

Songs from the heart at SADD coffee house open mic night



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

The Mansonville chapter of Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) youth, a program sponsored by the Volunteer Centre, held a coffee house open mic musical evening on Friday, Feb. 22 in the basement of the Mansonville Catholic Church. Hosted by Ralph Steiner and featuring volunteer performers, the event was attended by over 80 people.

Steiner opened the show with three numbers including an Eagles ballad, "Desperado" that had been requested in memory of long time Potton volunteer and friend, Denis Heath who lost his battle to ALS last year.

The evening progressed with fun upbeat tunes and special original numbers by some of the musicians who attended. Many youth performers soon made it clear that Potton and surrounding areas are fortunate to have a variety of talented young people in their midst.

Some of the youth had, since the last coffee house, taken up playing an in-



Ethan Ball and Julia Eldridge receive "SADD and FYI outstanding member award."

strument and they performed for the first time with both instrument and singing...for those who are musical, you know that this is no small feat!

Watching as young people like Kira Nichols, now 13, evolve from the little girl who first performed at a Coffee house when she was five years old to a young woman at the piano, has been joyous.

The Missisquoi North youth centre

took the opportunity to give out two awards during the evening: Outstanding SADD and Outstanding FYI member of the year. Results were determined by secret ballot voting by members of the SADD and FYI who were asked to give the name of a member of each committee who they felt had shown outstanding leadership and contribution to the group.

Outstanding FYI member of the year



Mandy Lynn Vachon performs "Thank You," a Led Zeppelin favourite.

was Julia Eldridge and Outstanding SADD member of the year was Ethan Ball. The awards were especially appreciated by the recipients because they come as recognition from their peers. The two awards are proudly hung on the wall at the youth centre for all to see.

The coffee house was another event held as part of the Municipality's Festive Hearts initiative. The next event is tentatively scheduled for Friday, Apr. 26.