

Prostate cancer support group wants to get the word out

Knowlton based group joins Quebec's 'PROCURE' network

By Kathryn Lexow

At its annual general meeting, the Brome-Missisquoi prostate cancer support group directors announced that the group had decided to join the PROCURE Prostate Cancer Support and Awareness Network (PPCSAN) of Quebec.

The meeting was held on January 27, at St. Paul's Church in Knowlton, the locale for the group's regular meetings. The group also celebrated its third anniversary of service, with some 42 in attendance.

On hand for the meeting from PROCURE were Cédric Bisson, chairman of the board, and Laurent Proulx, executive director, who each made presentations describing the history of the organization, its activities and the new 2014 initiative for the expansion of its Prostate Cancer Support and Awareness Groups in Quebec.

In a January press release, the organization announced that this expansion represents an important milestone in the development of its network in the province over the next years. According to its website: "The network is designed to provide information, free and easily



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Directors Gib Rotherham and Peter Tetreault explain benefits of the Brome-Missisquoi Prostate Cancer Support and Awareness group, under PROCURE.

accessible services and resources and assistance to survivors of prostate cancer and their families through support groups in the community."

"The decision to join was not made lightly," explained Gib Rotherham, director and a founding member of the Brome-Missisquoi group, in an interview

with the BCN after the meeting. "Up until now, the group has been a member of the Prostate Cancer Canada Network (PCCN), which is based in Toronto." In fact, this local group is now the first member of the PPCSAN in Quebec.

Peter Tetreault, also a director of the group, went on to explain the benefits of joining the newly formed support and awareness network under PROCURE. "As a Quebec based organization, it can offer us bilingual services and assist us with expansion into the surrounding regions of Town of Brome Lake," said Tetreault. "We have people who come to our meetings from other towns, some of whom travel quite a distance to get to Knowlton. There is also a larger population in Cowansville, who would benefit from a local group in their own town."

The transition from PCCN to the Quebec organization, based in Montreal also provides people with access to bilingual information and videos for support group activities, including brochures and banners. A toll-free phone number is available for all to access PROCURE's services.

Getting the word out about awareness

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D. Roberts, 53



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