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**NOVEMBER 2008**

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MacDonald High School  
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<http://macdonald.lbpsb.qc.ca>

Editor: **Christine Clarke**

# Mac Link

## Home & School

### ***Our kids are worth it!***

I'd like to say a **big thank-you** to everyone who has become a member of Home & School for the 2008-09 school year. We are glad to have you on board. Home & School would also like to welcome our new teacher representative, **Miss Tuff**. We really appreciate her input!

Our fall fundraiser was a success, thanks to our **Fundraising coordinator, Diane Guidry**, and to all who supported our efforts. Thanks to your support, we were able to meet our goal of purchasing the **Grad Convocation Pins**. We are hoping for a good participation in **our next fundraiser, English Bay cookie dough**, to help us continue to fund the **Book Awards for Grades 7-10**. Fundraising is not always popular, but we are helping to meet student and classroom needs. In the past, we have disbursed funds for **Student Assistance, Book awards, Grad Convocation Pins, curtains, Phys Ed. Benches, CPR Mannequins and Books**.

Home & School is dedicated to helping all Mac students succeed. **Thank you for all your support.**

Our monthly meetings are held at **7:00 PM, the first Monday of each month**. Please feel free to join us, and find out more about Home & School. These meetings allow us to learn what's in store for the coming school year, and to keep up-to-date on issues that involve our children. Our meetings are most of all a forum to hear our members' ideas on where we should be spending our energy and funds to best ensure our students' success.

I look forward to seeing you there,

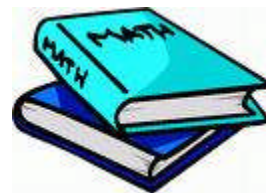
Casey Stilwell  
President, Mac H&S  
[cdstilwell@videotron.ca](mailto:cdstilwell@videotron.ca)



**H&S Goodbye Dinner for Mr. Joseph**

## THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

First term has flown by quickly with the usual events: **Grade Seven Day, Meet the Teacher and Open House**. The Math Department is efficiently adjusting to Curriculum Reform in Secondary IV. The teachers have been to many workshops since last June in order to be able to teach and evaluate the three levels of grade 10 math according to the demands of the Quebec Government. The three math options are: **Cultural Science and Technology (Math 434), Science and Technology (Math 446) and Science (Math 456)**. The students are being assessed through communication, reasoning and situational problems. Although the teachers believe in teaching math to their students, it has become very clear that we also need to teach our students to learn math. *Success in math is directly related to the important strategy of developing strong work ethics.* **We**



**expect all students to work on math every evening** whether they have written homework or not. When students don't have written work, they can review the concepts and questions that they had difficulties with. **A suggested time frame for every evening would be twenty minutes in Sec I, twenty-five minutes in Sec II, thirty minutes in Sec III, forty minutes in Sec IV and fifty minutes in Sec V.**

Please come and meet with your child's teachers at Parent-Teachers Interviews.



*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

Nelson Mandela

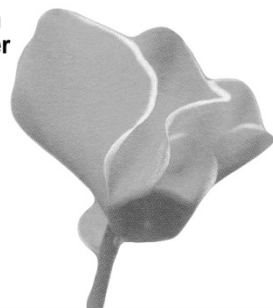
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## Guidance

**Congratulations to Luke Deraiche.**

He is a first year Dawson student from Macdonald High School and was an **Entrance Award Winner at Dawson.**

We are very proud of him.



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# MACDONALD HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD

Hello everyone,

Macdonald High is off to a great start again this year. As some of you know there was an Annual General Assembly held in September to elect four members to the Governing Board. Some of the newly elected members are returning while others are brand new members who so far are doing an outstanding job and will continue to do so for their two-year mandates. The Governing Board will be addressing the issues, and making the decisions, that are in the best interests of the students and the Mac High community as a whole. The meetings of the Governing Board are public and open to all they are generally held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month in the library. We are very fortunate to have our local commissioners in attendance during most of our meetings. Certain rules apply during the meetings that must be adhered to. There are two question periods during the meetings set aside for the members of the public in attendance to ask questions of general interest. Governing Board meetings are not the forum for airing personal grievances against either students or staff members.

