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THE MAGICAL WORLD OF NEVERLAND TO TAKE OVER THE STAGE AT CVR

The local high school's Grade 11 students are set to perform a musical that they have been preparing for since the summer.



STÉPHANIE MCBRIDE
info@stephmcbride.com

THEATRE. On Thursday, January 28th at 8:00 P.M. the Grade 11 students at Chateauguay Valley Regional High School will be performing *Neverland*, an original take on J.M. Barrie's classic tale *Peter Pan*.

While the Grade 11 performing and visual arts students put on a play every year, this is the first time that *Neverland* will grace the CVR stage. In the true spirit of the bedtime story, this production is sure to be nothing short of magical.

Approximately fifty students have been preparing for the play all year, having prepared their auditions over the summer. The musical is the result of creative efforts put forward not only by the teachers, but also from the students, who have been actively involved in developing every aspect of the play, from the sparkling backdrop to countless pairs of fairy wings that will be seen flitting about on stage. The role of Peter Pan will be taken up by Dylan Burrows, with the villainous Captain Hook being played by Liam Priest. Rosemary Tarquinio will embrace the role of the innocent Wendy, while the glittering part of Tinker Bell will be shared by Sydney Zawislak and Emily Ocnas.

Teachers involved with the production of the play, including Lynn Harper, Cindel Chartrand and Dawna Babin, played a large role in designing the set, using sketches and photographs to create a stage that would be both imaginative and multi-purposed. They called upon locals Stanley Myatt, Robert Campbell and



Students rehearse *Neverland*. Photo Chateauguay Valley Regional High School

Michael Iskra to construct the creations that they had build up in their imaginations. Beryl Myatt also volunteered her seamstress skills to create costumes that were unique to each of the students—many of the inspirations for which were gathered on social media site Pinterest. Local businesses also stepped in to donate both their time and materials to the production of the play, while several CVR alums volunteered their time to provide music for the production. According to Harper, "This close-knit cast has laboured long to bring their own personal stamp to each song, dance, prop, set piece and costume. They have worked tirelessly to bring a level of professionalism to the stage and to

make this show their own." They are well prepared—in addition to having rehearsed all year, the players showcased a piece for the high school's annual open house earlier this fall—they will also perform *Neverland* for an elementary audience on Wednesday, January 27th.

While the students enjoy themselves performing, they get much more out of the whole experience, says Harper. "At the end of the journey that is "Performing Arts", students often remark that the experience is more than a class. They feel a sense of belonging—a sense of being part of something bigger than themselves. They cultivate relationships that are lasting and learn lessons that are unique to this

experience. They develop a sense of personal growth and self-confidence. In the end, our students develop not only as individual performers, but as part of the greater whole."

So join Wendy, John and Michael as they sail away to *Neverland* with the courageous Peter Pan and Tinker Bell to meet mysterious mermaids, mystical fairies, Tiger Lily and her tribal warriors, and Captain Hook's swashbuckling pirate crew. This magical musical tour is set to take place on January 28th (8:00 p.m.), January 29th (8:00 p.m.) and January 30th (2:00 p.m. matinee and 8:00 p.m.) and tickets (\$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors) can be reserved today by calling the school at (450) 829-2381.

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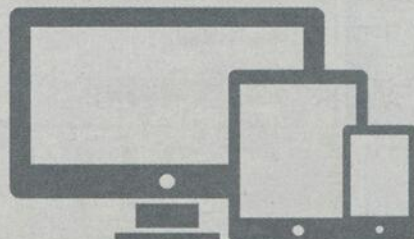
CVR
A Student Handles Life
with Dyslexia

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Four Hockey Players at the
Québec Pee-Wee Tournament

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Chateauguay Valley Treasure Hunt



STÉPHANIE MCBRIDE
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OPINION. While I haven't lived in the area long, I am beginning to learn that there are countless treasures to be discovered in the area.

