

CN Rail Safety Week

Together we can save lives'

THE SCOOP



MABLE HASTINGS



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SADD and Junior SADD members pose with Retired CN officer David Stirling, who animated the Rail Safety Workshop on Friday evening in Mansonville at the Missisquoi North Youth Centre.

“What’s the big deal; it’s just a little walk on the train tracks. If a train comes, we have plenty of time to jump from the tracks, right?” Most definitely, “wrong.”

The important message from CN is; *trespassing on railway tracks and property is the leading cause of rail-related deaths in Canada.*

April 25 to May 1, 2016 is Rail Safety Week. CN will again join forces with Operation Lifesaver. Together they are asking for your help and involvement in saving lives.

The safety message is simple: stay off and stay away from all trains, tracks and railway property at all times!

“Operation Lifesaver” advises the following:

- Use designated level crossings to cross train tracks.
- Obey the signs and signals near railway crossings – flashing lights and bells mean the train is coming so be safe and stay away.
- Stop, look and listen before you cross just to make sure it is safe.
- Stay away from the edge of the platform while waiting for the train at the station. Stay behind the platform safety line.
- Stay away from trains and tracks and off railway property.
- Say “no” to trespassing on tracks or railway property.

Talk with your children about railway safety. Tracks are for trains, not for people!

The CN website, <http://www.cn.ca/rail-safety> reminds us that rail safety is everyone’s responsibility. “By looking out for each other and working together we can help keep our communities safe.”

As a railway company, CN strives for safety and to inform everyone, especially children, about the dangers of rail crossing and trespassing accidents.

You can help prevent rail crossing and trespassing accidents just by getting the facts and reporting any incident where you witness an unsafe situation near the railroad. Remember that trespassing on any railway property is illegal. CN is asking you to “get involved!”

In the Potton community, a special information session was held on Friday, April 22 for its SADD (Students Against Dangerous Decisions) and Junior SADD members. The session was given by retired CN officer David Stirling at the Mansonville Youth Centre. Stirling stressed to the SADD members the following rail safety tips:

1) Speed Misperception: Because of their size, trains appear to be much further away and traveling much more

slowly than their actual speed.

2) Trains Cannot Stop Quickly: The average train needs at least two kilometres to stop.

3) Trespassing: Taking a shortcut across the tracks or being on railway property is dangerous and one can get seriously injured or killed.

4) Train Weight: An average train weighs over 5,500 tons. A train hitting a car is like a car hitting a can of soda pop.

5) Railway Cars: Stopped railway cars can move at any time. If you are on one or near one when it moves, you could lose a limb or worse, be killed.

6) Tunnels or Bridges: If you are trespassing on a bridge when a train comes, you have only two choices, jump or get killed or injured. There is no room for you.

7) Width of Railway Cars: Trains can carry loads that are wider than the actual railway cars. If you are standing too

close, you can get injured.

8) Anytime is Train Time: Trains do not always run on schedule. They can operate at any time, on any track and in either direction.

The group of youth had many questions to ask and Stirling was quick with answers and information. The SADD and Junior SADD members were already sharing information with their parents when they arrived to pick them up after the presentation.

CN cares about your safety. Rail Safety Week is a reminder that trains and train tracks are not playgrounds or walking paths. Please, help to save lives. Share the information contained in this article with your family, friends and neighbours.

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5-b VICTORIA ST., KNOWITON, QUEBEC, JOE 1V0
TEL: (450) 242-1188 FAX: (450) 243-5155

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1195 Galt E., Sherbrooke, QUEBEC, J1G 1Y7
FAX: (819) 569-3945 E-MAIL: newsroom@sherbrookerecord.com
website: www.sherbrookerecord.com

SHARON McCULLY PUBLISHER (819) 569-6345
STEPHEN BLAKE EDITOR (819) 569-6345
CAROLYN MARSH SECRETARY (450) 242-1188
JESSE BRYANT ADVERTISING (450) 242-1188

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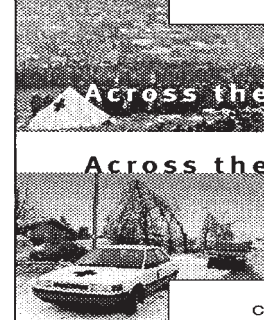


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