

Missisquoi North Youth Centre SADD holds info session with provincial police



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

MANSONVILLE

Last Saturday, the Missisquoi North Youth Centre Students Against Destructive Decisions group hosted an information session for youth and parents with Officer Patrice Gregoire of the Quebec provincial police force, the SQ. The purpose of the session was to allow youth and adults the opportunity to pose questions to the police anonymously on a variety of subjects related not only to youth issues and the law but community issues as well. Those attending were encouraged to write their questions anonymously on index cards and the questions were placed in a large bowl and were later posed to Officer Gregoire at random by the youth director.

Gregoire has long been active in the Potton area and has spent much of his time doing prevention/information ses-

sions in both local elementary schools and through other groups including the Volunteer Centre. Well known to the youth who attend the Missisquoi North Youth Centre, this put those attending at ease and made the exchange a comfortable one.

Gregoire remained after the question and answer period to meet with individuals (both youth and adult) privately as requested to discuss any private concerns or questions one on one.

The session began at 4:30 p.m. with questions on wide a variety of topics that included topics such as how police catch speeders, why breathalysers are installed in vehicles, the consequences of being caught with marijuana at school, whether a minor can get a restraining order against an adult, why the police carry as many weapons as they do and how to become a police officer.

The list of questions continued and what started as a one-hour session was soon surpassing three hours, with Patrice remaining until most of the questions had been addressed. Those he did not have an answer for, he noted and will get an answer back to the Youth Centre as soon as possible.

The youth learned that there are Federal and Provincial laws and that the law for a specific crime depends on which code the crime falls under. Officer Gregoire made it clear that the youth should never ride with someone under the influence as this puts everyone in the car in danger.

They also learned that under no circumstance should a youth without a permit drive a car. He also explained that in regards to pot, the THC percentage levels are three to four times higher than what they were 40 years ago. He



COURTESY

SQ officer Patrice Gregoire (back row, fourth from left) with some of the members of the Missisquoi Youth Centre SADD group.

stated that even though some people tell us that it is a "light" drug or "lesser" in being harmful, it is addictive and whether or not a user can control his or her addiction depends on the individual. There is no written assurance of how it will affect each person who uses it.

Officer Gregoire talked about his own personal decision to become a Police Officer; something he knew he wanted to be from the time that he was six years old. He talked about the importance for youth to realize that the decision for their own personal destiny and potential lies with them primarily and that if a youth chooses a path and works toward it, anything is possible. He encouraged the youth to make educated decisions and to think about where

their actions will lead and not to fall under the influence of peer pressure.

A parent who attended had this to say following the session, "Another great event; I liked the format a lot. It was educational and interesting to hear the variety of questions."

For the youth, many felt that a second session was necessary as the format opened up a lot of subjects but there was not enough time to dwell on one or two specific things. A future session is being suggested and the SADD youth are already planning on inviting Officer Gregoire back for a follow-up in the near future.

For more information about the Missisquoi North Youth Centre SADD chapter, visit www.cabmn.org or contact the Youth Centre at 450-292-4886.

Scott Woods to highlight Canadian fiddling in Richmond

By Gordon Lambie

Scott Woods, the fancy-footed fiddler whose performances are a familiar sight in the Townships around Christmas of every year, will be on stage at Richmond Regional High School on Tuesday night for the only Quebec stop of his brand-new tour, "Fiddling in the key of ... eh?"

For this mid-spring swing through the region Woods and his band will be exploring some of the great Canadian fiddling styles ranging from Cape Breton and Scottish tunes to Acadian and Irish influences to French Canadian and Metis.

"It's kind of a tongue-in-cheek look at the typical and stereotypical things that make us Canadian and more specifically the fiddling from different regions across Canada." Woods recently explained to *The Record*. "It's been very well received so far."

Typically working within a style he referred to as "old-time fiddling," Woods called the new tour a musical challenge, but added that moving back and forth between different techniques is refreshing for a player, at the same time. Indicating that the show never lingers for

too long on any one style, the touring musician suggested that the performance will likely give audiences a bit of a silly variety show that nonetheless pays homage to the great musical gems hidden in local corners all across the country.

As in past years' visits, Woods' crew will be joined at their Eastern Townships stop by young local fiddler Courtney Drew. According to Woods, it is partly because of the tradition of taking on a local guest that the Canada-themed show started to come together.

Inspired, he explained, by the local flavours that guests in each community across the country would bring to the performance, the band started to consider what it would be like to put together a show that collected all of those different approaches together. Before long the roots of "Fiddling in the key of ... eh?" started to form.

Asked about the process of putting the show together, woods revealed that one of the things he found most interesting about the research involved was the way it revealed the mixed origins of well-known tunes.

"There are tunes I just assumed were Irish or assumed were French because of

the recordings I had heard, but when I started researching a bit further I would find a different origin," the fiddler said, adding that the band has had fun playing to the different cultural communities in different regions of Canada and seeing what stands out where.

Stating that his focus is on bringing well-loved but rarely heard music to "rural-minded people and seniors," Woods shared that his band is dedicated to a mission of support across the country.

"We're hard pressed to break even at the end of the tour. This is more of a ministry for us as far as finances are concerned. We try to raise funds for different groups, different churches different organizations every place that we go," the fiddler said.

"The reason why we do it is that we like to be on the stage, we like to travel, and the people that we help out love the music."

The Scott Woods Band will be playing at Richmond Regional High School starting at 7 p.m. tonight. More information about the show is available by calling 819-826-5883 or 819-876-7179.

More information about the band itself can be found at www.scottwoods.ca.



VILLE DE
RICHMOND

Our volunteers are GOLD!

The municipal council wants to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt THANK YOU to all!

Volunteers who donated their time and energy to help improve the quality of life for all members of our community, your council commends you!

April 13-17



Mayor

Marc-André Martel

Councillors

Céline Bourbeau

Guy Boutin

Nick Fonda

Pierre Grégoire

Charles Mallette

Gérard Tremblay

www.ville.richmond.qc.ca