



**Hearst Accessibility Committee**  
**Report of the April 9, 2019**  
**Public meeting**  
**Heritage Sawmill Marketplace**

**Présent**

Anne-Marie Portelance  
Julie Lanoix  
Agathe Cheff  
Huguette Blais  
Denise Beauchamps  
Léo Blais  
Sandra Blanchard

Vanessa Lacroix  
Tammy Coulombe  
Olive Côté  
Victor Granholm  
Yvette Bergeron  
Claude Portelance

Janine Drouin  
Claire Forcier  
Maurice Carrier  
Brianna Picard  
Donald Gratton  
Francine Gratton

**1. Opening comments**

President Anne-Marie Portelance welcomes the audience. She introduced the guest of the evening, Vanessa Lacroix, lawyer from the Grand-Nord Legal Clinic. The Chair explained that she will start by making a summary of the committee's recent activities, then the guest speaker will proceed with her presentation.

**2. New business**

- A.-M. Portelance informed the participants that a follow-up audit was conducted at the Hearst Public Library on October 3, 2018. The President thanked the people who took part in this evaluation: Julie Lanoix, Fanny Roy, Tammy Coulombe, Brianna Picard, Raymond Vermette (Councilor) and Francine D'aigle (Director of Library Services).
- Julie Lanoix summarizes the committee's participation in the « Healthy Aging Expo » held at Place des Arts, on October 29, 2018.
- Claire Forcier informed the participants that on December 4, 2018, students from Clayton Brown Public School presented their project in order to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The activity was a great success. The president thanked Mr. Wayne McKinnon, school director, Mrs. Heather Fex, teacher, and all of their students. On December 13, 2018, the Hearst Accessibility Committee awarded them a certificate to recognize their excellent work. A.-M. Portelance thanked Mayor Roger Sigouin and Tammy Coulombe for attending this event. The president also thanked Julie Lanoix, Claire Forcier and Michelle Côté for all their help in meetings with the school.

- The Chair felt that the writing in the new 2018 phone book was far too small. The committee sent a letter to *Yellow Pages* with this comment. An acknowledgement of receipt was received on March 12, 2019 from their Montreal office. A follow-up from their Head Office will follow. A.- M. Portelance thanked Julie Lanoix for writing it.
- A.-M. Portelance announced that following certain steps taken by André Rhéaume, the community bus will now be available on the third Thursday of each month for the Samaritain du Nord Food Bank users (especially for people with reduced mobility).
- Tammy Coulombe informed participants that Anne-Marie Portelance has suggested a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation that would allow the municipality to modernize and make more accessible one of our parks for people of all ages.

### 3. Tips of the month

- **StopGap Foundation** is a Canadian charity that is helping to create a world where every person can access every space. The Foundation provides single-stepped businesses and private buildings with portable access ramps to make their spaces more accessible. Businesses can deploy the ramps to provide access for many people, including persons with mobility related disabilities, parents pushing strollers, and delivery people using carts. Site : [www.stopgap.ca](http://www.stopgap.ca)
- **The Jooay App**  
Finding opportunities for accessible leisure activities can be very challenging for parents and youth with disabilities. With the [Jooay App](http://www.jooay.com), it is possible to locate these opportunities based on their location, your accessibility needs, individual ability and preference. In other words, the app allows children with disabilities and their families to locate and take part in community activities. Being able to participate in these inclusive leisure activities is important as it fosters healthy development and can improve the quality of life. Web site: [www.jooay.com](http://www.jooay.com)

### 4. Presentation: Vanessa Lacroix, Grand-Nord Legal Clinic ( see annex)

5. **Next Executive Committee Meeting:** June 14, 2019  
**Next Public Meeting:** October 2019.

### 6. Adjournment

President adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

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Anne-Marie Portelance, President

## **ANNEXE**

### **Vanessa Lacroix from the Grand-Nord Legal Clinic**

#### Summary of the presentation

Vanessa Lacroix of the Grand-Nord Legal Clinic offered a presentation on wills and powers of attorney. The aim was to make people aware of all the different services that are offered by the clinic, their areas of rights and the different ways to reach them.

This presentation explained the different available proxies. It also focused on the importance of having formal powers of attorney. Special attention was paid to the importance of a prosecutor (who can act as a prosecutor and the strengths sought when someone is considered to be a prosecutor). The presentation superficially addressed "mental capacity".

The presentation briefly covered the subject of wills, which includes the definitions of the different terms related to the law of the estate and the importance of a will. The presentation also included the probate process and what it means to be intestate. Finally, the presentation provided an overview of how marriage, divorce and separation can affect the validity of a will.