

Potton's Winterfest family fun day attracts record numbers



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

Even though a chilly wind was blowing, the Winterfest outdoor family fun day held on Saturday, Feb. 16 in Potton, found some 250 attendees young, old and in between out enjoying the sunshine and activities. Organized by the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CAB) Former Youth Involvement (FYI) and Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) youth, supported and funded by the Municipality of Potton, the event was considered a huge success with this year's attendance topping all prior years. The event ran from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mansonville Elementary School.

"My grandson is old enough this year to really enjoy the activities," said one grandmother in attendance. "This is just a wonderful way for families to get outside and be together on a sunny February day," she added with a smile.

Another couple had come to the Winterfest for the first time. As her husband grabbed a sliding tube to ride down the tubing slide created by Excavation Steve Johnson, his wife grabbed her camera to get a photo. "He's seventy-six years old," she exclaimed. "He's having the time of his life!"

Members of the FYI and SADD youth groups in Mansonville had organized a variety of activities for the day which in-



Roger Cote of Cote Meadows did many tours of the town with his horses and wagon.

cluded: Roger Cote of Cote Meadows with his horse drawn wagon rides, the Potton First Responders giving First Responder truck rides, a visit from Polixe the Quebec Provincial Police mascot, a visit from the Optimist Club's Bonhomme Carnivale who handed out hot popcorn, Ski Doo rides provided by: Justin Whitehead, Tina Johnson, Kendall Tracy, Alex Hebert and Jessie Johnson, two inflatable game centres, a tubing slide, snow sculpting, ice sculptures, sugar on snow with syrup from the Hebert and Boivin families boiled by Linda Jersey and served up on Ken Jersey's sugaring equipment, and a marshmallow pit manned by Shawn Pouliot.

Indoor activities included: Bingo, face painting, hair wrapping, story telling, and refreshments. At the end of the day, over thirty door prizes donated by businesses and individuals including: Epicerie Richelieu, Shell garage, Rona hardware, Jewett's store, Brome Lake Books, Salon Boucle D'Or, Salon Uni-

sexe, Hatley Clothing Store, Owl's Head Ski, Resto 243 and the Reilly House were drawn.

By the end of the day, following the clean up and moving everything back to the youth centre, a group of 20+ youth and volunteers were exhausted but happy. Each year in recognition of the efforts of the kids, Jacques Hebert, a member of the Potton Municipal council, assisted by volunteer Norma Clifford treats the kids to a Pizza Party. A variety of pizzas are served and throughout the party, drawings are held for prizes (cd's, t-shirts, music related items (some donated by Jay Peak...) for the youth to win. This pizza party is always the perfect finish to an awesome event for the youth who worked all day to make it happen.

This coming week, two other events will be held; the Coffee House Open Mic Musical evening on Friday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Mansonville Catholic Church. Entrance is \$5 and the event will be hosted by Ralph Steiner



PHOTOS BY MABLE HASTINGS

Polixe the QPP Mascot was greeted with enthusiasm by the children.

featuring the talents of local musicians and volunteers who wish to perform. This is an event organized by the Youth Centre's SADD chapter.

The following evening, the Volunteer Centre (CAB) will hold its Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser and Chili Supper provided by the Ken Jones Committee. Tickets are on sale now at \$15 per person. The supper starts at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by the auction. This year's auction will feature a few "live" auction items as well in hopes of increasing the fun!

This event will also be held at the Catholic Church basement in Mansonville. For more information, contact 450-292-3114.

These are just two events happening in Potton as part of the Festive Hearts February celebrations. For more events visit: www.potton.ca