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# Milton Loomis honoured for heritage work Haskell celebrates Canada's 150th with children

### **Victoria Vanier**

Last Thursday, the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie, Marie-Claude Bibeau, made a special trip to the Little Hyatt One Room Schoolhouse in Milby to present a Canada 150<sup>th</sup> Commemorative pin to Milton Loomis for his exceptional contribution in preserving local heritage. It was a fitting venue for the event as the almost complete 22-year project of restoring the schoolhouse and transforming the site to receive and educate visitors about local history has been spear-headed by Mr. Loomis and his wife, Beverly.

"It was a heart-warming feeling to be recognized for something that we've been working for and we're proud of it. It's wonderful at my age to be able to have a vision and see it come through," said the active ninety year-old in an interview with the Stanstead Journal.



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**Beverly** looks on as Minister **Bibeau** presents the Canada 150th pin to **Milton Loomis**.

"Milton received a lovely pin that was made from the copper of the old roof of the Parliament buildings," explained Mrs. Loomis. "We also received a lovely bronze plaque from Minister Bibeau to put up near the interpretation panel with the listening station," she added. The large panels that have been installed on site provide visitors with the history of Milby as well as information about many of the original families. There has also been a guide, Sam Goddard who is a local Bishop's University student, working at the schoolhouse all summer, from Wednesday to Sunday, 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. He will be there only until August 13th so this week is a good time to visit the site.

After working so hard to develop and maintain this unique historic site, which includes fundraising, the members of Patrimoine-Ascott-Heritage are frustrated by a very modern problem. Visitors who use their GPS to try to find Milby are sent all over the map it seems, but never to Milby. The signatures in the site's guestbook indicate that the One-Room Schoolhouse is indeed attracting visitors from far and wide, when they can find it. "It would be nice if we could have some kind of a sign at the road, or

be included on the Pioneer Monument circuit," said Mrs. Loomis. Anyone with advice on how to fix this GPS problem is welcome to call the Loomis' at 819 346-6746.

Besides Minister Bibeau, the event was also attended by members of Patrimoine-Ascott-Heritage, Waterville mayor Nathalie Dupuis and Waterville councilors Karl Hunting and Gordon Barnett, Lennoxville councilor Claude Charron and pro-mayor of Sherbrooke, Bob Pouliot.

**Mr. Loomis** also received a special certificate for his volunteer work.



Seen here at the event are Minister Bibeau (centre), members of Patrimoine-Ascott-Heritage, Waterville mayor Nathalie Dupuis and Waterville councilors Karl Hunting and Gordon Barnett, Lennoxville councilor Claude Charron and pro-mayor of Sherbrooke, Bob Pouliot.

## **Townships athletes at the Canada Summer Games**

### Victoria Vanier

Several Townships athletes are presently taking part in the Canada Summer Games which began on July 28th and continue until August 13th, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Those on the Quebec team from the Eastern Townships with good results in the last few days are: Wheelchair athlete Nilton Dario Heredia Amaya, of Sherbrooke, finished fourth in the 200 meters; in the 4 x 400 meter relay, Sherbrooke athlete Yassine Aber finished in fifth spot with his fellow relayers. With a personal record of 45.65 meters, discus thrower Samir Aber, of Sherbrooke, took a bronze medal. Samir had a difficult preliminary round, then came back with a throw that was more than two meters farther than his personal best.

#### Sarah Jacques, special collaboration Derby line, VT, Stanstead, QC

Like every year, the Haskell Free Library ran its summer reading camp from July 17th to 21st. This year's theme was Celebrating Canada's 150th. As in the past, our program is directed towards children aged 5-12, and over the week we do various activities including reading, writing, games, arts and crafts.

This year, we learned about what makes Canada unique. We explored the country's symbols and meanings through a scavenger hunt, recreated artwork by Ted Harrison and



photo courtesy

Children had a lot of fun creating Canada's 150ththemed art during the Haskell Free Library's summer reading camp in July.

Barbara Reid, learned about Inukshuks as we created our own, made a timeline of events, and played a summer pool-noodle version of field hockey! Over the week, we did other learning activities and of course, read many Canadian stories. Every year we get a different group of kids from both sides of the border, and most years the program is run in both languages. This year's group was very active and full of questions! They were always excited to read more books and the older children were keen to read to the younger ones.

I have been running this camp for the past 5 years with the support of Library Administrator Nancy Rumery, and every year we get an amazing group of kids who are excited to explore, learn, and be creative. With the new children's room, we especially had a wonderful year, working and playing in the space designed for children. We invite you to come see this new room for yourself with your family and discover what's going on at your local library.