From the more obvious, like the delectable food and atmosphere at Restaurant Citron Basilic, to the more subdued gems, like Blair's carrot cake, there are a bevy of well-kept secrets to discover. Across the Chateauguay Valley, there are countless people working to add something special to the region through their efforts as farmers, producers and artists. But in a region spread so wide across such an expansive territory, how is one supposed to keep track of all of the nooks and crannies across the valley? (Especially if you haven't lived here for the majority of your life.) As a relative outsider, I am still working to discover all that the area has to offer—and I am always shocked at the effort and painstaking care that goes into many of the events/venues that I attend/visit. For instance, I

recently discovered Franklin resident Cheryl Stanger's Savon Bien soaps, and I don't think that I'll ever purchase soap at the pharmacy again. The same goes for the moka coffees and pastries at Café Racine in Huntingdon—they honestly make the best almond chocolate croissants for miles (Starbucks, who?).

In the big old city, there are so many options to choose from, whether you're looking for organic produce or gourmet pizza—which, for me, was pretty much the only perk of living so close to complete strangers that I could provide you with a running commentary of their lives on any given day of the week. Coming to the country provided me with the space I needed to breathe, but I was a little sceptical of what I'd find in terms of selection. As it turns out, I've eaten my words and then some.

These discoveries have pushed me to want to unearth the rest of the valley's secrets. While I have been gathering little tidbits here and there via social media, I'd love if long-time locals would let me in on the best-kept secrets of the area, so please feel free to send me an email at info@stephmcbride.com if you have any great ideas!



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ACTUALITY

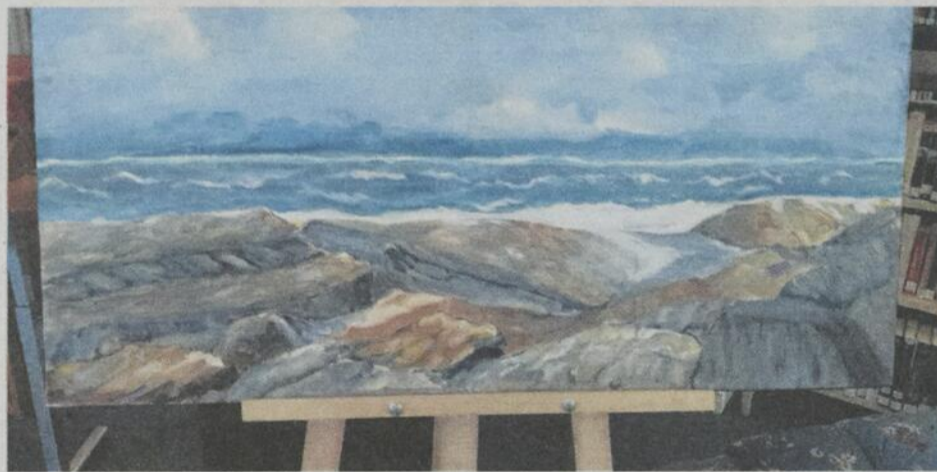
New Exhibition at the Little Green Library

STEPHANIE MCBRIDE
info@stephmcbride.com

CULTURE. Under tutelage of local art teacher Pat Walsh, Barbara Ocnas and Catherine Fries will be displaying their recent works in Huntingdon.

At two in the afternoon on Saturday, January 23rd, The Little Green Library in Huntingdon hosted a small gathering to celebrate the work of Barbara Ocnas and Catherine Fries, the two artists responsible for the artwork that will grace the walls of the library for the next two months.

Both artists are students of Elgin resident Pat Walsh, a well-known arts teacher and exhibiting artist that teaches at the Visual Arts Centre in Westmount, as well as at the Huntingdon Adult Education and Community Centre (HAEC). As for the artists, Huntingdon resident Catherine Fries recently took up painting again after a 30-year hiatus. Studying fine and commercial art in Ottawa during her youth, Fries, who works as a horticulturalist by day, began taking courses with Walsh at the HAEC, drawing much of her



Recent work of Catherine Fries, titled Aramon Noir. Photo Catherine Fries

inspiration from the natural world around her. Fries works majorly with watercolours, but has recently starting experimenting with acrylic. Artist Barbara Ocnas currently works with a combination of watercolour and acrylic. Painting with Walsh for the past sixteen years, the Ormstown native prefers to focus on flowers as her favoured subject matter. This is the

second time that Ocnas's work has been on display at the library in recent years.

The Little Green Library hosts exhibitions regularly in order to shine light on local artists. Over the next several months, the library's Cultural Committee, which focuses mainly on the library's artwork, will be featuring the work of Walsh's students, exhibiting two artists at a time.

