Last Saturday, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre Youth Centre “Drop-in” group held its annual Christmas Dinner Celebration at the Youth Centre located at 282 Main Street in Mansonville. With some 60 people in attendance, the Centre was transformed into an ambiance of twinkling lights accompanied by a festive feast for all to share. The centre was decorated by the FYI committee with centerpieces that were made by Youth Centre staff member Eleanor Cote and her husband David Paige.

The youth “Drop-in” group encompasses all youth attending the “older” youth programs for youth ranging in ages from 12 to 20+ including the Former Youth Involvement committee, made up of young adults who continue to contribute and volunteer with the volunteer centre.

Invites for the evening included the CAB Board of director’s and their spouses; the youth centre Property Committee as well as the Youth Support Committee members and their spouses. Special guests included Neil Smith and Julia Sullivan from Rival Boxing who joined us from Montreal. Rival has been very generous and kind toward initiatives held through the Centre and this was an opportunity for some of them to see the building and meet the youth.

The evening began with a welcoming speech by the members of Students Against Destructive Decisions with Natasha Charby making the first speech. Adding some comedy to the evening was the duo of Jacob Woodard and Yanni Barnett (also from SADD) that put on more of a performance than a speech. Those gathered then paid tribute to a young at heart attendee, Rita Marcoux who turned 92 that day. The group sang to her and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

A full-blown Christmas dinner followed the speeches and included turkey, stuffing, gravy, potatoes, vegetables, salad, and rolls, all done through donations of food from various members of the youth centre committees.

The dinner was prepared by Norma Clifford (FYI Committee and Board member) and her wondrous volunteers, Judith Ball (FYI Community Rep) and Laurette Rouleau (Youth Support Committee member), with turkey cooked by June Peacock. Following the main course, a spread of desserts was put out with seconds and thirds encouraged.

Members of the FYI group pose with Denise McLafferty (board member) and her husband Perry Hicks (property committee member).