Your Governing Board members for this year are:

Harriett McLachlan	-	parent (Treasurer)
Marie Iammatteo	-	teacher
Christine Dane	-	teacher
Anne-Marie Bourdeau	-	teacher
Ron Romanado	-	teacher
Lisa Brown	-	teacher
Rebecca Binet	-	teacher
Kevin Glasgow	-	parent (Parent Representative at CPC)
Sabrina Tammaro	-	student
Krista Rae Kennedy	-	student
Beverley Mulvaney	-	parent (Vice-Chair)
Ellen Gauthier	-	staff
Robert Hamel	-	parent (Chairperson)
Wayne Harding	-	parent (alternate rep CPC)
Sandra Caucci	-	parent (Secretary)
Liza Cotnoir	-	parent
David Hamaoui	-	parent
Non-voting member:		
Mr Jim Aikens	-	Principal
In attendance:		
Susan Bartlett Lewis	-	Commissioner
Judy Kelley	-	Commissioner

You can address any inquiries, comments or requests for inclusion to the agenda to the Chairperson via email at [rhamel41@sympatico.ca](mailto:rhamel41@sympatico.ca).

Have a great year,  
Robert Hamel, chairperson.

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## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

A great Open House **SPOOKTACULAR** from my Grade 7 & 8 English students! Everyone was involved in some capacity.

The haunted house and the eerie hallway were frightening. The actors were amazing. The artists were great. The crew were terrific with the set up and set down. Everyone was talking about it.

Thanks to all the students, parents and volunteers who helped make this year's presentation **the best ever!!**

Mrs. K. Jones

### **Dr. Frankenstein I presume?**



## **Former Mac High student:**

### **Life lessons from Cervantes**

BY BARBARA BLACK

Renaissance man Bryan Brazeau, BA (western soc. & cult.) '08, couldn't decide whether he should pursue his PhD in Italian or Spanish after he graduated with honours from Concordia's Liberal Arts College (LAC).

Brazeau enjoys both

Latin languages

and had learned

them well enough

to be able to read

the classics of Dante

and Cervantes in

their original texts.

So he applied to

both the Italian

and Spanish

programs at

Harvard, Stanford,

Yale and New York

University (NYU),

and was accepted

at all of them with

six years of full funding.

"Cervantes said the life of a soldier and the life of a student aren't very different, so I conducted my application process like a military campaign," Brazeau explains. "I lined up six or seven letters [even though only three are needed] from professors and told each one what I wanted from them. Then, I selected a different combination of recommendations for each school I applied to based on a variety of factors."

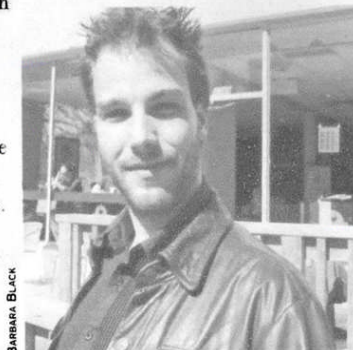
Brazeau appreciated the LAC faculty members' expansive attitudes toward learning, the College's immense reading list, the close relationships of its students and teachers and its invitation to students to reach higher and dig deeper.

He discovered that Oxford University has a summer institute in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and persuaded its administrators to offer him a bursary. Brazeau was also the recipient of the 2007-'08 Lois & Stan Tucker Scholarship that has been established for LAC students.

Despite his intense study requirements, Brazeau still found time for an active student life. He was president of the LAC student society for one year and performed theatre on the side. He often worked 20 hours to 30 hours per week at Second Cup coffee shops. And his fluency in English and French helped him land a job as a 9-1-1 dispatcher for the City of Montreal.

With a grade point average well over 4.0, Brazeau chose NYU's Italian program for his doctorate beginning this fall. He says the program is "the Liberal Arts College writ large . . . and in Italian."

Brazeau has already assigned himself homework for the next few years. "I really have to improve my Latin and learn some German," he says.



Already fluent in English and French, Bryan Brazeau learned Italian and Spanish and will soon tackle German and Latin.



# DANCE DEPARTMENT

Dear Mac Community,

This year is off to a great start, our dance team has already been chosen! Our auditions were well attended, with teacher/choreographer **Sonia Balojvech** putting the students through their paces. Our panel of judges included teacher/choreographers **Dale King** and **Jasmine Ellemo** as well as former students and members of Mac dance team **Caillie Smith** and **Cynthia Gaudreau**. It was an exciting event that was well planned by this year's grade 11 dance class!