THIS AND THAT

CVAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chateauguay Valley Antique Association is holding its AGM on Wednesday, February 3rd at 8:00 P.M. at the United Church in Huntingdon. Please note that the CVAA is looking for interested persons to fill positions as directors and executives. Please contact Rene at 450-567-1328 for more information, or if you're looking to be a part of creating an amazing show in our community!

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Musical group Antidote will be performing in Ormstown at Gigzz Musique-Resto on Friday evening, January 29th at 8:00 P.M. For more information or to make a seat reservation, contact Adrian Doucette at 514-800-4244.

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 contact Stephanie at info@stephmcbride.com or call 514-458-0450. Please note that all advertising inquiries must be directed to the Gleaner's head office.

2 - Wednesday, January 27th 2016 - www.the-gleaner.ca

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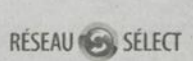
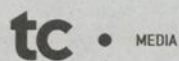
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41 735 copies
Published by:
Media Transcontinental S.E.N.C.
Printed by Transmag 10807, Mirabeau, Anjou Qc, H1J 1T7
Distributed by publi-sac,
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1 888 999-2272



Jordan Baril handles life well with dyslexia

A determined sea cadet and football player

DENIS BOURBONNAIS
TRANSLATED BY CATHLEEN JOHNSTON
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PERSEVERANCE. The progress a student at Chateauguy Valley Regional High school has made in sea cadets and sports is a wonderful example of what can be achieved through determination.

15 year old Jordan Baril has not only been actively involved with the Valleyfield Royal Canadian Sea Cadets (section 329) for four years, he has also become captain of the Spartans football team at Chateauguy Valley Regional High school in Ormstown where his position has evolved to linebacker in defence.

Before joining the cadets, Jordan was a shy boy lacking in self confidence. He felt marginalized because of the way his dyslexia affected his marks at school. When he joined the cadets he immediately felt respected and accepted as part of a large family.

By participating in activities like sailing, scuba diving, precision shooting and military exercises, Jordan discovered new interests while making new friends. «It has all contributed to his developing a sense of responsibility, self confidence and respect for others,» emphasized Naval Lieutenant Denis Poisson of the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Eastern).

Cadets has also taught him how to manage his time well. «This has enabled Jordan to

become seriously involved in his school's football team, while continuing to participate in the cadet program,» added Poisson.

The adolescent came to realise that anything is possible when you are determined. «Playing football doesn't interfere with my evenings of cadet training. In fact, what I've learned at cadets has made me the best captain I could be,» claims Jordan Baril.

«My training with the Sea Cadets has made me the best possible team captain in football.»

- Jordan Baril

«This attitude is what's helped him to become captain of his football team and to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the cadets program,» concluded Lieutenant Denis Poisson.

The sea cadet program is intended for boys and girls aged 12 to 18. The Valleyfield group holds its activities on Thursday evenings at 11, rue de l'Église in Salaberry-de-Valleyfield. For further information visit their website at www.cadets.ca/fr.

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Jordan Baril is as happy participating in sea cadet activities as he is contributing to the success of his football team. (Photo: courtesy of)

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Living with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

A mechanic sees his life turned upside down

DANIEL GRENIER
TRANSLATED BY CATHLEEN JOHNSTON
 daniel.grenier@tc.tc

HUMAN INTEREST. Michel Tremblay's life has changed a great deal since last June. He is living with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou-Gehrig's disease or the disease made famous by the «Ice Bucket Challenge».

The 53 year old mechanic who lives in Ormstown owns his own shop. He has had to alter the way he works because of this degenerative disease.

«I have trouble walking, my muscles give out all the time. The loss of income frustrates me a lot,» admits Michel Tremblay during an interview with The Gleaner.

The first symptoms appeared in 2014 but it was not until last June that he received an official diagnosis.

At the beginning, he went to the Barrie Memorial Hospital in Ormstown and he then underwent neurological tests at the Hôpital du Suroît in Valleyfield. «I took an EMG test with needles in my muscles. That was when I found out I had Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis,» said Tremblay.

This largely unknown disease is caused by the progressive deterioration of motor neurons that send electrical «messages» from the brain to the spinal cord or from the spinal cord to the muscles. These cells control muscle movement.

When messages sent by the spinal cord no longer travel correctly, muscles end up losing strength and mass. This phenomenon is called amyotrophy. When the signals no longer travel

from the brain to the spinal cord, the muscles become stiff and slow.

