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Weather



TODAY:
FLURRIES

HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -16



TUESDAY:
SNOW
HIGH OF 1
LOW OF -5



WEDNESDAY:
CHANCE OF
FLURRIES

HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -21



THURSDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -15
LOW OF -22



FRIDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD

HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -11

Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) members meet with Saint-Etienne-De-Bolton representatives



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

On Thursday, February 13 Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) staff members, Mable Hastings-Executive Director, Debra Harding-Assistant to the Director and Monique Gilbert-Senior Services Coordinator met at the Town Hall in Saint-Etienne-de-Bolton with Michèle Turcotte: Mayor, Jocelyne Veilleux: Council member (Saint Etienne-de-Bolton)/ CABMN Board Member and Marie Fortin: Development Agent to discuss the services offered by the CABMN and those that are or could be extended and made available to residents in Saint-Etienne-de-Bolton. The CABMN works in close cooperation with the local health network offering more than 30 health and social services to the wider community including, youth, seniors, those with disabilities and the marginalized. Services extend to the western sector of the MRC Memphremagog region as possible (Potton, Bolton-Est, Saint Etienne-de-Bolton, Stukely and Eastman).

"The Western Sector of the MRC Memphremagog covers a vast territory," explained Hastings. "We must constantly remain conscious of what we can do and do well, with our present staff team. Working with the Municipality of Saint-Etienne-de-Bolton as well as with volunteers from the region, we are confident as a Volunteer Centre that we can, through the sharing of information in regards to services available, better serve the Saint Etienne community."

Michèle Turcotte, Mayor for Saint-Etienne-de-Bolton explained the dynamics of the very active and diverse community. She spoke about the needs and in

hearing about the CABMN programs in detail, she, Veilleux and Fortin were easily able to identify some key programs to begin with in Saint-Etienne. All agreed that increasing awareness about the CABMN programming and disseminating the information regarding what is available is imperative to achieving success.

"Most people do not realize that the CABMN based in Potton also provides services in the other four areas of the MRC West," said Turcotte. "We must make every effort to increase awareness and involvement with the CABMN."

Monique Gilbert, Coordinator of Senior Services at the CABMN shared the results of a recent senior's survey conducted in the five municipalities. With 314 seniors responding, the survey results indicated where seniors feel they need services and where they want to see improvements and action taken. The sharing of the results sparked interest and discussion on the next steps to be taken by the non-profit organization.

Debra Harding, Assistant to the Director who also works one day per week at the CABMN as part of the Volunteer Coordination team explained how having volunteers registered with the CABMN volunteer bank makes it far easier when any of the five Municipalities or organizations in each community may be looking for volunteers. The CABMN team serves as the initial contact saving a lot of time and coordination on behalf of those requesting volunteer involvement, recognition and support. Presently 226 volunteers have registered with the bank and the numbers grow each week.

Exchanges like the one held on Thursday strengthens the resources and services in a community. The collaboration between the CABMN and the municipalities served is vital and will bring only the best results for residents in the western sector of the MRC Memphremagog. For more information about the CABMN programming visit: www.cabmn.org



MABLE HASTINGS

Monique Gilbert: Seniors Services Coordinator, Michèle Turcotte: Mayor, Jocelyne Veilleux: Council member (Saint-Etienne-de-Bolton) and CABMN Board Member, Debra Harding: Assistant to the Director, Marie Fortin: Development officer (absent from photo: Mable Hastings-Executive Director CABMN).

Ben by Daniel Shelton