The dance team will performed at this year's open house alongside the rest of the dance program!

We will be going on our yearly dance trip to see **The Nutcracker** performed by **Ballet Ouest** at a downtown theatre! All dance students are excited to go. The trip is planned for December 4th (Thursday) We will leave after recess and return in time for the buses.

Sonia Barnes-Huggins



**Grade 8 performing at Open House**

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*Happy Birthday Julie N-R! We are proud of your good start and hard work. The future is yours, with endless possibilities. We love you dearly.  
Mum & Dad*

## GRAD NEWS



Grads of 2009, you are all awesome! The **BBQ** at the beginning of the year was a great success thanks to all who helped out. Our **hike and**

**camping trip** at the end of September was so much fun: great exercise, too much food, singing around the fire and surviving the rain.

Looking forward to our **pizza and bowling** trip on Friday, November 14 and of course, the **Annual Snowflake Ball** in December.



Miss Binet and Miss Pitre



## EUROPE TRIP

### ESSENCE OF EUROPE

Twenty-five excited students are counting the days for their Europe Trip. We will be leaving Montreal on **February 26 – 2009** and our destination will be **London, Paris, Colmar - Alsace, Lucerne, Florence, Rome, Venice, Innsbruck, Dachau, Munich, Heidelberg and Frankfurt.**

Seventeen exciting days learning, sightseeing and enjoying the different cultures and languages of six countries in Europe.

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- 4 EF walking tours
- 10 visits to special attractions
- Our own modern coach
- Eurostar high speed train

Any students interested in joining our fantastic journey can still do so! See Ms Iammatteo in Room 211 or visit the EF site @ [www.eftours.ca](http://www.eftours.ca). Our Tour # is 546945. **The absolute deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>.**



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### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

A successful soccer season has ended, and **volleyball** is winding down.

**A Big Thank You to all the parents** who drove to and from games, and came out and supported the players on all teams!

**We couldn't have done it without you!**

**Way to go Mac High Sport Teams!**  
**Basketball, a Swim Team, and Track & Field...all while training for Rugby Season!**

Mac High students are working hard to represent Mac in Athletics...and what a job they are doing! A **huge congratulation** to the **Midget Girls Volleyball** that made it all the way to the playoffs this year. **The Midget Boys and Juvenile Girls soccer teams** finished the season in 3rd place. **Our Golf Team** made us proud with respectable standings.



**Remember to get your Mac High Athletic Clothing orders in to show your support!**

Jaime Guy

### **Quote of the Day:**

*I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost more than 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over in my life. And that's why I succeed!*

*Michael Jordan*

Good Luck to all the MAC HIGH "BULLDOGS" Sports Team's and a Special Thanks to all the girls on our Midget Soccer Team for another great season!

*Coach Ingrid*



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## **SCIENCE DEPT.**

by

**Ellen Gauthier**



**All Mac Science students, from Grade 7 to Grade 11 are required to prepare a project for the Mac Science Fair.**

**The Grade 9 -11 projects will be judged on November 26th & 27th, 2008.**

Set -up date Tuesday, November 25th (Projects due this date)

Join us for the parent /teacher interviews on November 27th in the evening to see the projects.

**The Grade 7- 8 projects will be judged on February 5th, 2009.**

Set -up date Wednesday, Feb 4th (Projects due this date)

There are many books in the Science Dept. to help students with their topics. Their teacher must approve topics and groups.

### **\*\*\*\*Important Reminders:**

- Maximum of 3 persons per group and in the same class.
- You must make your own display backboard by using cardboard, and no hazardous materials or live animals are allowed.

The **Grade 7's** are doing robotics, forces and seeing what mechanical levers are all about.

The **Grade 8** classes are just trying to understand energy; some made their own tank bots while others are learning about matter.

The **Grade 9's** are seeing how their leg bones are connected to their hipbones and learning more about technology. The science through art class is bringing their bacteria to class and seeing how it can give us food poisoning. They are also be ginning fundraising for the **marine bio trip to NB** in the spring.



Our **Grade 10's** have compounded the situation and are now becoming electrostatic.

Last but not least, **our 11's** are watching their pendulums go back and forth and being forced to study **Newton's** (laws, not the cookie) in Physics.