MEDICAL EXPERIMENT

In an effort to slow down the progress of the disease, Michel Tremblay has been participating in the clinical trial of an experimental medication at the McGill University Health Centre in Montreal since December.

«Currently, approximately 500 people are in clinical trials in the world,» he remarked. Some 3000 people are suffering from ALS in the country.

Every year, approximately 1 person in 100,000 is diagnosed with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Men are more likely to have it than women. Symptoms appear between the ages of 50 and 75.

«I took an EMG test with needles in my muscles. That was when I found out that I have Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.»

Michel Tremblay

FAMILY DAY IN AUGUST

In spite of his illness, Michel Tremblay has remained positive and wants to raise funds for SLA/ALS Québec (sla-quebec.ca).

His Mini Cooper car has been decorated with the «Ice Bucket Challenge» colours by Enseignes Dumas from Coteau-du-Lac to raise awareness about this disease among the general public.



Michel Tremblay from Ormstown, who suffers from Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) decorated his Mini Cooper car with the «Ice Bucket Challenge» colours to raise awareness about this disease among the general public. (Photo TC Média - Daniel Grenier)

Furthermore, he would like to organize a young and not so young, promotion and plenty more. Profits from this event will be given to SLA/ALS Québec. Date and details for this special day will be announced in the coming months.

Impaired driving causing death Multiple repeat offender on trial

STEVE SAUVÉ
TRANSLATED BY CATHLEEN JOHNSTON
 steve.sauve@tc.tc

JUSTICE. On April 18, 45 year old Yves Bourdeau will appear in court at the palais de justice in Valleyfield. The man from Saint-Chrysostome is facing a charge of impaired driving causing death.

The accused, who is being defended by Me Guy Lalonde claims that he was not the driver of the motorcycle in an accident that occurred on route 202 in Franklin on July 6, 2014. 31 year old Josée Soulière died as a result of her injuries in this accident.

The crown, represented by Me Nancy Lecompte, informed Judge Marie-Chantal Doucet that she planned to have nine witnesses testify at the next appearance. Yves Bourdeau has several previous charges for driving while impaired. The accused has been in jail since his arrest.



The accident occurred in July, 2014 on route 202 in Franklin. (Photo TC Media - Archives)

ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE ANNUELLE

Le Camp Soleil de Mélissa vous invite à son assemblée générale annuelle. L'assemblée se fera le Jeudi 28 Janvier, 2016 à 15h. Elle se tiendra à l'école HAECC (24 York, Huntingdon).

INFO 450 264-6340

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Melissa's Sunshine Camp invites you to its Annual General Assembly. The Assembly will be Thursday, January 28th, 2016 at 3pm. As usual, it will be at HAECC (24 York, Huntingdon).

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Winter: The Best Time to Cuddle Up with a Good Book

Firewood, chocolate and stack of good books carry us through the colder months of the year.

Photo Depositphoto



STÉPHANIE MCBRIDE
info@stephmcbride.com

LIBRARY. As the winter sets in, many of us head into hibernation mode. We stock up on firewood, chocolate and stack of good books in order to carry us through the colder months of the year. Luckily for Chateauguy Valley residents, The Little Green Library in Huntingdon has an extensive inventory of titles, which are constantly being added to.

Making a special effort to address the needs of their readers, the local library stocks its shelves accordingly. With so many titles to choose from, selecting a good read may seem a little daunting to some, which is why we called on the expertise of staff member Jo-Ann Craft to provide us with her selection of the best books to curl up with this winter. Here's what she came up with:

1. FIFTEEN DOGS BY ANDRÉ ALEXIS

The winner of the 2015 Scotia Bank Giller prize and the 2015 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction prize, this tale explores what would happen if canines were temporarily imbued with human intelligence.

2. BROKEN PROMISE BY LINWOOD BARCLAY

The first in a new trilogy by this bestselling Canadian author, Broken Promise follows unemployed reporter David Harwood through a series of thrilling events—including a suspicious murder and a motherless child.

3. THE MOTH CATCHER BY ANN CLEEVES

Her latest Vera Stanhope novel (the seventh, to be exact), this murder-mystery trails the protagonist as she works to uncover the truth in the small town of Valley Farm.

