

Murder mystery evening at Missisquoi North Youth Centre in Mansonville



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

MANSONVILLE

On Saturday, evening June 6, the Missisquoi North Youth Centre in Mansonville held a murder mystery evening with 20 youth participating. Organized by drop-in program leader Eleanor Cote, the evening was a roaring success filled with mystery, murder and mayhem.

The scene was set when guests were invited two weeks prior to the event to a make-believe class reunion hosted by the Governor-elect and his beautiful wife (both members of the honored class). Each invitee was given private information ahead of time regarding their character and the circumstances sur-

rounding the suspicious murder (of one of their classmates) that had taken place.

The youth were encouraged to dress up accordingly to best portray their character and to get as familiar as possible with the role they would be playing from the time they were to arrive. Also, they were told that familiarizing themselves with the other characters would be vital in assuring the full experience of the evening.

As the youth arrived, it was clear that many had put a 100 per cent effort in choosing their attire and that they had come with every intention of convincing others of their new identity.

The evening included a meal prepared by Eleanor with the help of donations from Judy Ball, Norma Clifford, Julia Hastings, Sarah Jersey and Laurette Rouleau. Following the meal, the antics and clues continued until the murder was solved, "best of" certificates awarded and memories made.

Purchase of the game was made possible by a generous donor and this activity was just another in a series that Cote has organized in her role at the Youth Centre.

The youth who took part are still talking about the evening and the fun they



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A whodunnit played out in Mansonville two weekends ago.

had. "I can't wait for the next one," said youth participant Kira Nichols who didn't actually commit the murder but (due to her outstanding portrayal of a heartless snob), was accused by several others at the end of the game.

Cote is hoping to plan another evening of murder this coming fall

closer to Halloween and she feels that it would be good to do as a fundraiser to help with the purchase of future games.

For groups that may be looking for fun activities for youth, the evening of murder was almost like a play or theatre production. The game contains all you need and the imagination of your guests will add to the enjoyment and success.

"Tour Des Arts" funds offer art-related workshop in Potton

By Mable Hastings
POTTON

Each year, the Tour des Arts raises funds for a local cause. Last year's money was raised to hold art-related workshops at youth centres in Mansonville and Sutton. Renée Morris, an artist in her first year with the tour was able to get a grant allotted to do



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Saturday's participants with their owls.

something in Mansonville. Morris approached the Potton Multicultural Festival organizing committee with the idea of having youth do a project that could be used during the Multicultural Festival Day being held this year on Aug. 8 in Mansonville.

The group was very enthusiastic about the idea. She then approached the Missisquoi North Youth Centre and the

wheels were quickly set in motion and an event was held last Saturday.

Celebrating the Owl's Head region in which they live, the youth suggested that the artistic project be the creation of individually-painted owls that can be used the day of the festival for a contest and to brighten up the village. The owls would be placed in various locations throughout the village and visitors would be encouraged to find them all.

At Saturday's workshop, babies to young adults and all in between took part with some 26 youth of all ages attending the event. After the big job of cutting each owl and priming them, a job that was done by David Heath, 30 owls were painted in bright colors and in a variety of designs. The two-hour session found young and old supporting one and other and sharing in the fun.

"I am so pleased with the turnout," said Morris. "The number of youth who showed up to participate is great but the enthusiasm is even greater!"

The Tour des Arts runs from July 11-19 with 36 artists and artisans welcoming visitors into their studios for the tour and sale.

The event held at the Missisquoi North Youth Centre this past Saturday was truly a reminder that the creative process and multitude of talent within the region is thriving in its young people. As the youth chose colors, selected brushes and planned their individual approach to their particular creation, the already sunny day got a little brighter. By the end of the event a splash of colour lined the driveway as owls sat perched amid the youth who gathered for a photo. Morris's smile really said it all as she thanked all who took part in the event which she stated had more than exceeded her expectations.

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