



Townshippers
40 YEARS



President's message



Gerald Cutting president 2010-

Townshippers' Association is proudly celebrating forty years of service to the English-speaking community of the historical Eastern Townships. This is quite an accomplishment for any organization, and it is thanks to a host of volunteers and a truly exceptional staff.

To understand where this Association comes from we have only to look back on those troubled times in Quebec during the 1970s. The English language community and the English language itself were under attack on many fronts with the rise of such Terrorist groups as the FLQ and the election of a PQ government committed to the separation of Quebec. Then, in 1977, Bill 101 was passed, making French the official language of Quebec thereby imposing major restrictions on the use of the language in public life.

English-speaking Quebecers fled the province by the tens of thousands because of a sense that there was no place left for those who were not of French heritage. The situation was desperate, but fortunately, there was a call to action undertaken by a group of committed citizens, and Townshippers' Association was created, thanks to funding from the Secretary of State, to advocate on behalf of the English-speaking community. A core group of courageous English speakers had decided to stay because, as descendants of one of the founding peoples of the Townships, this region would always be "Our Home". Our ancestors built their own schools, churches and hospitals, which brought a deep sense of community to

this region of Quebec. While we once managed our own institutions, we were now struggling just to get services in English.

The mission of the Association quickly crystalized around three central preoccupations: The need to promote the interests of our community, to celebrate our historical identity and to encourage the full participation of English speakers in the community at large. With such a mission, Townshippers' Association has always been well guided over the years, no matter what challenges have been thrown at us. On behalf of the community, Townshippers' Association will not accept anything less than to be included at the decision-making level when it comes to policies that impact our community. As a result of this approach we have never shied away from opportunities to represent our community at the federal, provincial and municipal levels.

Over the past 40 years, in order to better serve the community, Townshippers' Association has become actively involved in the development and implementation of a host of projects to address the priorities identified by our community in areas such as access to health care, education and employment. By establishing partnerships with key players in all of these sectors, this association has established a reputation that gained us the trust and admiration required to be truly effective representatives.

To highlight our activities and partnerships, Townshippers' Day was instituted so that each year a different town or institution would be the focus for a day of celebration and friendship. In 2018 this special day became known as Festival des Townshippers' Festival, in partnership with the Eastern Townships School board and the Centre intégré universitaire de santé et de services sociaux de l'Estrie - CHUS

In closing, let me state that whatever happens to the English-speaking community of the Eastern Townships in the next 40 years will, to a great extent, depend upon our ability as a community to create our own destiny. Townshippers' Association is here to help: our mission and dedication will not change.

Gerald Cutting,
President

40 years of leadership The Presidents

<u>Year</u>	<u>President</u>
79-80	Richard Stoddard
80-82	James Ross (deceased)
82-85	Marjorie Goodfellow
85-87	Della Goodsell
87-89	Heather Keith
89	Mary Mitchell
89-92	Myrna MacAuley
92-94	Paulette Losier
94-95	David Morgan (deceased)
95-97	Nancy Beattie
97-98	Theodora Brinckman
98-00	Gary Richards
00-01	Heather Keith
01-04	Peter Quilliams
04-06	Heather Bowman
06-10	Michael van Lierop
10-	Gerald Cutting

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Funded by the Government of Canada



Richard (Dick) Stoddard blazed the trail for others

Richard Stoddard, a native of North Hatley who ran a successful lumber business in Waterloo, was among a handful of English-speaking Townshippers who recognized the need for the minority-language community to organize, and speak with a unified voice on issues that were sure to stem from the election of a new Parti Québécois government whose mandate was to create an independent Quebec. Stoddard was one of the founding members of the association and served as its first president when it was officially registered with the Quebec Government on Dec. 7, 1979. As the Association grappled with the changing political landscape, Stoddard and a growing number of concerned citizens joined forces to identify issues that affected the community. Under Stoddard's leadership, the group developed a strategy to remain visible and vocal.



Richard (Dick) Stoddard, president 1979-1980





It is with great pleasure that I would like to mark the 40th anniversary of the Townshippers' Association. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to each and every member of your team, who have been serving the interests of the English-speaking minority community in the majestic Eastern Townships region for so long.

Majorities and minorities give life to our linguistic duality. That is why your role is essential, and I am proud to support you and celebrate the achievements of your association.

On this anniversary date, your story has reached a high point. I take as an example the Townshippers' Festival, which you celebrate every year in September. This major event represents the vitality of your community, to the point of stimulating curiosity and attracting the interest and participation of your French-speaking neighbours. It is a great way to celebrate the traditions, culture and heritage of your region and build bridges between communities.

It goes without saying that the future of your young people is important to you. The many initiatives and activities put forward for people under 21 years of age bear witness to this.

Your community has come a long way since 1979. Certainly, challenges remain, both in the political and social arena. However, the dedication of your association is a true source of inspiration for all English-speaking communities in Quebec. Like the pioneers of the past who founded this beautiful region and worked in mutual respect, I invite you to uphold the values that inspired them at the time.

In closing, I wish Townshippers' Association and the English-speaking community of the Eastern Townships the very best. Congratulations on forty years of loyal service to your community!

Sincerely,

Raymond Th  berge
Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada



Health and social services were focus for Mary Mitchell



Mary Mitchell, president 1989

In 1989, Townshippers' Association president Heather Keith approached Mary Mitchell to ask her if she would agree to serve as the Association's vice-president. Despite her job at the CLSC Val St. Francois, and working a 70 - 80 hour week, Mitchell accepted the challenge, but quickly assumed the presidency.

"The perspective of Townshippers' Association is all-encompassing, touching on culture, heritage, employment, youth, and health and social services."

Although she was president for a short period, Mitchell worked hard to make people aware of the gaps in health and social services offered in English and insisted that these services be provided to the English-speaking communities of the Townships. "My focus was mainly on Health and Social Services and Marjorie Goodfellow was, of course, a major force behind that. She was a powerhouse behind the scenes and in getting practical things done."

The Association lobbied consistently at all levels. "We lobbied every week. We lobbied locally, county wise, province wise. The only real power we had was to lobby. I lobbied constantly for more services in English."

A major turning point for the Association came when four English speakers were elected to the Quebec

government in 1989 after the Unity Party and the Equality Party worked together to have an English-speaking voice in Quebec. "The impact that had on the community was one of 'okay now we DO have a voice in Quebec. Up until that time, there was such an exodus of English-speakers."

Mitchell said without pressure from "fearless" members of Townshippers' Association, the situation would have been very different for the English-speaking population of the Townships. "Without the Association, English speakers in the Townships would

be in a much bigger world of hurt. It takes the power of an organized group to put political pressure on the government in order to be recognized. We would have been steamrolled. They were ferocious and fearless. We would certainly not have the services we have now without Townshippers'."

"We lobbied every week. We lobbied locally, county wise, province wise. The only real power we had was to lobby. I lobbied constantly for more services in English."





Hon. Marie-Claude
Bibeau
DÉPUTÉE COMPTON • STANSTEAD M.P.

TOWNSHIPS



As a Townshipper, born and raised, I am pleased to congratulate and highlight the 40th anniversary of an association that has spent four decades at the forefront of community engagement.

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Theodora Brinckman: focus on jobs



Theodora Brinckman, president 1997-1998

Theodora Brinckman joined the board of Townshippers' Association in 1994 and was acclaimed as president the following year. In conversations with *The Record* the week after taking on the role, she explained that she took on the presidency because of a love of the Eastern Townships and a belief in the importance of volunteer work and giving back to the community.

"The Association really has done a lot of good in terms of representing the



English-speaking community in ensuring that our voice is heard," she said, coming to her role just after the Association had committed significant time and energy to advocating for the importance of bilingual signage in local

healthcare establishments. She committed to continuing to advocate for the "basic rights" of the English speakers despite the fact that that particular issue did not prove to be a success in the end.

Like previous presidents she underlined the importance of letting the community know what the Association was working on, but she also argued that the local English-speaking population needed to get out of its shell and speak up when things go wrong.

Reports on the work of Townshippers' Association from Brinckman's years as president are peppered with tensions surrounding relations with Montreal-based English-speaking advocacy group Alliance Quebec as well as criticism from within the community about the loss of the Sherbrooke Hospital.

In March of 1998 Townshippers' Association partnered with local English-speaking institutions and businesses to create *Jobs in Focus* an initiative aimed at helping people find jobs in the Townships. The goal of the activity was not just to impact the regional unemployment rate, but also to give hope to those looking for work.

NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

An unlikely trio of interests would best describe this Townshipper: Biology, photography and music

Whether through musical variety shows organized at Galt, or chasing away the winter blues, this Townshipper entertained the community for decades- all while snapping pics and writing for the local paper.

See answer on pages 38 & 39



PAST PRESIDENTS

David Morgan, an artful advocate



David Morgan, president 1994-1995

The list of past Townshippers' Association presidents helps illustrate the diversity of the community they served.

There isn't just one type of background that qualifies a person to represent English speakers in the region.

Over the years there have been business-oriented people, health sector

workers, educators, and everything in between.

Enter David Morgan.

Morgan was an artist and also taught at Champlain Regional College.

The Lennoxville resident may have been better known by some for his etchings and watercolours, but Morgan was also an advocate for the rights of the English-speaking population in the Eastern Townships.

He served the Association as presi-

dent from 1994-1995.

"It's a really big sacrifice," Morgan commented, in an interview after his mandate.

"On a weekly basis you spend more time on association matters than you do your own job," he added, candid about what the position entails.

Even so, like the presidents before and after him, Morgan carried the torch for the English-speaking community during his mandate.



Hello to all of you,

Congratulations to Townshippers' Association for its service to the English-speaking community for 40 years.

Townshippers' is a non-profit, non-partisan community organization focused on promoting and supporting the interests of the English-speaking minority community in the Eastern Townships region of Quebec.

