

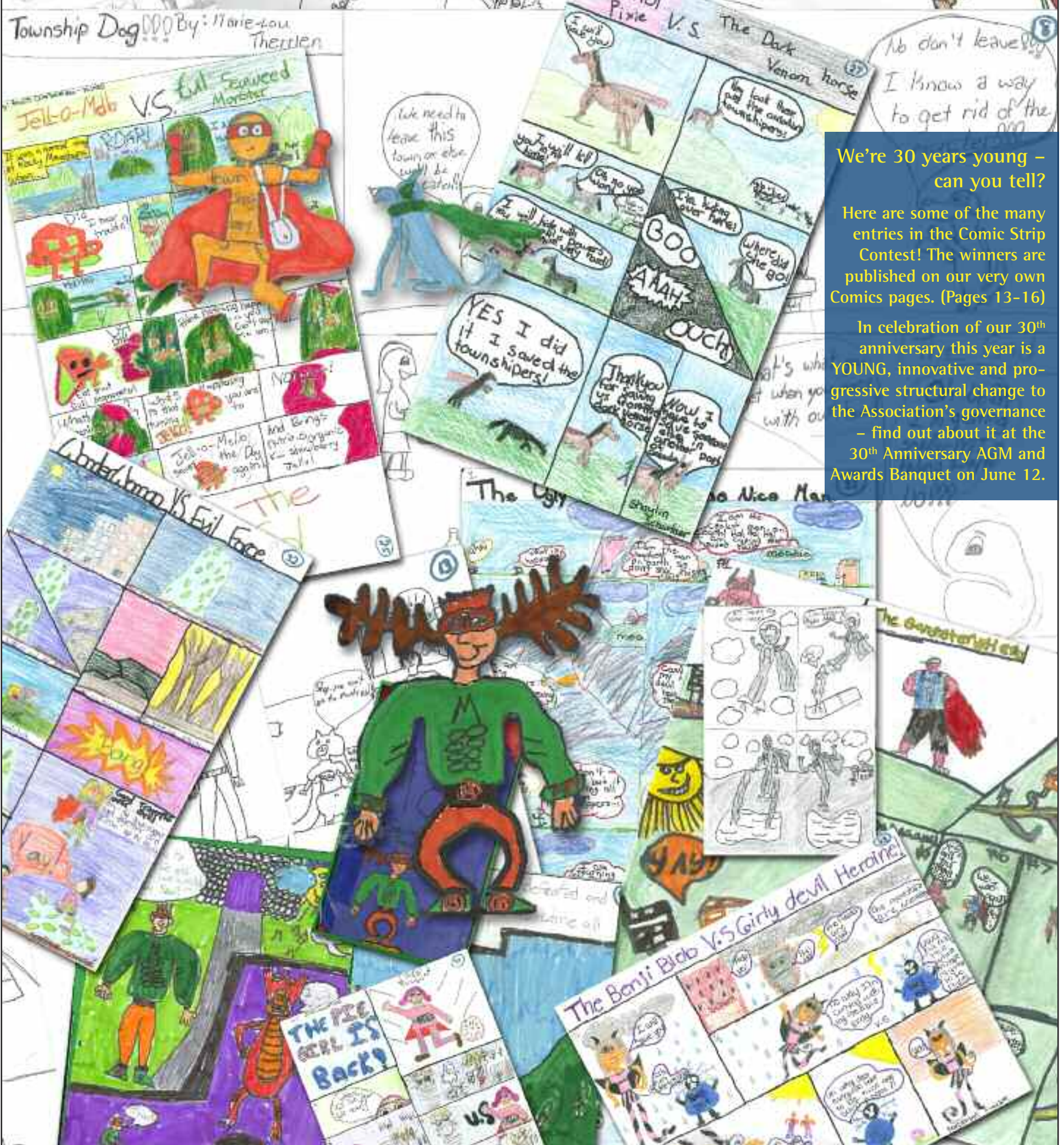


Townshippers

Spring/Summer 2009 Vol. 30, No. 4

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We're 30 years young – can you tell? Here are some of the many entries in the Comic Strip Contest! The winners are published on our very own Comics pages. (Pages 13-16)

In celebration of our 30th anniversary this year is a YOUNG, innovative and progressive structural change to the Association's governance – find out about it at the 30th Anniversary AGM and Awards Banquet on June 12.

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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Young Townships Leaders

By Michael van Lierop, President

For the past several years, Townshippers' Association has been at the forefront of community innovation in youth engagement. What started as a research project in collaboration with Nova Scotia-based HeartWood Centre for Community Youth Development has blossomed into new strategies geared toward increasing youth participation in the Townships English-speaking community, as well as youth engagement in the Association itself. Since then, we have built bridges with a variety of community partners, stakeholders, and funding sources to help support these efforts. Broadly, youth engagement now represents almost 40% of the Association's financial resources and capacity.

At the outset of this adventure, both research and feedback told us one compelling message: that to fully engage youth, you need to do so in a meaningful and



Michael van Lierop and his son Logan.

concrete way, and that it must be structural. In other words, that it was not – and is not – enough to simply find a few token youth to sit on adult-dominated committees and boards, but to listen to the needs and wants of youth themselves and permit them to drive their own agenda. This means making a space for youth within the organization in a permanent, working and collaborative environment. Young English speakers from throughout the region were consulted in focus groups, and a youth task force assessed the feasibility of such a structural shift for the Association, and proposed ways to get it done.

The fruits of this labour will be launched at the Association's AGM on June 12. I'll say no more for now, but make sure you attend the Awards Banquet and AGM to find out about this innovative, forward-thinking change in the Association's governance. Ensuring an active volunteer participation from young Townships leaders who want to – and will – make a difference is core to our values, and core to the success of Townshippers' Association.

In this, Townshippers' Association's 30th Anniversary year, I look forward to seeing you in great numbers at the Young Townships Leaders Awards, the Outstanding Townshippers' Banquet and the Association's AGM on Friday June 12 in Orford. Call today to reserve your place!

30 Years Young

By Rachel Garber, Executive Director



Rachel Garber

How the face of Townshippers' Association has changed in the past decade!

It's intergenerational – I see many more young faces among the older ones. Youth initiatives go beyond talking to young people – they are engaging them in community development, in ways that young people themselves suggest.

Its initiatives are based on research. Now we have a growing body of research that tells the story of the Townships English-speaking community in both numbers and words, and that informs our actions.

More than ever, the face of Townshippers' Association is forward-looking and community-friendly. Witness the Eastern Townships Community Search Conference that it convened, with the collaboration of Bishop's University, Champlain Regional College – Lennoxville, the Dobson-Lagassé Entrepreneurship Centre and the Eastern Townships CEDEC. And witness the outcomes of this grassroots process, in which community members came together to chart a plan of action towards achieving “the most desirable future for a vital English-speaking community in the Eastern Townships in 2014.”

Most of all, I see the Association as a catalyst for change. Yes, our staff members offer information and services that strengthen the quality of life of people in our community. But alongside this work are new collaborative approaches in community building and cultural growth.

To our partners! To our community! To the Townships!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Building Community	p2	Comics Pages	p13
Youth Townships	p6, p12	People Helping People ...	p18
Community & Culture .	p10, 17	Townshippers' Foundation .	p20

30th Anniversary AGM – Like No Other!

Not one but TWO awards ceremonies span the afternoon and evening: a reception at 4 p.m. for our Young Townships Leaders and a banquet at 6 p.m. for our Outstanding Townshippers. Somewhere in there, we'll find time to do a bit of business and spring the mystery announcement!

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of members of Townshippers' Association will take place at the Estrimont Suites & Spa, 44 Avenue de l'Auberge, Orford, on Friday, June 12, 2009, at 5:30 p.m.

For directions, please consult www.estrimont.ca or phone 819-843-1616, toll-free 1-800-567-7320.

Townshippers' Association members in good standing are invited to participate. At this meeting, members receive the annual financial statements, choose an auditor, and elect board members. Plus, this year there will be a VERY special announcement – don't miss it!

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Townshippers' Association invites nominations of candidates from members at large for the Board of Directors. If you are a member in good standing and would like a nomination form, please contact Townshippers' Association at 819-566-2182 (1-866-566-2182) or info@townshippers.qc.ca. The deadline is May 12.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 12–15 volunteer members, who are elected at the Annual General Meeting (June 12, 2009). The Board of Directors is responsible for setting policies and directions for the Association. As a volunteer-led organization, Townshippers' Association relies on civic-minded citizens assuming the responsibilities of good citizenship.

The term of office for all board members is one year. Board members attend 11 board meetings per year. Travel is reimbursed. Should a board member need to pay for babysitting to attend meetings, babysitting expenses are reimbursed as well.

Board members are at the forefront of prioritizing, planning and partnering to develop the English-speaking community in the Eastern Townships. They have an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to present and future generations. In the process, they are able to build expertise and knowledge about a variety of areas, and acquire a broad perspective on current and future developments in the Eastern Townships. And we're a great team!



Photo: Estrimont Suites & Spa

Estrimont Suites & Spa, site of the 30th Anniversary awards ceremonies, banquet and Annual General Meeting on Friday, June 12, 2009. Satisfy your curiosity, break the suspense – and be part of the action. Be there!

What is planned for June 12th?

- 4 p.m.
 - Eastern Townships Super Heroes Comic Strip Contest Prizes*
 - Young Townships Leaders Awards
 - Townshippers' Association's Annual General Meeting, including mystery youth announcement
- 6 p.m.
 - Outstanding Townshippers' Awards Banquet

**We hope to display the creations of all the participants in the Eastern Townships Super Heroes Comic Strip Contest, and if possible, photos that were submitted for the Make Way for YOUth contest, My Region, My Vision: Youth Share their Community Pride.*

Finding English-speaking Representatives

By Evelina Smith, Information & Referral Coordinator

Did you know that Townshippers' Association is contacted on a regular basis to suggest the names of English-speaking persons to sit on various boards and committees? The Association is recognized by many organizations in the community-at-large as a source for English-speaking representatives. However, we face a number of problems, such as a shrinking pool of potential candidates to call upon. Responding to requests has become increasingly difficult.

To address this need, Townshippers' board of directors struck an ad-hoc committee to develop a strategy for prioritizing and recruiting English-speaking representation. It is chaired by Gerald Cutting, Vice-President.

The committee has met a few times and has come up with a strategy to recruit potential volunteers and mentors. Details will be finalized in the coming months, so watch for developments!

COFFEE, ANYONE?

“We want to be in contact with all of the 3,000 Association members,” Vice-President Gerry Cutting said, “regardless of the exact location of our two offices.”

It was said, and so it is done! A new outreach initiative began in January, offering regular “coffee mornings” in different locations on the third Tuesday of each month. The first took place at the Emmanuel United Church Hall on January 20. Coffee led to a jam session with piano and bones!

These rotating monthly visits give people local access to information, services and friendly visits with Townshippers’ staff members. “It’s like an open house that goes into each of these communities,” said Rachel Garber, Executive Director.

Staff members host a coffee morning from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in six different locations: Cowansville, Sutton, Granby, Waterloo, Bedford and Knowlton. If you’d like to put your community on this list, don’t hesitate to contact Townshippers’ Association.



Photo: Kate Murray

Coffee Morning in Granby on March 17: third in the first series of outreach meetings.

If You List It, They Will Come...

By Jane Needles, Executive Director of the Quebec Drama Federation

Are you interested in seeing theatre, dance, workshops, cultural performances of all kinds – in English, in YOUR community? Here’s your chance...

The Quebec Drama Federation is currently preparing a manual and information package on potential touring areas/venues for presentations of various artistic works. This will give presenting companies and organizations in Montreal as well as throughout the regions of Quebec details about where they may be able to bring their presentations. This will cover all disciplines within the arts. The venues or performance spaces can be of any type, including gymnasiums, church basements, cultural centres, halls, museums, libraries, classrooms and even parks and outdoor venues!

Also, we are interested in knowing what particular type of culture you would be interested in bringing to your community. This can be in the form of performances, workshops, individual contacts, etc. Please call or e-mail the Quebec Drama Federation for information, and to receive a short survey form. Everyone is encouraged to participate so that the work on helping communities have access to English language culture can have a boost! Funding has been released by the Federal Government for this initiative and further news on this will be forthcoming shortly.

