

# LOCAL NEWS

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## New Horizons comes together around community artwork

By Gordon Lambie

Students and staff of the New Horizons Adult Education Centre in Sherbrooke spent several days last week working on a collaborative art project that, when finished, will become one of the first things people will see when they walk in the front door. Carried out with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Communications' Culture in the Schools Program, the project saw every member of the school community come together to make a mosaic mural out of recycled materials under the guidance of Bishopton-based artist Isabelle Gauthier.

Michele Ferenczi, the teacher who planned the project, explained that the idea came out of planning for the centre's annual end-of-year gala.

"Last year I had this idea that I wanted the theme to be second chances, and I wanted to make everything out of recycled materials," Ferenczi recalled, going on to say that she was in this frame of mind when she received an email about the Culture in the Schools Program. Going through the program's list of available artists she found Gosselin, who works specifically with recycled materials. "I thought. That's perfect

for my gala."

Over the course of four days, the teacher said that each group of students in the centre came to work on the mosaic for at least an hour, together crafting the multicoloured image of a tree. Each student, she explained, was in charge of selecting the pieces and colours of one leaf that were then assembled into the final form by the visiting artist.

"We wanted each student to be able to give it a try," she said, noting that it was particularly interesting to see how the project came alive for some students who normally show little interest in creative work. "Nobody here had experience in mosaic art before except for Isabelle"

"On Wednesday morning I came to school nervous and stressed but then when I started on the mosaic I was transformed as a sense of calm came over me," shared Joshua Rediker, one of the students at the centre. "The art was speaking to me on a spiritual level. It was so bizarre yet pleasant at the same time."

Rediker shared a vision of the finished artwork with The Record where each colour symbolized a different aspect of life, growth, learning and renewal. He also explained the process

behind the work, which involved students choosing a "leaf" and sketching it out onto scrap paper, where the outline could then be filled with materials like buttons, glass beads, pieces of tile or mirror, and even small toys and figurines. Once their selections were made, the students then added coloured glue to their original leaves and transferred their chosen pieces one-by-one.

Gosselin, still working on finishing touches as she spoke, praised the initiative that allowed her to be in the school to help out.

"It's great for the schools to have access to artists," she said, sharing that this is her second year associated with Culture in the Schools. Through her work with the program she said that she has already visited schools of all levels in several different parts of the province. "It's never the same from one school to the next."

Gosselin explained that artists must register and be selected by the ministry to participate, but she pointed out that the repertoire of artists who give workshops is broad, touching on everything from music, to writing, to visual arts.

As for New Horizons' project, Ferenczi said that it is due to be unveiled at this year's Gala on May 29, after which it will



PHOTO COURTESY MICHELE FERENCZI  
New Horizons student Joshua Rediker working on a mosaic leaf with teacher and project initiator Michele Ferenczi

be mounted in the school's main entrance.

"It will be the first thing people see," the teacher said, sharing that she feels the work helps to showcase the diversity of the school and its community.

## Quebec unveils new veterans license plate

Record Staff

On Friday, Quebec's Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for the Estrie region, François Bonnardel, and the Minister for Digital Transformation Éric Caire, unveiled a new commemorative licence plate for veterans, fulfilling a commitment made during the last election campaign.

As is the case in other Canadian provinces and the Yukon, veterans can be more easily identified through the license plate of their vehicle. Thus, the new plaque will be adorned with a field of poppies, faces of soldiers seen in profile and the word "veterans". A poppy will complete the picture. The new image will shed more light on Veterans' outstanding contribution to our history and the defense of our democracy.

The replacement of existing plates will be entirely covered by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec and

the plates will be sent directly to the homes of veterans who wish to purchase them.

"The government wishes to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of veterans who have agreed to serve and defend their country and the values of democracy. This new plate is not only a mark of recognition, but also a tribute to these women and men for their commitment and sacrifice in defense of our rights, our values and our democracy," commented Bonnardel.

The commemorative plate is available to veterans who apply through the Royal Canadian Legion for a vehicle already registered with a standard plate.

Eligible vehicles include touring vehicles, motorcycles, electric vehicles and motorcycles, and motor homes weighing 3,000 kg or less.

All costs will be borne by the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec and the annual cost of vehicle registra-

tion will remain the same.

### How to order a plate

Veterans who already have a commemorative plaque will receive an explanatory letter and a form in the coming weeks, which they will have to return to the Société to receive a license plate with the new design at no charge. Those whose vehicles are not already registered with a commemorative plate

and who make an initial request to the Royal Canadian Legion will automatically receive a plate of the new model.

Veterans who do not have a commemorative license plate already must apply to The Royal Canadian Legion by completing an eligibility form and paying the \$15 to cover administration costs.



(SAAQ)

## Potton Municipal Mayor and Council

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their first exchange. It was clear from the discussion that another meeting would follow in the near future and the youth requested that the next session be hosted by the Mayor and Council at the Town Hall.

"It would be wonderful to have the Junior Mayor and Council join us for an actual public meeting," suggested council member, Bruno Cote. "Although this

would require some planning on our part, seating them next to us to allow them the full experience would be both educational and fun for them."

Potton Mayor, Jacques Marcoux also indicated before he left Saturday's exchange that this type of meeting would be welcomed and beneficial on a regular basis in the future.

For the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) youth programming, the Leadership group continues to ex-

plore new ways of implicating youth in roles of community involvement and initiatives that allow the youth to be empowered and celebrated. Saturday's session was a clear indication that these kids are up for the challenge and keen to experience, learn and grow and community leaders.

As on youth commented at the end of the meeting as she reflected on what she had learned...

"Who knows, in a few years, I may ac-

tually be a member of the Potton Municipal Council or perhaps, the Mayor? It all depends on what I decide to do!"

For more information about the Leadership program or any of the other youth programs offered through the CABMN, visit: [www.cabmn.org](http://www.cabmn.org) or call the Youth Centre located at 282 Principale in Mansonville at 450-292-4886.