Before being elected, I had the opportunity to speak with my predecessor, the Honorable Denis Paradis, about the English-speaking community of Brome-Missisquoi County which accounts for 20% of its population and understand the importance of the services this association has provided for the past 40 years. I intend to ensure that Townshippers' Association and the concerns of the English-speaking community continue to receive the attention it deserves from me, and from Ottawa.

You can count on me to be there to bring your voice to Ottawa. I will defend priority issues such as the environment, services to our aging population and our youth, the local economy, as well as the challenges faced by the English-speaking community of Brome-Missisquoi.

Lyne Bessette,
Member of Parliament,
Brome-Missisquoi



Gerald Cutting - a decade in and counting



Gerald Cutting

Gerald Cutting holds the distinction of being the longest serving President of Townshippers' Association, holding the position continuously since 2010.

"I'm almost a decade in," he said, adding that the volunteer role is not one he has ever felt burdened by. "It really comes down to something I feel really committed to, and that is ensuring that the English-speaking population has a voice and is encouraged to play a larger role in Quebec life and in the life of our own Eastern Townships."

Cutting shared that he sees the work of the Association over the years as that of being present to help in any way possible with a group that sometimes feels like it is hard to make themselves heard.

"Over the years in both my work life and my private life I've always found that the best way to make any impact is to be at the table when decisions are made and you've got to speak your mind," he said.

Cutting attributed the successes of Townshippers' both in his time and throughout its 40-year history to a reliance on well-researched, well-documented analysis leading to constructive criticism and reasonable solutions.

"We never speak up about a problem unless we have one or two potential solutions to offer," he said, pointing out that these solutions are owed to the hard work of a dedicated staff and team of volunteers.

Asked about what stands out the most from his time in office, Cutting reflected on the 2013 parliamentary hearings on Bill 60, better known as the Quebec Charter of Values.

"I felt I had a chance to really take on (Bernard) Drainville in a public setting where cameras were rolling and to make points around what our community stood for. What we were, I think really forcefully, able to get across in terms that people could understand is that as a minority that had been one of the founding peoples, we refused to be marginalized anymore," he said, referring to the author of the charter. "I told him that I was tired of being told that I was not really a Québécois. Can you tell me, Mr. Drainville, am I, or am I not a

Québécois? And he responded by saying, well René Levesque said that any citizen of Quebec is a Québécois. I asked him, please, on camera, would you repeat that, and he did. I've taken that as being the statement that we have to work with. If you are a citizen of Quebec, you are Québécois."

NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

Immortalizer of the Beattie barbers

Teller of a Tale of the Townships.

Asked what the creative process does for a person, This Townshipper believes, "I think it allows the person to become who they were meant to be."

No need to say more, a picture is worth 1,000 words.



See answer on pages 38 & 39



Goodsell believed the future was bright



Della Goodsell, president 1985-1987

“I was born and raised here. The English-speaking community has always been a concern of mine. A sense of identity and a commitment to doing my best to keep that identity strong has been an important part of my life.”

Those were the words of Della Goodsell as she completed her first term as Townshippers’ Association president in 1986.

Involved during the Association’s formative years, Goodsell remembered her mandate as an exciting time.

“It was an intense learning experience and soon became my mission,” she explained.

“The staff were very supportive and experienced,” she said. “The board of directors and executive board were dedicated and aware of the serious calling we had.”

During her mandate, Goodsell and the Association presented a brief to the Commission on Health and Social Services, which included 20 recommendations regarding the needs of the

Eastern Townships’ English-speaking community.

“The sudden and swift loss of rights to our English-speaking heritage was difficult to accept. We sought to discuss our concerns with directors of health and education, in government in Quebec City. Slowly there were meetings and discussions that included an understanding of the needs of English speakers, especially the elderly,” Goodsell commented.

“Members of the legislature were invited to discuss needs at our board meetings. Many positive changes happened!”

Goodsell was described as a president with a quiet determination and a positive attitude about the future of the English-speaking community.

She said the following in a 1986 interview:

*The mission and my beautiful memories are my rewards.
Thank you Townshippers’ Association.”*

“I hope the English-speaking community is feeling the same optimism as I, in the economy, in rights that have been returned. The projects we have which call for major change won’t be finalized overnight but I can sense a

great, positive feeling for the survival of a vibrant English-speaking community in the Eastern Townships.”

A personal message from Goodsell:

“My Presidency was an almost full-time job. My memories of making lifelong friends; of crossing the wonderful, beautiful Townships; helping to pull all of us together in such an important cause. The mission and my beautiful memories are my rewards. Thank you Townshippers’ Association.”

Della Rediker Goodsell



Gary Richards on being a good neighbour



Gary Richards, president 1998 - 2000

Protestant church in the Townships for something other than a funeral,” he remembered saying.

“I grew up in Sherbrooke, so I have always considered myself not only bilingual but bicultural as well,” Richards said.

During Townshippers’ Day in 2000 in Knowlton, Richards remembered celebrating Quebec’s diversity in his opening remarks. “We are neither English nor French today...but neighbours,” he said, a theme that was later picked up by MC Heather Hiscox of CBC, Jean Charest and the Paradis brothers.

with a brew and then we asked for names from the membership. Several zany suggestions came forward – I remember Still 101 -but we in the end took a cautious route and called it

something like Anniversary Ale. I remember donning boots and crushing hops in a large bin,” Richards said.

It wasn’t all beer and parties during Richards’ mandate.

“We met with the then Minister

of health and social services Mme Pauline Marois who offered us a cordial breakfast and a good exchange: how to solve the right to work in French and still receive health services in English.”

“I became president as a natural succession, not as an agenda-filled things-to-do person. One group of Townshippers opposed me because I was too inclusive in my proposed relations with the French-speaking community and power brokers – and not angry enough, another sector recognized that the French language was important to our identity as Canadians as well and in no way threatening to our identity.”

“I grew up in Sherbrooke, so I have always considered myself not only bilingual but bicultural as well.”

“I believe that beneath the cloak of politics of all stripes and colours, people are decent and just want to get along.”

Gary Richards was the only Townshippers’ Association president able to say he served in two millennia in a single term. He held the position from 1998-2000.

A lot changed with the turn of the century, including Townshippers’ approach to defending the rights of English-speakers.

According to Richards, “All we have to do is be good neighbours.”

Richards got into hot water from some members for bringing French into the fold, but over time he was able to demonstrate that defending the needs of a particular community and supporting Quebec society as a whole was not mutually exclusive.

“I believe that beneath the cloak of politics of all stripes and colours, people are decent and just want to get along.”

Walking into the job, Richards remembered being a ball of nerves. He was elected president at Townshippers’ Day in Cookshire.

To break the tension and calm his nerves, Richards thought he would open with a joke.

“It is nice to see so many people in a

Groves at the Lion pub and he came up



Paulette Losier drew attention to youth



Paulette Losier, president 1992-1994

In 1992, I was approached by Townshippers' Association President, Myrna MacAulay to become a director of TA and a member of the newly minted Youth Committee. I accepted.

Little did I know what I had set in motion.

At the September Annual General

Meeting, I was elected the 8th president of TA and served from 1992-1994. Lucky for me, I was blessed with Susan Mastine as executive director, several past presidents as mentors and an excellent, knowledgeable Board of Directors.

While TA had several standing committees, one that I remember most vividly is Youth.

Many young English-speakers did not see a future for themselves in the Townships. We wanted to change that. Amongst other initiatives, we sent young Townshippers to schools to speak about their successful job experiences and provide job opportunities and resources. To keep TA-Day more youth-relevant our 1993 edition featured a "Battle of the Bands".

Preoccupations that unsettled many English-speakers during my presidency were political in nature...sovereignty of Quebec with Mr. Bouchard's Bloc elected in 1993 and Mr. Parizeau's Parti

Québécois elected in 1994. Together, they geared up for referendum 1995. Sandwiched in there was Robert Bourassa's 1993 "markedly predominant" and "much greater visual impact" of French on public signs. These created gloomy conditions amongst our communities.

Despite challenges in access to services, culture and other TA mandate areas, I especially enjoyed collaborating with my colleagues and English-speaking minority groups from across the province. I admired that together, with limited resources, we could work with

equanimity and a vigilant scrutiny of facts to resolve and alleviate conflicts that came our way. While it was stimulating to interact with government officials and at times party leaders, that is not what I cherish from that era. Rather, it is the camaraderie and friendships forged.

Despite challenges in access to services, culture and other TA mandate areas, I especially enjoyed collaborating with my colleagues and the English-speaking minority groups from across the province.



NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

Education has long been a priority for this Townshipper, extending well beyond the classroom

"Through her teaching, (blank) has been inspirational in encouraging countless students to work for important global issues such as human rights and democracy, and to end repressive regimes in society."

Leading by example, this Townshipper was instrumental in the formation of two refugee support and education projects.

See answer on page 38 & 39



Quilliams took a knowledge-based approach



Peter Quilliams, president 2001-2004

Peter Quilliams took on the role of Townshippers' Association President from 2001-2004, succeeding Heather Keith.

Bringing his experience as chairman of the former District of Bedford Regional School Board and a professional manager at IBM, Quilliams had organizational skills and a bird's eye view of youth in the Townships, which helped the Association develop resources to curb what seemed like a mass exodus of young English-speakers at the time.



"With the correct amount of information, brought to our attention and reinforced, I believe we can change attitudes," Quilliams was quoted as saying during his mandate as president.

"There's as good a chance of having a good quality of life here as going down the 401, or heading off to Calgary or somewhere else."

Part of Quilliams' approach was getting real information about the community rather than anecdotal evidence.

"We believe that once we know more about the English-speaking community itself, we'll have

clearer starting point to work from," he said.

While the "Townshippers of Tomorrow" were a focus during Quilliams' mandate, the Association also worked

"There's as good a chance of having a good quality of life here as going down the 401, or heading off to Calgary or somewhere else."

to support the needs of the aging population in the Townships by continuing the Happy, Healthy and Aging project, initiated in 1999.

The project included articles published with information and resources for seniors, followed by

two days of information sessions where TA representatives could meet with local seniors and get feedback and comments first hand.

