

Celebrating volunteering in Potton



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

POTTON

As part of National Volunteer Week, which ran from April 12-18, the Municipality of Potton, in collaboration with the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre celebrated volunteers at the sixth edition of the "Potton Volunteer Party," held at Mansonville Elementary School last Friday night.

National Volunteer Week is a time to recognize, celebrate and thank Canada's volunteers and Potton is no exception when it comes to outstanding "people power."

Bagpiper Michael Darney welcomed guests with music as he entered the room playing

the bagpipes followed by Potton Mayor Louis Veillon, municipal councillor and host Edith Smeesters, and Jacques Marcoux, Vice President of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre.

Smeesters welcomed the more than 80 people attending the event and she then introduced Mayor Veillon. Veillon spoke about the valuable contributions made by Potton volunteers and stressed that Potton, with its abundance of involved people of all ages, is the envy of many communities. He thanked those gathered for all that they do to make the community a better place.

Refreshments were then served and entertainment was provided by musical guests Karen Muzerall, Jean Marc Bourgeois and Rachelle Begin that included a moving rendition of "We Are the World," with all in attendance joining in.

Marcoux read a speech written by volunteer centre president Fiona Campbell, who was unable to attend the event.

"Thank you all for making our community a better place through your varied and generous acts of volunteerism," wrote Campbell. "Within our com-

munity of 1,842 full time residents and 2,300 part time residents, we have about 35 volunteer groups. A volunteer act is like a stone thrown into a lake. It has a direct impact but it also creates a ripple effect," she said.

On behalf of Campbell, Marcoux noted that Potton celebrates volunteerism through the ages with the age span of its youngest volunteers and oldest volunteer being some 80 years.

In light of this fact, members of the local Students Against Destructive Decisions youth group, who are among some of Potton's youngest volunteers presented flowers to Rita Marcoux who, in her early 90s, was proud to represent the senior volunteering population.

The event was organized by Trish Wood, municipal community organizer and Alison Hannan, executive director of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre. With various volunteers and staff from the volunteer centre working hard to make the event a memorable one, the celebration will not soon be forgotten.

As every community should be, Potton too is proud. Proud of the efforts, involvement and



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Michael Darney welcomes the crowd through the magic of bagpipes.

contribution of those who give so much to make Potton the vibrant and evolving community

that it is. To volunteers near and far, thank you for all that you do!



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Karen Muzerall, Rachelle Begin and Jean Marc Bourgeois share their talents to thank Potton volunteers



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A group of SADD students presents flowers to Rita Marcoux in celebration of Potton's senior volunteer population

Saturday is Lennoxville community cleanup day

By Kathleen Weary
Special to The Record
LENNOXVILLE

It has become a sure sign of spring when the Borough of Lennoxville hosts the annual communal clean-up, an opportunity for young and old to come together to help make our downtown area and parks cleaner. A special service offered is a free, secure disposal of confidential documents on site.

Everyone is invited to be a part of the Lennoxville Cleanup

on Saturday, April 25. The day starts at 10 a.m. with a short skit by a group of local special guests: "weather lady" Alana Ospina, "news anchor" Robert Weary and "climate scientist" Kathleen Weary, followed by a brief interactive workshop on how to sort waste materials by Marie-Christine Alarie, an environmental project officer at the City of Sherbrooke and then the usual group cleanup. After the activity, all are invited to take a break and enjoy the coffee, juice and pastries.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Earth Day Canada, whose mission is "to foster and celebrate environmental respect, action and behaviour change that lessens our impact on the earth". To support the efforts of Canadians and to move beyond a one day event, EDC is launching its Earth Day Every Day campaign which is an online, mobile-friendly platform for people to share their acts and green achievements, and to provide a national framework to help Canadians

reduce their carbon footprint 20 per cent by 2020.

2015 is shaping up to be a monumental year for the international climate movement with the Climate Summit of the Americas in Toronto in July and the COP21 International Climate Conference in Paris in December.

How can Lennoxville have a bigger impact on the world climate movement? We are invited to be part of the 2015 Earth Flag and to add our signatures to those from people

across the country who are committed to making Earth Day every day. The 2015 Earth Flag will be taken to the Climate Conference in Paris where a new international agreement on carbon emissions will be signed.

Come out to the Community Clean-up day and sign the flag to add your support to the leaders who will be representing Canada at this pivotal time in history.

Kathleen Weary, 16, is a volunteer with the Lennoxville Cleanup.