You can reach the Quebec Drama Federation by calling 1-877-875-7853 or e-mailing qdf@quebecdrama.org.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

This is the title of our weekly column in *The Record*, it is the title of our weekly radio show on Fridays at 4:45 p.m. in collaboration with CJMQ 88.9 FM, and it is our mantra here at the Association: How do we keep in touch with our community members?



First, a trio of websites. www.townshippers.qc.ca offers general information. www.topportunity.ca tells all about the top 40 job prospects in the Townships and has weekly postings of jobs requiring English. And in the months leading up to Townshippers’ Day, www.tday.ca is full of information about it.

Here’s what else we offer so far:

E-Bulletin: your weekly Wednesday e-mail. It is a brief listing of events, initiatives and news from Townshippers’ Association and its partners. Currently over 800 people receive it!

The Link: soon to be in hard copy too, this e-newsletter is aimed at a young audience.

ArtsWatch: another electronic bulletin, but this one is designed for Townships artists: funding opportunities, workshops and news of interest to the arts community.

Community Groups: for non-profits serving the English-speaking community, this ad-hoc communiqué distributes information about opportunities such as legal information sessions, volunteer development workshops, and more.

Townshippers: this is our semi-annual newsletter and you’re holding it in your hands right now! Members receive this by mail twice a year but it is also available at numerous pick-up points across the Townships.

To subscribe to any of these Townshippers’ publications, please send a message to ta@townshippers.qc.ca and specify which publication you would like to receive. We do not sell, trade or otherwise share our mailing lists. If you would like more information regarding our privacy policy, please visit www.townshippers.qc.ca/T-privacy.aspx or call our Privacy Officer, Evelina Smith, at 819-566-2182 (1-877-566-2182).



Conveners! Community! Action!

Eastern Townships Community Search Conference Moves Forward

In a series of gatherings in February, the Eastern Townships Community Search Conference brought together 57 citizens and leaders in the community for intensive discussions. In three separate groups in Cowansville, Orford and Sherbrooke, they explored the current state of the world and of the English-speaking community in the Townships. This formed the foundation for investigating what they would consider to be the most desirable future for a vital English-speaking community in the Eastern Townships in 2014, and how to achieve it.

“We talked about what would be the most probable future for our community, if we did nothing,” said Mark Patterson of Melbourne, one of the participants. “Then we considered what we could achieve if we took responsibility for our community, if we worked together towards its most desirable future.”

This participatory democratic process resulted in 15 agreed-upon strategic direction statements as building blocks for a vital community. Action groups were formed to work on different aspects of this vital future. During the final weekend of the search conferences, the action groups met to take stock of their resources and agree on their plans of action.

“It was remarkable to find out that all three groups came up with essentially the same points – there was remarkable synchronicity,” said Patterson. “That says to me that there’s a depth to this process.”

“And I was very impressed with the young people who were there,” he added. “They were very articulate.”

One of the younger participants was Otus Paré of Brome Lake. “The reason I’m here is because I want to shape my future,” he said. “I want to stay in the Townships.”

Action Groups

In all, the participants in this grassroots process formed seven action groups to work on achieving vibrancy in key features of this vital future through 2014 and beyond. The groups are working on the following areas:

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

The participants also identified two important themes running throughout the seven work plans. First, the need to foster and support intergenerational exchange was pointed out, given the context of the “missing middle” in the demographic profile of the English-speaking community, which has relatively few young adults compared to the younger and older generations.

Second, participants identified the need to be a bi-literate community. “People said that ‘bilingual’ doesn’t allow them to have a whole and full community with their French-speaking neighbours,” explained Séguin. “Participants saw the need to be able to read and write both English and French, too.”

While the Action Groups have already drafted their action plans, they are still in the process of refining their strategic direction statements, assessing opportunities and restraints, and fleshing out their plans.

Resources

“I really think the right people were in the room to start it off, and now as a group, they’re learning how to create a grassroots organization, especially across a territory larger than Belgium,” said Séguin. “As managers, we’re going to be around to help them. My hope is that the co-conveners will, too. The next step is to unfold this thing into the community, and offer community members an opportunity to engage themselves in this vibrant grassroots movement.”

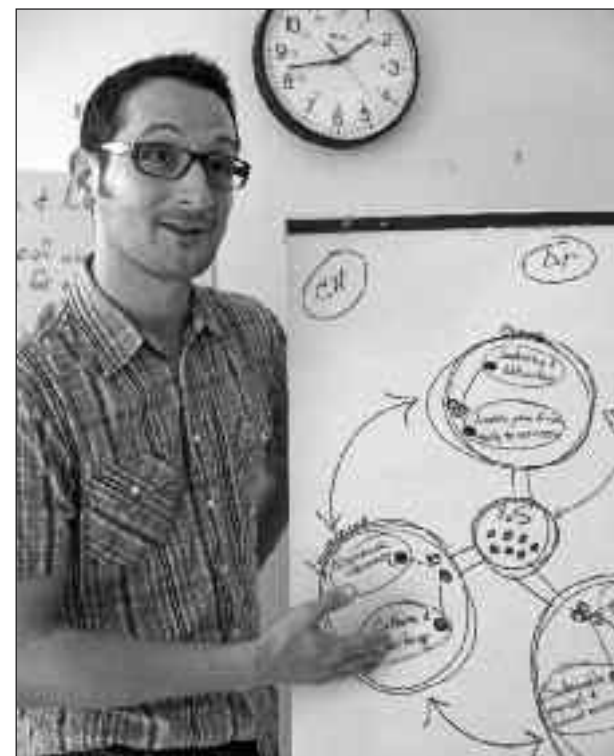


Photo: Barbara Lavoie

Manager Daniel Séguin displays the new Eastern Townships Community Search Conference action groups that were formed around various future-direction points.

The Eastern Townships Community Search Conference was convened by Bishop’s University, Champlain Regional College – Lennoxville, the Dobson-Lagassé Entrepreneurship Centre, the Eastern Townships CEDEC and Townshippers’ Association.

Up to now, the Eastern Townships Community Search Conference has been supported by a contribution from the strategic fund of the Development of Official-Language Minorities Support Program of Canadian Heritage. “However, this funding ends March 31st,” said Rachel Garber, executive director of Townshippers’ Association. “Now is the time for community members and organizations to rally resources to carry forward the action plans over the next five years.”

For more information, please visit www.searchtownships.ca or contact Paul Menard at search@searchtownships.ca or 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717).



Photo: Rachel Garber

A March 28th meeting of the Eastern Townships Community Search Conference brought together representatives of the Keepers of the Story (communications and coordinating group), the co-convening organizations, the managers, and the design team which prepared the ground for the search conferences in January-February 2009. Left to right: Paul Menard, Bishop’s University intern; Dr. Don de Guerre, manager; Gerry Cutting, vice-president, Townshippers’ Association; Peter Riordon, design team member; David Monty, director of the Dobson-Lagassé Entrepreneurship Centre; Otus Paré, Kate Murray, Mark Patterson and Evelina Smith, all search conference participants and members of the Keepers of the Story group; Paul Kaeser, director of the Champlain Regional College – Lennoxville; Martha Crombie, executive director of the Eastern Townships CEDEC; Andy Trull, manager; and Rachel Garber, executive director of Townshippers’ Association.

Forum Jeunesse Estrie

By Michelle Lepitre, Townships Youth Link Coordinator

The Forum Jeunesse Estrie is a team of individual youth and local organizations working to advance youth initiatives in the Estrie, with the goal of improving their quality of life and helping them reach their full potential. It is one of 21 regional youth forums in Quebec.

One of the many activities of the Forum is the annual Agora event. For more information about the Forum and its activities, or to sign up as a member, visit the Forum Jeunesse Estrie website (www.forumjeunesseestrie.qc.ca) or contact Michelle at 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717) or ml@townshippers.qc.ca.



Photo: Courtesy of the Forum Jeunesse Estrie

Alexandre Lavallée (Citizenship Participation Agent for the Forum Jeunesse Estrie) introduces Chloé Legris, the spokesperson for the 2008 edition of the Agora youth gathering, an event which took place at the Université de Sherbrooke on November 22, 2008.

Agora 2009

An important gathering for young people in the Estrie region, the next Agora will take place in November 2009. Last year's Agora included a presentation by Chloé Legris, the engineer responsible for creating the first International Dark Sky Reserve at the Mont-Mégantic Astrolab, as well as presentations on international cooperation and the media, environmental issues and civic involvement.

What is planned for this year's Agora? News about the theme and presenters will be released later this year, but if you have suggestions or ideas to share (or if you would like to be part of this year's organizing committee), contact Michelle at 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717) or ml@townshippers.qc.ca. Your input will help us make this event a great one for all youth!



Photo: Courtesy of the Forum Jeunesse Estrie

Audience members listen intently to Chloé Legris during the Forum Jeunesse Estrie's Agora last November. Want more information about this year's Agora and how you could be involved? Contact Michelle today!

The Making Our Way contest is back!

By Michelle Lepitre, Townships Youth Link Coordinator

Do you know young volunteers aged 18-35 who are actively involved in their communities? The Making Our Way contest is intended to encourage and recognize active community involvement among youth. The prize? A one-week trip to France, including the opportunity to meet young volunteers from France.

If you can think of a young leader who deserves recognition for their community involvement, contact Caroline Falcão, Citizenship Participation Agent for the Forum Jeunesse Estrie, at 819-563-1911, ext. 232, or al@creestrie.qc.ca.



Photo: Courtesy of the Forum Jeunesse Estrie

Jenn Kang, the Estrie winner of last year's Making Our Way contest, has a long, long list of accomplishments and contributions to her credit. Her win was certainly well-deserved! If you know a young person who is actively involved in his or her community and lives in the Estrie region, be sure to nominate him or her for the Making Our Way contest. Your nominee could win a one-week trip to France to meet other involved youth, both from Quebec and from abroad, as a reward for his or her contributions.

Young Townships Leaders Awards

By Michelle Lepitre, Townships Youth Link Coordinator

Last year's Townships Leaders of Tomorrow Awards recognized 17 individuals and one group for their outstanding leadership qualities – proving beyond any doubt that our young Townshippers are not merely the leaders of tomorrow...they are leaders today!

The Townshippers of Tomorrow committee felt that the Awards needed a new name to highlight this and so, beginning in 2009, the awards will be known as the Young Townships Leaders Awards. The name may have changed, but the goal has not: the Young Townships Leaders Awards are intended to recognize outstanding contributions by youth to the English-speaking community of the Eastern Townships.

If you know a young leader, this is your chance to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication. Thanks to contributions from business partners, each recipient receives a cash prize of \$1,000. Young Townships Leaders Awards nomination forms will be available as of April 6, so be sure to pick yours up!

For more information about the Young Townships Leaders Awards or to request a nomination form, contact Michelle at 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717) or ml@townshippers.qc.ca.

Townships Youth Link

By Michelle Lepitre,
Townships Youth Link Coordinator

The Townships Youth Link (TYL) project resulted in the creation of a number of resources and activities for youth, including the Townships Superhero Comic Strip Contest, The Link e-newsletter and website and a stronger communication network for youth and youth groups in the Eastern Townships.

The Townships Superhero Comic Strip Contest

The 33 entries we received for this contest produced a spectacular variety of Superheroes, all ready and willing to save the Eastern Townships from an evil dark force! A special reception for all participants is currently planned for the same day as the Townshippers AGM, so mark your calendars and be sure to attend if you'd like a chance to meet and congratulate these promising young artists. You can see the strips by going to our very own Comics section, pages 13-16.

The Link

In 2008-2009, Townshippers' Association created an e-newsletter which lists upcoming events and includes information about other opportunities for youth in the Townships. For more information about The Link (or to sign up), contact Michelle: 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717) or ml@townshippers.qc.ca.

As part of the TYL project, a completely new youth website was also created this year. This website (www.youthtownships.ca) contains information about Townshippers' Association's youth projects and includes a blog and a message board to facilitate communication with and among youth.

