

A picture paints a thousand words



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

Marie-Andrée Leblond, a talented artist, stopped by the Missisquoi North Youth Centre in Mansonville last Saturday with something special to share with the youth: a painting entitled, "Duality," which she donated to the centre.

Born in 1978 in St. Jean-sur-Richelieu, Marie-Andrée became interested in drawing at the young age of twelve and learned oil painting on her own at fourteen.

Much like the youth who attend the Missisquoi North Youth Centre, her interest in art and drawing began at a very young age. Her immense talent has made it possible for her to keep her creativity flowing.

"I did this painting while reflecting upon some of the difficulties I faced as a young girl," explained Leblond.

"I had to work through some things that haunted me and I hope that the painting serves as a reminder to the youth that



Marie-Andrée Leblond (second from left) poses with local youth at the Missisquoi North Youth Centre as her new painting, "Duality", was delivered. MABEL HASTINGS

they too can find the inner strength to overcome when life gets tough."

Marie's work can be seen at the Knowlton Gallery, located at 49 Victoria Street. She works mainly with acrylics accentuated with watercolor inks, a technique which she has

adopted for the richness of colors.

Many will recognize her work as one of the artists to create scenes for both the Brome Fair and the Brome Lake Duck Festival.

For more information about Marie or to see her work, visit

the Knowlton Gallery or call 450-242-1666.

"I love the new painting," said fifteen year old Nikki Badger, who attends the Drop-in youth group.

"I love horses and Marie-Andrée's work is amazing!"

This is the second painting

that Leblond has made and donated to the Centre. All those who enter are immediately drawn to her work.

For Marie-Andrée, she is happy that the painting has found a home where it is appreciated and will hang on the wall for many years to come.