When dealing with health care, Quilliams' belief was that often, it wasn't so much a matter of battling for access, rather it was a matter of informing health care officials about a community that they may not fully understand.

"We can give them a great deal of insight," he explained in a 2002 interview. "In the past we've found that if you provide them with information they do respond favorably. Most institutions are trying to do the best job possible for their clientele. If they don't understand their clientele, then we are the people that bring that information to them."



A young and powerful voice



Nancy Beattie, president 1995-1997

Nancy Beattie, at just 19 years old, took on the role of Townshippers' president during what she described as a very politically active time. "It was so busy, it was so much lobbying." During her first year as president, Quebec was in the midst of a referendum. "One of the big things that happened in my first of tenure was the referendum. That was at the forefront of the conversation for many years." The health and social services network was also being reorganized.

"There was a major issue with the reorganization of the health and social services network and the closing of the Sherbrooke Hospital, a place of our collective identity. We had an active health and social services committee; there were some tremendously strong women leaders prior to me and I benefitted from that. They are incredible women who plowed through many challenges and difficulties."

Another major focus of the Association's vision during that period was

building relationships with the French-speaking community. "Our political focus was to try and work towards good relations with our French-speaking neighbours to establish a common vision and work together. I was very adamant about that and I still maintain it today. The best for both communities is to work together and build those constructive partnerships. There was much dialogue around that."

Beattie emphasized that regional organizations, such as Townshippers' Association, are important because not all English-speaking communities have the same needs or deal with the same issues. "Regional organizations are critical in providing a voice. They have a chance to represent and lobby for the needs of that community. The realities of one English-speaking community are not the same as another. We need an organization to look out for our broader interests and speak on our behalf to ensure that the English-speaking community is not forgotten."



NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

At just 16 years old this Townshipper represented Canada at the Youth Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway

Athletics runs in the family, or maybe it glides?
Some aim high and shoot for the stars, others aim at targets and shoot for the gold.

See answer on pages 38 & 39



James Ross played a pivotal role in organizing community



Dr. James Ross, president 1980-1982

As the second president of Townshippers' Association, Dr. James Ross served from 1980 to 1982. He was pivotal in creating the Association and dedicated his life to ensuring that the English-speaking population in the Eastern Townships did not go unrecognized. When Quebec's language law Bill 101 was introduced, Townshippers' organized a meeting with various Quebec ministers, including Bill 101 author Camille Laurin. Ross took the stage to speak passionately on behalf of the English-speaking community of the Townships, raising their concerns about the bill.

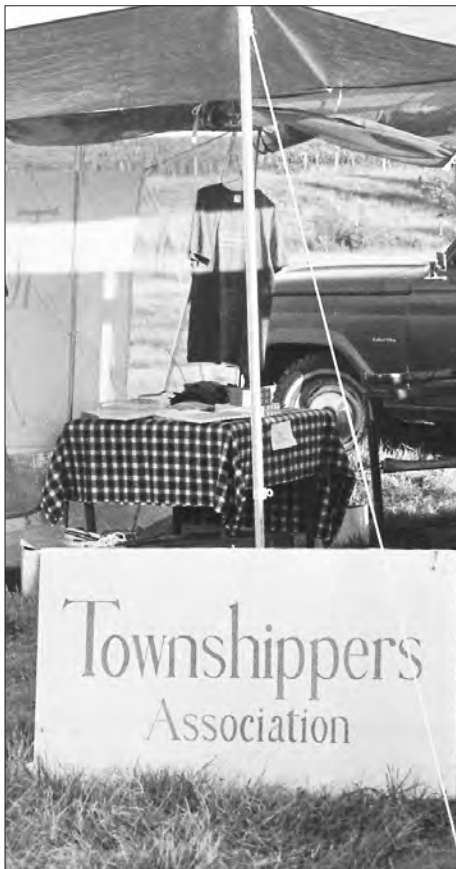
His dedication was reflected in the various roles he took on in the community and the work that he carried out throughout his life. As the Chief of Sur-

gery at the Sherbrooke Hospital, he worked hard to provide the best care possible to all Sherbrooke residents. He also served as president of the Conseil regional de la santé et des services sociaux in the Estrie region; providing the English-speaking community with a respected voice on health and social services.

He played a key role in founding Townshippers' Research and Cultural Foundation and helped form Alliance Quebec, a provincial English rights lobby group which he later chaired. He was committed to environmental protection and conservation and was president of the Lake Massawippi Water Protection Association.

He played a key role in founding Townshippers' Research and Cultural Foundation and helped form Alliance Quebec, a provincial English rights lobby group which he later chaired.

The impact he had on the English-speaking community of the Townships was profound and his legacy continues today.



Heather Keith busy on interview circuit



Heather Keith, president, 1987-1989 and 2000-2001

Heather Keith holds the distinction of being the only person to serve as President of Townshippers' Association in two millennia. First installed in the position from 1987 to 1989, Keith resigned from the position in order to run as an independent candidate in Brome Missisquoi for the 1989 provincial election only to later return for a brief stint from 2000 to 2001. In reflecting on the experiences she weighed the first as more significant than the second.

"I was on the very first board of Townshippers' Association," Keith said, describing the work of the group as being focused on creating solidarity among the English-speaking community.

The former president referred to herself as an oddball, pointing out that unlike many of her English-speaking friends and colleagues at the time, she took the notion of cooperation between French and English communities to heart in taking actions like sending all five of her children to French school.

"I was doing my best to communicate and make myself known in the French community," Keith said.

It was in the midst of her first mandate as president that Keith was faced with bill 178, which amended the Charter of the French Language such that French was the only language allowed on outdoor signs.

"I did 52 interviews between Christmas and New Years," she said, pointing out that the release of the bill by the Bourassa government during a time of

year that is typically a news desert meant that there was no shortage in air time for Townshippers' to speak out against the legislation. "I got a lot of attention."

In a March 2001 interview with The Record, the former president said that she felt relieved to leave a meeting of the Estates General on the French Language feeling like the English-speaking community was "no longer perceived as the enemy," but in looking back in 2019 that feeling has changed once again.

"We're back at it again with Bill 21," she said, pointing out that the conversation surrounding the CAQ government's "Act respecting the laicity of the State" reminds her of the old arguments. "I feel under siege," she said, sharing that despite decades of advocating for friendship and cooperation between the French-speaking and English-speaking communities in the province, she once again feels like she needs to be on the defensive about her rights.



Flashback to 1987

In 1987, one of Stanstead's most important historical buildings, known as the Cassville School, was to be demolished and replaced by a new town hall. That is, until the Stanstead community and Townshippers' Association rallied to save the building. Stanstead East councilors stuck by their decision to have the building removed, despite Townshippers' President Della Goodsell drawing up a petition with 450 signatures. The Association decided to fight for it at the provincial level and worked alongside other concerned individuals to save it. Together, they preserved a piece of architectural heritage that remains standing to this day.



Focus on youth was hallmark of Van Lierop's presidency



Michael Van Lierop, president 2006-2010

Michael van Lierop was president of Townshippers' Association from 2006 until 2010, a period where the Association was undergoing major changes. "During my time as President, the Association was undergoing a serious period of revitalization and the strategic plan at that time pursued a vision of Townshippers' that aimed to make it more relevant to the English-speaking community than ever.

Youth engagement had emerged as a top priority for the organization, and

as a young, community-minded volunteer myself, I tried to lead by example."

Through various initiatives, this new vision was successfully carried out. "That vision took shape in many ways. One major initiative was Toppportunity.ca, a web portal intended to help young English-speakers identify opportunities. It was a gateway to the Townships employment opportunities, while connecting users to educational and entrepreneurial resources. The "T" in the name signified "Top" opportunities in the "Townships!"

During his time with the Association, Van Lierop launched an initiative that continues to remain an important aspect of the organization today. "I had been on the Board of Directors for years prior to becoming president, and chaired numerous committees. One initiative I launched was the "Townships Leaders of Tomorrow" (now, the "Young Townships Leaders Awards") a version of the Outstanding Townshippers' Awards for young Townshippers who have made outstanding contribu-

tions to their community, had achieved something worthy of recognition, or showed tremendous potential in becoming a vital leader of the community in the future. Both the public and private sectors supported the initiative, resulting in a number of cash awards for the young achievers.

As one of the few organizations in Quebec that supports the English-speaking minority, Townshippers' Association is an important association for the various English-speaking communities that make up the Townships, Van Lierop said. "There are few organizations or institutions, aside perhaps from The Record, that can boast such an enduring commitment to the vitality of the Townships' English-speaking community. The volunteers and staff of Townshippers' Association have worked tirelessly, for more than a generation, to better the lives of English-speakers – through advocacy, community projects, soliciting funding, and community leadership. This is crucial in a linguistic minority community."



Attracting new English-speakers was focus of MacAulay presidency



Myrna MacAulay, president 1989-1992

of the more outreach-based aspects of her work as president and she is quoted on several occasions as speaking to the importance of team work.

“We have to do three things at once, all the time,” she said in a 1991 interview with *The Record*, referring to a variety of government interventions being prepared simultaneously. In that same interview the president spoke at length about the challenges of trying to

represent the needs of the local English-speaking community to the federal and provincial governments while also dealing with criticisms from members of that very community that the Association is not doing enough for individual Townshipers.

In that vein, she identified a priority for the Association at the time as being improving communication between the board and the membership.



The *Record*'s archives portray Myrna MacAulay as a dedicated Townshipper who put the focus of her time in office on attracting more English-speaking people to the region. Acclaimed as president in the fall of 1989, Macaulay served three terms as the Association's president as it entered its second decade of operations.

MacAulay, a retired school teacher and administrator from Bishopton, took on the presidency with hesitation that quickly gave way to resolve.

“I intend to work for the goals of the Association — hopefully they (the members) will tell us their mood in the coming weeks,” she was quoted as saying at the time.

