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Weather



TODAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 19
LOW OF 9



TUESDAY:
60% CHANCE
OF SHOWERS

HIGH OF 13
LOW OF 0



WEDNESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 10
LOW OF -2



THURSDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 13
LOW OF 4



FRIDAY:
60% CHANCE
OF SHOWERS

HIGH OF 10
LOW OF 5

Potton youth present their version of “The Greatest Show!”



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

On the heels of Massey Vanier High School’s most successful Kaleidoscope talent evening held the first weekend in May, Potton’s younger youth ages 5-13 are putting the finishing touches on their Annual Youth Talent Show being held on Saturday, June 8 at the Mansonville Elementary School at 7pm (adults \$5.00 donation and youth are free). An evening targeted each year at giving youth from Potton and surrounding towns, the opportunity to share their creative offerings with parents, family, friends and neighbours. These youth are elementary school aged or in their first year of high school and have spent Saturday afternoons creating these dance themselves, teaching their peers and working as a team to put on a show as part of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Youth Program in Mansonville (a non profit organization).

Anyone loving dance, music and a joyous celebration of self love and acceptance could not help but have been moved by the 2017 release of the movie, *The Greatest Showman* starring Hugh Jackman. For dance teachers, youth workers, and inspirational speakers...this film was inspiring, captivating and motivating. For this reason, it is no surprise that it became the theme for many Talent Shows and presentations this and last year. Massey Vanier did an outstanding job with its show this year and should be congratulated. While on a much smaller production scale, the CABMN youth hold the same abundant joy, talent and enthusiasm for sharing the message from “*The Greatest Showman*” with the public. Mixed with other dances and a variety of music, the show features more than 40 youth with special guests as young as three years of age.

The CABMN Youth Program has al-



PHOTOS BY MABLE HASTINGS

ways seen itself as “different.” With a shoestring budget the program has existed for over 35 years with thousands of youth partaking in the weekly programs offered at minimal cost to all. Boasting no fences around Potton, the program accepts and welcomes youth from surrounding towns and this year has youth participating from Cowansville, Sutton and Montreal. The story and journey of PT Barnum (Circus promoter), a man thirsty for innovation and hungry for success that began with his creating a wax museum but ended up introducing never before seen live acts on the circus stage, as portrayed in the movie, left the youth mesmerized.

Some called PT Barnum’s wide collection of oddities, a freak show but as the story unfolds, we realize that even the oddest, most unique and peculiar of people have a place and that feelings, emotions, dreams and bonding happen for all if we see past our differences and overcome our fears. This message spoke volumes to the youth in the Saturday Dance Program as it resembles what they are taught within the Saturday program.

The perfection of the set and stage and even the space for the many dancers performing (which is minimal) are sec-

ondary. The message that these young children and youth are delivering is powerful as through each dance, not only those from the *Greatest Showman* but all, are an expression of the youth and the time and talents they put into doing this show for those who attend. The audience now is the most important part for the kids. Those attending let the youth know that all of the positive energy, time and genuine desire to do something on their Saturdays as a group, working together and being creative is appreciated.

Please, join the Saturday Dance Theatre Group of the CABMN Youth Program for this special evening as they present their version of, “*The Greatest Show!*”

For more information visit the cabmn website at www.cabmn.org or call the Youth Centre at 450-292-4886 or email Mable Hastings at m.hastings@cabmn.org

Ben by Daniel Shelton

