

# Potton mayor in battle to hold seat

By Matthew McCully  
Special to the Record

Two candidates are seeking the mayoralty of Potton Township. Incumbent, Jacques Marcoux, who has served the township for two different terms at different periods, is in a tight race to hold his seat, facing off against Louis Veillon, who ran unsuccessfully against him in the last election.

The Record asked each candidate six questions in an effort to help voters understand the candidates' vision for the district, and make an informed choice.

1. What do you see as the main issues that need to be addressed in your municipality?

Veillon: Recognition that we are a small rural village and we need to run it as that.

Marcoux: Youth attraction and retention, services to seniors, economic development and a need to continue progressing.

2. What is your management style?

Veillon: Definitely a take-charge type of management, keeping in mind people have their jobs to do.

Marcoux: Participatory

3. If elected, what is the first thing you will do?

Veillon: Meet with all the employees and realize that we are now a team and will act as one.

Marcoux: Call a public meeting to agree on the strategic plan for the next four years; hopefully many of the elements of my program will meet with public agreement.

4. Describe the skill set you could bring to council?

Veillon: After 12 years as a councillor, I bring what I have learned over the years of working with so many committed elected officials.

Marcoux: Good education (MBA) and demonstrated effectiveness at the job of mayor.

5. How do you differ from other candidates in your municipality?

Veillon: Just the fact that I am a people person that will be there to listen and meet people on their ground.

Marcoux: I am liberal; my opponent is conservative; in other words, progress vs. status quo.

6. What changes would you like to see in municipal politics, to better serve the needs of your community?

Veillon: Opening up council meetings and uncomplicating the way town hall works so that the taxpayers feel empowered and their tax money is going towards the betterment of all those within the municipality.

Marcoux: Better serving the needs simply means to continue doing what I have done in the last four years i.e. seizing each opportunity to improve and broaden services.

Potton has six councillor positions, all of which are being contested, with the exception of seat six, where Michael Laplume was re-elected by acclamation.

Seat one:

Michael Cyr (incumbent)  
André Ducharme  
Marie-Paule Villeneuve

Seat two:

Diane Rypinski Marcoux (incumbent)  
Bruno Côté

Seat three:

Michel Daigneault  
Edward Mierzwinski

Seat four:

Gaetan Giguère  
Claude Primeau  
Edith Smeesters  
Alexis Stogowski

Seat five:

Jacques Hébert  
Alex Béchar  
Pierre Pouliot

Seat six:

Michael Laplume (re-elected)

## 'Raising Bread' for Ken Jones Centre through Stone Seed Project in Potton



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

Eastern Townships chef Denis Mareuge - owner of Boulangerie Owl's Bread - presented Rick Ferguson - Treasurer of the Missisquoi-North CAB's Ken Jones Centre (KJC) - with a cheque for \$300 along with six loaves of



COURTESY: MURIELLE PARKES

Denis Mareuge, owner of Boulangerie Owl's Bread and Rick Ferguson.

his now-famous Potton pain de menhir (standing stone bread).

The cheque represents the profit made from the sale of the specialty bread from Mareuge's bakery, along with a personal contribution to the committee. It also underscores Mareuge's involvement in Potton's newest and most facetious legend, one that describes the municipality as the place where hybrid granite was first created as a renewable and sustainable resource and now grows into standing stones.

It all began when Michel Trudel, a tourism consultant, proposed the idea of selling standing stone seeds as a FUNdraiser to the KJC - a non-profit organization that provides social integration and leisure services to adults with intellectual disabilities.

Throughout the summer, businesses came on board with their own standing stone products. The project especially appealed to Mareuge, "mainly because it was original... a good way to give some visibility to Mansonville and Potton... which is always good!" But he also found the project funny.

"Quite funny... and for a French guy from France... menhir equals Asterix and Obelix, the famous cartoon characters... it was really talking to me ..."

Mareuge also saw a mystical side to the legend.

"You know [it has] an eternity point of view... something that is growing (combined with) something that is eternal... you know stone is almost eternal... it's funny."

Along with the unique bread, Mareuge also opted to donate the profit to the KJC. It was a delighted group that accepted his gift at a recent meeting. Another \$200 cheque is also expected, this one from stone seed bread sold at Potton's Public Market.

Pain de menhir de Potton is available Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year. For more information: 450-292-3088; www.http://owlsbread.com/

Story written in collaboration with Murielle Parkes.

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