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Day camp reverses decision

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Doucet had also provided contact information for Selena's educator so the camp could understand what she was like in a setting other than her home.

Doucet said her answers on the application translated into a mathematical equation.

"Selena 'scored' high enough to attend camp," Doucet said, even though it was pointed out during the meeting that the application did mention an emphasis on social integration.

"Let's define integration, shall we?" Doucet went on.

While making friends and playing team sports may be the definition of social integration for most kids, for Selena, that is not the case.

Doucet said last year she had packed up the backyard pool too early in the season, so on a hot September day, she went out and got a sprinkler so her kids could cool off.

While her three other daughters immediately put on their bathing suits to run under the sprinkler, Doucet said Selena went straight for her rain boots and an umbrella she had received for her birthday.

"It made sense," Doucet said, adding that someone who sees the world differently might not see the logic in ten kids chasing after the same ball.

"My daughter walked into your camp willingly with her dog and her backpack, confident. She was even high-fiv-

ing certain kids she knew. To me that counts as integration," commented Doucet.

"Do you think she'll be more social next year if she spends the summer in my living room?" she asked, during the meeting.

"A lot of what you might consider 'doing nothing', she's observing. She's processing. I see it in little things she does. She surprises me all the time," Doucet said.

According to Doucet, overall, the meeting went well. A general lack of communication was identified as the root of the problem.

Doucet said sharing the small victories that happened in the short time Selena attended the camp (the fact that she got over the noisiness and foreign smell of the indoor pool and went swimming every day; that she was willing to wear noise cancelling headphones; that she was walking into the camp willingly every morning) helped the organizers realize that being at camp was a positive experience for Selena, regardless of how her behaviour scored on the social integration scale.

On Tuesday, Selena will return to camp, as will her two sisters, who had been withdrawn when Selena was asked to leave to keep her company at home.

Doucet said she will stay as long as necessary on Tuesday to answer any questions and try to help Selena's counsellor.

"I'm a partner in this service agree-

ment as well. I'm no expert in autism, but I'm an expert in Selena. I can help."



Weather



**TODAY:
SUNNY**

**HIGH OF 27
LOW OF 14**



**TUESDAY:
CLOUDY**

**HIGH OF 29
LOW OF 16**



**WEDNESDAY:
CLOUDY**

**HIGH OF 27
LOW OF 18**



**THURSDAY:
CLOUDY,
SHOWERS**

**HIGH OF 26
LOW OF 18**



**FRIDAY:
CLOUDY**

**HIGH OF 27
LOW OF 15**

Pancake breakfast

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

can pay when you get there and while supplies last, enjoy the breakfast in the company of friends, family and neighbours.

The Partage/Share Food Bank is a service that runs all year long through the CABMN offering emergency food baskets as well as Christmas baskets during the holidays. Recently, the group has partnered with the Memphremagog food bank (Banque Alimentaire Memphremagog) to help those in need support assuring that their family has food to eat. For more information about the Partage/Share Food Bank, contact the

CABMN at 450-292-3114 or visit the website at: www.cabmn.org

The Partage/Share committee is made up of volunteers who work hard to help families in need. Since the group offers a Mother's Day Pancake breakfast fundraiser and now, has added the breakfast on Festival Day to their fundraising efforts, they are always in need of donations of maple syrup. If you are reading this and you can donate a few cans, please contact Partage/Share committee member, June Peacock at 450-292-4473. Any help is always much appreciated.

These events are only a success when people come out in support of them.

The Partage/Share volunteers are looking forward to seeing you all at this fundraiser and thank you in advance for your encouragement and support. The group also wishes to acknowledge the volunteers who help them during these events who are not a part of their committee. Many hands make light work and as volunteers the group recognizes with appreciation the kindness of those who give their time to help.

The committee encourages you to start the day on the Saturday of the Spirit of Pottton Festival with a belly full of pancakes in support of the Food Bank.

Ben by Daniel Shelton

