We are a busy weekend at the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Youth Department in Mansonnville this past weekend with a variety of Christmas celebrations for youth of all ages, volunteers and staff.

On Friday, December 14, the Boys and Girls Groups came together for their Annual Christmas Party with thirty children in attendance ranging in ages from 5-12. CABMN Youth Coordinator, Sarah Jersey and volunteers Deborah Dimitruk and Linda Jersey animated the event that included: games, gifts (and a visit from Santa), crafts and loads of fun! Retired Police Officer, Blair Anderson stepped in for Santa at a variety of parties this week and was a great animator in the role as he conversed with the children and presented gifts for all. The CABMN staff extends a big thank you to him and the volunteers who helped to make the party a special one for the youngsters.

On Saturday, December 15, the Youth Centre held its Annual Christmas Dinner for youth, special guests and youth centre volunteers. June Peacock, Judith Ball and Laurette Rouleau prepared a traditional Christmas dinner with all the fixings. The help of Pat McGovern from Knowlton was of immense appreciation as she prepared not only her traditional stuffing but also a most delicious turkey as well. The Centre is very lucky to have the involvement of these wonderful volunteers and all were in great appreciation for the delicious meal. Youth Centre staff, Ethan Ball and Sarah Jersey were very instrumental in setting up for the festivities, helping to animate and cleaning up after.

The evening guest list included the Former Youth Involvement (FYI) group and their children, the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) group, the older youth Drop-in participants, the Dance program youth leaders as well as special guest members from the CABMN Board of Directors and their spouses, volunteers and the Mayors of Bolton-Est, Joan Westland Eby and Potton Mayor Jacques Marcoux.

Presentations were made to a variety of recipients and were followed by the Annual. “Let’s Make a Deal” game with laughter and excitement for all. A quick clean up found guests mingling with the youth and playing pool, ping pong, air hockey and lots of visiting. This was the perfect blend of a holiday gathering with 65 people in attendance.

The Youth Centre programs will now take a break until the New Year when all groups will re-start and preparations will begin for the Annual Youth Talent Show that takes place in June. For more information about the CABMN Youth Programs, visit www.cabmn.org and be sure to sign up for their weekly newsletter.

The Youth Centre staff wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and the best of the New Year.

Ben by Daniel Shelton