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Local Youth Program to Participate in Scotiabank Charity Challenge

The program's participants are asking for the support of the community to help them reach their goal.

STEPHANIE MCBRIDE
info@stephmcbride.com

COMMUNITY. Every Friday night, the Village Church in Ormstown hosts Teen Drop-In from 7-10:00 P.M., made possible by non-profit organization Montreal Youth Unlimited (MYU)-Chateauguay Valley ministries.

The program, which has been underway for the past six months, offers up extracurricular activities to the community's youth. Come spring, the group will participate in Montreal's Scotiabank Charity Challenge to help raise funds for their local program. Taking place April 22-23rd at Park Jean Drapeau, the run offers participants the option of running or walking 5km, 10km, or 21km—as a way for local charities to raise funds. The Chateauguay Valley team has set a goal of \$5,000 for themselves—they are hoping to raise monies to improve their program, an essential outlet for many of the youth in the community.

"On Friday night, we transform the basement of the church into a comfortable place for teens to come and hang out with friends. There are cozy corners with couches. There are board games, foosball, air hockey, and a pool table. There is a snack bar, music, and often freshly baked cookies. Sometimes we will organize fun activities for the night, but most of the time it's just a neat place to hang out," says Katie McKay, who serves as Chateauguay Valley's Ministry Coordinator.

"As part of MYU, we see the hope and potential in every young person. Our goal is to provide community-based programs that come alongside the youth of the Valley to help them reach their full life potential. Every teen that comes through the doors has a story; a past and a future, filled with ups and downs.



Local youth enjoying time at Ormstown's Village Church. Katie McKay

The best thing about this program is getting to know the teens, hearing their stories, and being able to take the time to really listen," explains McKay.

In addition to the Teen Drop-in program, the MYU-Chateauguay Valley branch also works with the local churches to help them with their youth groups and events. The

group works towards bringing children to camps and conferences, planning day trips, as well as spending time getting to know the teens individually. McKay adds that the group hopes to offer homework help and life skills programs to local youth.

To run in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge on behalf of the group or to donate, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/879241408880285/> and follow the link on that page. Be sure to donate to the team "Our Run For Youth" if you would like your contribution to go towards the Chateauguay Valley youth programs. For more information, please contact Katie McKay via katie.mckay@jlsmln-treal.org or 514 778-4134.

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**Two performances
for Les Caméléons**

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Agriculture
**Funding for Training of English
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OPINIONS

Toddlers and Food: The Best Laid Plans



STÉPHANIE MCBRIDE
Info@stephmcbride.com

OPINION. Before I had children, I had all of these plans revolving around how I was going to nourish them. Everything would be as organic as our bank account would allow, and I'd steer them away (within reason) from processed food and sugar.

Also, everything would be home-cooked—no frozen chicken nuggets for me. I'd observe other parents with their chocolate cake and French fries and think, my kids will never eat that stuff. I was such an idiot.

My son just finished lunch, and while my infant daughter thoroughly enjoyed the homemade minestrone soup and boiled broccoli I made, my toddler son would only eat half a banana, a cup of milk, a bite of a chicken nugget (which he promptly chewed up and spit out) and something that may be identified as a "fruit strip." He's obviously eating enough, but as most parents will tell you, there's not much reasoning that can be done with a two-year-old, especially in regards to what they choose to eat. Now I'm on to meal planning in the hopes of inspiring my son's taste buds—while also trying to hold on to my sense of reason. Wish me luck.

Services for families in the Haut-Saint-Laurent receive over 80 000 \$

MARIO PITRE
TRANSLATED BY CATHLEEN JOHNSTON
mario.pitre@tc.tc

FAMILY. The organization Une Affaire de Famille will receive \$81 855 in financial assistance from the ministère de l'Éducation to continue providing services to families in the Haut-Saint-Laurent.

The funding was announced Monday, March 27th by Huntingdon MNA, Stéphane Billette, on behalf of his colleague Sébastien Proulx, Minister of Education.

\$65 325 will be dedicated to ongoing activities within the organization while, over the next two years, \$16 530 will go towards the

community drop in daycare service in Ormstown and Saint-Chrysostome.

