

# Junior SADD group starts in Potton



## THE SCOOP

### MABLE HASTINGS

For more than 25 years now, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre youth program has offered a Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) group in Potton. It began in 1987, just six years after the very first SADD chapter debuted in Wayland, Massachusetts in 1981. Membership on the board of directors of SADD varies each year. To date, more than 100 youth have been on the board throughout the years. This year's SADD board consists of ten young people: Ethan Ball, Natasha Charby, Alexandra Dalglish, Ryan Hamilton, Zae Jacob Hoyt, Joshua Jersey, Emma Leblanc, Kayla Leblanc, Jordan Nichols, and Kira Nichols.

The Mansonville SADD chapter gives youth ages 12 and up the opportunity to be involved in taking initiatives to stop destructive decisions and support positive decision-making, not only with their peers but in schools and communities as well. Working closely with the Quebec Provincial Police and other community leaders, SADD offers information sessions, events and activities that promote



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*Left to right: Yanni Barnett, Alexandria Charby, Violetta Fontana, and Jacob Woodard, members of the 2013 Junior SADD group in Mansonville.*

positive choices, self esteem and leadership in youth.

This year, the SADD chapter, in an attempt to involve youth in a younger age bracket, is running a pilot project called Junior SADD.

The Junior SADD program will run from February through to June at which time, SADD will evaluate its success and determine if the program will re-start in the fall. The Junior SADD is made up of four motivated and dynamic elementary

school-aged youth who will work to develop leadership skills, encourage the prevention of bullying in the elementary schools; they will help to inform parents and youth on a smaller scale about destructive behaviors while encouraging friends to make positive choices in their lives.

Junior SADD members for this pilot project are Yanni Barnett, Alexandria Charby, Violetta Fontana and Jacob Woodard. This group of four has been

meeting now for two consecutive weeks at the Youth Centre on Fridays from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Each member has assumed his or her own role on the Junior SADD board.

"As President of Junior SADD, I will discourage students from making destructive decisions to the best of my ability," said Fontana, who has taken on the role of president.

Junior SADD member Barnett had this to say: "Being the secretary for Junior SADD is a lot of hard work but I think I'm up for the challenge!"

Charby has taken the role of vice-president.

"As vice-president," said Charby, "I will keep the work in order and get the job done."

"As the treasurer for Junior SADD, I will take good care of the money and spend it wisely," said Woodard. "All spending decisions will be made as a team," he added.

As a first task, the Junior SADD is working in support of the boys and girls groups at the youth centre on projects to promote peace and prevent kids from bullying others. The group's first spending will be to purchase a small reward for each member of boys and girls groups who participated in the program to prevent bullying, offered at the centre. The theme of the reward will be, "promote peace."

For more information about this or any of the other Missisquoi North Youth Centre programs, visit the website at: [www.cabmn.org](http://www.cabmn.org) or call the youth centre at 450-292-4886.