

Senior's Christmas card and basket project "an act of love"



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

From Dec. 20 to the 22 Potton seniors were the recipients of beautiful handmade Christmas cards sent through the postal service and gift baskets delivered to their doors thanks to a subsidy received by the "Act of Love" organization in collaboration with the Missisquoi North Volunteer

Centre Senior Services staff.

The mission of the Act of Love organization is to break the isolation for seniors and thanks to Danielle Poitras who is involved in the organization, the CABMN was called upon to assist in doing the project for seniors in Potton during the holiday season. Initially the idea was to do a Christmas Card distribution to seniors as a reminder that they are being thought about during the holidays and wished only the best for good health and abundant happiness.

"We already had plans to do something for our senior population," said Monique Gilbert, a member of the SAPA senior service team working at the Volunteer Centre. "This project came as the right time," she added.

Following a discussion, the Mansonville Elementary School was approached to ask the students to make cards for the seniors living alone.



PHOTOS COURTESY

Monique Gilbert and Angelle Laplume-SAPA

MES teacher, Andréa Ivan agreed to take charge of the designing of the 140 cards and the CABMN mailed them out to seniors on Dec. 7 assuring the seniors would receive them in time for Christmas. The remaining cards were given to the food bank to offer with the Christmas baskets. This means the MES students were able to use their talents to spread cheer in a variety of ways.

Danielle Poitras soon approached the CABMN Senior Services team with an expanded idea to follow up the mailing of the greeting cards with the distribution of a Christmas basket at a value of approximately \$20 as a gift for each isolated senior. Over 120 seniors were identified, routes were created

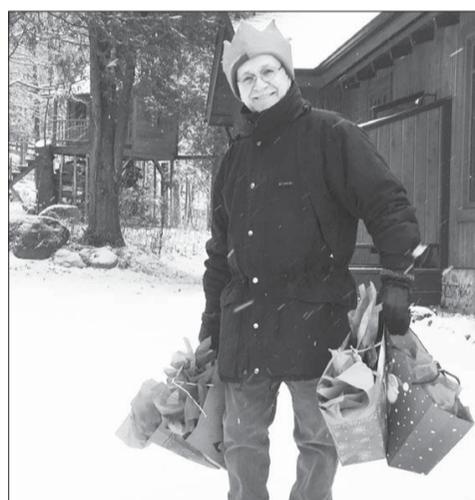
and six people made the deliveries over a two-day period going from door to door to share in the festive time of year. Poitras was accompanied by a team of joyous elves: Élise, Anne, Philippe and their respective spouses and SAPA staff coordinated the delivery of the baskets.

The CABMN Main Office has received emails and calls with all extending their appreciation for the time, effort and most importantly the love that these baskets brought to so many.

The CABMN extends a big thank you to Danielle Poitras and her team for involving the volunteer centre in this wonderful project that filled a real void for seniors who were very touched by this act of love.



Danielle Poitras



Garry Savage

Reminder about Connexion Potton service

By Mable Hastings

Although five hundred and forty-three households have now signed up for the Connexion Potton service, Potton Mayor Michael Laplume and the members of the Municipal Council are encouraging every household to connect.

The purpose of the Connexion Potton project is to get Potton residents to take advantage of modern communications by using mobile phones and email. This will make it possible for the fire department and first responders to alert citizens about public safety hazards and also tell them about anyone in the house that has mobility, cognitive vision or hearing issues. This information could make a difference if they are ever called to someone's door. Also, the Municipality wants to use these new connections to lower costs, and to send out information about public affairs and to get citizen's opinions on things that matter.

Signing up is easy but does require an access code and can be done on your computer or your mobile phone. If a resident has not received a letter from the Municipality with an access

code, all they have to do is send an email with their name and their Potton address to connexion@potton.ca or call 450-292-0844. You will find the help you need there. There is no need to contact the Municipal office directly, this email and phone number will get the best results in signing up.

Because the success of the Connexion Potton service relies heavily on contacting all persons living in the community and not only those who own their own homes, it is vital to reach out to renters and get them on board as well. Organizers feel that one of the best ways to do this is to get neighbours, organizations and families encouraging all they meet to sign up if they haven't already.

The Municipal Council and Mayor are aiming to improve the communication between the Municipality and its citizens with transparency and access to important information. Also, being able to improve the emergency services offered is certainly a bonus in implementing the Connexion Potton service.

"On behalf of myself and the Potton Municipal Council I extend our best wishes for a Happy and healthy holiday season," said Mayor Michael Laplume.

"We encourage all citizens to make the "connexion" as we embark upon a promising New Year."

If you haven't already signed up

make a New Year resolution to do so! Surely as a citizen, public safety, public affairs and public consultations are important to you!



COURTESY-LAKSHMI DIANA NGUON

The Municipality of Potton Mayor and Council encourages Potton residents to enjoy the Holidays while making the Connexion: back row: Council members: Andre Ducharme Eddy Mierzwinski, Bruno Cote, Francis Marcoux front row: Council member: Jason Ball, Mayor Michael Laplume and recently retired Mayor Jacques Marcoux.