Christmas for you  
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McLean said that the event has become a great experience over the last several years, drawing a larger and larger crowd from Lennoxville and the surrounding area. Despite the mission of service, the organizer said that one need not be alone or lonely to come and share in time together. He said that the whole event has been a grand collaboration of volunteers both from within the HCC community and without, and added that the spirit of that continues on Christmas Day as well, with many people coming just to ask how they can help out.

The church has coordinated 135 dozen baked goods and 14 turkeys for the meal from a variety of community donors, and McLean said that he is looking forward with great anticipation to the opportunity to share that generosity.

“It’s a neat event,” McLean said. The HCC relocated to downtown Lennoxville from Huntingville in 2011 and has been working since that time, through events like the annual Christmas dinner and others, to become a central hub of the local community.

“But it’s wonderful,” McLean said. “And all of the many other volunteers who make the CAB programs, events and activities happen.

While CAB president Fiona Campbell was unable to attend, she sent a speech that was delivered by board members Denise McLafferty and Jacques Marcoux, in which she said, “A great big thank you to you all, our incredible volunteers who devote your time, energy and talents to helping others. Yes, that is what you do and through your efforts, you make our world a better place.”

The many volunteers who gathered were treated to “wings and things” as well as a variety of beverages including “mocktails” (cocktails without the alcohol) prepared by the youth from the CAB’s SADD committee.

CAB board and FYS member Carol Mc Govern prepared a presentation of photos that celebrated the many ways that the organization’s volunteers work so hard in the community and beyond.

The CAB staff was in attendance greeting volunteers in their “yellow CAB hats” and were so inspired by and grateful to the volunteers that they grabbed cheerleader pompoms and gave three cheers for all of the volunteers who give of their time to the CAB.

“I am going to ask you to do one more thing for the CAB,” Campbell concluded, “please can each of you try to bring in one more volunteer to replenish our ranks? We need more volunteers...” She added, “By the way, it has been shown that volunteers live longer! Perhaps you can make a difference!”

Incorporated in 1982, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre, is a program for people who need people. The aim of the CAB is to attend to issues concerning health, social services, education and other quality-of-life issues for all but especially for the marginalized and youth.

At Friday evening’s celebration, it was obvious that the community is in good hands with the amazing volunteers who help the staff, board and committees to offer the many programs, events and activities that is does.

For more information about the CAB Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre visit www.cabmn.org or call the CAB Main office at 450-292-3114 or the Youth Centre at 450-292-4868.