

# Local siblings to present at WE Believe conference in Saint John

By Robert Fisher

ST. STEPHEN – Two siblings from St. Stephen will be on the stage at this week's WE Believe conference in Saint John.

Laura and Isaac Groom will speak on Thursday about their volunteer work with We've Got Your Back.

Isaac has recently completed his first year of university at University of New Brunswick, Saint John and Laura is completing Grade 11 at St. Stephen High School.

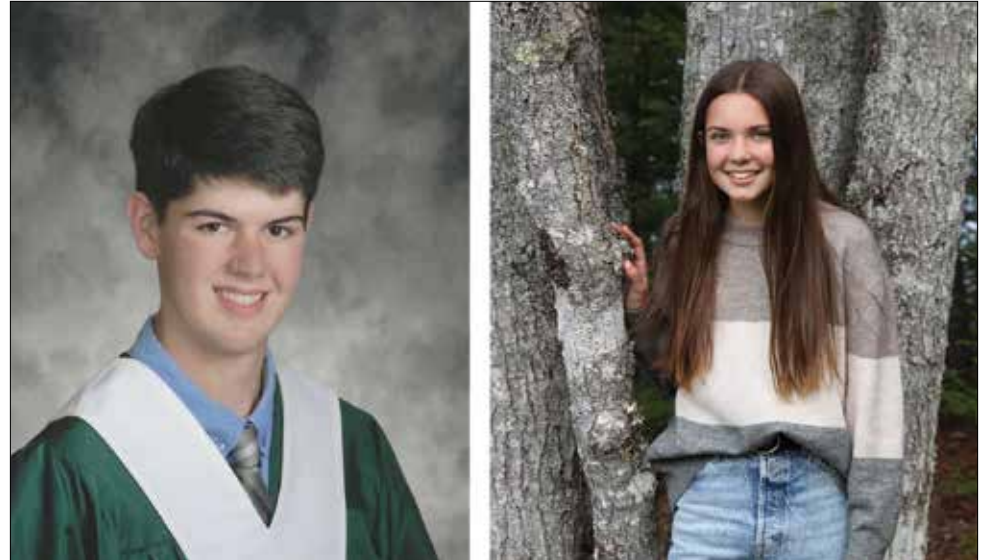
We've Got Your Back is a charity their parents helped create about a decade ago to help provide food for school-age children when they don't have access to school food programs.

It's "a charity that prevents food insecurity for school-age children from kindergarten all the way to Grade 12," said Isaac. It delivers about 75 bags of food a week.

Conference organizers were looking for young people to speak about their volunteer work and the Grooms stepped forward.

Isaac doesn't just work with We've Got Your Back, he has also been volunteering at a senior resource centre in uptown Saint John to work with and tutor high school students primarily from minority groups. Laura also teaches Sunday School at her church.

Isaac said their objective with the presentation is to "inspire youth to see their own need in their community and what they can do to fix it." That could be volunteering with an existing char-



Submitted photo

Isaac and Laura Groom from St. Stephen will speak about their volunteer work with We've Got Your Back at the WE Believe conference in Saint John on May 18.

**NORTHEAST METAL ROOFING**  
MANUFACTURER OF ROOFING & SIDING  
20 COLORS IN STOCK  
**506-455-1400**  
www.northeastdistributors.info

Send your  
**FREE**  
Classified ads  
to  
joanne@stcroixcourier.ca

**Humphreys'**  
FUNERAL HOME

## ANNOUNCEMENT

David Humphreys and the staff of Humphreys' Funeral Home are pleased to announce that they are now offering services to the families of Grand Manan from **The Phillip Ells Jr. Memorial Funeral Centre**, 1199 Route 776, Grand Manan (formerly Ells Funeral Home).

Effective immediately those making arrangements will be able to meet a funeral director at the Ells Centre and visitations can be hosted there for those who wish to use the venue. Preplanning appointments can also be arranged at the facility.

Humphreys' is also working to add Island residents to their staff to facilitate a more timely local response when their services are required.

Owner and Managing Director David Humphreys says the move is in response to a need he and his team have witnessed in the community. "Since the Ells family retired from the profession, we've been called on a number of times to serve Grand Manan families but we know the travel time and the ferry schedule don't always allow us to assist them in the fashion we'd like to and, while the people in the community have been very patient, we know it has an effect on them. We believe a local presence will work well for us and the community."

Humphreys also thanked the Ells family for making the arrangement possible by agreeing to lease their property to the funeral home. "I'm particularly grateful that they have permitted us the privilege of using Phil Jr's name. Phil was a pillar of his community but also of our profession and he was a great friend to all of us as well and we really felt this project should honour his memory."

While some details of the new arrangement are still being worked out, Grand Manan residents are invited to reach out to David Humphreys or Andre Le Clair at the funeral home with questions or for further information. They can be reached at 506-466-3110.



210409

ity or starting something of their own.

WE Believe founder Dan Foote said there will be about 350 students and family members from Charlotte County at the conference out of about 7,600 in total. Martin Luther King III, son of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., is scheduled to be at the event.

Foote started the organization in 2017 with a focus on mental health and the importance of volunteering. The organization believes that giving back to one's community can help improve mental wellness.

"We know when students are involved, we know when anybody is involved, in giving back, their mental health just naturally improves," said Foote. "They're finding their purpose in life and that's what we need for youth to do, that's what we need our

families to do."

Some jurisdictions require students to complete volunteer or community service hours to graduate high school. Foote is unsure why New Brunswick doesn't have that requirement.

"I don't know if it doesn't see the importance or doesn't see how it's connected to mental health. I don't know. But what we need to do is that needs to change," he said.

Presenters at the conference will talk about volunteerism, bullying, drug use and mental health.

Students wanting to find out what they can do can visit the WE Believe website for information about getting involved, as well as information for educators to incorporate into their classrooms.

robertfisher@stcroixcourier.ca

## St. Stephen High School student of the week



Submitted photo

Peter Caswell is the most recent Subway student of the week at St. Stephen High School. Teacher Krista White chose Peter, a current student in her pre-calculus 12A class, because Peter has proven hard work and perseverance are keys to his success. Peter's commitment to learning has helped him reach new heights in his academic pursuits. He attends class with a positive attitude and smile on his face. He is a genuine, kind and humorous young man whom his peers and staff respect. White says he is a pleasure to have in the classroom.