

Sherbrooke tattoo shop uses ink to raise \$7,348 for Canadian Cancer Society

By Michael Boriero

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Pink Tattoo, a tattoo and piercing shop in Sherbrooke, held a special fundraiser on Wednesday for the Canadian Cancer Society.

Amélie Dostie, a co-owner of Pink Tattoo, told The Record that one of her colleagues proposed the idea last April. The entire team, six full time artists and several support staff, eagerly jumped on board in support of breast cancer awareness and the Canadian Cancer Society.

The event, which they called Pink Ribbon Day, brought in 63 clients, Dostie shared. She said tattoo artists normally see between one to five clients every day. On Wednesday, Dostie personally inked 17 clients, noting it was a rewarding, albeit exhausting, day of tattooing.

“We had an objective of \$4,000 and we didn’t think we’d be able to fill up our schedules, but after about an hour of putting up the event, my schedule filled up and everyone else quickly followed, it was really a great success,” Dostie said, adding they managed to shatter their goal.

The tattoo shop raised a total of \$7,348 for cancer research. Clients were asked to contact their artist of choice to book an appointment. The tattoo artists each provided unique designs for a flash sale incorporating the pink ribbon synonymous with breast cancer awareness.

According to Dostie, it was a long day, but the artists buckled down and gave a full effort to fulfill each clients’ desired tattoo. She added that 100 per cent of the proceeds from the fundraiser – the payments for the tattoos – will be given to the Canadian Cancer Society.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMÉLIE DOSTIE

Y4Y Quebec building a bilingual human library in Sherbrooke

By Gordon Lambie

Next Tuesday, Oct 25, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Y4Y Quebec is hoping to transform the Bistro Kaapeh on Frontenac Street in Sherbrooke into a living library for the first of three

Meet Your Neighbour / Salut les voisins gatherings the organization has planned over the next few months across the province.

“It’s an adaptation of the Human Library Project,” said Gabe Steinbach, who has been coordinating the new project along with Adela Kwok. Steinbach clarified that the Y4Y project has no formal link to the storytelling project that came out of Denmark in the early 2000s, but was inspired by their approach. “What we’re doing is adapting that concept by making it focused on bilingualism.”

Kwok explained that the basic idea is to have a series of “human books” available for conversation at the event; people who can share perspectives and

experience that might be different from what the “readers” – participants, may have lived in their own lives. In the case of the Y4Y gatherings, there is a specific goal of reaching across linguistic communities, although the coordinators also said that the selection committee was tasked with finding a diverse and challenging set of people to work with.

“You sign up and pick which stories you would like to engage with,” Kwok said, explaining that each of the up to 25-30 participants should be able to talk with a few of the speakers on a rotating basis, with time in between for refreshments. “We want to build a space that is cozy enough to host conversations like the ones we’re going to have.”

The coordinators said that although the event is built around trying to generate positive cross-cultural and intergenerational exchanges, they were also conscious in planning that some of the stories shared might touch on sensitive subject matter.

“We’ve been very sensitive with trying to make sure that our human book participants are looked after,” Steinbach said, adding that part of the purpose of having people sign up in advance was to help make sure that everyone coming is aware of the community guidelines. “There is a storytelling focus, but there is a lot that could be related to trauma.”

Kwok, meanwhile, pointed out that although there might be an inclination on the part of some people to avoid discomfort or challenging topics, the selection committee also felt like there is value and possibility in encouraging intersection between people who have lived very different lives.

“This is exactly the kind of work that Y4Y Quebec should be doing,” said Adrienne Winrow, the organization’s Executive Director, sharing that she considers the upcoming Sherbrooke event a trial run not just for the events to come at the start of next year in Montreal and Quebec City, but also possibly for future gatherings

of the same kind. “We think we’ve created a really great event here that has the potential to allow people to encounter perspective that they may not otherwise.”

Winrow said that there are still a number of spots available for the Sherbrooke event.

“It is a fun and free chance to build community,” she said, encouraging anyone interested to register at <https://www.y4yquebec.org> and check out more information on the five “human books” who will be available for conversation next week.

“These are people from the community that we’re hosting the event in,” Kwok said, explaining that in Sherbrooke, many of the connections were made in connection with the local artistic and slam poetry community through Le Tremplin 16-30.

“(They) brought us a very interesting and eclectic group of applicants that we never would have had otherwise,” she said.