

Let's dance! Ecole du Baluchon Elementary in Mansonville holds 'fun-draiser'



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

Elementary aged school children who attend both the French and English elementary schools in Mansonville had a rockin' good time this past Friday night, Nov. 29, at a fundraiser dance organized by parents and members of the parent participation committee at the "Ecole du Baluchon" school. With 117 attendees, this event was considered a big success by the organizers and volunteers.

"This was a wonderful mix of students from both local elementary schools," said Nathalie Marcoux who initiated the event. "I remember attending dances as a kid and they were always a highlight to many of us who are now parents ourselves with kids who are here tonight."

Volunteer deejay, Jeremy Eldridge had the children up and dancing all night at the event which ran from 6-9 p.m. Many parents accompanied their children and a large portion joined in the fun dancing with the kids.

Youth from the Mansonville Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapter; a program of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre were on hand to help with the theme dances, games and fun. Each child was given a glow stick necklace to wear and as the numbers grew, the dance floor was a barrage of fluorescent colours.

The children enjoyed a limbo dance and a light dance where packets of fruit snacks

were tossed into the enthusiastic crowd of boogying enthusiasts.

The Mansonville Optimist Club furnished the juice for each child as well as lending their sound system for deejay Jeremy to use. Parent volunteers were on hand in great numbers to register children as they attended and each child signed beautiful thank you cards designed and created by Martha Barnes. These were given in appreciation to the SADD and Optimist groups in recognition of their contribution to the evening's success. Other groups and businesses also contributed including: Restaurant Misquisquo.

"This event was a real collaborative effort," explained Patricia Lachance another parent volunteer who was very active in the organizing of the dance. "When everyone comes together like this it really generates the feeling of community and the fact that it is something for the kids just adds to that positive feeling."

Mansonville Elementary school secretary, Tara Wighton was proud to see so many of their students from the English school in attendance supporting and enjoying the event organized at their sister school. The smiling faces of the youth from both schools who mingled and danced up a storm was refreshing and joyous to see.

Prizes were drawn with winners from both schools and by evening's end, over 100 kids and parents surely went home exhausted and ready for bed. The organizers were energized by the positive turn out and seemed to be looking forward to a future dance that potentially could be held at either school.

The rosy cheeks of the kids who danced non-stop were the best indication that this had been a wonderful and memorable evening.

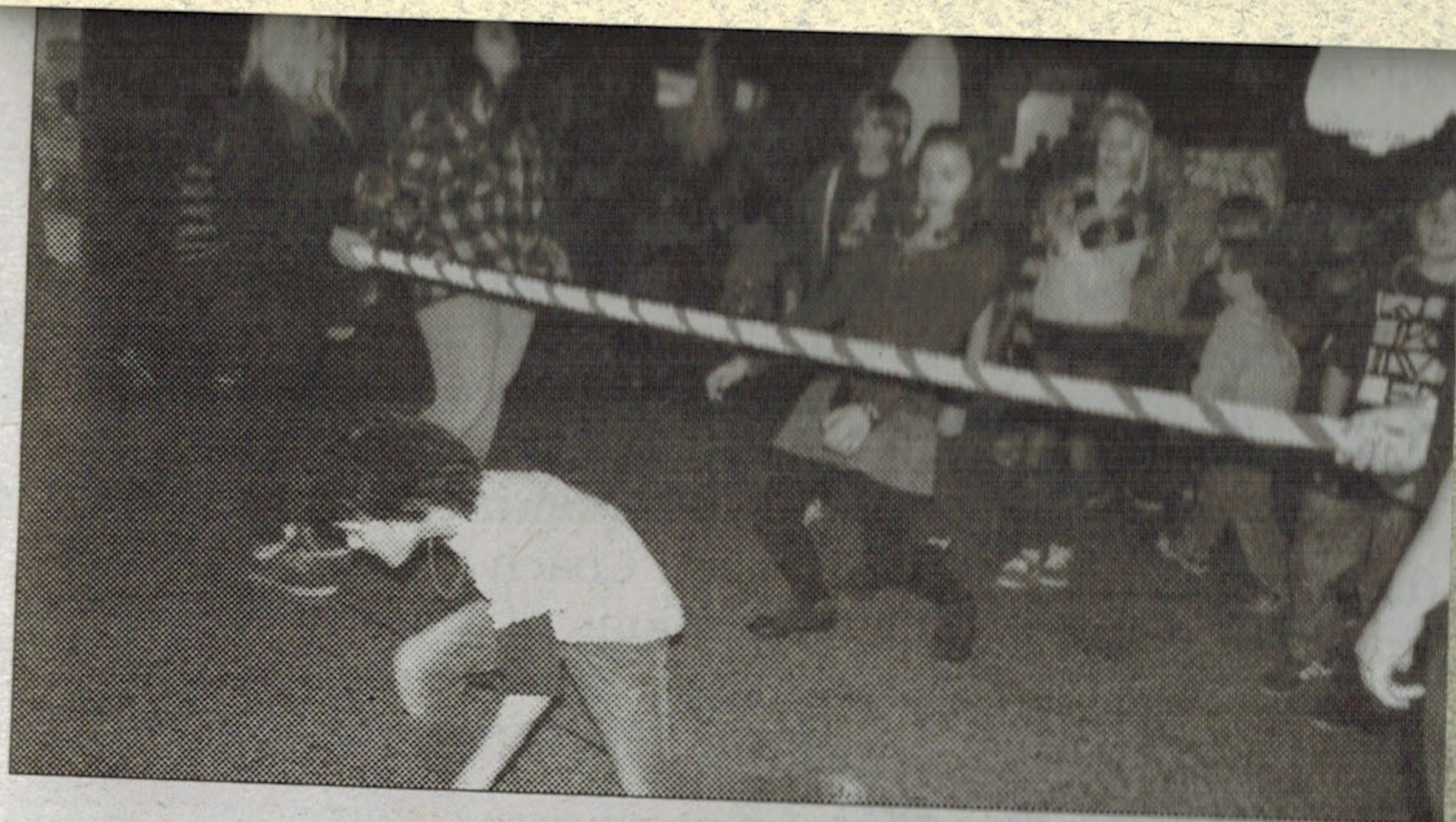


Parents and volunteers who organized the "Ecole du Baluchon fundraiser" event at Mansonville chapter who helped out during the dance.

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Parents and volunteers who organized the "Ecole du Baluchon fundraiser" event along with members of the SADD Mansonville chapter who helped out during the dance.



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Some 117 attendees, smiling faces and fun made this fundraiser a "rockin'" success!