Townships Youth Link Communications Network

The TYL project also helped strengthen the existing network between various local youth groups and centres. Thanks to this network, the project coordinator was able to help organize the Canadian Youth Centre Challenge workshop which took place in October. This activity brought together youth and youth workers from different areas of the Townships to talk about their experiences and to learn (and share!) skills. A follow-up workshop is planned for the fall of 2009... if you know a youth group that would like to be involved, contact Michelle. (Note that the group does not have to belong to a youth centre, but could be affiliated with a church or community centre.)

Last, but not least, the TYL project helped pave the way for Townshippers' Association's brand new (but still a secret!) youth initiative... Find out about this exciting new development at the 30th Anniversary AGM on June 12 in Orford.

Townships Youth Link is made possible in part by the financial support of the *Forum Jeunesse Estrie* of the *Conférence régionale des élus de l'Estrie* and the *Fonds régional d'investissement jeunesse (FRIJ)* of the Government of Quebec.



Photo: Michele Lepitre

With snow swirling outside, Townshippers' Association held a youth retreat at the Camp Jeunesse Quatre Saisons in St-Étienne-de-Bolton on January 23 and 24. The goal of this retreat was to gather ideas for a very special (and new) Townshippers youth initiative. While the snow fell outside, these young ladies were hard at work inside, brainstorming new directions for youth involvement in the Association. During the 30th Anniversary AGM on June 12, find out what they cooked up.



Photo: Michele Lepitre

Not to be outdone by the ladies, the young men also went to work during the Youth Retreat and they had a wealth of ideas and advice to share with us for our new initiative...



Photo: Michele Lepitre

After all their hard work, retreat participants posed for a picture before heading home... More information about this new youth initiative is expected to be released later this year, at the 30th Anniversary AGM on June 12. We promise that it's a very exciting development, so be sure to come find out what these youth had to say!

When asked to create a human sculpture that represented the word "teamwork" on the first night of the Youth Retreat, Niko, Erika and Julia showed everyone what teamwork means to them. Later, Jonathan, Danny and Cody also had their turn to shine as they showed us just what they think teamwork is all about! The next day, all of the participants proved that they definitely know how to work together: they came up with some fantastic suggestions for how youth could become more involved in Townshippers' Association... if you want to find out more about what they had to say, come to the AGM on June 12.



Photo: Beverly Barnes



Photo: Josy Labbé

Youth and youth workers from across the Eastern Townships (as well as from the Wakefield Youth Centre) gathered at Jouvence in Orford for the Canadian Youth Centre Challenge workshop on October 24 and 25, 2008. The weekend included lots of fun games, team-building activities and networking opportunities. If you know a youth group that would like to participate in this year's Canadian Youth Centre Challenge workshop, tell them to contact Michelle at 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717) or ml@townshippers.qc.ca.



Photo: Josy Labbé

Four delegates from Townshippers' Association attended the Canadian Youth Centre Challenge workshop at Jouvence: Michelle Lepitre (Townshippers' Association YOUTH Coordinator), Alanna Fernandes (Action Project Coordinator), Emile Fortier (Townshippers of Tomorrow Committee Member) and Eric Manolson (Trails Intergenerational Project Coordinator, absent from photo). During the weekend, participants learned about the annual TYPs Conference, an event which is expected to bring over 300 youth from across Canada together for four days of fun and learning in Ottawa. Emile was so interested in this conference that he went back to his Youth Centre in Lennoxville and helped gather together a group of other youth (and youth workers) to attend with him. The preparation phase for this trip became one of the seven projects in Townshippers' Association's Action Project.



Photo: Josy Labbé

As one of the Canadian Youth Centre Challenge workshop activities, participants from the Le Spot Youth Centre in Knowlton had to identify some of the most important ingredients for a successful youth centre.

My Region, My Vision: Youth Share their Community Pride with the Make Way for YOUTH Photo Contest

By Michelle Lepitre, YOUTH Townships Coordinator

This year's Make Way for YOUTH photo contest had strong participation in the English-speaking community, producing a number of unforgettable entries! The contest, which asked youth to take pictures representing what their region means to them, proved through their beautiful photography and heart-warming texts that young English speakers are proud of their home and their heritage... and aren't afraid to show it!

Although the winners for this contest have not yet been chosen, a special reception to honour all participants from the English-speaking community is in the works for the spring... More information about this event will be available soon.



Photos: Barbara Lavoie

At the final Make Way for YOUTH event this spring, Hugh Maynard spoke about new technologies and the new opportunities they have opened up in rural regions.



Roll out the Red Carpet — Make Way for YOUTH!

Rolling out a red carpet for young people is the business of the Make Way for YOUTH – Estrie project – specifically for English-speaking new graduates who are interested in establishing their careers in the rural parts of the Estrie region.

The project, popularly known as MWFY, was led for the past year by Iseult Séguin-Aubé, Townshippers' Association's MWFY/Desjardins Migration Agent.

What does a migration agent do? It's sort of a *grande séduction*, targeting young graduates who are looking to start their careers either as employees or as entrepreneurs. But instead of creating a glorified image of the region, the migration agent offers real information.

The information is about positions for which English is required: The migration agent unearths them and posts on www.topportunity.ca and the Place aux jeunes website. Or she might offer information about the quality-of-life factors that participants are seeking, such as the different natural environments in various parts of the Townships, where to find low-cost housing, "perks" that various municipalities or MRCs offer new arrivals, and so on.

The migration agent locates needed resources for each of the MWFY participants, whether it's a French course, a mentor in their chosen field, information about businesses in the region, and so on.

Exploratory visits give up to 15 participants a grand tour of the region, all expenses paid. They get to visit businesses in which they have expressed an interest. They get to meet local mayors, service organizations that offer support to new arrivals or new entrepreneurs, and potential employers or mentors who work in their field. They get a taste of the Townships cuisine, culture, nature, arts, sports and lack of traffic jams!

Then they can make up their minds where to establish their careers – but they'll be able to make an informed decision.

This initiative is one of many *Place aux jeunes* projects throughout Quebec, and is made possible in part by the financial participation of the Quebec Youth Secretariat, the Desjardins Group and private businesses and organizations in the region.

We will miss Iseult, who contributed so much to this project, but now is moving on to new challenges. But the project is continuing, with a new agent. So if you know someone who might be interested in that red carpet, just contact mwfy@townshippers.qc.ca or 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717).

And take a peek at www.topportunity.ca and www.accrodesregions.qc.ca. That's where the jobs are!

Challenging Youth Through Theatre

By Corrinna Pole, Youth Animator,
Theatre Townships – Stanstead

Using the medium of theatre with its varied disciplines, Theatre Townships was developed to help youth between the ages of 16 to 30 overcome employment obstacles. Through a series of workshops, personal and group projects, creative processes, discussions, physical and mental activities, performances and other experiences, participants are able to shape their career direction and improve their sense of self.

Starting with a launch party, participants work hands-on in every aspect of theatre production including design, construction, creative writing, marketing, sales, public speaking and fundraising. Community connections are made, strengthening their network for future projects or employment.

The project is the brainchild of Christopher Freeman. With the assistance of facilitator Mary Harvey, he has been able to bring the program to two different communities in the Townships. He previously directed four projects another region of Quebec.

The first Townships-based project took place in Mansonville over a period of 24 weeks. Ten young adults created their own theatre company, **Break-A-Leg Productions**, through the project and worked together to produce several “one night only” events, a unique children’s play with workshops and an original historical theatrical production.

They ended the program with improved prospects for their employment future, confidence and strong bonds to each other. Some of the cast have returned to school to complete their education, others are now engaged in careers they would not have been able to break into without the experience Theatre Townships gave them. Each one has a far more positive view of themselves than they did before the program.

The second project is in its eighth week in Stanstead. Participants have formed **Open Door Productions** and have quickly developed a strong connection to each other. They have already hosted their launch party and have been working hard on producing an original school play entitled

“What’s her Name? Joins the Circus.” The play opens in Rouyn-Noranda on March 22.

Each participant started the program with different motivations. They come from various backgrounds and social situations, yet are able to find a connection, learning trust and cooperation not only with each other but with members of the community. They gain insight into what they are capable of, which increases their realization of their self-worth.

Participants are greatly challenged both personally and professionally. In order to successfully complete the project they must be committed to improving the quality of their lives, and in the end they gain empowerment.

Theatre Townships is truly a life altering experience with obvious benefits for the participants. Its effect also ripples out into the community, where people witness the participants’ transformation, enjoy the entertaining productions and then reap the ultimate reward of having confident, socially-conscious, motivated young



Photo: Corrinna Pole

Break-A-Leg Productions cast of Mansonville and the cast of Stanstead’s Open Door Productions, with Chris Freeman and Mary Harvey in the middle. In the ovals, three cast members from Mansonville who were missing from the group photo.

adults who can contribute even more to the region and its future.

Both the *Theatre Townships* project in Mansonville and the new one in

Stanstead were carried out by Townshippers’ Association and funded in part by Service Canada, under the Youth Employment Strategy.



Photo: Open Door Productions

Open Door Productions started to tour their play “What’s her Name? Join the Circus” in Rouyn-Noranda at the end of March.

A year of celebration!

This is the 30th anniversary of Townshippers' Association, and here are a few pictures we've pulled out of our archives to remember the years gone by.



Photos: Courtesy of Townshippers' Association

This is also the 100th anniversary of Ayer's Cliff! See the many changes between then and now.



Photos: Courtesy of Town of Ayer's Cliff and Matthew Farfan

Surprise! We're celebrating with a ring-ding fling this year! Townshippers' Day will be held in Ayer's Cliff on September 18 and 19, 2009. TWO days! We're starting the party off with the launch of *Taproot IV* on Friday evening, then we're whooping it up at the Fairgrounds on Saturday.

This year's slogan is...

Townshippers' Day Ayer's Cliff: Celebrating 100 Years of Harmony in the Townships

Townshippers' Association – 30 Years Young

Journée des Townshippers d'Ayer's Cliff – Fêtons 100 ans d'harmonie dans les Cantons

Association des Townshippers – Jeune de 30 ans

The Townshippers' Day Organizing Committee, led by Dr. Mary Pearson, has already planned many great events. If you're interested in joining the team, the more the merrier! Contact Kate Wisdom, staff support person for the Organizing Committee, at the Montérégie office, 450-242-4421 (1-877-242-4421) or kw@townshippers.qc.ca.



Taproot IV: Poetry, Prose and Images from the Eastern Townships

By Brenda Hartwell, Editor

The judges of our book contest are no longer buried under piles of submissions. They have read their way through more than 300 entries and have emerged, triumphantly waving a list of winners. We are pleased to announce that *Taproot IV* will be released in September and will feature a satisfying variety of masterful new works by the following:

Michelle Barker, Gladys Mackey Beattie, Tanya Bellehumeur-Allatt, Marjorie Bruhmuller, George J. Courville, Maurice Crossfield, Michael "Max" Crowther, Pamela Dillon, Dade Dudgeon, Matthew Farfan, Ellen Goldfinch, Frank Harding, Jennifer Harding-Martin, Anne F. Holloway, Annis Karpenko, Janice LaDuke, Anne Lipowski, Shawn Malley, Carole Martignacco, Colin McGregor, Tanya McIntyre, Ross Murray, Jim Napier, Gilles Péloquin, Trisha Pope, Barbara Rowell, Carolyn Rowell, Ann Scowcroft, Scott Verity Stevenson, and Barbara Verity.

The gala launch of the 30th Anniversary edition of *Taproot* will take place on Friday September 18, the first evening of the two-day Townshippers' Day. Copies of the book, hot off the press, will be available all day on the T-Day site in Ayer's Cliff on Saturday September 19. Keep your eyes and ears peeled for further details!

Images from Townshippers' Day 1991 in Ayer's Cliff.
Photos: Courtesy Townshippers' Association



Action!

By Alanna Fernandes,
Action Project Coordinator

The Action Project is an initiative begun in October 2008 that encouraged youth to become active in their communities. Since its beginning, I connected with six groups in Bury, Lennoxville, Mansonville, Richmond, Stanstead and Sutton. The progress of the Action Project thus far is evidence that youth can indeed make a difference, for themselves and for others.