In short, the funding will make it possible to accommodate more families, support parents in their role as parents and stimulate learning among children. The organization will be in a position to offer more activities that encourage reading and literacy within families which will favour the overall development of children and their transition to school and a successful education.

According to MNA Stéphane Billette, «Family community organizations and community drop-in daycare centres are important partners of our government. Whether it is through promoting the role of parents by supporting families, particularly those in vulnerable situations, or by assisting new parents, Une Affaire de Famille contributes to fostering the full potential of children and families in the Huntingdon constituency, and I would like to thank them very much for their work.»



MNA Stéphane Billette presented the funding to Gabrielle Limoges, Director of Une Affaire de Famille, in the presence of personnel and members of the organization.

Photo courtesy of TC Média

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THIS AND THAT IN TOWN

PANCAKE SUPPER

On Saturday, April 8th, a pancake supper will be held at the Athelstan Presbyterian Church from 5-8: 00 P.M. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children aged 6-12. 5 and under eat for free.

CEMETERY ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Huntingdon Protestant Cemetery will be held on April 20th at 7: 30 P.M at the home of George and Thelma Robb (2484 Route 138, Godmanchester).

5TH ANNUAL FIDDLER'S FANCY

On April 8th, the Hemmingford Historical Archives will host the 5th Fiddler's Fancy from 1-4 P.M. at the Hemmingford Elementary School gymnasium (548 Champlain, Hemmingford). Tickets

available at the door: Adults \$12, students 12+ \$6 and children free. For more information contact: Hemmingford Archives at 514 778-2845 or hfordarchives@gmail.com

CORRECTION

Please note that admission to Grove Hall's production of On the Line is \$20, not \$15 as printed. Apologies for the error.

NOTE:

If you or someone you know has an event that they would like to see promoted in the paper or in the This and That section, please send an email to info@stephmcbride.com. Please note that all advertising inquiries must be directed to The Gleaner's head office. Due to space constrictions, not all requests can be featured in the This and That.

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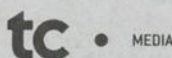
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RÉSEAU SÉLECT



Actors living with an intellectual impairment

Two performances for Les Caméléons

MARIO PITRE
TRANSLATED BY CATHLEEN JOHNSTON
mario.pitre@tc.tc

THEATRE. The theatre troupe Les Caméléons will be back on stage again this year with two performances of *The Nose* by Nicolas Gogol (1836), adapted for the theatre by Robert Bellefeuille and Isabelle Cauchy.

This play is performed without words by nine, talented actors living with an intellectual impairment. They will be accompanied, live, by musicians from the Klezmoushe Band.

Their first performance will be on April 18 at 7 p.m. in the Salle Albert-Dumouchel in Valleyfield (Valspec) as part of the Fêtes internationales du théâtre (tickets are \$15). The second will take place April 28 at 7 p.m. at CVR high school in Ormstown (\$10). Tickets will be on sale at the door for both performances.

Les Caméléons prepare for their performances thanks to weekly rehearsals from the end of September to the end of April, the ongoing work of some ten volunteers and in-kind or financial contributions from artists, individuals, businesses and organizations in the community.

The Haut Saint-Laurent theatre troupe is comprised of Louise Arcoite, Jérémy Caron, Nora Clavin, Meghan Condie, Marc-André Dancause, René Gobeil, Ian Hooker, Melissa Shewchuck and Allan Vaincourt.

Theatre allows these actors to integrate better into society and to see their efforts rewarded by the audience's appreciation. Come to their annual show at the salle Albert-Dumouchel or CVR high school and you'll be completely won over. Last year's production was a resounding success. For information contact Louise Gobeil at 450 827-2089.



