



Eaton Valley
Community Learning Centre
...because a learning community is a healthy community

EATON VALLEY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE

**REPORT
2010-2011**



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE
Eastern Townships
SCHOOL BOARD

Moving ahead. Together

The Eaton Valley Community Learning Centre is located at Pope Memorial School in Bury, Quebec. This is a bilingual community of approximately 1200 citizens located 25 minutes from Sherbrooke. Pope Memorial is the only school in town and offers classes for pre-kindergarten to grade 6.

The Eaton Valley Community Learning Centre's mission is to support locally driven initiatives leading to a healthy, dynamic, and sustainable community. Our CLC works with the community to build a culture of lifelong learning. The community learning centre's vision is to have a viable, healthy community that values and supports lifelong learning.

Working within the MRC Haut St-Francois the CLC serves the immediate communities of Bury, Dudswell (Bishopton, Marbleton, St-Adolphe), Hampden, La Patrie, Lingwick (Gould), Scotstown, Weedon (St Gérard, Fontainbleau) and Westbury. Our extended communities consist of Ascot Corner, Johnville, Chartierville, Cookshire-Eaton, East Angus, Newport, Sawyerville, St Isidore-de-Clifton.

A satellite site in the town of Sawyerville has proven to be a major challenge this year due to a lack of volunteers. Though several activities have taken place (Water color classes, volleyball and aerobics) the constant search for volunteers has limited the success of this site. Aerobics will continue in the fall as it has increased in popularity. There are 2 sessions offered both in Bury and in Sawyerville, The regular sessions are well attended in both schools while in Bury the 50+ group increased in popularity by approximately 50% in the second session. The instructor is a resident of Bury and has been instrumental in the increased demand for the sessions. A review of the satellite site will be carried out before the end of the school year in order to make a plan of action to be implemented in the fall.

The EV Community Learning Centre has reached out to the community in many ways. The Telehealth conferences in collaboration with the Townshippers' Association have been well received by community members. Most participants are seniors (95%). They show their appreciation of health information being made available to them in English by returning for each of the presentations. The conferences are regularly well attended with 10 -25 seniors being present for each. Many seniors now call in advance to explain why they cannot attend the next session.

Other community reach projects took the form of workshops such as the seed saving workshop, mediation and self esteem building for parents of children 0-5 years old.

A grant was received from CHSSN and with this funding twenty-four pairs of snowshoes were bought. In collaboration with the Municipality of Bury and the Bury Athletic Association a "Skate, Slide, Snowshoe" activity was held at the new skating rink cabin in town. Over 100 residents attended with many enjoying a sunny afternoon of physical activity. The snowshoes were then made available to the community to use and were signed out on a regular basis (every weekend) from January to the end of March 2011. Students from Pope Memorial and Sawyerville Elementary school had

snowshoeing lessons during physical education classes and at Pope the snowshoes were used by the after school program. The promoting of physical activity to the students and community members is a goal of the Community Learning Centre.

School based activities included the participation of several students (with parents) in the Robert Munsch Story contest. Though the children's stories were not chosen they were very pleased with their accomplishments! Parents who are involved with their children's education is an important factor in the success of the child. Another Literacy Week activity was the participation of the Cycle 2 and Cycle 3 class in the "Family Feud" literacy game. The teachers were impressed with the students' knowledge of various books and while the new information was being shared everyone enjoyed themselves!

This year the English kindergarten class became pen pals with a kindergarten class from La Tuque. After sharing information through letters the 2 groups met via the videoconferencing system. It was a learning experience for both groups. This kind of exchange is what we are planning to increase in the 2011-2012 school year. The objective is to match students from Pope Memorial School to students from other schools in order to share the results of a project which both groups have been working on.

The integration of the video conferencing system into the class room is a goal of the CLC for the upcoming school year. Teachers have already been asked to present a list with the topics of various units which will be covered during the school year. The coordinator will find a videoconference to supplement the unit. This will broaden the students' knowledge of the topic and also give them the opportunity to experience videoconferencing. The videoconferencing system can also be used to visit various museums, space agencies and other points of interest around the world. This will enable the students' to see and experience new adventures from around the world without having to do any traveling.

Pope Memorial School has now incorporated the EVCLC into the MESA. With the goals set in writing it will be easier for teachers and coordinator to work together to achieve a positive academic outcome for the students.

The EVCLC works closely with many community organizations. Though there is no partnership agreements as such, the CLC has supported projects (signed project agreements) and has had signed agreements to enlist the help of partners on certain projects. This arrangement works well for all those involved. To date there has not been any difficulty getting partners to support projects. There is an eagerness and willingness to work together.

Sustainability of the community Learning Centres remains a challenge. The financial sustainability studies which were carried out in collaboration with the CLD, CEDEC and the Financial Task Force all resulted in the realization that the financial commitment needed to secure the hiring of a coordinator could not be obtained through a business venture. The CLC can apply for and receive funding for various projects and this insures the continuation of funding for specific activities at the CLC.

Many community based and school based activities have been initiated, however to ensure the management of funds, the support and communications of partners, and the organization of such activities requires the presence of a coordinator

Submitted by:
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