Bury

Five youth from Bury organized a public meeting on March 6, inviting their community into their newly formulated Horse and Pony Club. Ideas for initiatives the club will run include sugaring old-time style with horses, having plow matches, going on sleigh rides and picnics, visiting horse farms, and organizing workshops (shoeing, grooming, showmanship, veterinary care, halter and riding).

Lennoxville

Dancing, singing, and eating the night away, youth from Project Underground – Lennoxville's Youth Centre – organized a café night. They welcomed those of all ages into the centre to familiarize people with it and to share in the resources



Photo: Michelle Lepitre

it offers. The evening was also a fundraiser to help a group of six youth attend the TYPS (Town Youth Participation Strategies) Conference in Ottawa at the end of March.

Mansonville

Members of the Former Youth Involvement Committee in Mansonville put their organizational skills and years of community-based experience together to welcome youth from all over the Townships (including those involved in the Action Project) for the first Townships Youth Retreat Day. The day was filled with games, workshops, food, opportunities to connect with peers who also care about their areas of interest, and the sharing of experiences.



Photo: Julia Eldridge



Photo: Donald Dubuc

Richmond

A total of eight youth participated in Richmond's Spring Break Challenge, co-facilitated by Richmond's Youth Project Leader, Donald Dubuc. Three days of games and workshops centred on the themes of trust, communication, team-building, leadership, and action. The event found the youth engaged in unique and meaningful ways. The goal is ultimately for the youth to put their new-found skills and knowledge to use within the broader community.



Photo: Sonny Benchimol

Stanstead

The new Stanstead Cultural and Recreational Centre (SCRC) is a small, grassroots, completely volunteer-run project that began just a few months ago. As part of their plans, which incorporate the whole community, we have formed a bilingual youth council to help brainstorm and organize activities in a by-youth, for-youth style. The youth council's most pressing mission is to help renovate the SCRC headquarters. They helped fundraise for this project by serving homemade vegetarian and venison chilli and bread, and organized games for people of all ages at the Beebe Winter Festival.

Sutton

Bruno Rathbone, a Sherbrooke-based graffiti artist, led a group of youth in drawing sessions in preparation for their public mural project. This is creative, offers the opportunity to learn important skills, connects the youth with various people and decision-makers of their town, and gives a positive message to the town regarding youth.



Photo: Alanna Fernandes

All projects are on-going, and there is always room for more participants and volunteers. Please contact Alanna Fernandes, Action Project Coordinator, at 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717) or af@townshippers.qc.ca.

The Action Project: Youth Can Make a Difference! was made possible in part by the financial support of the Development of Official-Language Communities Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

The Townshippers'

Pages

Comics

Townships Superhero Comic Strip Contest

By Michelle Lepitre, Townships Youth Link Coordinator

Wow! Who would have ever guessed there were so many superheroes in the Eastern Townships, all ready and willing to save us from dangerous, dark and evil forces? If this year's comic strip contest is anything to go by, I'd say we have every reason to feel safe here in the Eastern Townships... it turns out we are protected by at least 33 different Superheroes!

The entries for the Townships Youth Link comic strip contest came from communities all over the Eastern Townships: Bury, Brigham, Cowansville, Dunham, Lingwick, Mansonville, Sherbrooke and Waterloo. Since there were so many entries in the 10- to 12-year-old age category (31 entries out of 32), the judges decided to award SIX prizes to these young artists instead of only two: first, second and third prizes were awarded for coloured entries and first, second and third prizes for non-coloured entries.

All of the entries we received were fantastic (see the front cover of this newsletter for proof!). Congratulations to all of the artists!

If you'd like a chance to see all of the great comic strips that were produced, make sure you attend the special Townships Superhero Reception that is currently being planned for the afternoon of Friday, June 12, 2009.

And now... on to the winners!

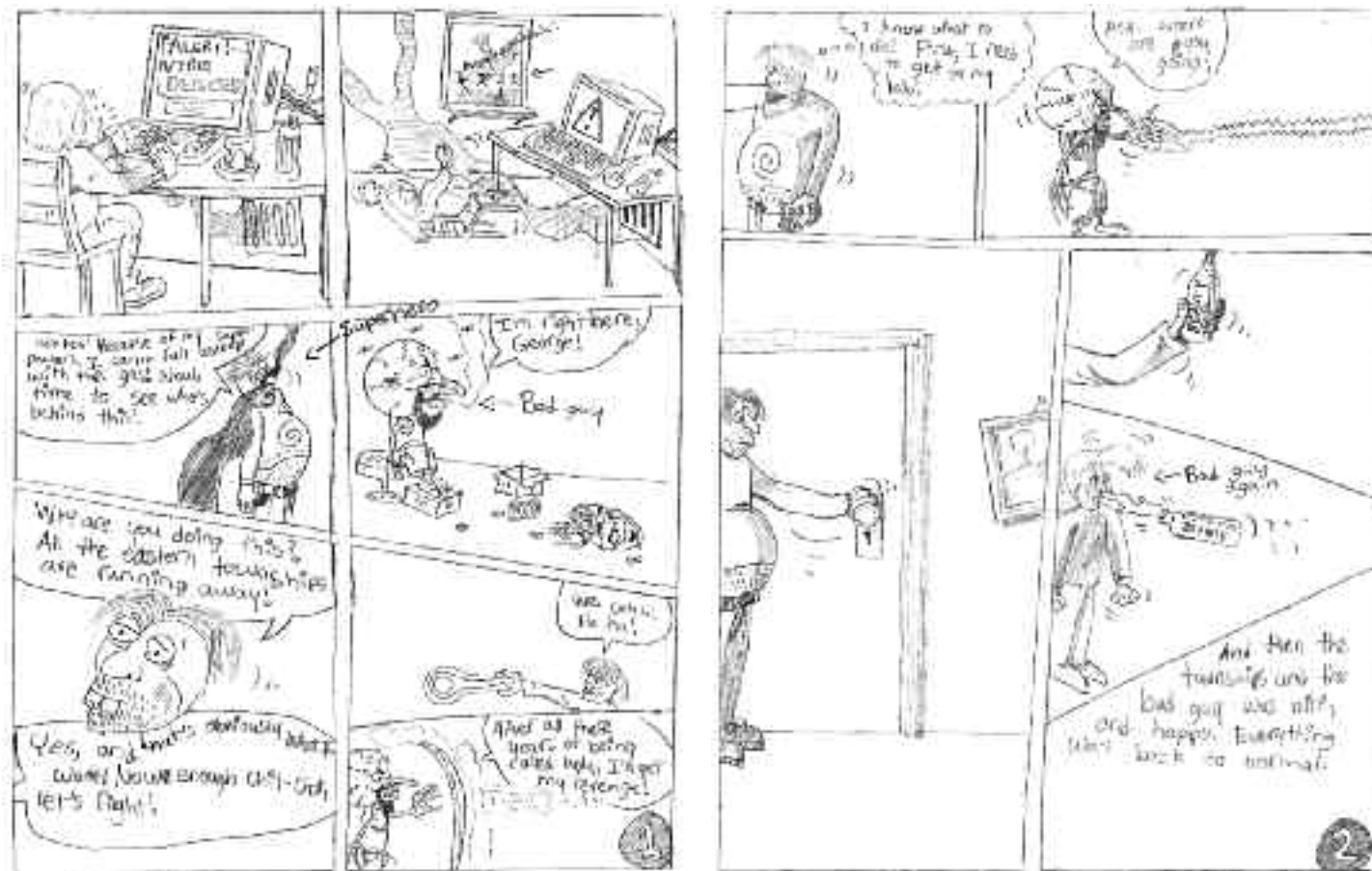
Townships Youth Link is made possible in part by the financial support of the *Forum Jeunesse Estrie* of the *Conférence régionale des élus de l'Estrie* and the *Fonds régional d'investissement jeunesse (FRIJ)* of the Government of Quebec.

