



Service d'animation estivale d'Ascot Corner

Beaucoup de planification

par Fay POIRIER

Pas moins de 113 enfants sont inscrits au Service d'animation estivale (SAE) à Ascot Corner. Avec toutes les demandes gouvernementales, la mairesse, Nathalie Bresse, affirme que l'organisation a été ardue pour les employés municipaux. Une des conditions à respecter était de pouvoir loger tous les jeunes à l'intérieur en cas de pluie tout en respectant la distanciation sociale. C'est donc cinq salles intérieures qui sont réservées pour la saison estivale, soit



Bien que les mesures de sécurité sanitaires soient en place, les enfants auront l'occasion de s'amuser tout au long de l'été.

Agnès-Clément, Jean-Hardy, Aurélien-Rivard, Évariste-

Dubreuil et le gymnase de l'école de la Source-Vive. « Chaque groupe d'âge a sa salle, ses places. C'est sûr que c'est beaucoup



Diverses activités spéciales seront organisées au cours de la saison estivale, dont la visite d'animaux.

de gestion tout ça, mais c'est bien parti », explique

Mme Bresse. Au total, 12 moniteurs sont engagés pour animer et prendre en charge les enfants.

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Rachel WRITES

by Rachel GARBER

GULP

"I feel as if the Earth has sent us to our rooms to reflect on our behaviour," wrote a friend. Sitting there, reflecting, I was almost overwhelmed.

There's the Covid-19 pandemic, one of a series of zoonotic diseases spread from animals to humans. Our behaviours have contributed to this transmission: We've destroyed natural spaces, we've intensified agricultural and livestock production, and we've greedily traded in wildlife.

Then there's a warming and weird climate, and a disgusting and dangerous environment. All fostered by our penchant for polluting the earth with plastics, pesticides, and fossil fuels. More and more plants and animals are going extinct. We have less and less natural space. We have massive inequality in health, wealth and privilege.

It's scary. But what can I do?

Well, I've signed petitions for and against various causes that I think will help heal the world. One of these is Roundup. Roundup's active ingredient is Glyphosate. It kills weeds, and there's evidence it may kill people too.

Then we observed it being sprayed in our very own neighbourhood. Glyfos, the label said. Active ingredient: Glyphosate. Gulp.

This herbicide was introduced in the 1970s, but its usage dramatically grew when crops such as soybeans, corn and canola were genetically engineered to resist Glyphosate. Besides agriculture, it is also used in forestry, industrial sites and aquatic environments.

Now Glyphosate is the most widely sold and applied pesticide in Canada.

So says Carex Canada. Carex is short for Carcinogen Exposure.

Carex Canada is a team of researchers that aims to "provide a body of knowledge about Canadians' exposure to known and suspected carcinogens." It is hosted at Simon Fraser University.

The cancer associated with Glyphosate? Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Who is exposed to it? In Canada, something like 50,000 agricultural workers, and more than 2 million people living in areas where Glyphosate is used.

Is there really a link between Roundup and cancer? Depends on who you ask. Monsanto, its creator, and Bayer, who acquired Monsanto two years ago, would say no. But now this question has been tried in court, with startling results.

Bayer didn't bargain for this: Juries in three lawsuits in 2018-2019 all concluded that Glyphosate had caused the plaintiffs' cancer, and that Monsanto had failed to warn consumers of the risk. The plaintiffs were awarded \$289 million, \$80 million and more than \$2 billion, respectively.

Now Bayer has agreed to pay more than \$10 billion to settle some 95,000 other claims, The New York Times reported recently. And at least 30,000 additional plaintiffs are still suing Bayer.

Searching online, I found 10 countries have banned the use of Glyphosate, including France, Italy, New Zealand, Portugal, and Sweden. What about Canada? Still legal. What about Quebec? While its use is somewhat limited, it is still legal in agriculture.

Unless a municipality bans the use of Glyphosate on its territory. And there we arrive at an important development that has been overshadowed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Montreal has done just that, effective January 1st, 2020.

Will other municipalities follow suit?

I pray they will.

VICTORIA'S VENTURES

That's Victoria as in Victoria Hall, the new home of the Cookshire-Eaton Art Gallery, the John-Henry-Pope Cultural Centre, and the Tourist Information Centre. Yes, they're all open and in business at 125 Principale West, Cookshire. Here's what's up.

First, the Tourist Information Centre is open Wednesday to Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and its boutique offers local produce and products for sale.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Next, a series of monthly outdoor concerts is planned in the adjacent Parc des Braves. On July 12 is a Woodwind Trio Concert with Karine Breton playing bassoon, Martin Gauvreau on clarinet, and Myriam Genest-Denis, flute.

Looking forward, on August 9 a Brass Quintet will offer a concert.

The musicians are Stéphane Beaulac and Benjamin Raymond (trumpets), Gabriel Gauthier-Beaudoin (horn), Martin Ringuette (trombone), and Jean-Philippe Dutil (tuba).

And on September 6 is a Duet of Stringed Instruments, with Natalia Kononova playing violin, and Hugues Gagnon, guitar.

These Concerts apéros (as in aperitif) are all on Sundays at 5 p.m. Audience members are invited to give a voluntary donation, and are asked to keep a two-metre distance between families, in order to respect public health recommendations.

ART EXHIBIT

Finally, in Victoria Hall itself is to be an art exhibit, Les fantômes de l'inconscient (Ghosts of the Unconscious). The artist is Grégoire Ferland, sculptor who also paints, draws, writes poetry, and performs. His work is vigorous and expressive, dancing between figurative and abstract elements. He often uses metal and found objects. Over the decades, he has exhibited widely in both North and South America.

Ferland's studio is in East Angus, and he will be exhibiting sculptures and paintings this summer at the Cookshire-Eaton Art Gallery, 125 Principale West (opening date to be determined).

CANCELLED: BIBLE SCHOOL

Roberta Sylvester tells us the Cookshire-Eaton Bible School at the Cookshire Fairgrounds is cancelled this summer because of the coronavirus. "I wish everyone a safe and happy summer," she says.

GARDEN VEGGIES

How does your garden grow? Seeds have been in short supply this summer, as more of us turn to gardening. If you're in need of more vegetables, don't hesitate to visit your local Farmers' Market (outdoors is safer than inside!). The Sawyerville market is open Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., till September 26.

CHURCHES

Anglican. Bishop Bruce Myers offers Home Prayers on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook, and at quebec.anglican.ca (see Worship Videos). Online services will continue until at least September. Info: 819-887-6802, or quebec.anglican.ca.

United. Written services are offered by email, mail, at the back door of Trinity United Church (via ramp) or at Sawyerville United Church (on freezer), or posted on Facebook: United Eaton Valley Pastoral Charge. Pastoral care: Rev. Tami, 819-452-3685. Info: 819-889-2838 (listen to the message).

Baptist. Contact Pastor Michel Houle at 819-239-8818.

Do you have news to share? Call 819-300-2374 or email rawrites@yahoo.com by July 13 for publication **August 5** and by August 10 for **August 19**.