As a result of a limited grasp of the French language, MacAulay had to rely on the help of others to work on some



Marjorie Goodfellow: Champion of health and social services



Marjorie Goodfellow, president 1982-1985

“We were still building the Association,” reflected Marjorie Goodfellow, President of Townshippers’ Association from 1982 to 1985, when asked what stands out to her about the time she served in the role.

Although the organization had already been in operation for several years by the time Goodfellow took on the presidency, she said that her time in the chair came at what could still be considered the formative years of the group, when the priorities were aimed almost entirely at getting to know the community that Townshippers’ hoped to serve and communicate the needs of that community to the French-speaking majority.

“We were always open to doing interviews,” she said, adding that this openness was frequently taken advantage of by French journalists looking for a perspective from English-speakers.

Outside of those two priorities, Goodfellow said the Association was hard at work meeting with politicians and engaging in advocacy on a number of issues.

“We went before parliamentary com-

missions, we presented briefs,” she said. “You name it, we did it.”

In terms of highlights and lasting legacies, Goodfellow said that it was during her time in office that the Association commissioned sociologist Gary Caldwell to produce a report on the

English-speaking population of the Eastern Townships.

That report proved to be vital to the work of the organization on a number of fronts, not the least of which being, “breaking down the myth that we were all wealthy

people living on some kind of street in Westmount.”

Follow-up reports to that initial portrait of the local English-speaking population have been vital tools in the work of the Association over the ensuing decades.

“We just did a lot,” Goodfellow said. “We were out there all the time.”

“We went before parliamentary commissions, we presented briefs. You name it, we did it.”



Heather Bowman recognizes need to forge partnerships



Heather Bowman, president 2004-2006

From 2004 to 2006, Townshippers' found their president in Sherbrooke local Heather Bowman. She currently sits on Townshippers' Board of Directors and has seen the organization live up to its vision while also allowing room to grow.

"The vision has remained the same, but it has also grown over the last 15 years," Bowman said. "We continue to move forward, working hard in education and health and social services. We are increasing awareness of the English-speaking community and making sure they are heard at all levels of government. But we are also becoming more visible and becoming a resource for other organizations, directing people in the right direction for services."

While she describes her time as president as a relatively quiet period for the Association, it continued to play a key role in the communities that make up the Eastern Townships. "We continued to build bridges with our French-speaking neighbors and other cultural communities, working with our partners to make people aware of the English-speaking community. We continued promoting and supporting the interests of the English-speaking community, its culture and heritage."

Partnering with other members of the community is key for the Association.

As someone who has worked alongside the Association for a number of years, she recognizes the need for an organization like Townshippers' in Quebec to advocate for the English-speaking community. "It's challenging in Quebec as an English-speaking person and it's important that the Association be a

"It's challenging in Quebec as an English person and it's important that the Association be a voice for our community and for our seniors who are fragile and vulnerable."

voice for our community and for our seniors who are fragile and vulnerable. Education is also a big factor and it's important to help and be there for our youth and encourage them to stay in school. It is also important to help them find their way in the world, not only in the

Townships but in the entire province. The Association makes the government aware of our needs and how they can help us meet our objectives. I believe the English-speaking community wouldn't be as strong or as visible if it weren't for Townshippers' Association."



Townshippers' speaks up for community

In keeping with its role of advocate for the English-speaking community, Townshippers' Association made presentations to the Quebec National Assembly on proposed legislation that would impact the community on the issues of health, education, language and cultural identity.

Bill 14

On Jan. 30, 2013, Townshippers' Association appealed to the Quebec National Assembly to consider the consequences for minority language Quebecers in the government's proposal to strengthen the French language, outlined in Bill 14. Townshippers' presented their concerns to the Assembly noting that Bill 14 would further disenfranchise the English-speaking community. They argued the bill was targeted more towards reducing the rights of English-speaking Quebecers than enhancing the French language and went beyond Bill 101.

Under Bill 14, bilingualism was described as something that needed to be eliminated from the Quebec landscape. This was a major concern for Townshippers' and the rest of the English-speaking community which had taken steps to become bilingual in order to open up more opportunities and to participate fully in a majority Francophone society. The Association called on the government to recognize the English-speaking community as a founding people and acknowledge that their efforts to become bilingual have contributed to the prosperity of the French language and culture. The brief also noted that English is the common international language of business and commerce and that weakening the rights of English-speakers in Quebec wouldn't change the situation on the international scene.

Bill 60

When Bill 60 was put forward by Quebec's Liberal government in 2014, it led to serious debate in the province on secularism. Bill 60 was concerned with Quebec's Charter of Human Rights and

Freedoms and among its various proposals was included a controlled dress code that would reinforce secularism in Quebec. Townshippers' Association appeared before a National Assembly committee on Jan. 16, 2014 stating that Bill 60 presented a threat to the English-speaking community and all minority groups in Quebec. Beyond a controlled dress code, the omnibus bill also proposed that the "primacy of the French language" be grouped along with other fundamental values such as the equality of men and women. This meant that the English-speaking minority and other minorities would be disenfranchised from the Charter. Townshippers' also argued that the bill encouraged discrimination. They mentioned the fact that numerous cases of abuse involving religious and racial minorities took place following discussions on Bill 60. They further emphasized that employment opportunities in the public sector should be based on an individual's qualifications and abilities, not the religion they identify with. For a province that desperately needs immigrants in order to make up for a low birth rate, the Association did not fail to bring up the fact that the government should be working towards a more inclusive society and not one that is divided along racial, religious, and linguistic lines. For these various reasons, Townshippers' demanded from the National Assembly, that the bill be withdrawn.

Bill 86

The proposed legislation outlined in Bill 86 involved making changes to the way primary and secondary schools were governed. Under this new bill, parents and teachers would play a much larger role in the governance of the schools. While Townshippers' supported a strong role for parents, there were three primary concerns on the part of the English-speaking community that the Association wanted the National Assembly to take into consideration. One of their concerns was the fact that there was no mention in the bill of the specific and historic rights of the English-speaking minority to gov-

ern its own schools. They argued that school boards are the only institutions that the English-speaking community can call their own and that if community representatives are only selected by the parents that sit on the new school councils as outlined in the bill, they can decide not to elect any community representatives at all, then this does not reflect their right to govern their own schools. Under this new bill, decisions regarding the English Language curriculum continued to remain under the power of the Ministry of Education. Townshippers' recommended that the curriculum for English language education receive more input from the community, a right guaranteed in the Canadian Charter of Rights. Townshippers' stated that for the English-speaking community, schools are not only a place of learning but a place where the cultural, social, and historical identity of the English-speaking population is shared and because of that, these concerns needed to be addressed.

Bill 10

In 2014, health reforms were put forward in the form of Bill 10. This bill called for the reorganization of the health and social services network. It proposed the merger of health boards by abolishing the boards of individual health institutions and merging them into 28 regional boards. Various English-speaking organizations became immediately concerned with how that would impact representation on these health boards for the English-speaking community. Townshippers' raised the concern that this reorganization would result in less control and power in the health institutions that the English-speaking community helped build and would put access to services in English at risk. They emphasized that the English-speaking community needs to be included at the decision-making levels of their local institutions to ensure that health services will be provided in English and that plans and programs that provide support to the minority population be followed through.

Made en Estrie activities

In partnership with ELAN Quebec and the Conseil de la culture de l'Estrie, Townshippers' Association brought together French-speaking and English-speaking artists and organizations for the first time ever with their *Made en Estrie* event in November of 2017.

Made en Estrie is a bilingual net-

working event for artists in the Eastern Townships. For artists who work in English, it can sometimes be difficult to establish themselves in the greater arts community. *Made en Estrie* was organized to help English speakers integrate in the arts and culture scene in the region and bridge that gap between these two language groups.

It is meant to provide opportunities for French-speaking and English-speaking artists to connect and share. *Made en Estrie* introduced the region's first bilingual "Minute Market" where 10 English-speaking artists and 10 French-speaking artists (or organizations) are paired to share future projects and discuss their artistic work.

Tapping Townships talent in Taproot

As part of its 20th anniversary celebrations, Townshippers' Association wanted to bring recognition to the work of the photographers, writers, poets, and visual artists of the Eastern Townships. In celebration of the artists who are living in the Townships either full time or part time, the Taproot initiative was born in 1999. Taproot publishes the work of both established and emerging artists

and acts as a showcase for the talent and creativity that flows through our region. In Taproot, you can find poems, short stories, paintings, drawings, car-

toons, monologues and photographs submitted by artists from the English-speaking community, some that have yet to be published.



Brenda Hartwell



PHOTO CREDIT: TOWNSHIPERS' ASSOCIATION

Did you know?

Did you know that before *Rooted in the Townships*, there was no career day for the students of Massey-Vanier, Galt, and Richmond? It was the first time the three English-language public schools had the opportunity to hold such an event for their students thanks to a collaboration between Townshippers' Association, the Eastern Townships School Board, community organizations, post-secondary institutions, and the region's employers and professionals.

Our Stories e-book

As one of the first regions in the province to be settled, the Eastern Townships has its own unique story within Canada's great historical narrative. In honour of Canada's 150th birthday, Townshippers' Association launched the *Our Stories* project in September, 2016. The project was created in celebration of the role that the English-speaking community of the Townships has had in shaping not only the province of Quebec but also Canada as a nation. It involved holding writing workshops across the Townships for people of all ages who were new or experienced writers. These workshops helped writers improve their writing skills in a variety of genres. The initiative resulted in a published collection of visual and written pieces of work, including pieces from those who participated in workshops, titled *Our Stories: The Eastern Townships Chapter in Canada's 150-Year Story*. The e-book focused on the role and the influence that the Townships' community has had in Canada's 150-year history. With much success, a second e-book titled *Our Stories* was published in 2019.



Credit: Townshippers' Association
Our Stories, the community-created digital anthology produced by non-profit organization Townshippers' Association, was released in a soft-cover book limited to just 150 copies in celebration of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation.

NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

"Kids learning to build things is vital," this Townshipper once said.