Weirdo Man to the Rescue
Abraham Bilodeau, Bury, age 13

Eastern Townships Super Horse
Nicole Littlejohn, Sherbrooke, age 10

Weirdo Man to the Rescue

by Abraham Bilodeau



Eastern Townships Super Horse

by Nicole Littlejohn



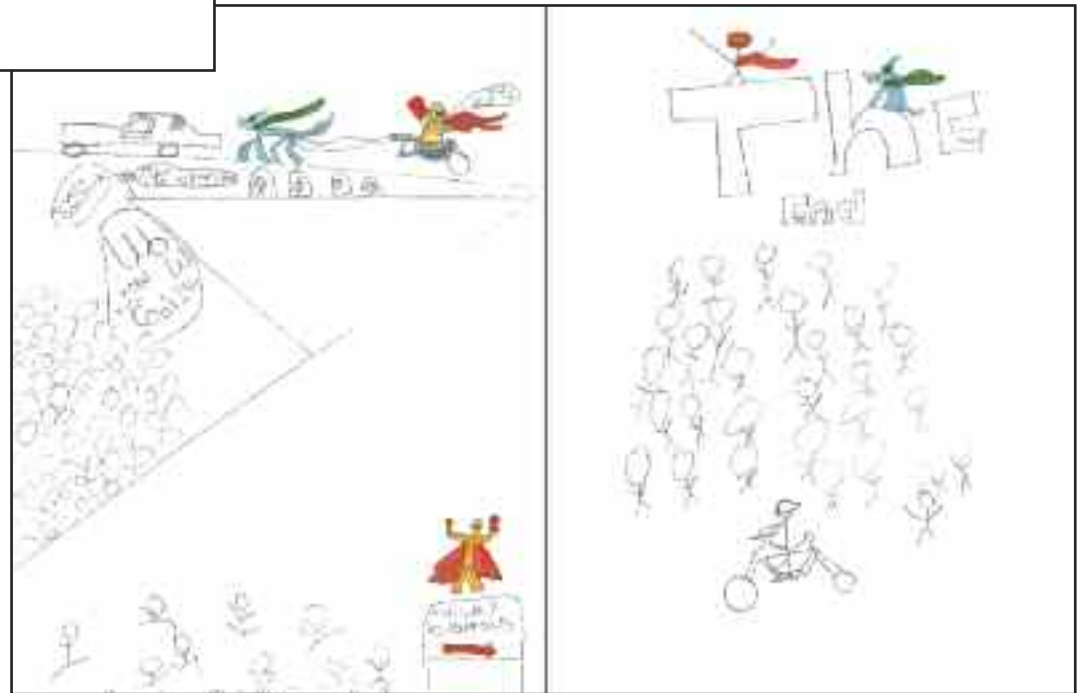
Townshippers' Boy



by Ethan Hastings-Ball

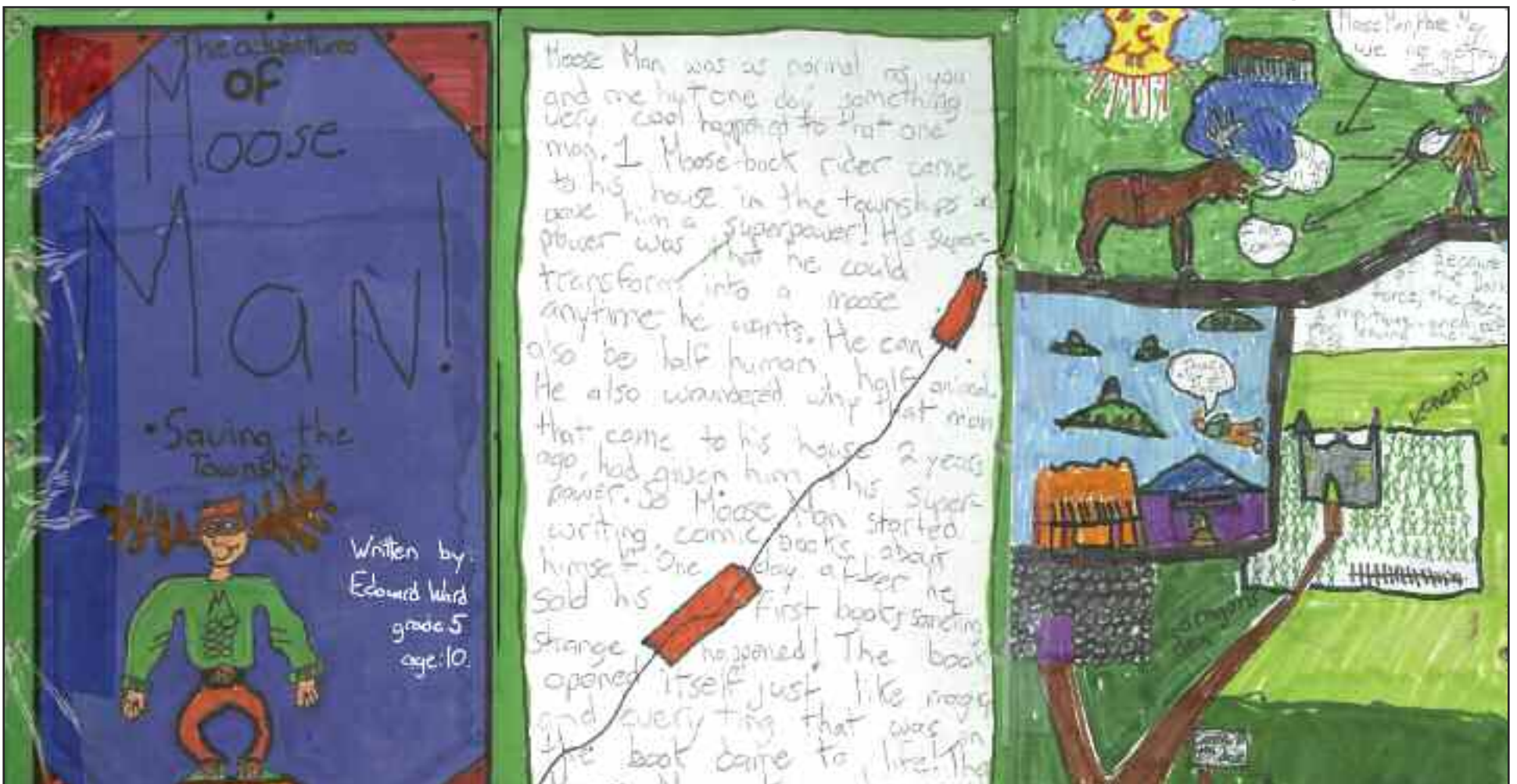
Townshippers' Boy
Ethan Hastings-Ball, Mansonville, age 11

The Adventures of Mooseman: Saving the Townships
Edouard Ward, Gould, age 10



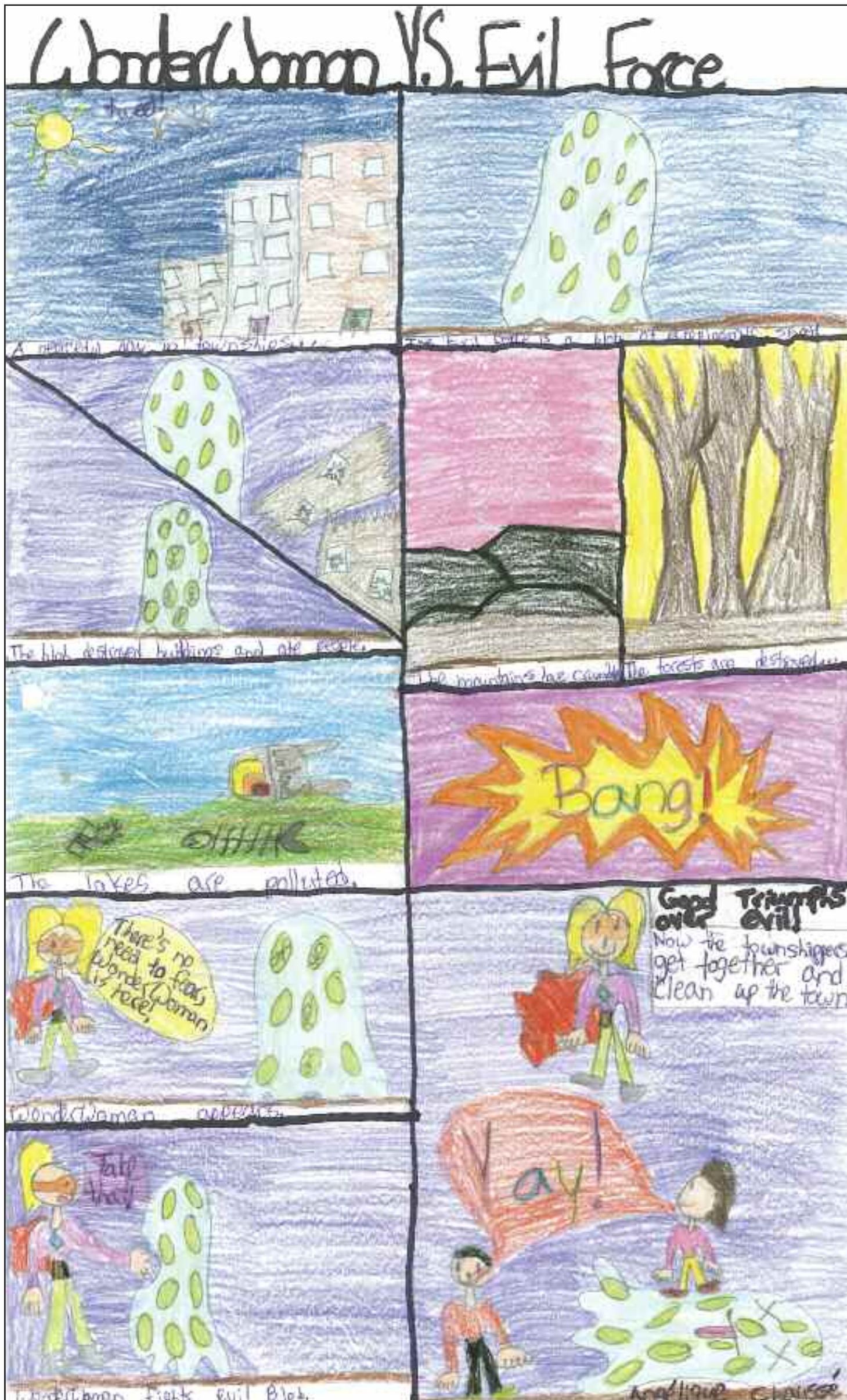
The Adventures of Moose Man!

by Edouard Ward



WonderWoman vs. Evil Force

by Angélique Noëlle Chaussé



WonderWoman vs. Evil Force
Angélique Noëlle Chaussé,
Cowansville, age 11

Pig-Man

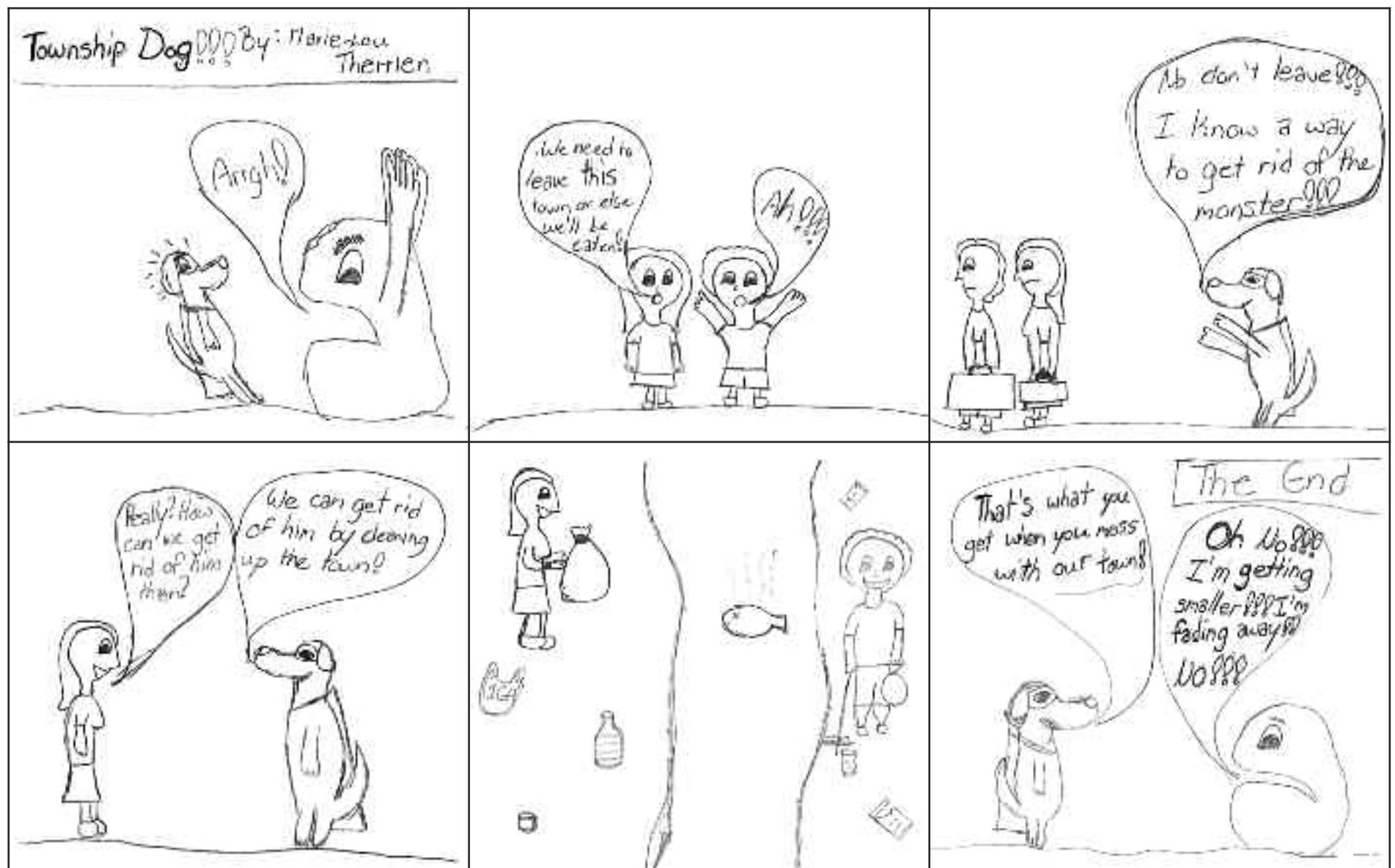
by Sam Beattie



Pig Man • Samuel Beattie, Dunham, age 12

Township Dog!!!

by Marie-Lou Therrien



Township Dog!!! • Marie-Lou Therrien, Cowansville, age 12

Cultural Partners

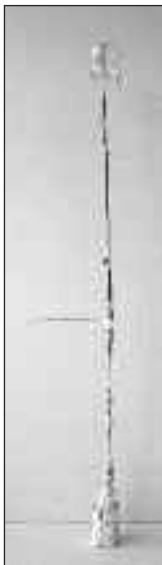
Here is a sample of what our cultural partners have to offer in the near future. Check out their websites for more information! Cultural partners provide a 10% discount on regularly priced tickets to members of Townshippers' Association, upon presentation of their Association membership card.

Arts Sutton Gallery

www.artssutton.com

Totem: March 21 to April 12

Marie France Cournoyer
Souvenir de ne pas être (2009)
Plâtre, ciment, tissu, fil de fer et fil de coton
1,57 m. X 12 cm



Orford Arts

www.arts-orford.org

Check out the Festival Orford 2009 online.



Photo: Bishop's University Singers

Musique chez nous — University Singers

www.ubishops.ca/cc/cultural/mcn/index.html

Fri./Sat., April 17/18

The British Invasion in Centennial Theatre



Sherbrooke Symphony Orchestra

www.css-oss.com

Pianist Alain Lefèvre in
Lefèvre Joue Mathieu on April 18



Photo Credit: Centennial Theatre

Centennial Theatre

Pianist Richard Raymond
Sunday, April 19, 3 p.m.

www.centennialtheatre.ca

Musée des beaux-arts de Sherbrooke

www.mbas.qc.ca

Holly King. Heightened Release, 2006. From the series Twisted Roots. Ink Print. Featured in The Eastern Townships Artists' Spring Exhibition: a celebration of the region's creativity.



