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Weather



TODAY:
SNOW
2 TO 4 CM
HIGH OF 0
LOW OF -7



TUESDAY:
FLURRIES
HIGH OF 2
LOW OF -6



WEDNESDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD
HIGH OF 1
LOW OF -4



THURSDAY:
PERIODS OF
SNOW
HIGH OF 0
LOW OF -22



FRIDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD
HIGH OF -15
LOW OF -25

Annual Winterfest outdoor family fun day in Potton



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

Despite the cool temperatures, gusting winds and momentary set-backs, this year's Winterfest outdoor family fun day organized by the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Former Youth Involvement (FYI), Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) and the Municipality of Potton proved to be another big success with 191 people in attendance!

The tubing slide was a highlight with young and not so young tubing from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. non-stop. The slide is created under the supervision of FYI member Jessie Johnson by Kyle Cote with the free use of equipment provided by Mike Mierzwinski. This year's inflatables were a huge hit (organized by FYI member Julie Eldridge and Shannon Derby) and volunteers manning the stations beat the cool temperatures in the warmth of the smiling faces who enjoyed the activities as part of the Municipality's Festive Hearts month held during the month of February. DJ Jerk,



COURTESY

Jeremy Eldridge warmed up the crowd with his talents as music rang through the air and those passing sang along.

The snow, and loads of it, was a welcome site as some years, Mother Nature has been far less generous with the white stuff. Those who were not sliding, jumping or enjoying the side by side rides given by Potton's Firemen and First Responders, were digging for and enjoying the sugar on snow (prepared by Linda Jersey with syrup donated by Paul Hebert and Danny Jones), marshmallow pit (set up by JF Giroux and Bruno Cote) or many took tours on the horse drawn sleigh rides courtesy of Roger Cote and family of Cote Meadows; a real highlight to the event.

Bonhomme Carnival (Real Forget) handed out goodies through the Mansonville Optimist Club and was assisted by Potton Mayor, Jacques Marcoux in greeting all who took part. The Police (Sargent Steeve Cote) was inside the Mansonville Elementary serving up cotton candy with donations going to the CABMN youth programs.

Inside the school, CABMN volunteers offered hair wrapping, temporary tattoos, face painting with Laurie Ball and Martha Barnes. Bingo for small prizes (organized by FYI member Alexe Dalgheigh and volunteers, Judy Ball, Julia Hastings and Real Forget) gave another opportunity to warm up and there was a constant flow of prize winners enjoying the annual game. Brenda Clark, CABMN President and a crew of volunteers (Cindy Marcoux, Perry Hicks, Laurette Rouleau, Julia Eldridge) served homemade soup, hotdogs, hot

chocolate...and NexKemia Petrochemicals Inc. a company that provides a free healthy snack program at the Youth Centre also provided free fruit for all at the refreshment table.

A highlight this year was a gesture to open his newly decorated and very welcoming classroom by Alex Wisdom (MES teacher) and his partner Beth. The room was full of wonderful activities, comfortable seating, a beautiful atmosphere and many commented on the terrific idea initiated by Wisdom in allowing young and old to enjoy the space.

The day ended with over thirty door prizes being drawn. The door prizes were donated by local merchants as well as the Hatley Clothing company (Little Blue House) who sponsor the event with prizes every year. We applaud the kindness and generosity of: Jewetts store, Bonisoir, Shell Garage, Rona, Bistro Chouette, Epicerie Jacques Ducharme, Api M.D., FamiliPrix, DJ Jerk, Shannon Derby, Wayne Korman, Tara Creations, Ernie and Katrina Cote... When winners picked up their prizes, it was very obvious that after a wonderful day, the prize was icing on the cake!

FYI, SADD and the Municipality of Potton wishes to extend a thank you to all who contributed to the behind the scenes work, in donating, in supporting and in attending this annual event. A huge thank you to the volunteers just some of whom have been mentioned here; without you all, organisers acknowledge that this community event would not happen.

Ben by Daniel Shelton

