

Lennoxville Christmas market attracts generous shoppers



MATTHEW MCCULLY

Lennoxville's first try at a pay-it-forward Christmas market was a big success, according to organizer Haley Harrison. The idea behind the market, held on Saturday at the old church beside Shalimar, was to give shoppers an opportunity to buy local, while donating to a community organization in need. Harrison said shoppers arrived with warm clothes for the Lennoxville and District women's Centre, as well as bags of non-perishables for the local food bank. "Someone brought jackets with the tags still on them," she said, adding that another thoughtful shopper gave gift cards, so that people could go shopping for the groceries they need. After leaving their donations at the door, members of the public could weave their way through a market of local vendors selling fresh baking, knitted and crochet items, handmade jewelry and other crafts. "The vendors were happy," Harrison said, explaining that the day worked out as planned and was a success for all involved. Harrison estimated that close to 200 people came through the door throughout the day. In addition to the clothing and food drop off, raffle tickets were sold for items donated by the various vendors, with the proceeds going to the Lennoxville Pet Connection. This is likely to become an annual tradition in town, Harrison said. Jen young, who helped with the organization agreed, adding that they will probably need to find a bigger building next year, based on the popularity of this year's market. Seen here are the vendors from Saturday's market, sitting among the bags and boxes of donations from generous shoppers and community members.

KEN JONES

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MABLE HASTINGS

Some fifty people gathered for the annual Ken Jones Christmas Dinner in Potton Saturday evening to celebrate the holidays and to thank the many volunteers who contribute so much to the group's success.

Following the speech, the group gathered was encouraged to enjoy the delicious meal prepared by staff and volunteers. John Samborsky had baked three turkeys with all the fixings for the occasion. The meal was followed by desserts galore! After the singing of various carols with Anna Tomera leading the group, Santa made a joyous appearance with gifts for all! The "not so secret" Santa has been bringing Christmas Cheer to the Centre for many years and he is a wonderful addition to the festive gathering.

The Ken Jones Centre Committee includes: David Stirling, Chairperson, Laurette Rouleau, June Peacock, Catherine Morris, Wanda Leonard, Rick Fergusson, Perry Hicks, Charles Larin and Andre Gagne. For more information about the Ken Jones Respite Program, please visit the CAB website at www.cabmn.com or call the Centre at 450-292-4886.

ROBINSON COMMITTEE

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He pointed out the property borders Davignon Lake, which is the town's reservoir.

"A big building wouldn't help the situation," Hinse said, explaining that water quality issues and blue algae have put the water supply at risk in recent years.

Hinse said the Robinson Committee is not trying to save the building, neither is it opposed to development.

"If there is a project, it should respect the environment," he said, referring to the impacts on the lake, but also consider population density and the character of the heritage neighbourhood, which has plaques and signs in front of many of the centennial homes along that section of Rue Principale.

Hinse said the Robinson Committee would also like the town to put concrete measures in place to ensure that any development project either incorporate aspects of the previous building in new construction, or at least reference it, preserving the heritage quality of the neighbourhood.

Right now the Robinson Committee is focused on getting a ruling from the CMQ.

While under review, Hinse said the process is

frozen, so there is no danger the project could move forward.

Cowansville Mayor Arthur Fauteux said he would be surprised if the CMQ took issue with the municipality's zoning changes, confident everything was done in accordance with the law.

"I'm certain it's the social aspect," Fauteux said, regarding resistance to the new development.

"Seniors want this," he said. "It's a good project."

Fauteux said two different studies were done, one by the town and one by the developer, both of which identified a need for the new seniors' residence, even surpassing the 150-room capacity in coming years.


According to Fauteux, a preliminary look at the impact on the lake suggested the new build would not be a problem. Further studies would be done before final approval would be given, he assured.

"It has to harmonize with the landscape," Fauteux said, pointing out that the Sweetsburg sector of town is well protected, and new construction would be required to adhere to the town's architectural integration plan.

Christmas for you

Join us for Carols and Christmas Dinner

our gift to you
on Friday, December 25
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
(doors open at 10:30 a.m.)
at Hope Community Church
corner of Queen and College, Lennoxville.





Everyone welcome.

For transportation or information, call HCC at 819-822-2627 or The Loughheeds at 819-563-7750

No charge - "our gift to you."