Photo: MBAS

Theatre Lac Brome

www.theatrelacbrome.com

Theatre Lac Brome has a new patio and lobby, and an exciting new line-up for the 2009 summer season.



Photo: TLB



Photo: The Piggery

Piggery Theatre — www.piggery.com

Summer theatre, concerts, restaurant.

Knowlton Players

www.knowltonplayers.com

Knowlton Players presents *The Pajama Game* by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross, directed by Emma Stevens and Ari Snyder, opening May 14 at Theatre Lac Brome.



Photo: Knowlton Players



Photo: Sunshine Theatre

Sunshine Theatre Productions

www.sunnymead.org/sunshine

We Can Act Too! toured the Townships in March.

The Hunt is on for Outstanding Townshippers

By Kate Wisdom,
Community & Culture Coordinator

Could someone you know be honoured this year? The Association's annual Outstanding Townshippers awards highlight contributions made to the life of the Eastern Townships English-speaking community. The awards aim to recognize fresh approaches and creativity in community service as well as long-term dedication. Nominations are invited from a variety of fields; contributions in the areas of health and social services, recreation and liveable communities, volunteerism and education.

If you have someone in mind for the 10th annual Outstanding Townshippers awards, please contact Kate Wisdom at 450-242-4421 (toll free 1-877-242-4421) or kw@townshippers.qc.ca to request the nomination form. The deadline for nominations is April 30. The selected Outstanding Townshippers for 2009 will be honoured at the 30th Anniversary Awards Banquet and AGM at Estrimont Suites and Spa in Orford on Friday, June 12.

The Intergenerational Perspective

By Eric Akbar Manolson, Coordinator,
Healthy Active Living 50+ and Intergenerational Trails

Over the past year, I have met with people of all ages throughout the Eastern Townships, exploring intergenerational activities and programs. Over time, I realized that the Intergenerational Perspective is less about activities and programs, and more about a way of seeing that values each person, at whatever age.

I discovered that intergenerational connections could:

- make people happier
- enhance individual wellness
- create opportunities to share stories and transfer wisdom from one generation to the next
- strengthen the whole community.

The Intergenerational Council



Photo: Corrinna Pole
New friendships form in the Intergenerational Council

To further explore these themes, a small group and I began the original Intergenerational Trails Council in Lennoxville. The Intergenerational Council creates an environment where people of many ages and backgrounds can meet in an atmosphere of great respect, and share their perceptions and talents. From expressed common interests, different projects or events are initiated. Participants in the council ranged from 3 to 97 years old.

Three intergenerational events were organized, namely:

- The Inaugural Council in October
- The Great Intergenerational Cookie Contest & Holiday Feast which drew 40 people in December
- The Participatory Intergenerational Music Festival in March.

I have always envisioned the Intergenerational Council and its derivatives as models that could be replicated and adapted in other Townships communities. (...yours?)

Working Together

I have had the opportunity to represent seniors' concerns on committees and projects of benefit to the larger community. These include:

- Advisory committee to Age-friendly cities, W.H.O. pilot project for the city of Sherbrooke
- United Nations International Day of Older Persons, October 1
- Estrie planning committee for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15
- La table régionale des aînés de l'Estrie (with Heather Bowman)

Organizing committee of Magog Seniors Day

In these groups, I consistently experience a spirit of cooperation, a welcoming attitude from others, including traditionally French-speaking organizations, and a respect towards Townshippers' Association. I feel honoured to be a part of this organization and of the work we accomplish.

The Intergenerational Council is an initiative of Townshippers' Association's Trails: From Past to Present project and was made possible in part by support from the Québec government's *Du Cœur à l'action pour les aînés* program.



Photo: Barbara Lavoie
Participants at the Great Intergenerational Cookie Contest & Holiday Feast



A variety of musical gifts and ages took part in the full day of workshops, performances, feasting and good company on March 28, organized by Eric Manolson and his outstanding team. The occasion? Townshippers' Great Intergenerational Music Festival.

Photos: Barbara Lavoie



Townshippers' Great Intergenerational Music Festival

Dining at Princess Elizabeth

By Daryl Williams, Project Coordinator

There are many ways to keep in touch with what is going on in your child's school: you can attend parent-teacher interviews, you can check things out online, you can ask your child what is going on, you can volunteer. There are indeed many ways to keep in touch and they can all be effective. However, if you are lucky enough to have your child attend Princess Elizabeth Elementary School in Magog, you just might discover a far more civilized way to keep your finger on the pulse of your school.

Thanks in part to Townshippers' Association and support from the Community Health & Social Services Network (CHSSN) and Health Canada, we have an innovative "Dining at P.E.E.S." project. Once a month, a few families, teachers and our principal get together to discuss topics of relevance over a meal prepared by school staff. This relaxed setting has been highly conducive to effective and meaningful communication. Too often meetings consist of a few hurried moments trying to sort out a problem, only to discover later that pertinent questions were forgotten.

Dining at P.E.E.S. is not a hurried event with a heavy agenda. During our meals, time is taken to explore relevant issues chosen by parents. Ideas, problems and possible solutions are discussed over entrees and continue through dessert and coffee. Chosen topics range from home safety and homework to health services available for English families.

If you believe in a civilized way of finding out what's going on in your school and community, this might just work for you too...



Photo: Courtesy of Townshippers' Association

The committee visited a highly successful stay-in-school project that has been in existence since 1995 in Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean. This hardware business was part of the school-work conciliation program developed by the *Conseil régional de prévention de l'abandon scolaire (CREPAS)*.

Stay in school!

By George Courville, Coordinator, Montérégie East Network, Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services

The Massey Vanier Partners for Educational Success (MVPES) committee has been busy. This committee implements an action plan to reduce the drop-out rate at Massey-Vanier High School. The original committee has grown and been divided up into a community table that meets 3 times a year, and a working committee which meets monthly to ensure the project continues to advance and that actions are taken.

The committee has written an action plan for the upcoming year. The action plan includes developing a communications plan to raise awareness and gain community support for future actions; developing an inventory of all existing projects that are local, regional and national; developing an inventory of possible funding sources that are local, regional and national; supporting and facilitating the study-work conciliation program with the Chamber of Commerce of Cowansville and Region (2009-2010); and developing an inventory of research that has been done locally, regionally and nationally.

The committee applied for Rural Pact Funding and received \$20,000. This amount will be used to hire a coordinator to carry out the action plan.



Photos: Barbara Lavoie

News Flash • News Flash • News Flash • News Flash •

New Intergenerational Project

Townshippers' Association has just received word that the Québec government's *Secrétariat aux aînés* has offered to support a new three-year intergenerational project, *In Respect of Our Elders*. Start date: April 2009.

News Flash • News Flash • News Flash • News Flash • News Flash • News Flash • News Flash •





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 Dougherty, Audrey
 Dougherty, Vernon & Marion
 Down, Edwin & Mary
 Draper, Patrick & Janet
 Drew, Lester & Judy
 Drew, Mervyn
 Dubois, Leopold
 Dustin, Melvin & Phyllis
 Dyer, Leon & Beverley
 Echenberg, Donald
 Edgar, Gordon
 Edwards, Robert & Joan
 Eldridge, Suzanne
 Enright, George
 Enright, Susan & Jewett, Bill
 Erskine, Margaret
 Eryou, Richard & Velma
 Evans, Robert & Edna
 Everett, Alberta
 Ewing, Denis
 Farfan, Matthew
 Feehan, Sextus & Kathy
 Findlay, Lloyd & Beverley
 Fitzpatrick, Susan
 Fitzsimmons, Robert & Muriel
 Fletcher, Doug & Louise
 Fleury, Leo & Laura
 Fowler, Shirley
 Frizzle, Larry & Diana
 Fulford, James & Ingeborg
 Gagnon, Gertrude
 Galetti, Maria
 Gameau, Jack & Lois
 Gasser, Noelle
 George, Graham & June
 Giguere, Ronald & Thérèse
 Gilbert, Patricia
 Gillim, Albert
 Gingras, Sally
 Goodfellow, Angus & Reta
 Goodfellow, Richard & Mary
 Goodhue, Richard & Margaret
 Goodsell, Lawrence & Della
 Gosselin, Michel & Carol
 Graham, Harry & Janis
 Gray-Donald, Donald
 Griffith, Royce & Winnifred
 Griffiths, Hywel



Gunter, Merlin & Mary
 Gwyn, Hugh & Susan
 Hains, Robert & Myrtle
 Hardacker, Lois
 Harrison, Robert & Norma
 Hatch, Wilder
 Hatfield, Carson & Mary
 Hauser, Eve
 Haywood, Michael & Dianne
 Heath, Bruce & Ellen
 Heath, Denis
 Hesse, Jean
 Heughan, Robert & Cairine
 Hobbs, Earle & Carol
 Hogg, Erin
 Holliday, Reg & Edie
 Holmes, Stanley
 Hopkins, Robert & Shirley
 Horn, Walter & Rhoda
 Horton, Betty
 Hoskin, Muriel
 Hoskin, Norman & Barbara
 Howie, Ross E.
 Hughes, Walter
 Humphrey, Byron & Elizabeth
 Humphrey, Gordon & Irene
 Hurd, Jim
 Hyman, Jacqueline & Kenneth
 Hyndman, Stuart
 Irving, Madeline
 Jackson, Evelyn
 Jenne, Edwin & Hope
 Jenne, Ronald
 Johnson, David & Patricia
 Johnston, Helen
 Jones, William & Marilyn
 Karpenko, Steve & Annis
 Keenan, Judy
 Kendall, Clarence & Catherine
 Kerwin, Norman & Judy
 Kerwin, Phyllis
 Ketcham, Gertrude
 Keyes, Lorne A.
 Kilburn, Peter
 Knowles-Johnston, Debbie

Kobelt, Charles & Alice
 Komery, Evelyn & Victor
 Komery, George
 Komery, Victor
 Korman, Fred & Lilian
 Kouri, Robert & Krystyna
 Kyle, Brian & Marie France
 LaBreque, Marie-Paule R.
 Lanktree, Adelaide
 Lantagne, Luc
 Laraway, Elaine
 Lasnier, Denis & Katrin
 LePoer, Kathy
 Learned, Douglas & Gertrude
 Leckie, Erena
 Leduc, Gerard
 Lee, Jean (Cochrane)
 Leech, Susan
 Lemay III, Jules E.
 Lemire, Robert
 Leonard, Charles
 Lewis, Wayne & Linda
 Liebrecht, Susan
 Little, Robert & Janice
 Lloyd, Eunice
 Lockwood, Norman & Elva
 Lothrop, Harvey & Phyllis
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 MacDonald, Malcolm & Joan
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 MacKinnon, Norma
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 McConnell, Burton & Betty
 McConnell, Ferne
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 McCullough, Nicole

McCurdy, Earle
 McCutcheon, Nina
 McKell, Kimberly
 McKelvey, Elaine
 McKelvey, Lyndon & Louise
 McKelvie, Stuart & Pam
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 McKindsey, Lynne
 McKinnon, Peter & Joan
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 McPhail, Pam & Wickens, Glen
 Merovitz, Lisa
 Millar, Catherine
 Miller, Christene
 Miller, Dale & Mildred
 Mills, Ed & Joan
 Mizener, Arthur & Diana
 Monteith, Rose
 Mooney, Michael & Carol
 Moore, Elizabeth
 Moret, Peter & Jane
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 Morgan, David & Helen
 Morin, Paul & Norma
 Morrison, Garnet & Sandra
 Morrison, Roderick & Joan
 Moss, Susan and Frank
 Mueller-Dickson, Betty
 Mulholland, John & Shirley
 Munroe, Sheila
 Murphy, William
 Myers, Grant & Voggenreiter, Sonya
 Nadeau, Aline & Patrick, Michael
 Nelson, Jane
 Nichol, Linda
 Nicol, Beverley
 Norris, Joan and Allen
 Nugent, Joy
 Page, Hollis & Doreen
 Page, Louis
 Parker, Gwendolyn
 Patry, Norman
 Peacock, Patricia
 Pedersen, Edward
 Penhale, John Anthony
 Perkins, Chester & Joan
 Perkins, Cora
 Perkins, Joyce
 Philbrick-Horan, Brenda
 Philip, Alexander & Judith
 Pitman, Douglas & Thelma
 Pomykala, Eddy & Wynne, Heather
 Purdon, Burn
 Quilliams, Peter & Beverly



