Townships Outlet

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Potton gets the blues with Montreal musician, Rob Lutes

THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

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n Saturday, February 20, the Missisquoi North Youth Centre (CAB) in Potton welcomed Montreal bluesman, Rob Lutes for a musical evening that featured some of the best blues music around. The intimate space at the Youth Centre was transformed into a café type candlelit scene as some 60 people gathered to bathe in the sweet lyrics and masterful picking of Lutes and his guitar.

According to the website, http://www.maplemusic.com/ “This Montreal-based, maritime-born artist spent ten years as a writer/editor, before discovering that song writing and performing was what he was called to do full time. Evolving his own signature style with his richly textured vocals and earthy feel, Rob steadily gained ground covering that song writing and performing circuit, could very well be the fastest working band on the local fundraising efforts in the region.”

Slightly Haggard

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In December, they played at The Lion for a food and toy drive before Christmas. Other gigs in recent months include Cookshire and Ayer’s Cliff fairs, the Ayer’s Cliff Music Festival (benefiting the Make A Wish Foundation), and sing and play and have a good time,” Curtis said.

“In addition to contributing to fundraising efforts, Slightly Haggard is filling another void in the community; Townshippers love a good dance.

“Around 25-30 years ago there were bands playing everywhere,” Curtis said. “That’s what you did on a Saturday night.”

“Now it’s more of an event,” he said. “We have to charge to cover our costs,” he said, but the band’s fee won’t make them rich. In addition to contributing to fundraising efforts, Slightly Haggard is filling another void in the community: Townshippers love a good dance.

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“Now it’s more of an event,” he said. Curtis said he only knows of three or four other active bands in the area. “I guess it’s a good excuse to have a dance,” Curtis said, happy to be associated with community groups and providing the music.

Slightly Haggard, arguably the hardest working band on the local fundraising circuit, could very well be the common bond for future generations.