

Trim up the tree and light the lights—it's Christmastime in Potton



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

On Friday evening, December 9 the Municipality of Potton celebrated the third annual tree lighting ceremony in Potton at the Place Manson Park located in the center of the town of Mansonville.

Organized by the Municipality with members of council and Mayor, Louis Veillon present, Santa and Mrs. Claus joined parents and children for the event. While the evening was chilly with a slight breeze blowing, the recent snowfall created a festive feel and as the children enjoyed the snow, parents took the opportunity to greet neighbors and

friends.

Now in its third year, the tradition of lighting the tree at this event has become a reminder for young and old that the holiday season has arrived. Hot chocolate and treats as well as a gift from Santa brought smiles to the children's faces.

For Potton council member, Dianne Marcoux who stopped by various locations inviting children and youth of all ages to come out for the celebration, this is a special time of year. Stopping by the youth centre she encouraged the teens there by assuring them that, "you are never too old for Santa!"

As the tree lit up, there were a variety of joyful "oohs" and "aahs" from the crowd gathered. From the smallest to the tallest, Santa was there with a smile and his welcoming Christmas cheer.

The ceremony was held on the eve of the Potton Christmas Market "C'est Chouette," held Saturday and Sunday in Potton's Town Hall with many local artisans and an abundant number of shoppers looking for the perfect gift.

From Potton township to yours, the Happiest and Healthiest of Holidays!



PHOTO BY CASSIDY CHAPMAN

Youth council

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the council members said that they appreciated the meeting and the chance to share ideas with like-minded youth who are ready to act.

One member said she appreciated the diversity of the group, which included French and English youth from different age groups and backgrounds. She then went on to say that she was enthusiastic about the council and the possibilities it presented, but was still critical. "We have a long way to go," she said, echoing the comments of other members, who said they prefer concrete action to simply sharing ideas.

"I've never felt represented," another council member said. Having just turned 18, he was excited to finally be voting age, but said before that he never

felt like his opinion on issues was valued.

"This gives us an opportunity to be heard," he said.

For the first meeting, the agenda was set by the office of Marie-Claude Bibeau, who assembled the council. The members said that in the future, they would appreciate an opportunity to choose the subjects they would like to discuss, and also leave room for some debate instead of just a question and answer format.

Before leaving, the council was given homework. Before the next meeting, the youth were asked to brainstorm via a closed facebook group and come up with an event with the goal of bringing positive change to the community. It could be a fundraiser or other activity, to be decided and planned by the council.



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MCCULLY