In the meantime, the chemistry students celebrated **Mole Day** and they are looking forward learning about gases.



*"I am among those who think that science has great beauty. A scientist in his laboratory is not only a technician: he is also a child placed before natural phenomena which impress him like a fairy tale."*

Marie Curie (1867 – 1934)



**Serge St-Denis**, B.Sc.Ph.m.  
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MACDONALD HIGH  
SCHOOL

ISSUE 1, 2008

# -The Spark-

## We're back, and bigger than ever!

The Robotics Team is back. Under the supervision of Mr. Duckworth, students have already begun to prepare for this year's competition.

Our mentor, Al Dornan, has come in once again to teach us new techniques and skills that we can use to build a robot. The objective of the competition remains a secret for now, so it's necessary to be prepared for anything.

The team has grown signifi-



cantly since last year. There are some familiar faces as well as new ones. Having a larger team will allow us to have people working on various other projects. Though the competition revolves around the robot, the journal, video and website are also key elements to success.

So far the team has gone through tutorials such as tool safety and usage. We have learnt about electronics and welding, as well as drafting, something that the other students didn't have the chance to

do last year. With this knowledge we can be better prepared for any obstacles that come our way. With the kiosk ready from last year, we are more focused on making practice robots to hone our new skills.

As well as having new skills, we also have new equipment. We recently bought a new chop saw and a tool chest, that contains all of our tools. We also have a new computer, for working on the journal and the video, as well as the website.

Since we're dealing with various tools, organization is key. In large projects such as this one, learning to cooperate with other students is a must. We want things to run as smoothly as possible.

Speaking of organization, we



have changed our meeting times from last year. We used to meet twice a week, with only one hour for each day. This year, there is only one day each week (Friday) and we spend

four consecutive hours working. This enables us to get more things done and have more time to build, rather than just having one lesson.

This project may be super-



vised by teachers, but we, the students are responsible for it. We don't ask what to do, we just do it.

Having great success from last year, the Robotics team will continue to strive for excellence and will fight to do well in the competition.



Until next term, The Editors  
Alexandra Hamel  
Nik Ottinger

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## Community Office

### Welcome back!

We've started the new year with a flurry of activities...I'll try to give you a brief outline of all that's been happening out and about Mac's community!

First off, Mac High students and staff would like to extend a huge **Thank You to Mrs. St-Amour, Mrs. Beel, Mrs. Nolet and Mrs. McMyler (our Mac High Cover Girls)** for managing to cover close to **1000 books** in the month of September! We hope these ladies know how much we appreciate their time and dedication!

Our **Health Office** is open with a couple of spots still vacant...anyone interested in giving a morning or afternoon once every second week; please call me at 457-3770.



The first week back was a hot one and our students were briefly relieved from the heat with freezies, over 800 were delivered by our entire office staff! Next up was our **Terry Fox Run**. The run took place on September 19. **Mac High students raised just over \$7000...** Great Job Mac! Our **Driver's Ed.** Meeting was



September 16 and the pizza lunch program started September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our five year letters were mailed in September; many past grads received

their letters and were amazed that five years had passed so quickly! The **Seniors Tea Party** was held on October 22 and the **Open House** on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our students worked hard to send out approximately 100 invitations and were anxious to meet their guests for lunch. **Open House** student volunteers wore personalized black Mac Pride t-shirts...once again a great group of workers! Grade 11 students will be holding a fund raiser, collecting spare change the week of October 27

with funds going to the **Kids Help Phone**. Our **Shoe Box program** started in late October and there were **Grad Ring** meetings on October 30 and 31. Our in house pipers, **Nicholas Buonvino** and **Emily Macpherson**, were practicing for Remembrance Day; the entire school joined McGill and John Abbott College in a tribute to our Veterans.

The **JFK Christmas Party** will take place on December 3 and **Christmas Baskets** will begin December 1. Wow! We are busy!!!!

**Mac's Tutoring program** is up and running. We have many options for your child. A quick call or e-mail ([stuff@lbpsb.qc.ca](mailto:stuff@lbpsb.qc.ca)) may just be the answer to your child having a successful and less stressful year.

Well, that's about it. We've started and before you know it, we'll be looking at the calendar saying, where did the year go!! Have a good one!