Photo: Annis Karpenko

Quilliams, Robert & Patricia
 Ramage, Elsie
 Rand, Fay
 Reid, Barbara
 Richardson, Robert & Elizabeth
 Rideout, Jo Jo
 Riordon, Rod & Mary
 Roarke, Mildred
 Roberts, L. A.
 Robertson, Donald & Sheila
 Ross, Beverley
 Ross, Borden
 Ross, Dorothy (French)
 Rothe, Eckhard
 Rotherham, Tony & Audrey
 Rowell, Herbert & Nina
 Royea, June
 Royea, Vincent & Cathryn
 Ruck, Cyril & Thelma
 Sakamoto, Lawrence & Mary
 Sanford, Audrey
 Savage, Wyatt & Louise
 Scheib, Renaud & Eva
 Schlesinger, Frank
 Schopflocher, Thomas
 Scott, Anna Marie
 Seymour, Miriam
 Shaw, Reginald & Fran
 Smith, Evelyn
 Smith, Garth & Sylvia
 Smith, Ian & Shirley
 Smith, Kay (McIntyre)
 Smith, Mary Ann

Smith, Wendell & Nancy
 Smith, Bill & Barbara
 Snow, Henry & Katherine
 Spear, Linda
 St-Sauveur, Jack & Joyce
 Stahl, Nicholas & Doreen
 Stairs, Walter & Marilyn
 Starkey, Charlotte
 Stevens, William & Joyce
 Stevenson, Bruce & Lillian
 Stevenson, Janet-Anne
 Stolk, Hilda
 Streeter, Ola Nae Thompson
 Stretch, Margaret
 Sutor, Nancy
 Sutherland, Mary
 Taylor, Grace
 Taylor, Grant
 Taylor, Nancy
 Thomson, Joan
 Townshend, David & Nancy
 Trew, William
 Trower, Minna
 Tucker, Marna
 Turcot, Gilles
 Turnbull, Margaret
 Valenta, Elfriede
 Van Horn, Aleda
 Van Lier, Johannes & Pauline
 Vance, Gary & Trudy
 Verity, Barbara
 Visser, Aline
 Voggenreiter, Janice

Wade, Peter & Joan
 Watson, Erwin & Muriel
 Whitcomb, Ross
 Whitcomb, Stanley
 White, Mary
 Wilkinson, Myrtle
 Willey, Harold & Rachel
 Williams, Ramsey H.
 Wilson, Harold & Gwen
 Winget, Herbert
 Winser, Joan (Price)
 Wintle, Gilbert & Serena
 Wintle, Norman & Barbara
 Wolofsky, Leib & Sheila
 Woollerton, Robert & Margaret
 Woolmer, Eldon
 Wright, Forrest & Marion
 Wright, Juliette
 Wright, Robert & Carla
 Zakaib, Stephen & Carol

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Juliette Wright

Townshippers' Research & Cultural Foundation 2009 Campaign

Fondation des gens des Cantons-de-l'Est pour la recherche et la culture

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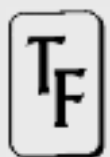
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Townships-Montérégie Partners for Health & Social Services

By Kate Murray, Assistant Coordinator, Montérégie-East Network, Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services

We have a dynamic Partners Network where ideas and concerns are shared. It includes, among others, representatives of the two CSSSs, the Eastern Townships School Board, Massey-Vanier High School, Centre Jeunesse Montérégie, the Foster Pavilion (treatment for dependencies), Horizon pour Elles (a women's shelter), Brome-Missisquoi Care Givers Group, Connections for Mental Health and Avante Women's Centre.

Here is a small sample of the activities resulting from the Partners Network.

Public Health

We were invited to participate in summits in Brome-Missisquoi and Haute-Yamaska. Participants included members of community groups, business organizations and CSSS representatives. Strategies were developed to achieve goals which will guide public health activities throughout the region.

Oasis

The Oasis farm project is a community effort to use a farm (previously operated by the Catholic Church and now leased to Jardins de la Terre) to provide alternative work and education for troubled youth. The committee will look at ways of optimizing the space and of generating public awareness.

Community Health Education Program (CHEP)

This program, previously called Telehealth, now has a wider scope. DVDs of the health teleconferences can be shown in towns across the region, with local CLSC professionals or members of local community groups present to answer questions from participants. Follow up activities such as exercise or support groups can be developed according to the needs of the English-speaking community.

Caregiving Course in English

Ten participants completed the pilot project course held in Bedford and received job offers. This gives them employment and at the same time provides a needed service to the English-speaking community. The course will be repeated in other towns. Partners include school boards, Avante Women's Center and Emploi-Quebec.

Intercultural Picnics

"Picnic 50+" in Cowansville and "Festival Estivale" in Waterloo are held in August each year, bringing English- and French-speaking seniors together for a fun-filled day of activities and information. Stay tuned for announcements of this year's events.

Brome-Missisquoi en Santé

This project to promote healthy lifestyle, spearheaded by CSSS La Pommeraie, asked people to form groups to participate in one or more of the following six categories; zero tobacco, zero acts of violence, five fruits and vegetables per day, five acts of mutual assistance, 30 minutes of exercise and 30 minutes for oneself.

We Can Act TOO!

This social theatre production provides the English-speaking community with information on CLSC services available to them and encourages them to be responsible for their own health. Health care providers learn from these plays about the concerns of the English-speaking population.

We can always use volunteers for these or other activities. For information, contact Kate Murray at 450-242-4421 (1-877-242-4421).

The Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services networks are hosted by Townshippers' Association. All these activities are made possible in part by support from the Community Health & Social Services Network (CHSSN) and Health Canada.



Photo: Courtesy of Townshippers' Association

We Can Act TOO! committee eating some healthy snacks and planning for this year's performances.



English-Speaking Youth Want to Contribute Fully to Quebec Society

Quebec's English-speaking youth have a strong desire to remain in and contribute to Quebec, increase their level of bilingualism and feel a valued part of Quebec society.

These were some the findings released in *Creating Spaces: Strategic Orientations for English-speaking Youth in Quebec*, a report that articulates the challenges and priorities of English-speaking Quebecers ages 16-29.

Creating Spaces was developed by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN) Youth Standing Committee with the input of 400 English-speaking youth throughout Quebec.

Key messages which emerged from this consultative process are:

- English-speaking youth want to stay in Quebec and contribute to Quebec society
- English-speaking youth want to be bilingual
- English-speaking youth wish to foster better relationships with Francophone youth
- English-speaking youth want to use a collaborative and inclusive youth-led approach

"Creating Spaces presents a positive message regarding future relations between English-speaking and Francophone youth," said Shawna Dunbar, co-chair of the Youth Standing Committee. "English-speaking youth wish to leave past conflict and tensions behind as they embrace bilingualism and demonstrate an authentic desire to move past the 'two solitudes'."

Electronic copies of *Creating Spaces: Strategic Orientations for English-speaking Youth in Quebec* are available on www.qcgn.ca. Printed copies may be ordered by calling Lise Palmer, QCGN's Youth Project Coordinator at 514-868-9044, ext. 221.

About QCGN:

QCGN is a not-for-profit organization that brings together 32 English-language community organizations across Quebec for the purposes of supporting and assisting the development and enhancing the vitality of the English-speaking minority communities. For further information please visit www.qcgn.ca.

Break a Leg, George!

Entrepreneur extraordinaire would be a good term to describe George Courville. For the past 4 ½ years he has contributed great energy, great ideas and great networking skills to his work as coordinator of the Brome-Missisquoi/Haute-Yamaska network of the Eastern Townships Partners for Health and Social Services. A man of many skills and with backgrounds in education, sports and business, he has specialized in bringing together people and organizations to create and carry forward new initiatives. Equally at ease in English and French, he worked tirelessly to foster understanding, friendship and collaboration between people in the two language groups.



His contributions abound. He played a key role in starting several youth projects – Survivors Camp, the Living Room and the Oasis Farm. And for seniors and people of all ages and all languages, the Picnic in the Park in Cowansville and a similar event in Waterloo, which has now merged with Estival-Festival. But perhaps his most striking innovation was his conception of We Can Act, using theatre as a vehicle for learning about health and social services and how better to access them. The resulting two theatre cabaret productions by Sunshine Theatre have toured not only the Townships, but made incursions into Quebec City and the Gaspé.

All to say – George has decided to move on, for now, to a new career as a professional golf instructor.

George, we wish you the very best! We will miss you, but we know we will continue to see you around, because we know your community involvement will continue to be strong. Because that's who you are!



George Courville surrounded by the committee, writers and cast of the first We Can Act social theatre cabaret produced in 2008.

Five Years of Partnering in the Estrie

By Shannon Keenan, Coordinator, Estrie Network, Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services

The Estrie Network is one of ten health and social services networks in Quebec that have just completed a five-year plan to help link and partner English-speaking communities with the health and social service system in order to maintain and improve access to services in English.

The Estrie Network began in 2004 with a needs assessment of the English-speaking community that helped establish the priorities for the next five years. The four priorities were lack of transportation, support to young and vulnerable families, information to seniors, and improving access to health information without creating a parallel system. Approximately 120 people participated in 12 focus groups to assess the health and social service needs of the English-speaking community.

During the past four years, numerous outreach and information meetings have been carried out with health care providers, partnerships in community proj-



Photo: Kathy Richan

Members of the Estrie Network's steering committee plan the strategy for next year.

ects, workshops for seniors and telehealth video conferencing on a variety of health care topics.

One of the first and most successful programs was Healthy Active Living 50+ (HAL). Under Kim Bailey's leadership and six dedicated local coordinators, interactive information sessions on health issues were carried out around the Estrie. Sessions were offered on topics that might help to improve someone's quality of life, such as the use of medication and other drugs, physical activity, stress management and nutrition.

Townshippers' information and referral service, a new volunteer bank matching volunteers with organizations seeking English-speaking volunteers, and the newly developing Mental Health Estrie all received support. The network partnered with Job Links and the Lennoxville & District Women's Centre in other community projects such as the *Big Picture* project in Richmond, a job skills development program for young adults, and *Tools for Life*, a program for mothers with children aged 0 to 5 years in the Haut-Saint-François. The network also helped to support the first English-speaking program in Magog with the Comité d'action locale (CAL). This program also brings together parents with children aged 0 to 5 for weekly workshops.

Telehealth follow-up funds helped to support a community kitchen, an exercise program and support for a drug and alcohol awareness program in a high school. A caregivers' support group in Bury was also started and is now being supported by the *Centre d'action bénévole Haut-Saint-François* (CAB).

Our final act for this year was to present a social theatre cabaret about health and social services called *We Can Act!*, which toured the Estrie in January. A second play called *We Can Act TOO!* toured the Townships in March.

The work of the Estrie Network was made possible in part by support from the Community Health & Social Services Network (CHSSN) and Health Canada.

Health & Social Service Internships

By Michael Caluori, Coordinator, Townships-Montérégie Training and Human Resources Development Project

Townshippers' Association continues to actively participate in the Quebec-wide Health and Social Services Training and Human Resources Development Project, led by McGill University and made possible in part by support from Health Canada.

Townshippers' Association is specifically responsible for the project in the Brome-Missisquoi and Haute-Yamaska areas. Generally, we recruit health and social services professionals who, besides being able to offer their professional services to the larger French-speaking community, are also able to serve English-speaking clients. The project also encourages these same professionals to consider establishing their careers in the area, with the objective of becoming members of the community. The project's primary recruitment tool is the financial support offered to health and social service students who wish to complete a field placement in one of our partnering establishments.



Michael Caluori

We also sponsored a bus that brought 20 prospective doctors to the region in February.

We also offer support for those wishing to return to the Townships and for prospective newcomers to visit. In the past three years, we have recruited nurses, social workers, speech therapists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. We also sponsored a bus that brought 20 prospective doctors to the region in February. A similar project is in place for the Estrie region and is coordinated by the CHUS. For more information about the Montérégie East project, contact Michael Caluori at 450-775-5900 or mc@townshippers.qc.ca. For information about the project in the Estrie administrative region, contact Cynthia van Vliet at 819-346-1110 #22573 or cv@preish.info.

