

Lieutenant Governor visits Sunrise schools

By Edna Barrie

It's not often Manitoba's representative of the King makes an appearance in Beausejour, but Lt.-Gov. Anita Neville arrived for a visit last week.

Neville is the representative of King Charles III. As the King's representative, Her Honour acts on behalf of Manitoba as Vice-Regal.

On Feb. 12, Emily Solilak's Grade 7 homeroom class at École Edward Schreyer School (ESS) was honoured when the Lieutenant Governor accepted their invitation to visit and read to them for I Love to Read Month, which is dedicated to promoting the love of reading or being read to during the month of February. At ESS, Neville read *What to Do with an Idea?*

"I was definitely surprised by the Lieutenant Governor accepting my invitation for Her Honour to read to my students," Solilak stated. "I received an email from her assistant the week prior setting up details."

Following story time, the floor was open to a question-and-answer period where students asked thoughtful and engaging questions including her connection to various projects, challenges with the job and her advice to

students.

"Everyone is different. No matter what you want to do, get an education," Neville said. "The world is changing. There are challenges, but people can be their best selves."

The Lieutenant Governor discussed her association with Rossbrook House, a safe place for youth and children. It provides three alternative school programs, an after school homework club, a young mom's group, sports and recreational activities, Indigenous cultural activities, a music program, a healthy kitchen and much more.

She also chatted about her 11 years as a Member of Parliament, advocating for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and meeting with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace prior to his coronation on May 6, 2023.

Before leaving the class, Her Honour extended an invitation to the students to come and visit her at Government House in Winnipeg, where they would get a personal tour.

"I was extremely impressed with my students and the thoughtful questions that they asked," Solilak said. "The feedback that I received from the students afterward was positive...



Lt.-Gov. Anita Neville (seated centre) with Emily Solilak's Grade 7 class in the École Edward Schreyer School library.

Photo by Edna Barrie

they were surprised with the seriousness of the event. Her Honour had a royal crescent on the vehicle and arrived with a staffer in uniform."

Following her visit to ESS, Neville and aide vis-

ited the Beausejour Food Bank bringing with them a donation of 162 pounds of food they collected from visitors and MPs at Government House. Before visiting Beausejour, a donation of over 600 pounds

of food was donated to Agape Table; an independent charitable program in Winnipeg.

Before heading back to Winnipeg, the Lieutenant Governor stopped at École Beausejour Early

Years School, where she read to students. Before leaving Beausejour, she and her aide stopped at Le Beau Café for a bit of lunch before travelling to the Hazelridge School for another student reading.

Silica

science," Miller said. "I am so pleased with the minister's direction on this."

Community groups in-

cluding Manitoba Eco-Network, Our Line in the Sand and Springfield Taxpayers' Rights Corp. were jubilant after the announcement.

"Today's decision by the Government of Manitoba to reject the proposed En-

vironment Act license for Sio Silica's Vivian Silica Sand Extraction Project is an important victory for safe drinking water, science and common sense. We commend Manitoba for listening to the community and the

scientific evidence," said Tangi Bell of Our Line in the Sand. "This project raised too many risks for Manitoba's precious aquifers."

"This project never made sense for the region or Manitoba," said Glen Koroluk, Manitoba Eco-Network executive director. "Today's announcement confirms the importance of evidence-based decision making."

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Advance Notice

Key stakeholders, including Sio Silica and the RM of Springfield, were reportedly given little advance notice. Mayor Pat Therrien and Councillors Melinda Warren and Glen Fuhl said they found out just before the announcement, while a source said Sio Silica was told minutes prior. Others, including several environmental groups and those opposed to the plans were allegedly told the day before.

"As stakeholders and some of the main people here, we should have been made aware; it's proper protocol," Therrien said. "I'll be following up."

"Sio and the general public as a whole were not notified that an announcement would be occurring today, yet there were many participants in the gallery that were gathered for no other reason but to applaud this decision," Somji said. "It is interesting that some select members of the public were provided the privilege to be in attendance while the company and the majority of Manitobans were left in the dark."



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