Bluesbette and John Samborsky bring music to the Ken Jones Respite program

MABLE HASTINGS

On Thursday, April 7 Bluesbette and John Samborsky brought an afternoon of music, dancing and fun to the clients of the Ken Jones Respite Program (KJC): a program for special needs persons with intellectual or/and physical disabilities. Coordinated by Sheila Sam- borsky and Iszter Csiszer, the KJC program is a part of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CAB) programming in Potton.

The Ken Jones Respite program provides a safe and stimulating environment for special needs persons while giving caregivers respite.

The group meets every Thursday at the centre from 8:30am to 3:00pm. Weekly activities include crafts, social and leisure time, games, mild exercises, movies, music and lots and lots of fun! 16-12 participants take part in the weekly activities.

Thursday’s musical treat was the brainchild of multi-talented musician, John Samborsky who also just happens to be Sheila’s husband. “The real accolades here go to my friend Betty Piette for agreeing to volunteer to do this,” said Samborsky. “I’ve tried several times to get other musicians to come and give some time but scheduling is always a struggle; not for Betty however. I asked her about two weeks ago and all she said was where and when?”. The Bluesbette Band and lead singer/guitarist Betty Piette has been performing music for over forty years now. If all goes as planned, they will be releasing their latest CD entitled, The Bluesbette Band, All Original Songs, which includes “The Tea Cup Blues.” Their music has been described as a mix of blues, swing and a touch of jazz.

“I love to play, it’s what I do,” said Betty Piette following Thursday’s performance. “If I have made the folk day a little brighter, I am happy.”

Enjoy the day is exactly what the clients, staff and volunteers did. With John on stand-up bass and Betty on vocals and guitar, all who gathered were dancing, clapping, singing and tapping their feet; it was truly a joyous thing to behold. The music flowed and all too soon it was time to go home.

“I loved it so much,” shared one of the clients. “Another exclaimed, in regards to John’s stand-up bass, “He has a really big fiddle!”

For John, jamming with Betty while watching the joy on the client’s faces made the gathering more than worth the time and effort. John says that Betty summed it up best as they were leaving when she said, “Sometimes you just have to give back.”

Samborsky then added, “I’d say I personally got a lot more out of the outing myself.”

If you would like more information about the Ken Jones Respite program call 450-292-4886 or visit the CAB website at www.cabmn.org and for more information or to contact Bluesbette or the Bluesbette Band visit: bluesbette70@gmail.com or call 450-263-6136.

Dancing to the music this past Thursday at the KJC in Potton.