

The keys to success are 'kids and community'



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

The Missisquoi North Youth Centre located at 282 Main Street in Mansonville is a program of the local Volunteer Centre (CAB). For close to twenty eight years now, weekly programs for youth ages 5 to 20+ have kept the youth active and implicated in the community from September to June each year. The youth recognize their devotion and continued involvement as a vital part in the continuity in keeping the centre going. They also credit the community for the longevity of the centre due to the support, kindness and encouragement shown during fundraising events, when volunteers are needed and in the giving of time when a particular skill is needed for any given activity throughout the year.

Unlike many youth programs, the Missisquoi North youth centre offers weekly programs for the younger elementary school aged children (ages 5 to 12) in their after school boys (Thursdays 2 to 4:30 p.m.) and girls (Fridays 2 to 4:30 p.m.) groups.

There is a Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapter for youth ages 12 to 18 (high school age) Fridays 6 to 7 p.m., Drop-in (Fridays 7 to 10) and Saturdays 4 to 10 p.m. for youth ages 12 and up where youth can enjoy: ping pong, basketball, outdoor sports, Nintendo, computer access, pool, darts.



Ethan Ball and Jordan Nichols, members of the SADD Mansonville chapter carrying the flag in the Multicultural Festival parade.

COURTESY



Kira Nichols, Natasha Charby and Kayla Leblanc. Some of the girls from SADD who joined...

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The Former Youth Involvement (FYI) committee is made up of youth who have long been involved in the youth programs and who want to continue to volunteer, fundraise, organize and provide leadership at the youth centre. Other programs are offered as interest is shown: Junior SADD, Dance/Theatre group, You Go Girl program...

Through the SADD and FYI programs, many activities are organized and offered throughout the year, above and beyond the regular weekly programs: Haunted Halloween, Christmas dinner, Winterfest Family Fun Day, Coffee House Open Mic Musical Evenings, QPP Information sessions for parents and youth, awareness days, employment/career sessions and many fundraising events such as: the annual Rock-a-thon, jewellery and second hand sales, walk/bike-a-thon.

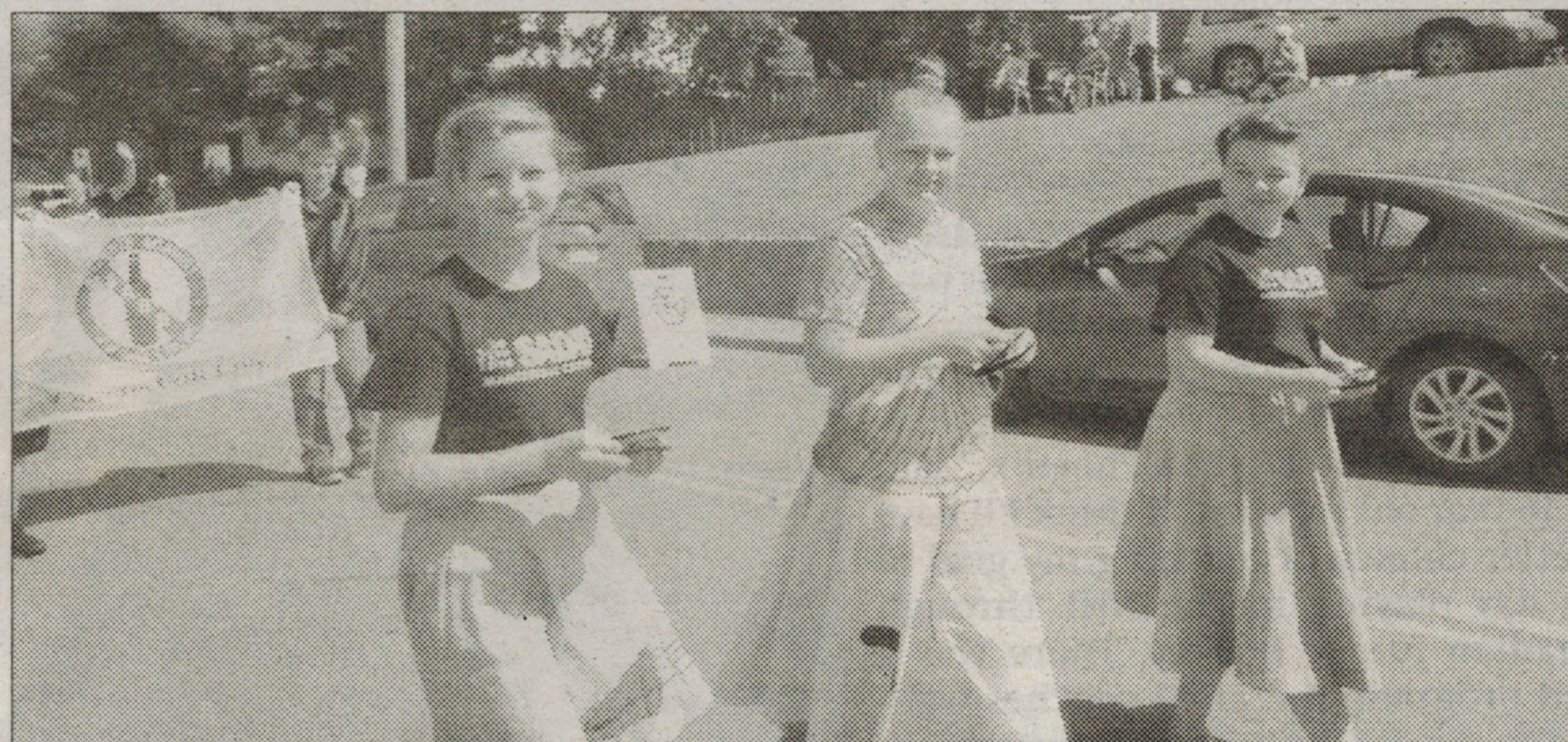
On Saturday, Aug. 10 as part of the Potton Multicultural Festival activities, the youth centre held a fundraiser that included: a 50's Malt Shop where ice cream sundaes, floats, milkshakes, banana splits...were on sale in a 50's ambience. Inside the youth centre adjacent to the Malt Shop was a Second Hand Jewellery Sale made possible through the jewellery donated by people from the community. To date, the jewellery sale is one of the centre's

most popular fundraising events. Outside in the backyard was a Tent Sale which offered a bit of everything. Total profit for the day between the three events was over \$900.

