

# Boys and girls having fun is what it's all about



THE SCOOP  
MABLE HASTINGS

Numbers have been increasing at the Misisquoi North Youth Centre in Potton. The programs for younger youth who are elementary school aged 5-12 years are the focus of this article. Thursdays, after school till

4:30 p.m. is the Boys group and Fridays after school till 4:30 p.m. is the Girls group. In recent weeks, the numbers in both groups have grown with 24 girls registered this year and 11 boys! This represents youth from both the French and English elementary schools. The program is a rotational one and offers a little something for everyone: crafts, sports, board games and group building activities. The girls group has had the opportunity of working with Karen Tinker who coordinates, animates and cultivates the Children's Garden in Potton. The girls group helped with fall maintenance of the garden itself as well as the planting of bulbs that are sure to flower in spring!



Eleanor Cote Paige (left), Sarah Jersey (right) with the girls group who meets every Friday after school.

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Thursdays after school is the Boys group.



Both the boys and girls enjoy sports days held at the Mansonville Elementary School where "capture the flag" and "memory ball" are two favourites! The craft portion of the group has included Halloween and Christmas decorations thus far this year. The kids also help to prepare healthy snacks such as fruit wraps and "healthy" rice krispy squares!

Planning is now in full swing for the upcoming Christmas Party for the two groups! This year the theme is: Christmas Crafts, Games and Prizes! The Salle de Quilles in Cowansville has given generous prizes to make the party even more exciting.

"I look forward to the Christmas Party every year," says Sarah Jersey, Assistant to the Youth Director, who animates the groups along with Eleanor Cote-Paige and Sheila Samborsky. "I have a very talented Mom and I get her to volunteer in sharing her creativity with the kids each year and crafting with

her reminds me of being a kid myself."

An exceptional year for Sarah, this event will mark her last one for a year as she is now seven months pregnant with her first child; a little girl. Sarah will be off work for a year enjoying motherhood with her partner, Chris Lacroix-Fortin.

Eleanor Cote-Paige who has had experience with youth in running her own summer camp as well as coordinating the Potton Day Camp for a year, will assume Sarah's role as the Assistant to the Youth Director and Animator of the Boys and Girls groups.

Sheila Samborsky will continue as a monitor and the Youth Centre will find a Thursday helper for the Boys group in the New Year.

"I am looking forward to the experience," said Eleanor. "I know most of the kids and since I have lived in Potton all my life, I am familiar with the parents and the youth centre and it's programs."

If you would like more information about the Missisquoi North Youth programs, visit the website at: [www.cabmn.org](http://www.cabmn.org) or call the Centre at 450-292-4886.