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Weather



TODAY:
MAINLY SUNNY
HIGH OF 23
LOW OF 7



TUESDAY:
SUNNY
HIGH OF 26
LOW OF 9



WEDNESDAY:
SUNNY
HIGH OF 28
LOW OF 12



THURSDAY:
SUNNY
HIGH OF 29
LOW OF 15



FRIDAY:
CLOUDY
PERIODS
HIGH OF 29
LOW OF 14

What does Potton's Reilly house do?



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

Beatrice Boright Reilly was the last private owner of the Reilly House, a community hub situated on Rue Principale in Mansonville. Following her death in 1980, a group of citizens came together and formed a non-profit charitable organization; the Association Culturelle, Sociale et Recreative de Potton and purchased the building which was converted through the efforts of volunteers and the Katimavik program (a federally funded initiative that brought youth from across Canada together to work and live in a community for short periods of time) while working to better community initiatives and projects. The incorporated non-profit organization owns the property and its contents. For years now, the Reilly House has operated with the help of community volunteers.

"Over the years we have been asked exactly what the Reilly House does," said Amanda Patch, President. "Besides the obvious second-hand clothing and gift shop, there is also a Tea Room renowned for its home cooked meals, soups, sandwiches and desserts as well as giving many a much needed social outlet," she added.

Self-funded with a few exceptions including a Canada Summer employment grant and funding that came in last year from the New Horizon's program for seniors that was used to expand and upgrade the kitchen, the rest of the funds come via donations of items donated and sold which has become an essential money maker for the Reilly House. During the Covid Pandemic anyone wishing to donate items is asked to contact the Reilly House prior at 450-292-3109, no items should be dropped off on the porch unless permission has been given.

"We appreciate every donation made," shared Patch. "We must

also acknowledge the tremendous contribution of time that is given by our dedicated volunteers without whom we could not operate."

Many are unaware of the things the Reilly House does behind the scenes. Some of these include: donating craft supplies to the Sunshine House, donating items to the Ken Jones Respite Centre, donated furniture, costumes and items to the CABMN Youth Centre, clothing and house items to people in need (for example, a young couple starting their family and needing baby items or a victim of fire who was left with nothing, those with other clothing needs, bicycles to youth who would not otherwise have one, donations to local churches, annual cookbook sale to raise funds for the Partage/Share food bank, cookies and hot chocolate for the Optimist Christmas, supplies for the local summer camp, books donated to the library for fundraising, items given to schools, secret Santa for kids at Christmas time, helping a youngster to fund a class trip, bursaries, free soup during the power outage during winter, over 1500 bags of clothing to a non-profit organization that employs people by giving them a workplace experience, donations to The Ressourcerie des Frontieres...

The helping hand extends beyond Potton to include: clothing to a Montreal Men's Shelter, clothing to Waterloo Elementary School and Knowlton Academy, winter jackets to Partage St. Francois homeless shelter in Sherbrooke, bras to breast cancer, old blankets to the animal shelters and SPCA, belts and socks to Mental Health Estrie, soda cans to Shriner's Hospital, Guides of Knowlton, winter jackets to student exchange at Concordia, greeting cards to Owl's Head Chapter



COURTESY

of Eastern Star, stuffed animals to Knowlton for Santa Clause parade, used eyeglasses go to the Lions Club and dishes to a men's group in Montreal...It is important to note that some of these things happen on a continuous basis or as the needs arise.

"Our reach is far and wide and we plan to continue doing what we do," Patch stated.

The Covid Pandemic has made it difficult for many and with no Government funding to rely on and the property taxes, electricity, insurance and other bills to be paid, the need for support is always vital. Like everyone, the Reilly House must follow the Government directives.

"We hope that the next time someone asks what the Reilly House does. The answer might be, "what does in NOT do?" said it's President.

The Reilly House has started something new and is offering "family size prepared meals and each week the menu changes. People must pre-order and an order on a Tuesday can be picked up on the Friday. To order or to determine opening hours during Covid, Call 450-292-3109 or write to: maisonreilly@gmail.com or Facebook at Maisonreillyhouse.



COURTESY

Ben by Daniel Shelton