The youth from the SADD and FYI group also walked in the Annual Parade held as part of the Festival. Sporting 50's poodle skirts and leather jackets, the youth happily joined the many floats, horses, trucks and costumed crowd as another parade made its way through the centre of Mansonville. FYI member, Starr Dostie takes on the task annually of organizing the youth centre participation in the parade.

"It is always so nice when the crowd cheers us on," said Starr. "We really felt the support and enthusiasm of those present and that made it even more fun for the youth to take part."

The youth centre is located at 282



Kira Nichols, Natasha Charby and Kayla Leblanc, Some of the girls from SADD who were joined by members of the FYI group sporting their 50's look for the Parade last Saturday.

Main Street, Mansonville. For more information about the Missisquoi North Youth programs, contact Mable Hastings

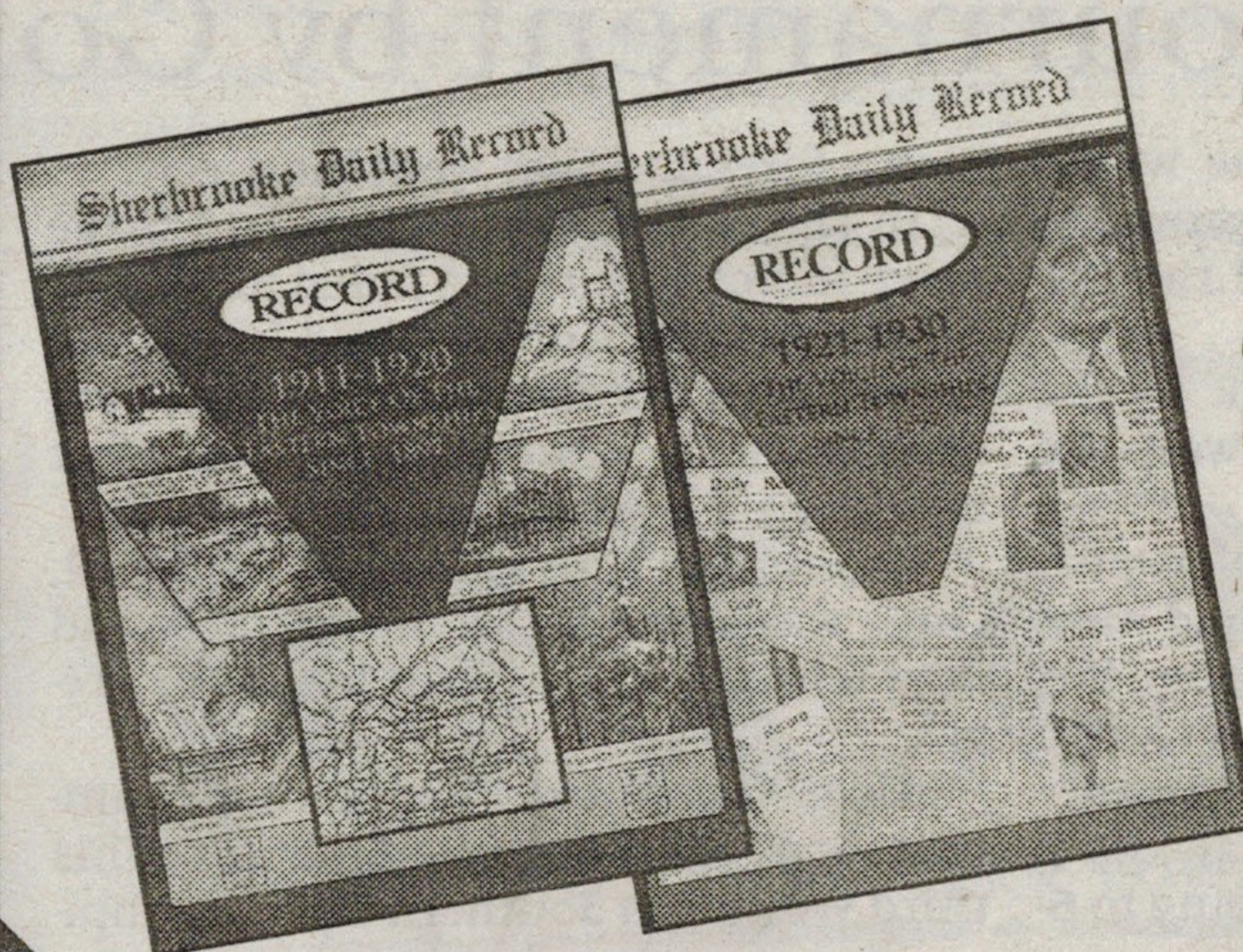
- Youth Director at 450-292-4886, m.hastings@cabmn.org or by visiting the CAB website at: www.cabmn.org

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