Ideas are always spinning in this local business owner's head—spinning like bike wheels, or pottery wheels. A big supporter of nature (like 10,000 acres big), when it's tapping time, this Townshipper never turkeys around.



See answer on pages 38 & 39



Goldbloom and Orr reflect on the early days of Alliance Quebec

By Gordon Lambie

Having lived in the Eastern Townships for eleven years now through his role as Principal of Bishop's University, Michael Goldbloom says that he better understands the approach to English-French relations that Townshippers' Association has taken over the years today than he did back when he was the President of the advocacy group Alliance Quebec.

"There was then, as there is certainly now, much less language tension in the Townships," he said, sharing a view that although separate from Alliance Quebec, Townshippers' played a vital role in the formation of the now defunct group by sharing a perspective of trying to find constructive, inclusive ways forward and solutions to big problems and issues.

"Townshippers was, I think it is fair to say, the strongest of the regional organizations of the English-speaking community across Quebec. Certainly outside of Montreal," Goldbloom reflected, explaining that Alliance Quebec formed in 1982 out of a feeling several years earlier that there needed to be a larger conversation in the English-speaking community about the new political reality under the recently-formed Parti Québécois. "We were a group of mid-20s anglophones who recognized that the election of the PQ was a pretty fundamental moment in the life of the province and we felt that we needed to talk about what this meant."

"I think if you look at the issues that were being confronted in the late 70s and early 80s, it was a moment of revolutionary change and what Townshippers' and Alliance Quebec as a whole were arguing for was not to go back to the starting point, but to come to a more reasonable, sustainable middle, where it would be possible to both protect and promote the French Language and not limit the rights of non francophones," he said, adding, "Sometimes it is hard to be in the middle."

As opposed to its predecessors, which Goldbloom described as federations of existing organizations that had difficulty making decisions because of the complication of those organiza-



Royal Orr

RECORD ARCHIVES



Michael Goldbloom

RECORD ARCHIVES

tions having to come to a consensus before coming to a distinct position, Alliance Quebec was created to be a group made up of individuals, even if they represented a variety of areas across the province. Several key Townshippers' Association members, he said, took on roles that were significant to the alliance either parallel to or after their involvement with the regional group. Among these he named people like Jim Ross, Marjorie Goodfellow, and Royal Orr, the last of whom was the Executive Director of Townshippers' at the time Alliance Quebec was founded and who went on to be the latter organization's off-island vice president, and later president from 1987 to 1989.

"It was an interesting time," Orr shared. "It's not easy building an organization that tried to cover communities as different as Hampstead and New Carlisle."

Complicated relations

Goldbloom echoed that sentiment, sharing that there was often a tension about existing regional associations wanting to maintain their autonomy as well as a concern that Alliance Quebec was taking a more aggressive approach to language issues than some people in the Townships (or other regions)

thought was appropriate based on the relationships between English-speaking and French-speaking Quebecers in their own backyards.

Although it complicated relations between the two groups, the former president said that he feels that tension played an important moderating role in the work Alliance Quebec went on to do on work fighting for modifications to Bill 101 over the years that followed.

Orr, by contrast, said that he feels the existence and insistence of Alliance Quebec allowed Quebec's English-speaking community to achieve things that Townshippers' alone would not have been capable of.

"This is a natural thing with minorities; if you're in a minority situation, you're quieter and you worry more about what the hint of confrontation might mean," he said, clarifying that he still believes that Townshippers' perspective was an important part of discussions around major issues in terms of maintaining sensitivity and respect for one another, even if he ultimately believes that Alliance Quebec's more aggressive stances were beneficial to everyone in the long run.

"You can have a moderate point of view and a moderate solution, but

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Career days help students stay rooted in the Townships

In 2017, Townshippers' Association received a grant to launch a pilot project that they called Rooted in the Townships. The project involved holding career days in each of the three English-language public high schools in the area: Alexander Galt Regional High School, Massey-Vanier High School, and Richmond Regional High School. The first career day took place in November of 2017 but there was much that needed to be organized. "There was a lot of planning involved," explained Jayme Marrotte, the project's coordinator from 2017-2018, "I started planning in June." For the students, this wasn't just any typical career day. "They all had individualized schedules based on their interests which was meaningful for them," Marrotte said. Before the event even took place, Marrotte had each student fill out a survey and answer a series of questions to learn about their interests and ensure that they were provided with the tools to support their future. Participants included local

post-secondary educational institutions, community organizations, and employers and professionals from different fields to engage with the students and provide them with the information they needed regarding academics, careers, and life in the Eastern Townships. "We had career panels on health, education, sports, and a couple more. We had three to four professionals from each sector come and speak. A student may be interested in education, but they don't want to be a teacher."

According to Marrotte, students had the chance to take part in various workshops that were being offered. "There was a workshop on starting their own business, so they were learning entrepreneurial skills. There was also a workshop on how to write a resume and a cover letter. Students rotated through different activities throughout the day. It provided more in-depth knowledge and support than just kiosques and having a few employers," she said.

One of the aspects of the project was

to counter this idea that there are no, or very few, opportunities for English speakers in Quebec. "We wanted to expose students to the reality of the community. We exposed them to the English organizations that are here to support their future endeavours. We also exposed them to the various opportunities in the area that required English or if the company needed English-speaking workers. We wanted students to see there are opportunities in English in Quebec. It opened up their eyes to the possibilities in the Eastern Townships." She referred to the event as a "one-stop shop" for students graduating high school and continuing on to post-secondary studies or careers. While the project was only supposed to carry on for a year, it is now entering its third under the direction of Ed Humphrey. "The Association received a grant to start the project, but they decided to sustain it so that it could remain valuable for years to come."

Alliance Quebec

CONT'D FROM PAGE 24

sometimes you've got to be really assertive just to have the moderate perspective heard and respected," he said.

Looking back on the work done during their respective terms as President of Alliance Quebec, Goldbloom and Orr referenced debates around the place of English on commercial signs, a language test for entering Quebec's public service, pushing for reforms to Canada's Official Languages Act to make it more effective in protecting minority language communities, and defending the right to access to English healthcare services as major issues that were taken on.

Speaking of the work on the Official Languages Act, Orr credited Goldbloom with creating the now often-cited term "community vitality," but Goldbloom credited at least part of the idea to the work that the Townshippers' Association had been engaged in for years at the time.

"I think that notion of community vitality was certainly informed by the experience of the Townshippers' Association not just about language rights,

but in ensuring that the community remained vital and what was required in order to do that," he said.

Goldbloom also said that he remembers the important role that the association played and continues to play in arguing that the public institutions of Quebec, Hospitals being the best example, should be able to provide their services in English and in French to all Quebecers.

"That was a really critical piece of legislation that continues to have influence today and I know it's something the Townshippers continue to be preoccupied with," he said.

Beyond the issues that were addressed, Goldbloom also said that the Townshippers proved to be a model for a fledgling Alliance Quebec in showing how an organization can foster future leadership

"The thing about community organizations, and it reflects itself recently in the conversation around school boards, is that our community organizations have been one of the places where people have learned to take on leadership roles on behalf of the com-

munity," he said. "Just as Townshippers' was a place where people had the opportunity to develop leadership abilities, Alliance Quebec became a place where we kind of grew the next generation of leaders for the English-speaking community."

He offered up the names of Kathleen Wiel, Thomas Mulcair, Geoffrey Kelley, Russell Copeman, and Eric Maldoff as examples of community leaders whose present-day roles were forged, at least in part, by their implication in Alliance Quebec once upon a time.

While recognizing that the two groups had their differences, particularly as Alliance Quebec went on to become a more radical organization in the 1990s and early 2000s, Goldbloom argued that the work of the Townshippers Association played a significant role in making the work of the alliance a success.

"I think that if the Townshippers had not been prepared to support the creation of Alliance Quebec, it would have been much, much more difficult for it to have been created," he said.

Townshippers' Association Directors 1997-2019

Allatt, Reginald, 1998-1999
 Bailey, Brenda, 2001-2006
 Bailey, Kim, 2000 - 2003
 Bateman, Joanna, 2009-2010
 Beattie, Nancy, 1997-1998
 Belanger, Peter, 1999-2000
 Bibbs, Caitlin, 2018-2019
 Blinn, Rebecca, 2006-2007
 Bowman, Heather, 1997-2019
 Briand, Irene, 2012-2013
 Brinckman, Theodora, 1997-2000
 Buck, John, 1997-2001
 Butler, John, 1997-2000
 Callan, Richard, 2001-2004

Clark, Eric, 2000-2003
 Collini, Maurizio, 1997-1998
 Corman, Clea, 2017-2018
 Courey, Raymond, 1998-1999
 Cox, Jeremiah, 2012-2013
 Craft, Kevin, 2002-2006
 Crooks, Jamie, 2017-2018
 Cutting, Gerald, 2006-2019
 Cutting, Melanie, 2004-2017
 Darch, Heather, 2003-2006
 Dickson, Olivier, 2018-2019
 Douesnard, John, 1999-2000
 Durrant, Bruce, 2004 - 2009
 Durrel, Dewey, 2000-2003
 Enright, Sonya, 2001-2002