Diabetes Awareness

By Kate Murray, Assistant Coordinator, Montérégie East Network, Eastern Townships Partners for Health & Social Services

For the second year, Townshippers' Association has joined other regions of Quebec in a project called Diabetes Intervention Strategy for Quebec Minority English-speaking Communities (DISQMEC). This project has the purpose of transmitting expertise about diabetes to people in rural communities and fostering the sharing of ideas and resources between these communities.

Within this project, Townshippers' Association has acted by developing and strengthening partnerships with organizations (Diabète Estrie, Diabète Brome-Missisquoi and Diabète Haute-Yamaska) and health care institutions (CLSCs, hospitals) which provide services and education for all age groups on the risk factors, prevention and management of diabetes. Promotion of services available in English from these partners and translation of materials into English for some associations are ways in which Townshippers' strengthens these partnerships.

In addition, Townshippers' also organizes activities such as information sessions to 50+ clubs and exercise groups led by speakers from CLSCs and the diabetes associations, and grocery store nutrition information tours by a dietician.

A recent forum on diabetes for community groups allowed members from English-speaking communities across Quebec to share ideas on activities and resources which are successful in preventing or managing the disease.

For information about this project, contact Eric Akbar Manolson in the Estrie at 819-566-5717 (1-866-566-5717) or Kate Murray in the Montérégie at 450-242-4421 (1-877-242-4421).

In the Townships, DISQMEC is carried out by Townshippers' Association and is made possible in part by the support of the Canadian Italian Community Services of Quebec and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

New Cultural Development Fund seems promising

By Rita Legault, Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), Dwane Wilkin, Quebec Anglophone Heritage Network (QAHN), and Ann-Marie Williams, English Language Arts Network (ELAN)

Organizations serving English-speaking Quebec say that a new national funding program for arts, culture and heritage has the potential to nurture a cultural renaissance among official language minority communities across the country.

"Recognizing the value of arts, culture and heritage opens the door to exciting new ways of strengthening Canada's minority language communities," said Guy Rodgers, president of ELAN, following last week's announcement that Ottawa will spend \$3.5 million a year to help support and strengthen the rich cultural, artistic, and heritage expression of French-speaking and English-speaking minorities.

"English-speaking Quebecers share a diverse cultural heritage, but the range and quality of their achievements are not always visible," said Dwane Wilkin, executive director of QAHN.

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy Framework for English-speaking Quebec is available on www.qcgn.ca.

Wilkin said he expects the Cultural Development Fund to support greater collaboration between cultural workers, community groups, various levels of government and the English-speaking community at large.

Funding for the new program will come out of the Cultural Development Fund, a \$14-million envelope identified in the Roadmap for Canada's Linguistic Duality 2008-20. The Roadmap details the federal government's five-year global plan for investing \$1.1 billion in official-language minority communities.

Recently, ELAN, QAHN and the QCGN worked together to come up with ideas on how this new fund can provide maximum impact and benefit for Canada's minority language communities. They developed a joint policy framework that defines key areas of intervention over the next five years. The Arts, Culture and Heritage Policy Framework for English-speaking Quebec is available on www.qcgn.ca.

Services offered by Townshippers' Association!

By Evelina Smith, Information and Referral Coordinator

Income Tax Service

Do you or someone you know need help filling out income tax forms? Townshippers' Association offers a free income tax service for low-income individuals and families.

Even if you did not have any revenue, it is necessary to file your income tax returns in order to receive the GST and QST rebates. Simply drop off your income tax papers at our Lennoxville office and you will be contacted when your completed forms are ready, usually within a week. The income tax service runs until the end of April.

Information & Referral

Are you looking for an English pre-natal class? Would you like to know where to buy new and used English books? Just can't seem to find that elusive government agency? Do you need a form for a birth certificate or passport? We can help! Our Information & Referral Service can point you in the right direction. Our databank contains over 700 entries with information on health services, support groups, federal and provincial government services, and so much more.



2182 (1-877-566-2182). The law student may also be contacted by email at blic@townshippers.qc.ca. Townshippers' Association ensures the same confidentiality for this service as for its Information & Referral Service and Income Tax Clinic.

Volunteer Bank

"Volunteering is a fundamental building block of civil society. It brings to life the noblest aspirations of humankind – the pursuit of peace, freedom, opportunity, safety, and justice for all people."



—Universal Declaration on Volunteering adopted by the Board of Directors of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) January 2001, The Netherlands

Are you interested in volunteering in your community, but are unsure where to look? Is your organization looking for an English-speaking volunteer? If so, give us a call. We'll point you in the right direction!

For more information on any of these services, contact Evelina Smith, Information & Referral Coordinator, at 819-566-2182, toll free 1-877-566-2182 or email at info@townshippers.qc.ca. All services are confidential.

Legal Information Service

Do you have a question about leases, small claims or marriage contracts? Would you like information about writing a will or contesting a speeding ticket? These are just a few of the topics you can ask about!

The Legal Information Service is staffed by a third-year law student through the valuable collaboration of the Université de Sherbrooke, and runs from September to April. This service is free and it's in English! Townshippers' Association has hosted this program since 2006.

While this clinic can provide much-needed legal information, the student is not authorized to provide actual legal consultation or advice; such acts are reserved exclusively for practicing lawyers and legal counsellors.

Inquiries may be made at 819-566-

The McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement

By Heather Keith

The McGill Institute for Learning in Retirement (MILR) serves a senior community of some 800 members. It uses the peer-learning model to provide an environment that nurtures intellectual thought while offering the opportunity to share in the learning experience.

MILR is a completely volunteer-driven institute under the umbrella of the McGill Centre for Continuing Education. It is a community of mature learners where the emphasis is placed on "peer learning" through participation in self-directed study groups of 10 to 22 members. Active participation rather than passive listening is encouraged. The groups are led informally by peer moderators who are themselves members of the Institute. Participants in the study groups are encouraged to do research and prepare presentations. There are no educational prerequisites, no age limitations, no exams and no grades. Moderators are not professors, they are experts in a field of their choice, and have volunteered to share their knowledge with their peers.

Study topics can range from the serious to the light-hearted – music of all kinds, history, humour, food, literature, religion, philosophy, politics – whatever piques the interest of the moderator/participants. Discussions are lively. Social networks and new friends also result.

MILR will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary during the academic year 2009-2010. To mark this auspicious year, they offered lectures to English-speaking community groups off the island of Montreal – including the Townships! In collaboration with the Sherbrooke & District Club of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and Townshippers' Association, three lectures were organized in Sherbrooke.

Peer-learning Information Session

The success of this peer-learning model in Montreal suggests that it might benefit people in other areas of Quebec that are looking for ways to break the isolation of their senior adults and offer important participatory learning opportunities. To this end, following the lectures, participants were invited to attend an informal introduction on "How to Start your own Peer-learning Program."

Should you like more information about peer-learning, contact MILR at www.mcgill.ca/milr or contact Heather Keith at Townshippers' Sherbrooke office.

What's new in Shared Rural Transportation?

By Evelina Smith, Information & Referral Coordinator

Val-Saint-François

For information about this new service, to get a registration form or to book the service, contact Trans-Appel Inc at 819-845-2777.

Haut-Saint-François

A regular service is now in effect between points in the Haut-Saint-François MRC and Sherbrooke. For information, consult www.mrchs.com (L'horaire du Minibus HSF), or contact one of the municipal offices or the Centre Jeunesse Emploi (CJE) at 819-832-1513.

Lennoxville

A minibus now connects Bishop's University, the Agriculture Canada research station and Alexander Galt Regional High School. For information, visit the City of Sherbrooke's transportation website at www.sts.qc.ca (schedule details are on the "Horaires des lignes" page). The bus route is # 28. Or contact the Société de transport de Sherbrooke (STS) at 819-564-2687 or service.clientele@sts.qc.ca.

Brome-Missisquoi

Monday – Friday. For prices or to make a reservation, call 450-293-8583 or toll free 1-866-890-5242. For full information, visit: <http://www.brome-missisquoi.ca/en/>

Coaticook

Monday – Friday. For information on prices and routes, contact Mrs. Jocelyne Gagnon at 819-849-3024.

Des Sources

Monday – Friday. Covers the Asbestos-Danville region. For information or to make a reservation, contact Frédéric Michaud at 819-879-7107.

Drummond

A service using the existing school transportation system is in place. For more information, contact Drummond Collective Transportation at 819-478-6700 ext. 6860.

More Information?

If you have questions, or if you have more information to share with others about shared rural transportation in your area of the Townships, please let me know at 819-566-2182 (1-877-566-2182) or info@townshippers.qc.ca.

Bon voyage!

In appreciation of volunteers...

by Evelina Smith,
Information and Referral Coordinator

Volunteers are like a mosaic - they are made up of many shapes, colors and sizes. And, like a mosaic, they bring joy to our lives and put a smile on our faces. Here is Townshippers' Association's mosaic of volunteers! Thank you for all that you do!



Photos: Townshippers' Association



Photo: Cathy Turner

An Open House on March 4 welcomed the community to Townshippers' Association's new Montérégie office at 584 Knowlton Rd, Lac Brome (Knowlton). The new phone number is 450-242-4421, toll free 1-877-242-4421, and the new fax number is 450-242-5870. This is the perfect place to find out about services in English in your community, browse through a selection of works from Townships artists, or simply to stop by for a quick hello.



Photo: Cathy Turner

Have you listened to any of these CDs by talented Townships artists? Michael Ayles, Amos Joannides, Kate Morrison and Julia Rohan, to name a few. If you've never heard these names, it's time you tried something Townships! Come in and browse the selections of books, music, cards and prints in our offices. Townships Expressions is a project of Townshippers' Association to support Townships English-speaking artists by selling and publicising their works.

Special Thanks!

We would like to extend a special thank you to the personnel from the various *Centres de Santé et de Services Sociaux (CSSS)* who attended the *We Can Act* play that toured the Estrie in January. They generously made themselves available to answer questions and join in the discussion.

These resource persons included, from the Val-Saint-François CSSS, Pierre Lalande, director general, and Richard Arsenault, member of the Board of Directors.

Attending from the Haut-Saint-François CSSS were Jacques Boissonneault, director general, and Charles Savard, consultant for seniors.

Representing the Memphrémagog CSSS was Noel Bellas, family worker for the English-speaking community.

In Sherbrooke, Celine Bureau, the CSSS English-speaking liaison, attended on



behalf of the CSSS-IUGS, and Lucie Thibodeau, English-speaking liaison/coordinator, attended on behalf of the *Agence de Santé et de Services Sociaux de l'Estrie*.

The presence of all these service providers and their availability to answer questions about health and social service concerns were greatly appreciated.

We Can Act and *We Can Act TOO!* were both made possible in part by financial support from the *Community Health & Social Services Network (CHSSN)* and *Health Canada*.

The We Can Act! Cabaret toured the Gaspé in November 2008, the Estrie in January 2009, and the *We Can Act TOO!* Cabaret toured the entire Townships in March. Sunshine Theatre Productions have been busy, busy, busy! Here are a few pictures from this innovative and entertaining way of promoting local public health programs and services to rural communities, with special focus on relating to service providers.



Photo: Kate Wisdom

Louise Penny was celebrated by the Yamaska Valley Optimist Club's third annual International Women's Day Dinner on March 7, 2009. Her latest book, *The Murder Stone*, is now available at both Townshippers' Association's offices.



Photos: Barbara Lavoie



Above right: Spell it large! *We Can Act Too!* actors get physical about the CLSC. Cast members: Nikki Moar is the C, Laura Teasdale is the L, Kate Wisdom is the S, Doug Hooper is the last C, and Ralph Steiner is the tah-dah!

Left: In a show in Lennoxville, Sunshine Theatre Productions cast depict a family receiving diverse services from their local CLSC. *We Can Act Too!*, a social theatre cabaret sheds humorous light on relating to health and social service providers. It toured the Townships in March.