

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Meet Your Neighbour (in Sherbrooke!)



By: Gabe Steinbach, Y4Y Quebec

Y4Y Quebec is a partner of Townshippers' Association. The organization aspires to create a strong sense of belonging to the community so that all youth will feel a part of Quebec society.

Have you ever sat across from a stranger and wondered about their stories? We all have stories shaped by our experiences, which define who we are. Meet your Neighbour / Salut les voisins is a new initiative from Y4Y Québec, which focuses on the cathartic power of storytelling and active listening. The project was conceived as a bilingual

adaptation of the widely successful Human Library Project from Denmark.

At its core, Meet your Neighbour / Salut les voisins is about engaging in meaningful dialogue with people who might have very different life experiences from your own. Attendees, known as 'readers,' will get the opportunity to check out a 'human book,' which is a storyteller who voluntarily shares segments of their life experience. Through the process of exchanging stories and asking questions, the initiative aims to challenge the societal stigma associated with different lived experiences, which can inhibit a person from being fully seen or understood; this is why the slogan for the project is empathy through storytelling. Another important objective related to this project is to build bridges between the English-speaking and French-speaking communities of Québec. At each event, readers will be able to speak with human books in English, French and/or Franglais; human book participants choose which language they want to share their stories in.

Topics of human books from the Human Library Project's catalogue are diverse in breadth and scope. Some examples of human book titles include, but are not limited to, being a refugee, neurodivergent, body mod enthusiasts, homelessness,



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Y4Y Quebec's Meet your Neighbour / Salut les voisins project will be bringing people together throughout the winter to connect over their life experiences.

parenthood, LGBTQIA2+, eating disorders, and religious converts. Through human books sharing bits and pieces of their life story, readers will glean new perspectives relating to just how diverse people's lived experiences can be and thus create a deeper sense of empathy and understanding.

The inaugural event for Meet your Neighbour / Salut les voisins is set to take place in Sherbrooke on Oct. 25, 2022 at Bistro Kaapeh Espresso from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. In order to ensure a cosy and intimate atmosphere, the event has a limited number of attendees. Readers will be able to hear the life stories of five different human book participants all local to the Estrie region. Prior to and during attendance, readers will be asked to look over a list of community guidelines which preserves the safety and respect for staff, participants, and human books. The guidelines go over behaviour that is encouraged and behaviour that is unacceptable. This is done not only to ensure the safety of the space but also to uphold the integrity of the project's slogan. Attendees will converse with a human book for

a period of 20 minutes in groups of two or one-on-one, depending on the human book participant's preference. Once that time is up, they will be able to select a new human book to have a conversation with. Each reader will interact with at least two or three human books throughout the evening. There will be a digital sign-up sheet for attendees to reserve time slots with the specific human books they want to read. The organising team will be asking readers and human book participants to fill out a feedback survey at the end of the event in order to gauge participant satisfaction and how to better improve future iterations of the project. Bistro Kaapeh will also be offering complimentary coffee and pastries to attendees.

There will be two other Meet your Neighbour / Salut les voisins events in 2023. The second event is set to run in Québec City for late-January and the final event will be held in Montréal for late-February. To learn more about this project, visit the Y4Y website (www.y4yquebec.org/meet-your-neighbour).

Join

THE

RECORD

in saying thank you to our veterans

PHOTO OF YOUNG CANADIAN SOLDIER

Name:

Hometown:

Age when enlisted:

Regiment:

Served:

A few words about them:

They were sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, friends and neighbours.

They were a new generation of teachers, doctors, lawyers, farmers and businessmen who set aside their hopes and dreams to fight for our freedom.

The Record would like you to join us in paying tribute to the many Townshippers who served their country in time of war.

Send a photo of a veteran(s) in your family at the age they were at the time they served and a brief description, to allow Townshippers to say a collective thank you.

The Record will publish a special section November 3 on Townshippers' contribution to the war effort.

Send photos before October 27 to classad@sherbrookerecord.com

If your business or organization would like to recognize veterans in the special section, please contact one of our sales representatives at 819-569-9525

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