Ewing, Milton, 1998-1999
 Farley, Ralph, 2000-2003
 Fortier, Emile, 2011-2012
 Gale, Royce, 1998-1999
 Gales, Robert, 2004-2006
 Gilber, H. Gil, 1997-2001
 Goodfellow, Marjorie, 1997-1998
 Gosselin, Cheryl, 2009-2019
 Graham, Marvin, 1998-1999
 Gunhouse, Alice, 2001-2006
 Haller, Albert, 2001-2004
 Hartwell, Brenda, 1997-2007
 Hashmi, Salim, 2004-2019
 Hoegg, Susan, 1997-1998
 Hogg, William, 2006-2012
 Holt, Claire, 2011-2015
 Hunting, Rachel, 2010-2012
 Jardine, Colin, 1998-1999
 Jewett, Bill, 1997-2001
 Johnston, Helen, 2002-2004
 Kanner, James, 2007-2019
 Kehne, Caroline, 2000-2004
 Keith, Heather, 2000-2004
 Kelly, Steve, 2001-2003
 Kelso, Kohl, 2012-2018
 Kirby, Mary, 1997-1998
 Laberge, Jacques, 1998-1999
 Laporte, Edward, 1997-1998
 Laursen, Knud, 1999-2000
 Lawson, Steve, 2014-2019
 Leng, David, 1997-2001
 Lloyd, Suzanne, 2001-2003
 Loiselle, Jane, 1999-2001
 Losier, Paulette, 1998-1999
 Lynch, Lorna, 1998-1999
 Lynch, Wade, 2017-2019
 MacAulay, Myrna, 1997-1999
 Macdonald Lowry, Myrna, 2000-2001
 MacKeen, Frances, 1998-1999
 Mahannah, Rachel, 2003-2004
 Mallory, Robin, 1998-1999
 Mariscal, Ana Rosa, 2007-2008
 Marrotte, Jayme, 2017-2019
 McConnell Burton, 2004-2006
 McCrory, Alice, 2002-2019
 Mcintosh, Blair, 1997-1998
 McKeage, Robert, 2010-2014
 McLaughlin, Mark, 2007-2012
 Merifield, Russell, 2013-2017
 Merovitz, Lisa, 1998-1999
 Miller, Lois, 1997-1998
 Moliner, Ouida, 1998-1999
 Montgomery, Ann, 1998-1999
 Morin, Corey, 2009-2010
 Morin, Scott, 1997-1998
 Mulholland, John, 2002-2006
 Paré, Otus, 2009-2012
 Pezzi, Mark, 1997-1998
 Quilliam, Robert, 1998-1999
 Quilliams, Peter, 1999-2018
 Quinn, Sheila, 2000-2001
 Richards, Gary, 1997-2003
 Riordin, Peter, 2009-2017
 Robertson, Tara, 1997-2002
 Robinson, Stuart, 2000-2006
 Robinson, Douglas, 2000-2001
 Robinson, Jody, 2017-2018
 Rodrigue, Luc, 1997-2000
 Ross, James, 1998-1999
 Rowsell, Andre, 2009-2010
 Ruf, Ursula, 1999-2004
 Ryan, Kevin, 1997-1998
 Salim, Hashmi, 2012-2013
 Scalabrin, Frederici, 1998-1999
 Scott, Catherine, 1997-2000
 Seys, Joan, 2002-2004
 Shaw, Sharon, 1997-1998
 Skelton, Janet, 2003-2004
 Smith, Beverly, 1997-1998
 Smith, Douglas, 1998-1999
 Smith, Eric, 2016-2018
 Standish, Collin, 2012-2013
 Standish, Marion, 2000-2011
 Tessier, Marisa, 1997-1998
 Thomson, Laurel, 2006-2007
 Tichurst, Alden, 2004-2006
 Vaillancourt, Julie, 2007-2008
 Van Lierop, Michael, 2001-2010
 Vaughan, Stacey, 2009-2012
 Visser, Aline, 1997-1998
 Warnholtz, Don, 2017-2019
 Welch, Gloria, 2000-2001
 Whitcomb, Peter, 1999-2006
 White, Peter, 2013-2015

NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

“Parking lots are a huge source of pollution,” according to this Townshipper

Founder of the Memphremagog Wetland Foundation, the safety of salamanders and the sounds of St. Patrick's organ are thanks to initiatives that involved this environmental pioneer and community builder.



See answer pages 38 & 39



Annual T-Day enjoyed by thousands

Since 1980, Townshippers' Day has become a fixture on our calendars. The event is a special day for the Association, uniting people from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds in celebration of life in this beautiful region we call the Eastern Townships. With thousands of people attending the event from across the province, Townshippers' Days bring the community together through various activities that recognize the unique individuals and places that make up the fabric of our region. Every year, the event takes place in a different town, village, or city to allow everyone to get to know the different parts of the region and what makes them so special.



Remember when?

Do you remember when Secretary of State Lucien Bouchard attended Townshippers' Day?

Bouchard paid a visit to Sutton in 1988, where the event was held that year. He spent four hours doing a Townshippers' Day tour with President Heather Keith and he hosted a luncheon for representatives of the English-speaking community. It was the first time a Secretary of State attended the event.



Townshippers' Days — 1979-2019

October 17, 1979 Founding Meeting Lennoxville Wendall Sparkes	September 22, 1984 <i>The Way We Were</i> Knowlton Ron Creary and Jim Boule	September 16, 1989 <i>Townships Then & Now</i> Lennoxville Muriel Brand	September 18, 1993 <i>Reunited / Réunis</i> Brome Village Chris Cooper and Marilyn Graham
October 4, 1980 Townships' Day Centre d'Arts Orford Warren Grapes	September 21, 1985 <i>The Place to Be</i> Sherbrooke Clarence Blake	September 15, 1990 A Better Way of Life Bedford Ashley Sheltus	September 17, 1994. <i>Fifteen Years Young! /Quinze ans déjà!</i> Bishop's University, Lennoxville Pierre Barbeau and Jane Loiselle
October 3, 1981 Townshippers' Day Hatley Warren Grapes	September 20, 1986 <i>Rendez-Vous</i> Bromont Janis Southam	September 14, 1991 <i>Townshippers at Work and Play</i> Ayer's Cliff Charles Davies	September 16, 1995. <i>Celebrate—Participate/ Célébrer—Participer</i> Mansonville Alison Hannan,
September 18, 1982 Townshippers' Day Stanbridge East Warren Grapes	September 19, 1987 <i>All Together / Ensemble</i> Danville / Shipton Bev Smith	September 19, 1992. <i>1792—1992 Eastern Townships Bicentennial</i> <i>Sharing the Past, Sharing the Future/ Ensemble hier, aujourd'hui et demain!</i> Richmond Heather Lunan Carson	September 14, 1996 <i>Unity / Unité</i> Stanstead René Bourdon
September 14, 1983 Townshippers' Day Rock Island Warren Grapes	September 17, 1988 <i>Together / Ensemble</i> Sutton Earle McCurdy		CONT'D ON PAGE 29

Blanchard Litho 1/2
page

Townshippers' Days

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September 13, 1997
Heritage
Waterloo
Shirley Maynes Beakes
and
John Porter

September 19, 1998
Townshippers Pull Together/
Les gens des Cantons,
ensemble
nous travaillons
Cookshire
Colin Grimson and Luc
Rodrigue

September 18, 1999
Townshippers' 20
Knowlton
Signy Stephenson

September 16, 2000
Always in Harmony/
Toujours en Harmonie
Saint-Félix-de-Kingsey
Larry Mastine

September 15, 2001
Family Pride. Fierté
Familiale
Waterville
Gladys Bruun and Lind-



say Pocock

September 14, 2002
Return to your Roots—
Celebrate the Future/Revenons à
nos racines—Célébrons l'avenir
Sherbrooke
Nancy Beattie and
Michael vanLierop

September 13, 2003
The Place to Be/On y sera
Cowansville
Yvan Monast

September 18, 2004
Living in Harmony/Vivre en
harmonie
Magog
Rev. Dr. Robert Deane
Moffat and Melvyn Bryant

September 17, 2005
Weather or not...We'll be
there /
Gens des Cantons, gens
d'amitié
Bedford
Guylaine Beaudoin and
Kevin Craft

September 16, 2006
Sharing our culture, our her-
itage, our lives/
Partageons notre culture,
notre
patrimoine, notre milieu de
vie
Richmond
Gerald Badger and Roger
Viens

September 23, 2007
GO Ahead with Youth/
Jeunes VERT l'avenir
Bishop's University,
Lennoxville
Mark McLaughlin and
Jocelyn Molyneux

September 20, 2008:
Discover Sutton, Experience the
Townships/Découvrez Sutton,
Vivez les Cantons
Sutton
Kenneth Hill

September 19, 2009
Celebrating 100 years of
harmony in the Townships/



Fêtons 100 ans en harmonie
dans les Cantons-de-l'Est
Ayer's Cliff
Dr. Mary Pearson

Saturday, 17, 2010
Celebrate the Townships and
Danville's 150th/Fêtons les
Cantons et le 150e de Danville
Danville
Robert McKeage

September 17, 2011
Townshippers' in action with
Stanstead/Townshippers en
action avec Stanstead
Stanstead
Jody Stone

September 15, 2012
Farnham: Past, Present and
Futur/Farnham: Passé, présent
et futur
Farnham
Denis Riel

September 14, 2013
Bienvenue, Welcome
BCS, Lennoxville
Rachel Hunting

September 13, 2014
Celebrate our history,
prepare for the
future/Célébrons notre
histoire,
préparons l'avenir
Coaticook
No chair

September 12, 2015
Strong Roots — Growing
together/Grandir ensemble,
solidement enracinés
Brome Fairgrounds
Barrie Paige and
Thomas McGovern

September 17, 2016
Strong Roots — Growing
together/Grandir ensemble,
solidement eracinés
Brome Fairgrounds
Barrie Paige and
Thomas McGovern

2017 — No Townshippers'
Day
After a year off to
regroup and
reorganize, Townshippers'
Association, in partnership
with the Eastern Townships
School Board the the CIUSSS de
l'Estrie-CHUS, held its 38th
event under the new name
Townshippers' Festival

September 29, 2018
Townshippers' Festival
Richmond Regional High
School
Richmond

September 21, 2019
Townshippers' Festival
Massey-Vanier High
School
Cowansville

“You persuade, you don’t fight.”

Marjorie Goodfellow reflects on decades of work in health and social services

By Gordon Lambie

It would be hard to find a person in the English-speaking community more intimately aware of the workings of the local healthcare network than Marjorie Goodfellow. Looking back on her involvement in the health-care sector over the years, the one-time Townshippers’ Association President explained that although her work with the local hospitals ultimately led her away from ongoing work with the Association, it was through her involvement with Townshippers’ that she came to be a part of the whole situation in the first place.