Sue Tuff







This year started off great with our very own **Grade 7 day!** The kids were engaged in many different games in order to make them feel a part of our school... The leadership students in charge of this day did a fantastic job! (**Krista Kennedy and Kellie Figsby**)

Our **Terry Fox Day** was also run by our leadership students who then decided to make our day unique by having everyone wear yellow... The "yellow day" was a way of having the school come together and sharing the spirit of the day! The participation was incredible! When you see pictures of our Terry Fox day all you see is **Yellow!**

Mac then participated in the annual **CSLC 2008 that took place in P.E.I.** This leadership conference enabled our three kids from Mac (**Krista Kennedy, Gregory Rocha and Phil St-Amour**) to have a unique experience and build new relationships with leadership students from across the country...

We also helped in the organization of our **Open House**. The leadership kids took it upon themselves to clean up the school in and around the outskirts... They created beautiful boards that represented each department.

During Halloween Week, ghosts and goblins surrounded our hallways for our "Best Costume" contest and we were spooked in our very own haunted house that took place in our little theatre!

Our upcoming event (at the time of writing) pending approval are: Pep Rally, Dance, Movie Night, Fashion Show and others . . .  
Thanks a bunch!

**Rebecca Binet**, Student Life Advisor / Grad Advisor

Our upcoming events (**at the time of writing**) pending approval are: Pep Rally, Dance, Movie night, Fashion Show and others...

Thanks a bunch!

Rebecca Binet

Student Life Advisor/ Grad Advisor

## **Library**

The library has been busy during September and October with **orientation for grade sevens**, as well as various class visits for research and novel selection. There is also a good crowd every noon hour. Over twenty students signed up as library monitors and they are doing a great job! Volunteers have been busy covering new books as fast as the librarian can catalogue them. All in all, the place is humming!



**Used books sale at Open House**

**Upcoming events** include an author visit in November and a **Scholastic Book Fair** also in November.

S. Davis, School librarian



## **Parent Participation Organization**

Thank you to everyone for voting "yes" at the **General Assembly** to continue with the PPO again this year!!

We would like to **welcome our new and returning members**. For those of you who are not familiar with the PPO, we are an organization whose aim is to provide a way for parents to participate and stimulate school life for our students' success. We are involved in many facets, such as:

- providing **feedback** on school issues and projects,
- opinions on **school improvements**,
- **organizing** free "Family Matters workshops" on topics of interest to parents and students at least twice a year,
- **advising** the Governing Board parents regarding any matter of concern of parents,
- **supporting** the work of the parents on the Governing Board and the Home and School and
- other **various projects and activities** concerning the parents/students.

Our "**Stroll Down Mac Lane**", which is an end of the year publication on the events that have taken place at Mac, is put together by us, as well. Be sure to check out the Macdonald website and see your PPO page.

We recently held our **5<sup>th</sup> free Family Matters Workshop** in October on the subject of **Internet Safety**, which provided valuable information to both parents and students. We are **very grateful to our speaker, Community Police Officer J.P. Levis!!**

If you are interested in becoming involved in your student's success and making your voice heard, **we would love to have you join your PPO**. It is also a great way to help our


students during their very important high school years and also to get to know what is going on at school (remember elementary, when they used to tell us everything – how things change).

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 11 at 7:00 pm in the Macdonald Library. So come on out and join your PPO and help make a difference!!

Meeting Schedule Sept 08-June 09 (7:00-9:00 in Macdonald High School Library):

- Sept 9
- Oct 21
- Nov 11
- Jan 13
- Feb 10
- Mar 10
- Apr 14
- May 12
- June 9

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## OPEN HOUSE!



## **HOME & SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM 2008-2009**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade & Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Associate \_\_\_\_\_

### **INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HOME & SCHOOL MEMBERSHIP**

As part of your Membership in the Mac High Home & School Association you:

- Become a member of the QFHSA (Quebec Federation of Home and School Associations)
- Have the right to vote on all Mac Home & School Motions
- Are invited to attend the monthly Mac Home & School Meetings
- May become involved in planning and executing special events with other Home & School Members
- Help support the Mac Breakfast Program

