

At Val-Morin, welcoming the CÉBO group, from September 15 to September 18, 2011

For the past fifteen years, the president and the members of the administrative council (12) of the Center for Basic Education in the Outaouais, (CÉBO) have been gathering at our place, either in August or September, to evaluate the past year and to plan for the upcoming year.

CÉBO, founded thirty-two years ago in Gatineau-Hull by Madame Nicole Patenaude, has as its main objectives the elimination of illiteracy and assuming responsibility for basic education in the midst of the community within the area of Gatineau-Hull.

The mission of CÉBO is to respond to the needs of learners who wish to improve the quality of their lives, while helping them to take control of their own lives. Each learner is accompanied by a volunteer tutor who invests their time and energy to share knowledge and to guide them through a learning process in answer to their specific needs, such as reading a book, a magazine article, a prayer, the names of streets, a map, pinpointing a bus route, or filling out a form, etc. A multidisciplinary and permanent team assures the good working order of CÉBO and refers the clientele to specialized services in keeping with each one's needs.

The newspaper "Le Goéland", published twice a year, illustrates the life of the Center and is used as a means of pedagogy. In 2010-2011, CÉBO welcomed 38 people who were accompanied by 37 tutors.

This is a brief overview of what CÉBO is, founded and animated by a woman with a heart of gold. Nicole Patenaude is blessed with a charisma, a special gift, an exemplary charity for detecting the needs of the disadvantaged and for being of assistance to them. She has an extraordinary faith and a rare and contagious dynamism.

The team which gathered here is clearly united by strong bonds. Each member is animated by a enthusiasm, the desire to help others, always as volunteers who count neither time nor trouble. What work took place in VAL, punctuated by leisure activities! Love and humour were truly intertwined.

It is a real pleasure for us to welcome the Gatineau CÉBO!