4. THE CROSSING BY MICHAEL CONNELLY

Featuring two of Connelly's favourite characters, Harry Bosch and Mickey Haller, this thriller basks the reader in the exciting world of law, crime and deceit.

5. TRICKY TWENTY-TWO BY JANET EVANOVICH

Another Stephanie Plum adventure that follows the bounty hunter as she trails a frat boy antagonist through New Jersey in hopes of discovering the truth after a murder and a series of pranks that suggest something funny is going on just below the surface.

6. A BANQUET OF CONSEQUENCES BY ELIZABETH GEORGE

An Inspector Linley mystery that explores the world of a dysfunctional family—most of which is the fault of the mother, an abusive pathological liar named Caroline Goldacre.

7. BIG MAGIC BY ELIZABETH GILBERT

A work of non-fiction from the author of Eat, Pray, Love on how to reach goals, and meet the challenges in your lives face-to-face.

8. ROGUE LAWYER BY JOHN GRISHAM

Another thriller, any work by John Grisham speaks for itself. This read follows street lawyer Sebastian Rudd, who works out of a bulletproof van, choosing to defend characters that other lawyers won't touch.

9. EVEN DOGS IN THE WILD BY IAN RANKIN

The sequel to Saints of the Shadow Bible, Rankin brings back his roster of characters to uncover the truths surrounding this murder-mystery.

10. SEE ME BY NICHOLAS SPARKS

If you're looking for solid romance, look no further than Nicholas Sparks for a tale wrapped around the lives of two modern day star-crossed lovers—a troubled Colin and a disciplined Maria.

Spartan Talk

THOMAS BURTON & ELIZABETH SÉGUIN

Slow and steady was the way to do it this week at CVR. While the Spartans may have had a quiet week due to important mid-term exams, they nonetheless squeezed in a few practices for their much-anticipated upcoming games.

In fact, the annual Bishop's University basketball tournament in Lennoxville is coming up and the Spartans are eager to get there. The trip is overnight and the players have been fundraising tremendously. It's an amazing opportunity for the athletes to learn new skills and compete against different teams of the region. We sure hope that CVR will be well represented at this event and we have faith that the Spartans will come out victorious!



Photo TC Média

Be sure to read next week's article because we promise that we'll cover all of the highlights and fantastic scores of the weekend. Now, back to studying!

Appointment

Stéphane Brais, Director General for the Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, Haut-Saint-Laurent and Soulanges market territory is pleased to announce the appointment of **Cynthia Snow** to the position of Media Solutions Advisor for the Haut-Saint-Laurent sector.

With three years of experience in this domain, Cynthia will be able to offer you the best advice for all your media projects including digital publication or distribution. Having Cynthia as part of our team of consultants is a major asset for our clients.

I would like to congratulate Cynthia on her appointment and wish her every success in her new position.



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Cynthia Snow

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Hemmingford Elementary Hosts Mini Concert For Non-Profit Heshima

Dancers take the stage to not only have fun, but for the greater good.



STÉPHANIE MCBRIDE
info@stephmcbride.com

DANCE. On the evening of January 22nd, Hemmingford Elementary hosted C2, a mini concert involving close to fifty young dancers from Hemmingford's two elementary schools, École Saint-Romain and Hemmingford Elementary.

Dancers ranged greatly in age, from kindergarten students to sixth graders, while many of the elementary school's alumni stepped in to volunteer. The event was pulled together in a week's time, hosting close to 150 people in the gymnasium of Hemmingford Elementary.

Motivated to host the concert by her dance students, Heshima founder Lexis Beattie combined her pupils to create an event that raised over five hundred dollars for Heshima, a non-profit whose efforts are dedicated to educating and funding the needs of displaced orphans and vulnerable children in Africa. The dance classes are taught as one part of Heshima's four-pillar dance program, Dance Not Drugs, which seeks to use dance as a way to keep youth on a positive track in life. Dance students and volunteers alike were thrilled to be part of such an event, which featured not only group



Dance Not Drug Dancers. Photo Philip Fortin

choreographed dance, but also focused on several soloists, making it a truly unique event. By the end of the evening, participating children had received a certificate congratulating them for completing the program, with four certificates of excellence being awarded to two students from each school, based on character

throughout the eight-week dance session. As for the best part of the whole event? According to organizer Lexis Beattie, it was, "...empowering children through education. Inside and outside of the classroom—that's Heshima's mission. To be able to do so through dance has been an enriching and empowering experience for all involved."

