Making the garden grow

Mansonville Elementary School (MES) has been reaching out to community volunteers for help with various projects and in fulfilling needs within the school. With the help of the volunteer coordination team at the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN), volunteers have been found to aid in tasks at the school library, reading with the students and with the children’s garden conveniently located adjacent to the school.

MES School teacher, Dan Aucoin approached the CABMN for help in finding volunteers and the results have been most encouraging. “A few Saturdays ago, our first work bee was a huge success,” shared Aucoin. “We were thirteen people in the rain at nine a.m. and by ten o’clock that morning we had our bearings and were full steam ahead. By one o’clock we had the garden area tilled and the garden beds built.”

The school sends out many thanks to the kind and knowledgeable volunteers who helped out that first day: Shawn and Amelya Jersey, Emmitt and Cian Henchey, BJ Harvey, Omark John, Tyler Thompson, Howard and Elaine Heitner, Tristan Anderson, and Emily Chouinere.

On Friday, the Nutri Sante (nutrition committee), another program of the CABMN joined Dan Aucoin to help with the garden as well. Long involved with efforts to teach students in both local elementary schools about growing food and taking the food from garden to plate, this committee has always been willing to roll up their sleeves and work hard for the benefit of the children. As the weather improves, students and volunteers will continue in the construction of the garden during recess time.

“The Nutri Sante committee is a real asset to our organization and are among the first volunteers to take part when a task presents itself,” said a member of the CABMN volunteer coordination team.

While these groups of volunteers with helpful hands are busy outside of the school, many volunteers are working hard inside. Whether tending to the library, helping the children to read or offering after school and special programs, the community is getting involved.

They say that it takes a community to raise a child. In Mansonville, those who are asked seem more than happy to lend a hand.

Music Fest 2017

The 23rd annual Music Fest hosted in Ayer’s Cliff was a great success this year, with people showing up from all over to camp, enjoy some great music and support a worthy cause. The Music Fest is run on a completely volunteer basis. The event is a fundraiser for the Children’s Wish Foundation of Canada. Every year, the proceeds grant one or more wishes to local children suffering from terminal illnesses. So far, they have managed to grant about 27 wishes in total.

17-year-old Eve’s wish is to visit Australia with her family. In order to get her accustomed to all the critters she will encounter on her trip, a petting zoo of animals native to Australia was at the event on Saturday. They brought numerous animals to share including, a tarantula, a scorpion, a cockatoo, a tortoise and a wallaby.

LUNCHTIME!

“I see here who places the highest priority on food”

WATCH OUT HERE THEY COME! KEEP OOF....