Potton delivers big fun at ‘I love skating’ event

According to Hirshfeld, the project began with a simple exploration of expressionism and a trip to see an exhibit at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. From there the students researched and studied several global issues relating to the rights of children including child brides, child soldiers, children living in hunger and poverty, in refugee camps, and street gangs.

Inspired by their own emotional reactions and point of view, students then painted an expressionist portrait of a child. “We hope not only to support a wonderful project but also to inspire our students to take part in the greater community. We wish to empower them as young artists to appreciate the unique ways in which art influences opinions and actions.”

“We talked about how children in third-world countries don’t have the same privileges as us,” said student artist Teala Sirois, who shared that a large number of different videos and stories were looked at. “We take many things for granted.”

In the latter half of the research phase, students started sketching their portraits.

“The idea was to react to the stories emotionally and form an actual connection, not just read about facts,” their teacher shared. “They each chose the theme that touched them the most.”

“This is a really nice collaboration,” said Heather Thomson of the refugee sponsorship committee. “It’s a wonderful gift.”

Thomson said that the students brought the idea up before Christmas and it was welcomed with open arms. “We were so happy that they were able to come and visit with us,” said student artist Brooklyn Leclerc. “I really liked meeting (the refugees) and hearing stories of how they got here.”

It was at that meeting, Hirshfeld said, that the two groups planned tonight’s exhibition together and divided up tasks. A month later, on the verge of the sale, the students simply said they are excited to see the public’s reaction to their work. Those interested in seeing the productions are invited to the Galt library from 7–9 p.m.

“Get involved and make a difference,” Hirshfeld said, adding that cash and cheques by making a donation or purchasing a painting in the silent auction. “There will be refreshments and live music.”

This is the refugee sponsorship committee’s 22nd year of existence. Each year the group, with the help of students, faculty and staff, the Bishop’s and Champlain administrations, and many people in the community, brings two students to the campus and supports them for one year both materially and emotionally while they adjust to life in Canada.

To date, the committee has helped 35 students and one young child restart their lives.

I am SYKES.

SYKES is currently sponsoring two refugees and has stated in touch with eight former beneficiaries of the program who remain on campus. She said that after the collaboration was proposed, the committee went to Galt to visit in January along with one former refugee student and one of the students currently being sponsored. “It was a really great exchange.”

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Galt art reaching out

Cont’d from Page 1

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Thomson said that the students brought the idea up before Christmas and it was welcomed with open arms. “Though the refugee sponsorship group relies on a number of fundraisers throughout the year, she said this is the first time something of this type has been proposed.”

“We’re extremely grateful to this community and the way people rally around the work we do,” Thomson added, pointing out that the program...