The annual membership fee is **\$20.00 per family or \$4.00 for an Associate Membership**. \$16.00 of this membership fee will be sent to the QFHSA and \$3.00 will remain with your local H & S. \$1.00 per membership will be used to purchase breakfast coupons for those students who need a healthy start to their day. When you become a member of Mac H & S you will receive quarterly issues of the QFHSA News, sent directly to your home. The QFHSA fee also includes a General Liability Insurance coverage for Home & School activities. To join, please fill in the above form, and send it to the school office attention of Mac Home & School. Please make your cheque payable to **Macdonald High Home & School**. Thanks!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have!  
Julie Lafontaine (514)425-6437    [julie.gerry@videotron.ca](mailto:julie.gerry@videotron.ca)

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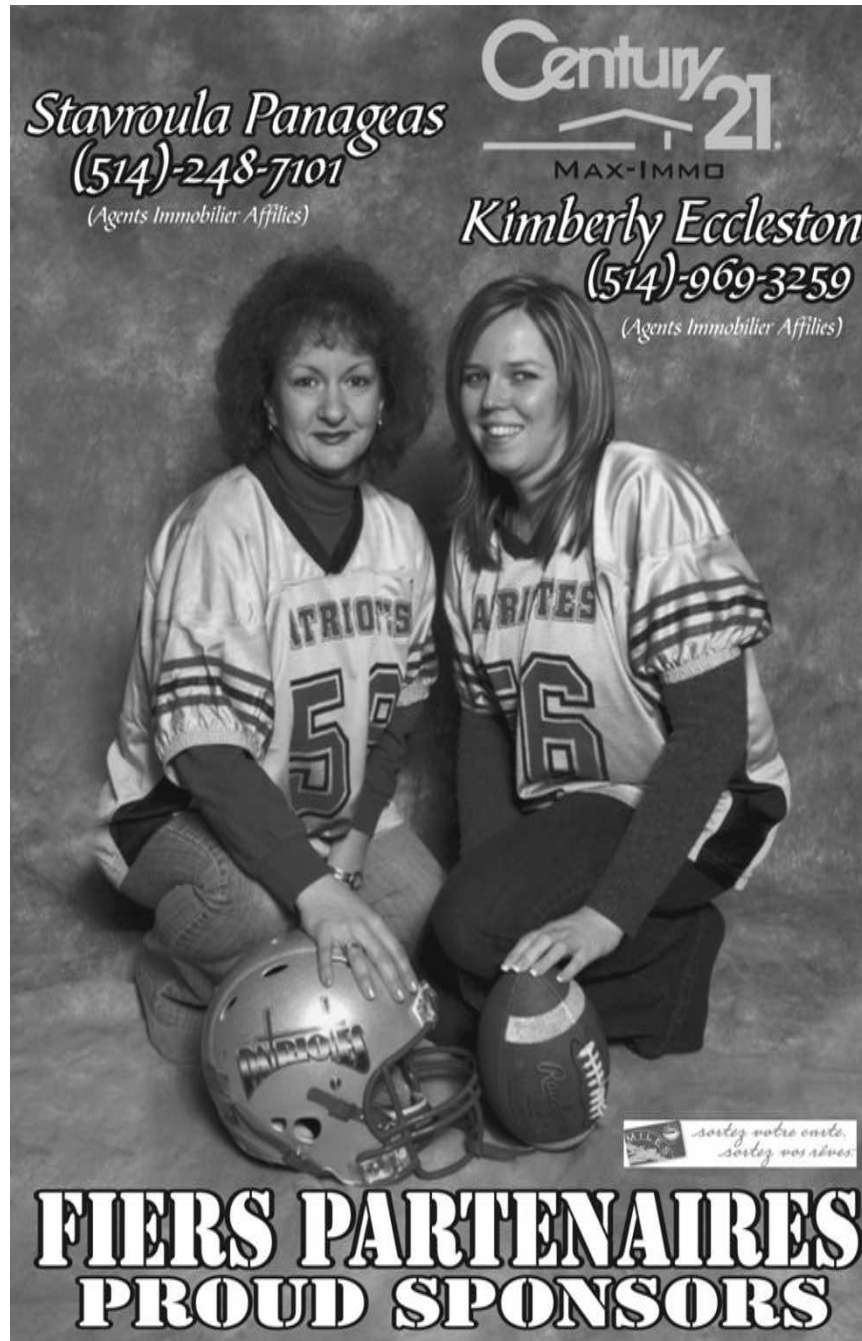
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