onto Route 208/Tyler St.
- Turn RIGHT onto Route 141/Main St.
- The Fairgrounds are on Route 141/Main, on your right as you go through town.

How to get to the Friday evening Arts Gala

- From the Fairgrounds, continue on Main Street (Route 141).
- Turn left onto Tyler Street (Route 208).
- The Old Union Church Hall is #810 on Route 208 in Massawippi, on your right.

Pour se rendre à Ayer's Cliff

De Montréal ou d'ailleurs en provenance de l'ouest

- Prenez l'autoroute 10, direction est
- Prenez la sortie 121 pour rejoindre l'autoroute 55 sud.
- Prenez la sortie 21 (vers Coaticook/Ayer's Cliff) et tournez à gauche sur la route 141.
- Suivez la route 141 jusqu'à Ayer's Cliff.
- Les terrains de l'Exposition sont sur la rue Principale (route 141), à votre gauche au moment où vous traversez la municipalité.

De Québec et d'ailleurs en provenance de l'est

- Prenez l'autoroute 20, direction ouest.
- Prenez la sortie 173 pour rejoindre l'autoroute 55 sud.
- Suivez l'autoroute 55 sud jusqu'à ce qu'elle traverse l'autoroute 10 ouest.
- Demeurez sur l'autoroute 55 au moment où elle se sépare de l'autoroute 10, à la sortie 121 (Stanstead).
- Prenez la sortie 21 (vers Coaticook/Ayer's Cliff) et tournez à gauche sur la route 141.
- Suivez la route 141 jusqu'à Ayer's Cliff.
- Les terrains de l'Exposition sont sur la rue Principale (route 141), à votre gauche au moment où vous traversez la municipalité.

De Sherbrooke

- Prenez la rue Wellington sud (elle deviant la rue Queen à Lennoxville).
- Continuez vers le sud sur la route 143.
- Tournez à droite sur la route 208 / rue Tyler.
- Tournez à droite sur la route 141 / rue Main.
- Les Terrains d'exposition sont sur la route 141 / rue Main, sur votre droit quand vous traversez le village.

Comment vous rendre au Gala des arts du vendredi soir

- Depuis les terrains de l'Exposition, continuez sur la rue Principale (route 141).
- Tournez à gauche sur la rue Tyler (route 208).
- La salle de l'église Old Union est située au 810, route 208 à Massawippi, sur votre droite.