

# Potton receives visit from Stephane Tremblay, Deputy General Manager of the CIUSSS De L'estrie-CHUS



## THE SCOOP

### MABLE HASTINGS

Potton Mayor, Jacques Marcoux and Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Director, Mable Hastings welcomed CIUSSS de l'Estrie-CHUS Deputy General Manager, Dr. Stephane Tremblay and Mr. Jean Delisle, Assistant Director des Services multidisciplinaires for a meeting to discuss the health services offered by the CLSC in Potton. The meeting was held on Thursday, May 30 at the CABMN offices in Mansonville.

Potton has a permanent population of some 1850 plus seasonal residents with an increasing senior population. As a small rural community, having a local CLSC in its midst has been a unique and vital addition to the community. In 2014-15 following the untimely death of one of its doctors, Potton was left with three part-time doctors and the fragility of the medical services offered became a concern for many. Potton Mayor, Jacques Marcoux has long voiced his concerns in

this regard and has stayed vigilant in his efforts to keep Potton's health needs at the forefront and a priority to for the Health Board.

There have been a variety of changes to services and personnel at the Potton CLSC service point over the past few years where some 4000 live files exist of those requiring medical services. With some services being moved to more centralized service centers in larger areas, some of the services that Potton residents were able to access locally in the past must now be sought elsewhere. It is important to note that when we speak of Health Services, we are talking about both physical and mental well-being.

The purpose of Thursdays visit for Dr. Tremblay and Mr. Deslisle was twofold; one, to get a clearer picture of the health care situation and needs in Potton and two, to assure the community that the Health Board has every intention of keeping the local service points like Potton's open and thriving.

"It is and has been a priority for us to bring additional doctors to Potton," said Dr. Tremblay. "I can assure the population that we are doing everything in our power to make this happen," he added.

With the recent cut in doctors and services in the Lac Brome/Knowlton area, and the fact that one Potton CLSC doctor is on a leave (leaving 50 of his 500 patients needing more urgent follow-up being covered by the remaining two doctors), some local residents are finding



PHOTO: DEBRA HARDING

Deputy General Manager, Dr. Stephane Tremblay. Mable Hastings Executive Director CABMN, Mr. Jean Delisle, Assistant Director des Services multidisciplinaires and Jacques Marcoux, Mayor of Potton.

themselves on a very long waiting list to find a regular doctor.

"Our first priority has to be to stabilize things," said Tremblay. "We must look at the entire situation and come up with a plan that will work and our focus is on the proximity of services as this is of the utmost importance; Potton is a priority."

Thursday's meeting brought with it one very clear message; the ear of the Director General is open and his intentions are sincere in his plan to improve the health services in Memphremagog. The task at hand is a big one and while patience is necessary, the urgency is very

clear. Dr. Tremblay does not mince words and functions with a very transparent and direct approach.

It has been over four years since hundreds of Potton residents wrote letters sent to the Commissioner of Complaints at the CIUSSS de l'Estrie-CHUS expressing their concerns in regards to Potton's health services. The continuous efforts of the "Comite de Vigie" (Watchdog committee) of the Memphremagog Hospital assures that the needs in regards to the health system remain a priority. The recent meeting in Potton made it clear that these efforts have not been made in vain.

## A park of the Borough of Lennoxville named after the Atto-Beaver Club (1955-1973)

By Jean-Marie Dubois (Université de Sherbrooke) and Gérard Coté (Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society)

The story of Atto-Beaver Park began in 1955 when residents of the St. Francis Street neighborhood established the Atto Beaver Club. The aim was to provide sporting facilities for the youth, largely from families of veterans settled there since the end of World War II. The name of the park was given both for the Attos, a pioneer family from as early as 1851 and former owners of the property, as well as to remember the famous Beaver Club at Canada House in London, where many Canadian soldiers could "relax" during World War II.

Soon after the end of the war, the area where the park is now was built up with the construction of veterans' houses. These were on Atto Street around 1946 and then on Beattie Street in 1947. As early as December 1955, the Club built a skating rink on 1.2 ha of some rented land and then bought the lot the following year. They first built a service building and laid out a baseball field. Inauguration took place at Cecil Dougherty's home, one of the club's founders and its president in 1958-1959. The south-east section of the park would

only be really developed in 1966 with the creation of a more permanent baseball field. In 1973, the Club ceded the property to the Town of Lennoxville, during mayorship of Cecil Dougherty. The park was then enlarged to its present size. Between 1974 and 1978, the park was redeveloped, a new service building was built and around 1987, soccer fields were added.



Cecil Dougherty, Mayor of Lennoxville from 1967 to 1985 (Courtesy of Sylvia Coates)

A green space of almost the same size as the park borders it to the north. There is a pond in this area, which fills an old sand pit. A trail network goes around the pond and leads to the park. About 1995, volleyball courts were added. Then the multipurpose trail of the Route Verte Saint-François corridor crossed part of the park. Later, in 1996, L'Envolley volleyball club was established. The base-

ball field was replaced in 2005-2006 by three beach volleyball courts. And in 2007, play equipment for children was installed. A third and larger service building was erected in 2011 in order to better serve the teams and the Sherbrooke City Council officially named it the Cecil-Dougherty Service Building in 2012.



Atto family farm house around 1904 (Courtesy of Lennoxville-Ascot Historical and Museum Society)