

LOCAL NEWS

The evening was a joyous one allowing a real tribute to what the Volunteer Centre is all about; people.

Fiesta Fun as the Volunteer Centre (CABMN) celebrates 35 years



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

The 35th Anniversary celebration of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) formerly Citizen Advocacy was held on Saturday, April 29 in Mansonville with 120 in attendance. A Mexican themed Fiesta party set the scene for fun and celebration. The meal was catered by “the Derby Brothers” crew and the music was provided by Jeremy Eldridge who kept folks up and dancing the entire evening. Thanks to

those who set up, decorated and to Mathieu Laplume who loaned his portable bar, the finishing touches made the room come alive.

The event was organized by CAB board of director’s members, Brenda Clark and Murielle Parkes as well as volunteer, Laurette Rouleau with the entire CAB staff team and Board contributing to the event volunteering their time to make it a memorable and joyous one. Much appreciation goes out to Jacques Ducharme at the Marche Richelieu for his help with the bar planning and use of his trailer.

There was a special prize basket donated by author, Louise Penny that was won by an elated Murielle Parkes who co founded the volunteer organization. Door Prizes were themed to the volunteer centre’s history, programs and service to the communities served. The sharing of the information and the drawing of the prizes allowed some to reminisce while others learned things they did not know about the organiza-

tion and its history. Prizes came from: Laurie and Paul Boivin, the SADD Mansonville Chapter and the Clark family.

The evening was a joyous one allowing a real tribute to what the Volunteer Centre is all about; people. Attendees included long-time friend and volunteer, Sandra Lancaster who travelled from Cornwall, Ontario and attended with

her sister Mary Lachance who was once an Executive Director of the CAB. Former CAB President, Brian Nichols, his wife Kim and daughter Kira travelled from Ottawa to celebrate with the group.

To those who attended and those who purchased tickets in support but were unable to attend, the CAB extends its appreciation and thanks.



PHOTOS: MABLE HASTINGS

120 people gathered for the 35th Fiesta Celebration of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CAB)



Co-founder of the CAB (Citizen Advocacy, Murielle Parkes) poses here with Frank Ruiz at the event.



Volunteers who tended the bar were dressed for the occasion!

The business of bees

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

“Nick and I made a contract and in the spring of 2016 he helped me get three hives on campus,” Soucy added. “I think Bishop’s is a really good place for it because we’re in a more rural area and ideas like this are really fostered by the community. I figured I should just go for it.”

After getting approval for the idea and getting it off the ground, Soucy left for an exchange, and Prichard took over. After taking over responsibility of the project, he said that he spent the summer working with Miel MTL directly and has learned a great deal about the world of bees and honey production as a result.

“You can just throw a hive down and the bees will do their own thing, what

bee keepers do is try to optimize the way that the hive works,” Prichard said, adding that he was surprised by how friendly the bees were. “I was bee keeping all summer and I would wear shorts. People think that they get stung by bees, but actually it’s wasps and other things.”

Given the fact that most of the school year takes place while honey bees are dormant, there is not a lot of work to be done on the project while class is in session, but Prichard explained that the Bishop’s Bees club was founded to actively support the project in the off season.

“The goal is to connect students, and anyone else who is interested, with the save the bees foundation,” he said. After the few weeks of overlap where the bees are still active at the start of the school

year, the club works on fundraising and awareness activities to get the student body and broader community engaged in thinking about the bees all year long. The fundraising also helps go into defraying the \$800 needed to maintain the hives, although Soucy said that their first year of sales raised close to \$1,200, taking some of the pressure off that issue and leaving room for the project to dream about future projects. As the initiative stabilizes, Prichard said that the hope is to invest any profit back into other clubs and projects at Bishop’s, particularly if they have an environmental focus.

“The goal of build a better purple is to reinvest in the community” Prichard said, with Soucy adding that “the Bishop’s community was really a funda-

mental factor in the creation of Bishop’s Bees, and the long-lasting effects will feed back into that community.”

The founder said that she was “blown away” by the support the project has been shown in its early days, noting that their honey sold out within two weeks of being put on the shelves in the campus store, Doolittle’s, despite having an \$18 price tag for a 320 g jar.

“It’s a huge collective effort,” Prichard said, likening the success of the project so far to the production of a bee hive, “A single bee will only produce a teaspoon of honey in its entire life, but a hive will produce 60 to 120 pounds of honey per season.”