

## Camp Woodboia Fundraiser Concert

# Audrey Sproule continues her journey in the world of music

WOODROW – The Crimson String Quartet, May 28, 2014, held a fundraiser concert for

Camp Woodboia at the McMaster Manor Bed & Breakfast. Created in 2010 the

Crimson String Quartet includes Audrey Sproule formerly of Lafleche and daughter

of Sherry and Dave Sproule. This group of young musicians has already performed over 200 concerts in more than 15 countries and are in Saskatchewan for a third time after several successful tours in 2012 and 2013.

The four members of the group who performed were Etienne Pemberton-Renaud, Audrey Sproule, Alvin Tran and Alyssa Ramsay. The evening was also an opportunity to celebrate a unique accomplishment for three of the musicians. Audrey Sproule (violin), Alvin Tran (Violin) and Alyssa Ramsay (cello) were celebrated for their completion of their Masters of Music at McGill in Montreal.

The Gravelbourg Tribune spoke with Ms Sproule about her recent tour.

What is it like to play in your home community?

"There's nothing like it. It's wonderful playing for a home crowd," said Sproule who, after years of studies in Montreal, now speaks French fluently.

Completing a Master's degree in music is a six-year journey. During those years she also founded the Crimson

String Quartet. What experiences did she gain with the quartet?

"How to work together and how to communicate with music and with your words. It's a very good team building activity playing in a quartet. You make friends pretty quickly and it's really wonderful.

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The building the quartet performed in was the former Woodrow United Church now located on the property of Ron and Judy Reimer operators of McMaster Manor.

"It was a great place to play. It was very intimate," said Sproule.

What does the future hold for her now that she has completed her Masters?

"I just think that music has the power to communicate with people of all ages and all backgrounds. It's a really wonderful thing to be able to do what you like," said Sproule. "I love it and I'm really excited to see where it will take me next," she said.

What is the biggest challenge she faces?

"I think the biggest challenge is knowing where to focus your efforts. There are many different ways in which one can specialize and it's easy to want to kind of do them all. But just like any professional athlete you really need to specialize yourself in one specific field if you're going to be successful. And then also keeping your eye on the prize and knowing why you're in it and why you're doing it. It's not for the money. It's not for the fame. It's because you really love it and you love sharing that music with the audiences. And if you keep that in mind you're going to be a happy person," said Sproule.

Sproule has her feet firmly planted in this

complex world of music mediums and is aware of the challenges she faces. But as a student of music she is also a student of other musicians and she understands what her mission is. Bring music to audiences and let the music speak for itself.

"The key is to bring people in and ignite enthusiasm and curiosity and afterwards let them decide for themselves. So as long as their getting the enthusiasm that we're trying to portray then they get it. That's all we want," she said.

The setting at McMaster was unique and Sproule said the feedback and energy they receive from the audiences, whether in a small and intimate or in a larger setting, is vital and important for performers.

Performers know if they've connected or not.

Following her tour this summer Sproule will be off to Paris in August with the goal to obtaining her artist diploma which is a post graduate degree. She will use her time to make connections with the chamber music musicians in France and observe how classical music is received and presented in Europe. She's heard that classical music is more celebrated and accessible because it is part of the history of the continent. She hopes to bring back that experience back to Canada with her.

Where did she learn her French?

Sproule said her time in Quebec led her to learn the language.

"I had some French in school but no oral skills. It was just immersion into the Quebec culture that got me going," she said. ¶