**As we looked through the archives, we found various mentions of a Miss Sherbrooke, Miss Waterloo, Miss Saint-Hyacinthe, Miss Richmond, Miss Stanstead County, and Miss Drummondville.**

**Miss Richmond - Richmond beauty queen Mercedes Chapman received a hug of congratulations from "Miss Waterloo" after the former was voted winner of a beauty contest and named "Miss Richmond of 1953." Miss Waterloo, who is Mrs. Jean Marcotte in real life, presented the trophy to Miss Richmond. From the left are Miss Gertrude Beauchante, Miss Waterloo, Miss Richmond, Miss Shirley Ward, Miss Barbara Hebert and Miss Jeannine Lapier.**

**RECORD ARCHIVES**

---

**Special to The Record**

**MRC Memphremagog police visit the volunteer centre (CAB/MN) in Potton**

On Wednesday, January 29 the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) in Mansonville received a visit from Sargent Steve Cote and Sargent Jean Gay Caron who is the person in charge of the "Poste de MRC de Memphremagog" Police department. While Sargent Cote is a familiar face at the CAB, Sargent Caron, his supervisor was making his first visit to the non-profit organization. The two discussed collaborative initiatives in Potton like the Police participation at events like the upcoming Winterfest on February 8, organised by the CABMN. The Police will also continue the non-emergency exchanges at the CABMN one Friday afternoon per month by appointment for citizens with questions, concerns or in need of advice. Those wanting an appointment need only call the call to be added to the schedule: 450-292-3114. The Police will also continue their efforts in awareness and prevention with the two local elementary schools as well as with the CABMN Youth Centre. For the staff of the CAR, the exchange provided an opportunity to touch base on a variety of topics and services. The CAR has long valued the collaboration with the Police and the benefits are clear in the services provided and the support offered. Meeting Sargent Caron was a highlight as making him aware of the needs firsthand and his meeting the people providing services in the various communities is vital. (Submitted by Mable Hastings)

---

**Local News**

**Beauty contests in the Townships**

**By Taylor McClure Special to The Record**

We’ve all heard of a Miss Canada, Miss America, or Miss World, but what about Miss Eastern Townships? Beauty contests, or pageants as they are more commonly known, have a history here in the Townships with several towns in the area holding contests of their own.

The winners from each of the towns, which included Sherbrooke, had the chance to battle it out in a regional contest to be crowned the Queen of the Eastern Townships. Using Record archives, we were able to piece together the role that beauty contests played in these communities and what they entailed for the woman who was crowned winner.

As we looked through the archives, we found various mentions of a Miss Sherbrooke, Miss Waterloo, Miss Saint-Hyacinthe, Miss Richmond, Miss Stanstead County, and Miss Drummondville.

In an issue of the Record dating back to August 23, 1949, there was a roundup of the Stanstead County Fair, which included a mention of a beauty contest. Irene Lavers from Ayer’s Cliff was announced as the winner and was crowned Miss Sherbrooke at the Sherbrooke Fair. According to the article, the contest was not only focused on beauty but also on personality and talent. Contestants were not only being judged on their beauty but also their talents, employment, etc. The winner was promised an all-expense paid trip to New York, gifts, cash prizes, and paid appearances. A Miss Sherbrooke contest held at the Belvedere St. Armand on Feb. 8, 1964, organized by Don D’Amico, asked that all competitors be 21 years and older, a citizen of Sherbrooke, and single or married. They also had to send in photos, provide their height, weight, measurements, education, talent, and employment. Contestants were not only being judged on their beauty but also their talents, employment, etc. The winner promised an all-expense paid trip to New York, gifts, cash prizes, and paid appearances. The woman who was crowned Miss Sherbrooke was also expected to participate in certain engagements that dealt directly with their talents.

From piecing these bits and pieces together, it seems that the winners of these beauty contests also had the chance to compete to be crowned the Queen of the Eastern Townships region. A Miss Western Townships beauty contest held at the Granada Theatre, the first time the contest was held in Sherbrooke. Georgette Bourdeau, who was also crowned Miss Waterloo of 1956, was named Queen of the Townships over eight other competitors. The Eastern Townships has a very interesting and colourful history and beauty contests are just one of the many surprises to be discovered.

**CONT’D FROM PAGE 1**

The statement concluded with a thank you to the citizens, teachers, partners and sponsors who have supported the board and the CAR.

"Finally, a huge thank you to the employees who have endured the turmoil. Without qualified staff, we forget the institutional partnerships necessary for the smooth operation and continuity of a cultural organization. They deserve all our respect." Following the resignation of the board members, a new board was immediately elected. Among the newly elected board members is Benoit Saint-Pierre.

For the moment Saint-Pierre said the new members plan to continue to operate the centre with no disruption in activities for the population. While the move to the Sainte-Famille Community Centre is now most definitely off the table, no other decisions have been made as of yet. The board will meet in the coming weeks to elect a president and vice-president from among the new members. Also on the new CAR board is returning member Jeanette Charland, founder of les Amis de la musique du Centre d’art de Richmond and former executive director of the centre.

---

**The Record    newsroom@sherbrookerecord.com**