“Of course Townshippers’ was interested in health care from the very beginning, that was one of the major themes when the Association was established,” Goodfellow recalled. “I wasn’t really involved except peripherally with the healthcare file until the issues about whether the Sherbrooke Hospital would continue to exist.”

Although it would not be at all obvious to a newcomer to the region today, Goodfellow pointed out that when Townshippers’ Association was founded in 1979, the local English-speaking hospital was an important and active pillar of the local community, as were similar institutions in Magog and Cowansville. In 1996, however, the Sherbrooke Hospital and other local institutions were merged by the provincial government into what was then called the *Centre universitaire de Santé de l’Estrie*, or CUSE.

“I think it is important to remember that each of the institutions was upset about this amalgamation. It meant great change for each and every one of them,” she said, arguing that although the loss of the Sherbrooke Hospital caused considerable distress to members of the local English-speaking community, “It really wasn’t an English issue, as such. Everyone was upset and everyone was angry.”

Initially, Goodfellow said she was involved with the conversation around the merger through Townshippers’ health and social services committee.

“We met with Doctor Rochon on various occasions, all to no avail,” she said,



referring to Parti-Québécois Health Minister Jean Rochon, who was championing the move to combine the hospitals. Although Townshippers’ initially received assurances that the English-speaking hospital would stay, in the end that proved false.

When it became clear that the amalgamation was happening one way or the other, Goodfellow said that she was named as the community representative to sit on the orientation committee, which was set up to bring together all the hospital representatives in Sherbrooke.

“I was very low on the totem pole, but nonetheless I was there for some reason or another,” she said, explaining that it was this step that really brought her into the health-care sphere and out of her work with Townshippers’. “I felt it was my duty to ensure that the English-speaking population was well served by the new institution.”

From that orientation committee she went on to be chosen by the community as a member of the new hospital’s board of directors, and remained a part of that group until 2012. In that position, Goodfellow said her involvement in the health-care system was focused on defending the rights of her community without needing to be showy or aggressive about issues.

“You persuade, you don’t fight. If you start to fight you’ve lost the battle,” she said, describing herself as someone who would ‘work the corridors’ rather than engage in debates at board meetings. “You don’t embarrass people and you don’t put them on the spot, you go and talk to them quietly and show them how this could make things better.”

The strategy, she said, was almost always effective in changing the minds of others. Lest people think that it was a byproduct of a group of familiar people on the hospital board of directors, she pointed out that she tried the approach on everyone, including a Montreal-based inspector for Quebec’s Office de la Langue Française who was dispatched when it was felt that the Sherbrooke officer was being too lenient about bilingual signage.

“He came down and I spoke to him right away,” she said. “We had a nice little chat. It didn’t soften his tone any, but that’s my style. I don’t wait for people to come to me, I approach them right away and do my best to influence them.”

Although the matter of English signage was not resolved in a way that many English speakers felt very

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satisfied with, Goodfellow said that, to her, the issue was less important than ensuring that English-speaking people had access to services in their mother tongue.

"The main issue for me became English-language instruction for the nurses," she recalled. "By and large the doctors could serve people in English but the nursing staff and the other members of staff were less able."

Access to services in English remains a tense issue today, but Goodfellow said that she almost always felt supported by other members of the board on the matter and when she didn't, she took comfort in the fact that she had been elected to the board of directors as a community representative by a higher number of votes than any other person.

"It was a total community event to elect me, an English speaking person, to that board and I think that the number of people that voted for me had to have had a big impression on the total board," she said, pointing out that although it is often reflected on as a loss to the English-speaking community, the closing of the Sherbrooke Hospital was something that was felt among French-speaking residents as well.

Involved with foundation

Outside of her involvement on the Board of Directors, Goodfellow also got involved with the charitable foundation for the new hospital (which came to be known as the CHUS).

"The English-speaking population had always been very generous to the Sherbrooke Hospital, and when they started to see that they could get good service at a public hospital that had majority French-speaking users and servers, they were very generous again," she said, explaining that her early campaign had the slogan "make this hospital yours" to encourage people in the English-speaking community to break down barriers with the new institution.

"When I go to the hospital today, it's my hospital and I'm proud of it," she said.

Goodfellow said that, upon reflection, it was valuable to have a member of the English-speaking community on the hospital board as a way of bridging the two linguistic communities

"They were smart," she said, calling the move a strategic decision that she said was lacking during the more recent regional amalgamation of hospitals across the Townships into one "CIUSSS."

"The Sherbrooke amalgamation worked out well once everyone calmed down, but I think now they've lost a little of the community involvement," she said, arguing that the new regional institution is too broad and multifaceted to be able to count on the same kind of community spirit that the previous hospitals were built upon.

While she claimed her exposure over the years left her "allergic to meetings" in her retirement, Goodfellow said that she still makes an effort to go to the public meetings of the board and she said she wishes she had more company in doing so.

"The public doesn't attend these things and that's a mistake," she said. "They really should get out to these meetings and make their presence known. They don't have to say anything; they just have to be there (...). If English-speaking peo-

ple would attend these meetings they would show that they are a part of the community."

Goodfellow tied this feeling to the lasting legacy of Townshippers' Association in her life.

"It's part of Townshippers' role to encourage community involvement," she said. "It's very easy to sit at home and complain, and it's a lot more effort to go to these meetings, but people welcome you. People just have to be involved, and that is the hardest thing, I guess."

NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

*According to this
Townshipper, you can't be a
beacon if your light don't
shine*

Holder of the Order of Manitoba, the Order of Canada, the Senior Silver Medal, and an honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree from Bishop's University, this Townshipper is known by some as a financial analyst, some as an advocate for local health care, and some as a weekend restaurant cook.



See answer on pages 38 & 39

Benefits of theatre extend beyond stage

The *Theatre Townships* project was developed in 2008-2009 to help young people between 16 and 30 build employment skills and self-confidence through theatre and its various disciplines. The idea for such a project came from Christopher Freeman and with the help of Mary Harvey, he was able to bring the project to two communities in the Townships; Mansonville and Stanstead. Participants in the project were provided the opportunity to take part in aspects of theatre production such as stage design, creative writing, marketing, sales, and were afforded the opportunity to develop connections within the community for

future projects and jobs.

Participants took part in workshops, individual and group projects, physical and mental activities, performances, discussions and other activities that would assist them in finding the right career path. The project was carried out in Mansonville for 24 weeks and resulted in 10 young adults creating their own theatre company called Break-A-Leg Productions that produced various one-night only plays. After taking part in the project, some participants returned to school while others found a career they never would have had without the experience of *Theatre Townships*. Most importantly, they gained self-con-

fidence and self-awareness through the experience.

The project had similar results after being carried out in Stanstead. Participants formed Open Door Productions and put on their own shows. The project allowed participants to realize their capabilities, to create bonds with the community and each other. For participants, this was a personal and professional adventure and *Theatre Townships* benefitted them in ways they would not have imagined. The successful project was carried out by Townshippers' Association with the financial support of Service Canada.



Open Door Productions



Theatre Townships, Break-a-Leg Productions

Youth take the reins in Action Project

The Action Project, coordinated by Alanna Fernandes, was started in 2008 to encourage youth to become more active in their communities. By 2009, there were six groups located in Mansonville, Bury, Lennoxville, Richmond, Stanstead, and Sutton carrying out projects and activities in their communities to help make a difference in their own lives and the lives of others. In Lennoxville, youth from Project Underground organized a café night to open up the community to the re-

sources the Lennoxville Youth Centre offers and raised funds for six young people to attend the Town Youth Participation Strategies Conference in Ottawa. For three days, workshops and activities focused on themes of trust, communication, teambuilding, leadership, and action. Activities were carried out in Richmond as part of their Spring Break Challenge. The purpose of the project was to have youth test out their new skills and knowledge within the broader community.

Flashback to 1986

Townshippers' Association helped save the then 100-year-old "Hallowe'en House," an historic home located in Danville that belonged to the Cleveland family and is known for its orange and black colors.

Award recognizes youth leadership

The Young Townships Leader Award was established in 2005 to recognize the contributions and involvement of young Townshippers between the ages of 15 and 35 in their communities. The award is presented to individuals who demonstrate leadership and serve as a role model for other youth and adults through what they bring and do for the community. It is a time to celebrate their achievements and the initiatives.

Pictured on the right: The 2018 Young Townships Leader Award was presented to Audrey Morneau, from Richmond. Morneau put her heart and soul into what began as a school project to create a fundraising initiative, to launch the 'Legendairy' Show. The May 12, 2018 event attracted 43 registrations and participants from around the province and generated \$7,000 for the Au Coeur des Famille Agricole, which helps farmers and their families across the province with their mental and physical health.



Reaching out to English-speaking youth

In 2016, English-speaking youth were referenced for the first time ever in the Quebec Government's youth policy. This policy resulted in a two-year pilot project with the Carrefours Jeunesse-emploi (CJE) to help youth with resumes and job searches. These services, despite being available, were widely underused by English-speaking Quebecers. Townshippers' Association wanted to help bridge that gap between the CJs and the English-speaking community by bringing English speakers in and linking them to these existing resources and assisting the CJs in developing the capacity to help them. The Capacity Building Project provided the CJs with translation tools, workshops, presentations and English lessons to help them access English-speaking clientele. This project was funded by the Secrétariat à la jeunesse du Québec and the youth policy continues until 2030.

NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

"Committed to the attentive care of others"

The advocacy work of this Townshipper, described as a powerhouse in healthcare, helped ensure access to services in English in hospitals, and was "committed to the attentive care of others."

Remembered as a tireless volunteer, this McGill graduate, teacher, Outstanding Townshipper and Plymouth-Trinity United choir member has a street in Sherbrooke bearing their name.



See answer on pages 38 & 39

Excel in the Estrie essay and short video challenge



PHOTO CREDIT: KATRYNA BELANGER

Jenny Ménard, Make Way for YOUTH/Desjardins Migration Agent, awarded 2014's Excel in the Estrie Essay contest winners Meggie Bolduc and Robert Weary with the assistance of Kohl Kelso, Townshippers' Association Board Member, at the Association's Annual General Meeting on June 20 in Orford. (Absent from photo is essay winner Frédéryk Johnson).