Photo courtesy of TC Média



Louise Arcoite

Jeremy Caron

Nora Clavin

Meghan Condie

Marc-André Dancause

René Gobeil

Ian Hooker

Melissa Shewchuk

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Photo courtesy of TC Média

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Taillefer nee Brunette Elizabeth

Passed away in Huntingdon on Thursday, March 30th, 2017 Mrs. Elizabeth Taillefer nee Brunette age 92 years. Beloved wife of the late Rosario Taillefer. She leaves to mourn her children Guy (Francine Vandellac), Luc (Nicole Saumier) and Rose (Richard Wattie), her grandchildren Patrick (Isabelle), Nancy (Martin), Daniel, Annie, Natalie (Ricky) and Nina, her great grandchildren, her brothers Archie and Louis, her sister Dorothy and their spouses, nephews, nieces also many relatives and friends. The family will receive condolences Saturday April 22nd, 2017 from 10 a.m. at St-Joseph Church in Huntingdon followed by the funeral service at 11 a.m. Burial St-Joseph Cemetery. Donations may be made in her memory to the Women's Auxiliary of the C.H.H., 198, Châteauguay, Huntingdon, QC. J0S1H0 would be appreciated. DIRECTION FUNÉRAIRE : RODRIGUE MONTPETIT ET FILS INC. Online condolences and tributes may be made www.rodriquemontpetitfils.com

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Rodrigue Montpetit et Fils Inc.

Funding for training for English speaking farmers

MARIO PITRE
TRANSLATED BY CATHLEEN JOHNSTON
mario.pitre@tc.tc

AGRICULTURE. Some 800 English speaking agricultural producers in the Montérégie will have easier access to training thanks to a \$7 500 grant approved by Farm Credit Canada.

This financial assistance was issued to the Montérégie UPA which represents a significant number of English speaking producers in 5 of the 15 local UPA unions, including those of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, Haut-Saint-Laurent, Jardins-de-Napierville, Haut-Richelieu and Brome-Missisquoi.

This financial assistance comes from the Expression Fund which is intended to fund projects in official language minority communities.

The Federation will be able to assume some of the cost of translating pedagogical material through its Regional collectives for agricultural training (Collectif régional en formation agricole). English speaking producers are invited to indicate their needs in continuing education to Marie-Claude Séguin, Sponsor for agricultural training by email at mcseguin@upa.qc.ca.

According to Claude Lapointe, 2nd Vice President of the Montérégie UPA and President of the Montérégie Regional collective in agricultural training, «training is the key to ensuring optimum performance for agricultural businesses. It is, in fact, with this



English speaking agricultural producers will be able to access training more easily.

Photo TC Média Archives

in mind that we are making a huge effort to meet the needs of our members in terms of training. Funding from Farm Credit Canada confirms our commitment in this regard.»

For information about training programs across Québec, the UPA provides a training

portal at uplus.upa.qc.ca. All 13 regional collectives in agricultural training post their training in continuing education on the site, as well as proposed webinars developed by and for agricultural producers, along with reference tools.

Morneau Budget Nothing for the most vulnerable, denounces Anne Quach

POLITICS. In reaction to the Trudeau government budget presented Wednesday, Anne Quach, New Democratic MP for Salaberry-Suroit estimated that citizens in the region «received very little to help them keep their heads above water, while the privileged and friends of power were well rewarded.»



Anne Minh-Thu Quach, MP for Salaberry-Suroit. Photo TC Média Archives

The MP pointed out that one part of Justin Trudeau's promise to abolish a tax credit related to wealthy CEOs was not respected while the federal budget gave them a present of \$725 M per year. At the same time, there was no measure scheduled in the budget to fight against precarious jobs and no proposed strategy to address the issue of food banks.

«Just before the budget was tabled, I asked Minister Jean-Yves Ducloux if he was finally going to help the Service alimentaire communautaire and the food banks. He told me to wait for the budget. But no mention was made in the 322 pages of the budget,» stated Anne Quach bitterly.

Quach conceded that the Liberals do intend to invest in affordable housing, something the NDP has advocated for years. Unfortunately, when the details are analysed, 90% of the investments are planned for 2019, after the next election campaign.

«Once again, nice promises but no immediate action when the need for affordable housing is very pressing in the riding as it is in the rest of Canada,» deplored the MP.

As for the youth file, Quach welcomed the renewal of the Youth Employment Strategy and new funding for professional training. However, the Liberal government is not making the effort to provide the means to create quality, full time employment.

«Ten days after closing Katimavik, the government still has not announced funding to save the organization which has allowed thousands of youth to experience cultural exchanges across the country,» said Anne Quach indignantly.

The NDP welcomed the opportunity family caregivers may have to access 15 weeks of employment insurance benefits to care for a family member. (M.P.-C.J.)

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