

All in a days work...

# Potton youth take part in Career Day



## THE SCOOP

### MABLE HASTINGS

**O**n Saturday, Apr. 6, for a third year, the Missisquoi North Youth Centre partnered with the Municipality of Potton to offer its youth the opportunity to participate in Career Day. An MRC Memphremagog wide initiative held in the month of April, this event gives youth the opportunity to focus on employment training and provides youth with a way to acquire more knowledge about businesses in various participating municipalities.

This year in Potton youth made on-site visits to Owl's Head Ski Development Inc. and NexKemia Petrochemicals Inc. The on-site tours were followed by a workshop on "Turning your hobby into a Business" animated by Joan Westland-Eby.

A group of six youth and young adults visited the Nexkemia Petrochemical plant located in Mansonville. Their host was Albert Mailloux-Lab Technician and Brenda Clark-Purchasing Manager. Established in 2008, NexKemia Petrochemicals Inc. manufactures custom expandable polystyrene resins (EPS). NexKemia Petrochemicals Inc. hosted a tour of its in-house laboratory for the visit.

Ideally located only minutes from the US border, the manufacturing site is equipped with state-of-the-art technologies, and has a highly experienced production and technical and customer services team. Brenda and Albert informed the youth about the education requirements to work at NexKemia and about the training opportunities that are made available to its employees. Although the youth had visited the production branch of the company, this

year's lab tour was a first. The youth returned with a lot of information to share.

Starr Dostie, a member of the Former Youth Involvement (FYI) committee who will soon have her doctorate in Chemistry from McGill University, attended the NexKemia lab tour.

"I've lived in Potton for most of my life," said Starr. "I had no idea how extensive a lab NexKemia has. I am really impressed."

A second group of seven youth accompanied Potton Community Organizer, Trish Wood on a tour at Owl's Head Ski which was hosted by Denis "TheGlades" Delbois, who is in charge of Sales and Marketing at the mountain. Owl's Head employs between 70 and 100+ employees at any given time of the year.

As an employer, Owl's Head recognizes the importance of the community as jobs are made available to people of all skill and education levels: construction, machinery, office, retail, garage and mechanics, food services...

On December 18, 1965 Fred Korman and his wife Lillian opened the Owl's Head Ski Area for the very first time. It is now a four season resort that provides some of the best skiing and top rated golf in the province.

Ever growing, ever changing and striving to expand to meet the needs and interests of the people; Fred, Lillian and their daughter Carol have made the Mountain an example of a successful family business. Many of the youth who have lived in Potton their entire life and skied at Owl's Head were quick to comment on the abundance of things that they learned through Denis's tour.

Following the on-site visits at Owl's Head and NexKemia, the youth returned to the youth centre for a workshop with Joan Westland-Eby and then the group had lunch together where they exchanged information on all that each group had learned and seen.

With record numbers attending, the 2013 Career Day in Potton was a real success and the youth who took part were quick to acknowledge the time taken by the employees at NexKemia and Owl's Head for their informative, insightful and interesting tours.





COURTESY PHOTO

The group who took part in the NexKemia lab tour pose with NexKemia employees Albert Mailloux and Brenda Clark.

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## Welcome to career and calling



COURTESY PHOTO

On Saturday, the Missisquoi North Youth Centre partnered with the Municipality of Potton to offer youth the opportunity to participate in Career Day. The group of youth who attended the Owl's Head tour pose here with Fred Korman and Denis Delbois. Turn to page 5 for The Scoop with Mable Hastings to read the story in today's Record.