The Excel in the Estrie essay and short video challenge is a part of Townshippers' Make Way for YOUTH Estrie project and celebrates the success of graduating high school students. In partnership with Cass Funeral Homes, Global Excel Management, and the Government of Canada, the challenge encourages graduating high-school students from the English-speaking community to share the ups and downs of their high-school experience. As part of the challenge, students graduating from an English-speaking high school or homeschool are asked to write an essay or make a short video that shares their personal, academic, and social obstacles throughout their

education and how they overcame them. They are also encouraged to share what they would like their future to look like in the Eastern Townships; this is a way of starting that dialogue with students about staying in the Eastern Townships and reminding them of the community and opportunities they have here. The challenge provides graduating students with a chance to open up to their community and to remind themselves of all that they have accomplished before moving on to complete their post-secondary education. Those individuals who win the challenge, various submissions can be chosen, are also published in Townshippers' journal.

NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

*This
Townshipper had
"A real passion
for people and
helping those in
need"*

Credited with helping find hosts for Coasters, this Townshipper started volunteering at the age of 12 selling violets for the IODE (Independent Order of the Daughters of the Empire).

Whether visiting patients in the Sherbrooke Hospital, or sitting on the executive committee of the Lennoxville & Ascot Historical and Museum Society, this Townshipper spent 107 years contributing to the local community.



See answer pages 38 & 39



2013 Excel In The Estrie - Jenny Menard and Sharon Renold

Young people encouraged to forge a career in the Townships

Since 2006, the *Make Way For Youth Estrie* project has been encouraging English-speaking youth between the ages of 18 and 35 who are just finishing school or thinking of relocating, to choose the Townships as a place to settle down and establish a career. The project, funded by the Secrétariat à la jeunesse du Québec, is part of the Place aux jeunes en région initiative to entice young professionals with a post-secondary education, to settle down outside major urban centres in Quebec.

Townshippers' Association's Holly McMillan worked on the project from 2016 to 2019 as a migration agent. "There is only one English-speaking migration agent for Estrie and they are

the only one in the province. Out of 56 migration agents, there is only one to serve the English-speaking community." For three years, McMillan filled that role.

"A large component of the job is to share what you love about the area and what makes Estrie different." Migration agents play a key role in helping English-speakers find jobs in Estrie where English is beneficial or required. They help them develop social connections and community ties so that they can easily integrate into their new community, they help them find housing, and open them up to the various resources and services that are available in the area. "When unilingual individuals come here, we encourage them to take

French classes at the Lennoxville Vocational Training Centre. We are giving people the tools to help them be successful if they choose to begin a career here." An important part of the *Make Way for YOUTH* Project are *Discovery Days* which invite young people to get to know the region and all it has to offer. *Discovery Days* are free and all-inclusive, ranging from one day to a weekend. To experience what it's like to live, work, and play in Estrie. *Make Way for YOUTH Estrie* is the only project of its kind that specifically targets the English-speaking population in Quebec and covers the entire Estrie region. "It takes a lot of advocacy because it can be hard to convince the linguistic majority that there is a need for that."

Dialogue
McGill
initiative
encourages
study in health
and social
services

For nearly a decade, the Dialogue McGill program has been part of Townshippers' Association's Eastern Townships Partners for Health and Social Services Estrie and Monteregion-East networks, offering bursaries to students studying in health and social services fields in educational institutions located in or outside of the Eastern Townships. Dialogue McGill was created to encourage English-speaking bilingual students to study in fields of health in order to fill the need for health practitioners in Quebec, and to encourage them to establish careers in their hometowns upon completing their studies.

NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

This Waterloo High School graduate's name is on a building in the area

A teacher for 34 years in the area, this Townshipper received the Order of Scholastic Merit. Descendent of one of West Bolton's first settlers, this Townshipper was known for knowing more about Townshippers than Townshippers.



See answer pages 38 & 39

Health Link Sessions bring information to seniors

Health Link involves a series of English-language sessions on health and wellness and is part of the Community Health Education program.

The sessions, organized throughout the year in partnership with the Community Health and Social Services Network, seek to connect English-speaking communities with information on topics of health from health professionals provided in their own language. It is offered by Townshippers' Association, in collaboration with Eaton Valley Community Learning Centre, the CIUSSS de l'Estrie – CHUS's Haut-Saint-François RLS and the Centre d'Action Bénévole du Haut-Saint-François.

Previous *Health Link* sessions have invited health professionals to speak on topics such as Parkinson's disease, Osteoporosis, and fraud. The sessions continue to connect seniors with the information, services, and professionals that can help support their needs.



Cooking Demo

Health Matters

Similar to the *Health Link* Sessions, *Health Matters* is a series of live video conferences on topics related to health. A collaboration between Avante Women's Centre, CSSS La

Pommeraiie, the Community Health and Social Services Network (CHSSN), and Townshippers' Association, these live video conferences are produced by the CHSSN through their Community

Health Education program. The conferences take place at McGill University and are recorded to share information with the rest of the community.

Food for Thought luncheons

As part of Townshippers' Association's Increasing Access to Information for English-speaking Caregivers of Seniors initiative, the *Food for Thought* luncheons, funded by APPUI Pour Les Proches Aidants D'Ainés Estrie, provide information and resources to those in the English-speaking community who take on the role of being a senior caregiver. It is also a chance for caregivers to meet one another and to learn new skills to help support their loved ones.



Healthy Active Living 50+

In 2004, Townshippers' Association launched a project titled *Healthy Active Living 50+* with support from the Government of Canada and the Engagés dans l'action pour les aînés du Québec program.

After attending a conference being offered by a group from Moncton, New Brunswick who were in the area to discuss their own Healthy Active Living program, Townshippers' Association decided they wanted to do something similar for the senior population of Estrie.

"They trained volunteers from different areas in New Brunswick to facilitate the senior workshops. They had bilingual modules written out, with different topics and the volunteers to present the themes to the seniors in their area," explained Kim Bailey, the project's orig-

inal coordinator.

Townshippers' carried out a similar project. Volunteers in different areas of the Townships, known as Regional Coordinators, had the responsibility of seeking out professionals in their area to discuss topics related to the interests of their group of seniors.

"We wanted professionals to ensure that the community could have their questions answered. These professionals did it all voluntarily."

Professionals came and spoke on topics such as services and housing options for seniors, diabetes, aging, and many more. "When people have more information, they feel more confident, especially in the English-speaking community," Bailey said.

The program was largely carried out in the MRCs of Estrie and in the Montérégie.

Surprisingly, it attracted a different age group than expected. "The majority of the participants were in the 75+ range and not 50+. It was meant for those just coming out of retirement to help them find themselves again as a retired person. While this was the case, the program had great benefits for the seniors community. "For the English-speaking senior populations that are more spread out, they feel more isolated and don't seek out services or friendships. It was a good method of finding people and having them come out. "It got people out of their houses. We wanted them to feel like they were connected to the community and informed about the services that are there."

With Respect to Our Elders

After joining Townshippers' Association in 2006 to take over the *Now's The Time* project, Eric Manolson helped develop an intergenerational project associated with the arts. After receiving a grant for three years from the Ministère de la famille et des aînés in 2009, the *Respect to Our Elders* project was born. The project connected seniors to their communities through an intergenerational approach and focus on the arts. "The arts are proven to bring out happiness and cooperation in people of all ages and we have a strong network of people involved in the arts in the Townships."

Through collaboration with various organizations, the project brought together young children, teenagers, young adults, and seniors through a variety of artistic activities that promoted learning and creativity and celebrated the value of seniors in the Eastern Townships. "It brought together people who are important members of the community who may not have had contact with each other because of the intergenerational divide." Two of their most popular activities included the Association's famous intergenerational music festivals and intergenerational cooking contest. "We had seven differ-

ent intergenerational music festivals. We discovered a whole layer of people in their 70s and 80s who play music."

"It got people out of their houses to come into contact with other people. We explored the subject of isolation and how it impacts health. The project also allowed people to express themselves in creative ways and share certain skills."

There were added benefits as well. "We had people from different organizations in the community giving out information to seniors at events we organized so that people were aware of the health services in the community."



Happy, Healthy, and Aging project

The *Happy, Healthy & Aging* Committee was established in 1998 with the goal of sharing information on and about seniors. The project included two major English-language Information Days for seniors in the Lennoxville and Cowansville/Granby regions; the production of regular pages and a special supplement in *The Record*; and the promotion of the International Year of Older Persons, to inform the wider population of the many contributions seniors have made, and continue to make, to the Townships

community. The project brought seniors together, gave them a voice in *The Record*, introduced them to resources, and provided documentation in English to as many seniors, their families and caregivers in the region as possible.

In addition to the grants received from the Population Health Fund (Health Canada) and the Sherbrooke Hospital Foundation, further contributions came from the Conseil regional de developpement de l'Estrie (CRD - Estrie); the Minister Responsible for Elderly Persons, Louise Harel; MNA for

Sherbrooke, Jean Charest; MNA for Saint-Francois, Monique Gagnon Tremblay; and MNA for Richmond, Yvon Valières.

The dedication, generosity of spirit, and hard work of the project's volunteers made all things possible. In particular the support of Townshippers' Association, which provided critical materials, office space, staff and expertise; and *The Record*, whose coverage provided a direct link to the community which was vital to the project.

NAME THAT TOWNSHIPPER

Answers

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Answer: Bruce Patton (Special to The Record)

Page 9



Answer: Denis Palmer

Page 12



Answer: Mary Purkey

Page 14



Answer: Leo Grandbois

Page 23



Answer: Michael Herman

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Answer: Stewart Hopps

Answers

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Answer: Dian Cohen

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Answer: Ruth Atto

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Answer: Joan Thomson

Page 35



Answer: Marion Phelps



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Association
for 40 years.**



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