

School Page

Knowlton Academy

Knowlton Academy playground opening

It's official! Knowlton Academy's new playground is open and ready to welcome not only the students but any Knowlton resident who wants to enjoy some outdoor fun in a warm and welcoming environment. The newly updated space has something for everyone and epitomizes the true community spirit of Knowlton Academy.

Principal Renalee Gore was visibly moved as she addressed the crowd of students and invited guests at the ribbon cutting ceremony on September 30th. "Today's event is an opportunity to celebrate and officially thank all our partners and donors without whom we would not have been able to realize this project," said Ms. Gore.

And that list is a lengthy one. The project received financial support from the Town of Brome Lake, represented at the ceremony by Mayor Richard Burcombe, the Eastern Townships School Board, represented by Chairman Michael Murray and Commissioner Richard Gagne, the Quebec Government (MEES) represented by Christine Belanger of Pierre Paradis's office and a grant from the Brome Missisquoi Pacte Rural represented by Tanya Szymanski. Ms. Gore

also acknowledged the enormous contributions of local businesses and community and parent volunteers and the school staff for their support.

The project was lead by the creative mind of "playground visionary extraordinaire" Susan Muir. The new space is definitely multi-functional with many fun-filled activities such as a giant chess/ checkerboard set but it is also a place to enjoy a good book in a peaceful and beautiful setting- perhaps on the new Friendship bench.

One of the more impressive additions is the spectacular outdoor classroom- a lovely wood gazebo with benches and a blackboard- that is already being used regularly by staff and students. The classroom is emblazoned with the Knowlton Academy motto- Dream Big, Work Hard, Persevere, Have Someone Who Believes in You and You Will Be Successful. This motto is the guiding force at Knowlton Academy and it was certainly evident in every stage of the new playground project.

There is no doubt that the new playground is an impressive space but it's still not quite done yet. There are plans for additional landscaping including a

fairy table and stools by a new willow tree, more trees, shrubs and flower gardens and a brand new twisty slide. Truly

a space that will be enjoyed by students and community members for years.



COURTESY

Missisquoi North Youth centre receives Canada Post Community Foundation Grant



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

Recently, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CAB) Youth Program received a grant in the amount of \$2160.00 from the Canada Post Community Foundation for a young leadership program in the Mansonville area.

Under the animation of the youth centre staff, the project focuses on the building of young leaders, increasing positive self-esteem, providing youth with the tools needed to work with others while strengthening their own personal development. As the youth acquire these valuable life skills, they will likely become more implicated and involved in their community.

The program will bring together small groups of youth to discuss issues that weigh heavily on their hearts and minds and will encourage dialogue, peer support and problem solving. Topics

will include: bullying and intimidation, celebrating differences, body image, healthy mind and spirit...

From January to June a pilot project was created with five girls aged seven to eleven participating. The results were clearly visible and in a fifteen minute interview with CBC radio that aired in July, the participants shared their positive experiences and spoke about how the program had empowered them. Using the skills attained, improvements were noted at the school level as well as socially.

The grant will enable the Youth Centre to create more of these intimate groups; providing a safe place to talk, share and grow. The funds from Canada Post will purchase the materials needed and the animators hope to have three groups for younger aged kids and at least 2 for teens. They also plan to implement portions of the program into their existing weekly Boys and Girls groups which will allow them to reach even more kids. The program will start immediately and the Youth Centre hopes to be building, boosting and encouraging young leaders of all ages.

The Canada Post Community Foundation for children's visions is to help ensure every child in Canada is happy, healthy and part of a community that supports and cares for them. Its mission is to have a positive effect on the lives of children in the communities Canada Post serves by supporting registered

charities, school programs or local initiatives that benefit children. It has granted more than \$4 million to over 300 community organizations across Canada. The support of the Canada Post Community Foundation is a wonderful gift to the Missisquoi North youth centre as it will surely help the youth in the leadership program to become further

engaged, confident and productive. To learn more about the Foundation, visit: canadapost.ca/community. For more information about the Leadership Program or to learn more about the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre, visit: www.cabmn.org



MABLE HASTINGS

Post Mistress, Barbara Taylor poses with some of the youth from the Missisquoi North Youth Centre "Boys group," who will benefit from the \$2160.00 Canada Post Community Foundation grant in Mansonville.