

# Bonnechere Valley Township proclaims Saturday, September 10 Melissa Bishop Day in Eganville

Homecoming Parade and other celebration details on Page A2

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Saturday has been proclaimed *Melissa Bishop Day* in Eganville by Bonnechere Valley Township council. The two-time Olympian will be honoured with a large homecoming parade at 1:30 and at an evening dinner.

## Stage set for historic and memorable day in Eganville's history

By Leader Staff  
Eganville -- The stage is set for what promises to be a historical and memorable day in the history of Eganville and indeed much of Renfrew County as plans have been finalized for the *Melissa Bishop Homecoming Day* this Saturday.

The two-time Olympian, who missed out on winning a bronze medal in the controversial women's 800 metre race in Rio de Janeiro by less than one second, but who set another Canadian record with her time of 1:57.02, will be honoured with what is shaping up to be the largest homecoming parade ever staged in Renfrew County. Organizers say if the day is favoured with

good weather, up to 300 participants, classic vehicles, sports cars, musical bands including three pipe bands, the Opeongo High School Jazz Band, horses and wagons and many others will be participating.

"No matter where you go right now in Renfrew County, everyone is aware of the parade and everyone is still talking about the race," Melissa Bishop Homecoming Committee Chair Gerald Tracey said. "Many are still upset because Melissa missed out on a medal over the hyperandrogenism issue. Had the race been run on a level playing field, Melissa would easily have won bronze, but could just as easily have come away with silver or gold."

Despite that, Mr. Tracey said Ms. Bishop is considered a gold winner and a champion in the eyes and minds of many and she will be treated as such this Saturday.

He is joined on the committee by Mayor Jennifer Murphy, Dennis and Debbie Brash, Joe and Diane Moore, Brian and Margaret Weckwerth, Terry Fleurie and Dana Jennings. Everyone on the committee has been working hard to organize a successful weekend and all that is needed now to pull it off is good weather.

Following the parade, which also ends at the Legion Field, a large outdoor reception will be held where Ms. Bishop will address the crowd,

sign autographs and mingle with people. There will be music and food vendors on the ground.

Spectators are encouraged to bring chairs for seating along the parade route and again at the Legion Field.

The New Orleans Dixie Band, a group of seven musicians from Pembroke, will be entertaining downtown before and during the parade. At this time it is expected they will be set up in the area of the Bonnechere Museum.

The parade and other events will be recorded with live commentary by Cogeco, Pembroke, and shared with Cogeco's Windsor operations where Melissa now resides and is very well known.

Mr. Weckwerth, Mr. Moore and Mr. Brash will be at the Legion Field early Saturday morning organizing areas for the various categories of participants. There will be designated areas for classic vehicles, Corvettes and Corvette Club members, horses and wagons, floats, bands and walkers.

Details of the parade route parking for visitors to the village, road closures and other details relating to the celebration can be found on page A2.

Bonnechere Valley Township council passed a motion Tuesday afternoon proclaiming this Saturday, September 10 as *Melissa Bishop Day* in Eganville.

In the evening, Ms. Bishop will be honoured at a dinner at the Eagle's Nest in the Eganville Arena where she will be presented with several financial and other gifts. As of press time Tuesday, there were 10 tickets left for the dinner. The cost is \$85 with the proceeds going towards a financial gift for Ms. Bishop.

Anyone wishing to donate to the gift fund can do so up to noon on Friday. Cheques should be made payable to *Melissa Bishop Gift Fund* and can be dropped off at the Eganville Leader.

The parade will go rain or shine, as this is the weekend Ms. Bishop is in the area. She has other commitments the following weekend.

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