

## Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers awarded to H el ene B elisle

Mo Laidlaw

In a ceremony at the community centre in Luskville on 11 September 2018, H el ene B elisle was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, an official Canadian honour from the Governor General, in the presence of the president of the Commission scolaire des portages de l'Outaouais, Mario Crevier, the mayor of Pontiac, Joanne Labadie, and many members of the public.



H el ene explained that 18 years ago she was asked by Roger Gamache to set up a school breakfast program for needy children at the school in Luskville, similar to one in Quyon. This came at a time when she was recovering from cancer, and gave her a push to get back to working for the community. Initially she was the sole volunteer. The breakfast club expanded to be available to all, and now there are 25 volunteers, in teams of 5 daily. "It is a joy to be around children, to see them start the day well, and to open up the community," she said.

