

'Mom, I want to live in Yellowstone!'



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

MANSONVILLE

A long time believer in teaching my kids that they should spread their wings and fly to find their heart's desire and live their dream, a recent talk with my youngest son, who is 17, led to a chain of events that I feel are worth documenting.

My son, Ethan has long dreamed of living or travelling to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, some 3500-plus

Recently Ethan brought photos to show his friends at the local youth centre in Mansonville taken by wildlife photographer Sandy Sisti, who has been capturing breathtaking nature shots in Yellowstone for over twenty years. You can see her work by visiting her website at wildatheartimages.photoshelter.com

If anyone can understand Ethan's longing for Yellowstone National Park and the wilds of Wyoming, Sandy Sisti can. Sisti's lifelong love of all things wild led her to relocate from New York to Wyoming after her first visit to Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks in 1994.

The special connection she felt encouraged her to make her home in Wapiti, Wyoming and she spends most of her days in Yellowstone and the surrounding areas observing and photographing its wealth of wildlife.

Sandy Sisti's work has been published by numerous organizations. How fitting that the photos taken by Sisti would end up being the treasures that Ethan shares with family and friends. Through Sisti's



COURTESY SANDY SISTI

Sandy Sisti on a trek through the wilderness.



COURTESY SANDY SISTI

A buffalo surveys his kingdom

kilometres away from the rural Eastern Townships of Quebec.

His love for wildlife and the great outdoors often finds him surfing the net viewing photos of animals as he ponders what life would be like on a morning hike through the deep snows in the park.

offerings, Ethan is able to imagine himself there, at her side as she snowshoes through the woods to capture an unsuspecting moose or a herd of bison trudging through their daily routine.

Sisti's hope has always been that her images would inspire others to explore the wonders of nature in their own little

corner of the world. Perhaps she did not realize just how important those would become to one young man.

Recently, Ethan decided to attempt to write an email to Sandy Sisti and reach out, across the many miles between him and her feeling he had to seize the opportunity while feeling brave enough to possible make contact with this woman

who lives the dream for them both.

In an email he told Sisti about his love for Yellowstone, his admiration for her outstanding photography and about his life in the Eastern Townships.

Specifically, he told her about the Youth Centre and about some of the talented artists who have donated paintings to hang on the walls there. He sent the email off and he waited. It didn't take long before Sandy Sisti reached back. Even with her busy schedule, she knew a kindred spirit when she heard one and Ethan's email made her realize the impact she is having all over the world.

Ethan asked Sandy if she would consider donating one of her amazing photos to the Youth Centre to be given a place of honor on the wall there. Sandy has agreed.

Beaming with pride, after the holidays, Ethan will bring Yellowstone to the Youth Centre in a small rural community in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. A photo from some 3500 kilometres away but one that represents something near and dear to Ethan's heart and soul.

Sandy Sisti is an amazing photographer but, she is an even more amazing human being. With the holidays upon us and the Christmas Spirit still in the air, I felt that this was a pretty awesome story to share with you all.

When a young person reaches out, it is so important when someone they admire has the heart to reach back. It's Christmas in Yellowstone and thanks to Sandy Sisti, Ethan can almost "feel" it.

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