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Jeanne Hart, Serge Poirier and Benoît Therrien Wood and Marshland at the Alfred-Langevin Cultural Hall

ART EXHIBITION. The Haut-Saint-Laurent MRC is inviting art lovers to discover three visual artists, Jeanne Hart, Serge Poirier and Benoît Therrien, who combine their love of nature and artistic talent in a joint exhibition of painting and sculpture at the Alfred-Langevin Cultural Hall in Huntingdon from January 17 to February 7.

Inspired by nature and everyday life, their works express not only the beauty surrounding us but also our complex and fragile environment.

JEANNE HART

From her studio, located in Ormstown, Jeanne Hart has created a series of paintings that tell a story based on a specific theme. These canvases, presented in a linear sequence, invite the viewer to leave town and visit the marshlands; a little known environment, teeming with life with an important ecological role to play. Slowly, from painting to painting the viewer comes to realize that the more the town expands, the more the marshland disappears, thereby threatening our natural habitat.

SERGE POIRIER

Serge Poirier won the «Coup de cœur du public» award at the group exhibition Reflection during Culture Days 2015. A resident of Hinchinbrooke, he is now exhibiting a collection of his finest wood sculptures. Vibrant and life-like, they are the result of thorough research and impressive detailed work. He admits that he no longer knows how much time it took him to create and complete the works in this exhibition.

BENOÎT THERRIEN

Winner of numerous awards, like his colleague Serge Poirier, this wood sculptor from Athelstan offers us a wonderful variety of birds of prey and ducks for which he is very well known. His passion for sculpting birds is breathtaking.

This joint exhibition will launch the 2016 program at the Alfred-Langevin Cultural Hall. For further information about the new program, visit www.mrchsl.com/vie-culturelle_salle-alfred-langevin. (M.P.-C.J.)

MORE INFORMATION ON www.the-gleaner.ca

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Madeleine Bouthillier Galipeau
 January 28 - 2015 -

Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.
 Love you mom and miss you.
 Your family.

Participation at the Québec International Pee-Wee Tournament

The big day is approaching for four Beauval hockey players

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HOCKEY. Two hockey players from Salaberry-de-Valleyfield and two from the Huntingdon Minor Hockey League Association will soon be living the dream of every youth who plays our national sport. They will be participating in the Quebec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament.

As members of the Grenadiers du Lac Saint-Louis pee-wee AA, forwards Félix-Olivier Beaudin and Justin Côté from Valleyfield along with defenseman Vincent Roy and forward Derek Fontaine from Huntingdon will have the opportunity to skate on the ice of the new Centre Vidéotron on Wednesday, February 10. On the first day of the biggest pee-wee hockey tournament in the world, these young players, under head coach Benoit Fortin, will play against Vics de Yamaska-Missisquoi starting at 11:45 a.m.

Although they had a very ordinary start to the season, the Grenadiers have developed excellent team chemistry and have won their last 9 games in the Québec Ligue d'Excellence. This successful series allowed the Grenadiers to build a record of 15 wins, 6 losses and 1 tie.

Last weekend, the pee-wee AA team beat the Citadelles from Abitibi-Témiscamingue with a score of 3-2 during a game at the Salaberry de Valleyfield Arena before taking a 2-1 victory



The four players from Beauval who will be participating in the Québec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament, Derek Fontaine, Justin Côté, Félix-Olivier Beaudin and Vincent Roy, will be accompanied by Assistant Coach, John McGuire of the Grenadiers du Lac Saint-Louis pee-wee AA and Head Coach, Benoit Fortin. (Photo: Gracieuseté)

against the Sélects du Nord (Mirabel). The result of these victories was an invitation to the 57th Québec Pee-Wee Tournament even though such an outcome seemed unlikely at the beginning of

the season. The 11 and 12 year old players will travel by bus on Tuesday, February 9 so as to ensure a good night's sleep in the capital City before their much anticipated game the next day.

The Étoiles de Beauval pee-wee CC will also be participating in the renowned Quebec Tournament. They will face the Rorquals from Charlevoix on February 10 at 6 p.m. at the Centre Vidéotron.



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www.the-gleaner.ca - Wednesday, January 27th 2016 - 7

Le Journal Saint-François

The Gleaner



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