

# Rare birds spotted in Lennoxville

By Sharon McCully  
LENNOXVILLE

A couple of rare birds have moved into the neighbourhood and birding enthusiasts are flocking to Lennoxville to catch a glimpse of a feathered friend.

A red-bellied woodpecker, considered to be a rare bird in Quebec, though not endangered, has been hanging out on limbs along Spring Garden Street.

First spotted by Sheila Maclean and her husband Brian Talbot who have traveled the globe on birding expeditions, this rare sighting came right in their own backyard. The red-bellied woodpecker is common further south in the eastern United States, and judging by



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*A red-bellied woodpecker appears to have taken up residence in Lennoxville.*

February temperatures in Quebec, the appearance of the colourful bird makes it all the more unusual.

In 2015 there have been mentions on e-bird of sightings of this species of woodpecker in Brome-Missisquoi, Cookshire,

Chateauguay and a pair at Morgan Arboretum.

Camille Dufresne, a well-known ornithologist in the Townships believes it could be one of the species that will be making its home in Quebec. A number of species, such as the tufted titmouse, have been expanding their territory to the north.

In Quebec in the winter of 2010-2011, according to Oiseaux Quebec, there were 18 sightings of red-bellied woodpeckers. Both the Société de loisir ornithologique de l'Estrie, the regional ornithology society, and the Saint Francis Valley Naturalists' Club have bird-watching excursions and participate in bird counts at a variety of times in the year. For the Audubon's Christmas Bird Count the two



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*This group of birdwatchers came to Lennoxville to catch a glimpse of the woodpecker, among other rare birds.*

clubs share a territory around Sherbrooke.

Also spotted in Lennoxville is the Carolina wren, distin-

guished by its white eyebrow. A pair have dropped by the Maclean's birdfeeder off and on recently.

## For a better world - One Good Action at a time

By Josh Quirion  
Special to The Record  
SHERBROOKE

Local entrepreneurs Joey Roy and Alex Gagnon-Sckoprad have developed a social network that is committed exclusively to the proliferation of positivism.

Available for free on the App Store, their application — One Good Action — has received more than 5,000 downloads in two weeks.

The OGA mandate is simple: to create a worldwide movement that redefines the power of global community. By promoting global consciousness and sustainability, and inspiring happiness and optimism, the application was developed to subvert the overwhelmingly negative content of other popular social media.

As opposed to familiar

“like” and “comment” icons popularized by Facebook, One Good Action offers smile and support. Moreover, if a user comes across a particularly interesting update, the inspiration option enables them to share their appreciation with the rest of the online community.

“Our objective is to redefine the meaning of social network,” explained Roy, “We want individuals to connect with other individuals, but not just by using technological devices available at their fingertips. Rather, we encourage people to connect with the world and the people that are immediately around them.”

To minimize the time users spend on their devices, and to draw attention to quality before quantity, the application limits the usage to one daily action published. These ac-

tions are inspired by a bank of suggestions which proposes acts in relation to the earth, to human relationships, or to self.

The OGA banner is supported by an ensemble of ambassadors from diverse areas of popular culture.

Some of the ambassadors include artist and singer Olivier Dion, cancer survivor Maude Helianna Lallier, and CFL players Seydou Junior Haidara and Elie Ngoyi.

Thus far, approximately \$200,000 has been invested in the development and improvement of the One Good Action Software.

Recent successes and popularity indicate the App's potential, and the OGA team is actively seeking investments between \$1 and \$2 million dollars to bring the project to another level.

## Successful fundraiser for Mansonville CAB



MABLE HASTINGS

*Jason Ball poses with Cheryl Clinton and marvels one of her unique jewellery creations, a white jade necklace that she donated for the live auction portion of the recent fundraiser to benefit the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre in Mansonville. Over 110 people came out for the supper and auction held on Feb. 20. Cheryl was one of the many generous business owners and artisans who contributed to the event, making it a big success. The Volunteer Centre extends a big thank you to those who purchased tickets, donated items for the auction and came out to support the event.*

## Riders' Cup

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“For me this is something imperative to the project,” Papillon said, expressing that he really feels it is important for fans to have the opportunity to step right into the action with regard to the downhill ice-skating sport that has been steadily growing in popularity around the world.

The sport director explained that the World Championship in ice cross downhill is made of eight races that famous Red Bull “Crashed Ice” competition. The top three men and the top woman not already on the Crashed Ice starter list from this weekend's finals in Sherbrooke will win a spot in this year's competition in Edmon-

ton.

The competition is open to all men and women aged 16 years and older, and still has positions open for the qualifying rounds on Friday and Saturday morning. Those under 18 must provide proof of parental consent, and all prospective participants must have equipment that meets with the competition standards in order to step onto the track.

Jean-François Ouellet, director of innovation and development with Destination Sherbrooke said that the tourism agency is very proud to host the event.

“This demonstrates the ability of our infrastructure to host an event of international caliber,” Ouellet said. “We expect

significant returns for the city.”

He said that the welcoming of the extreme skating competition was “mission accomplished” in terms of making the City of Sherbrooke shine again.

“It's been two years of talking with Destination Sherbrooke to get here,” Papillon explained. “It's something new, so no one knew exactly what was going to happen.”

In terms of recent preparations, the head organizer explained that work started on the construction of the track on Feb. 17, though preliminary 3D modeling was done off site in advance. He described a process of first shaping the snow and then spraying the

track with large amounts of water from fire hoses.

“There's no Zamboni,” Papillon said, explaining that the surface of the course needs to be meticulously maintained with manual adjustments. “It's a lot of work, especially at the end, to get it as flat as possible.”

Despite the work involved, the organizer said that the Sherbrooke track currently has among the best conditions possible.

Qualifying rounds begin on Friday afternoon and run through Saturday morning, with the finals taking place on Saturday night. Organizers recommend showing up by at least 5:30 p.m. to get a good sightline. Parking for the event will

be at the University of Sherbrooke with a shuttle service to the ski-hill as the hill will remain open to skiers and snowboarders during the competition.

The weeklong recreational use of the course is open to beginners, intermediates or elite athletes although the same age and equipment restrictions as for the competition apply. The track is designed to provide a challenge to participants while remaining safe for all levels of experience. \$46 buys a period of two hours. Space is limited and tickets must be purchased online.

More information on the competition and ticket purchasing is available at the event website, [www.riderscup.ca](http://www.riderscup.ca).