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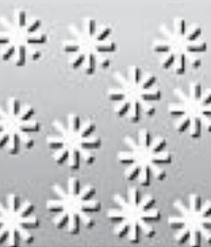
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Weather



TODAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -10



TUESDAY:
SNOW
HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -3
*10-20 CM OF
SNOW POSSIBLE
IN SOUTHERN
AND CENTRAL
QUEBEC



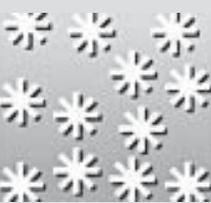
WEDNESDAY:
PERIODS OF
SNOW

HIGH OF -1
LOW OF -5



THURSDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -9



FRIDAY:
60 PER CENT
CHANCE OF
FLURRIES

HIGH OF 0
LOW OF -4

Going hog wild for KuneKune Pigs in Potton



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

As part of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Mansonville Youth Agricultural Organization (MAYO)/Jeunes Agriculteurs de Mansonville (JAM) project, Hastings-Ball Farm recently welcomed a new duo to its hobby farm. Prior to Covid restrictions, two groups of youth per week ages 5-12 were partaking in the weekly hobby farm experience through this program, alternating from the farm of Ethan Ball where the children discovered and took part in small scale pig farming to the hobby farm of Eleanor Cote, where horse farming and chickens offered a whole other experience for the youth. The program had 16 children

participating in two groups of eight. Once Covid directives allow, the group will continue meeting and allowing these kids to partake in this unique experience with hands-on learning.

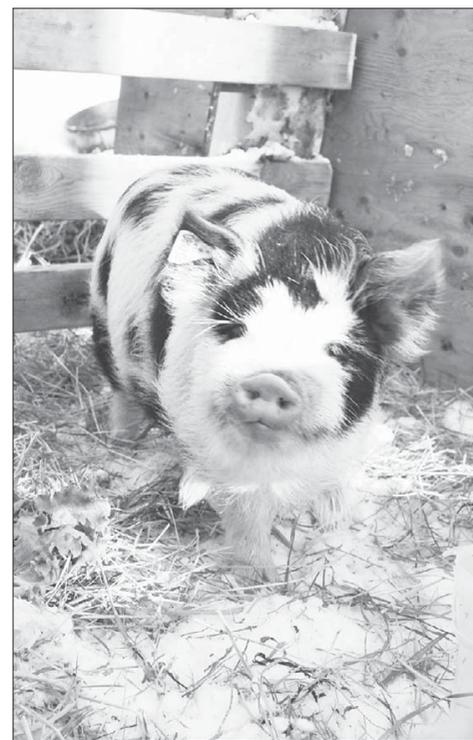
KuneKune pigs are unique grazing animals. This delightful breed of swine once near certain extinction and only found in New Zealand, kept by the Maori people, are now thriving in other parts of the world. Their smaller size and extremely laid back, docile and friendly personalities make for an ease in handling them; a perfect animal for children to care for under supervision.

The children in MAYO/JAM groups received the news that Hastings-Ball farms have welcomed two new pigs to the hobby farm. Farrowed in Carstairs, Alberta, these two new registered KuneKune pigs were purchased from Tera Chanasyk (Triple Eh Farm Inc.).

"Tara and her generous daughter were kind enough to sell me stock that they had intended on keeping," explained Ethan Ball owner of Hastings-Ball farm. "Triple Eh Farm pay incredible attention to herd health, diversity and conformation," said Ball.

Ball intends to expand his operations and become more of a working cog in the grand scheme of bettering the breed.

"The female is stunning but shyer,"



PHOTOS COURTESY

Dominic (Scooter)

shares Ball. I named her, "Lindsay, The Bucking Ham," he smiled.

"The Boar is descendant to two direct imports from the US and it shows! He is such a stud and he knows it. His name is Dominic, but he goes by Scooter, The boss, Dominic, Dom, Domino. It all works as long as you don't call him late for dinner," Ball adds.

You may recall an earlier article about Ball's first two KuneKunes, named Baby and Gravy. The two are trying to figure it all out and come to terms with having to share grain.

"I'm very eager to get them all in together but for now, they share a fence line to get to know one another," says Ball.

Like the arrival of a new baby in the family, the children who attend the MAYO/JAM group are eager to see the new arrivals in person. At present, photos and background info has come by means of an announcement hand delivered to each youth. The MAYO/JAM project continues with Cote and Ball planning for the future and being able to hold their groups as they did before.

"We have a lot of behind the scenes supporters for this project," said Ball. "We feel very lucky to be able to do what we love and to share it with the youth of Potton and surrounding areas."



Nosy neighbours

Ben by Daniel Shelton

