

The Scoop

"We are so appreciative to all of our volunteers who helped to achieve this."

Gathering for the Annual Ken Jones Respite Christmas Dinner

By Mable Hastings

On Saturday, December 10 some fifty people gathered for the Annual Ken Jones Respite Christmas Dinner in Potton. Clients greeted friends, family and special guests including Bolton East Mayor, Joan Eby and Potton Mayor, Louis Veillon as well as members representing the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre(CAB) Board of Directors; the organization that sponsors the program.

The Ken Jones Respite group (KJC) which is proudly part of the CAB family is a program for persons with intellectual disabilities and the group meets every Thursday from 8:30am to 3:00pm in the Missisquoi North Youth Centre building at 282 Main Street in Mansenville. The program is animated by Coordinator, Sheila Samborsky and Eszter Csiszer with the help of a devoted weekly volunteer, Anna Tomera.

Before the meal, a speech prepared by Ken Jones Committee Chairperson, David Stirling was shared with those gathered in his absence. In the speech, David recognized the valuable efforts of the program animators, committee members and volunteers. He emphasized the importance of the volunteers in helping with fundraisers that enable the Centre to offer programs like the monthly bowling outings for the clients. Stirling also celebrated those who help out with all of these events to offer sup-

port to staff in supporting and helping the clients.

"We, the Ken Jones Centre Committee, have only one major fundraiser each year," explained Stirling. "The Autumn Fest held each year at Owl's Head in the fall raised \$4200.00 to help with our programs for the clients and in fact, this was one of our most successful years!"

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Robinson Committee concerned about heritage sector

By Matthew McCully
SHERBROOKE

them," he said.

In an effort to stop a major development project in the Sweetsburg sector of Cowansville, a citizen's group, the Robinson Committee, has sent a request to the Commission Municipale de Quebec (CMQ) for a judgment on the legality of the zoning changes included in the new urbanism plan, which would allow for the construction of a four-storey, 150 room seniors' residence.

The property in question for the proposed development is the former Robinson Residence, which until 2011 operated as an autonomous seniors' residence.

Founded by an association of retired teachers, the home first opened its doors in 1967. In later years, non-teachers were welcomed into the home, but as care needs increased and laws changed over the years, maintaining the residence became a challenge.

The facility, owned by the Protestant Retired Teachers' Homes and Benefits Corporation, was eventually sold.

Pur Immobilia, a Montreal based development company, gave a presentation last week to Cowansville residents, outlining the proposal for a new 150-room seniors' residence.

According to Hinse, the previous zoning regulations limited new construction in the Sweetsburg sector, running from Saint-Rosa-de-lima Church to the courthouse, to buildings a maximum of three stories high, and no more than 17 separate living quarters.

"That's nine times the allowable number," Hinse said, adding that the building itself is only one of the concerns.

The complaint was filed with the CMQ on Wednesday, Dec. 9. According to Robinson Committee representative Jean-Yves Hinse, the CMQ has 60 days to render a decision, expecting an official response by mid-February.

"We think we have a good case," Hinse said, "But we're not taking any risks," he added, continuing to mobilize the community in preparation for a possible referendum on the issue. The Robinson Committee has, to date, gathered 450 signatures from members of the community opposed to the project, Hinse said, adding they are from all over town and not just neighbours of the proposed development.

Hinse said that 500 signatures in a register would be required to bring the issue to a referendum.

"We're confident we'll get

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