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Tuesday, June 7, 2016

Quebec's small town libraries are bigger than it seems

By Gordon Lambie

Toelle Thivierge, the Executive Director of the Biblio Network in the Eastern Townships says that her organization one of the province's best guarded secrets, even though it works with thousands of people across Quebec every day. Mandated by the Provincial Ministry of Culture and communications to act as a support to libraries in communities of 5,000 people or less, the Biblio Network provides a digital and resource backbone to small town libraries that helps open them up to the world and offer services to their communities that would never otherwise be possible.

"As soon as a municipality becomes a member of our network, the members of that library have free access to our services," Thivierge explained. "We try to offer our services key-in-hand so that they're easy to use."

According to the Executive Director, the Biblio Network often flies under peoples' radar because they tend to provide support to the libraries themselves. People don't need to know about the network to benefit from it, however, as Biblio is the system behind options like inter-library loans, digital resource lending, and Library volunteer training.

Carole Chassé is the head librarian at the Waterville Library, which serves just over 2,000 people, and also the President of the Eastern Townships Biblio network.

"Being a part of the network means that we have a great variety of good books available that a small town library wouldn't otherwise be able to afford," the Librarian said. "That's the strength of the network at play."

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Missisquoi North Youth Centre Talent Show another big success



MABLE HASTING

The Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre held a youth talent show at the Mansonville Elementary school on June 4 with youth ages 5 to 16 participating.

By Mable Hastings

n Saturday evening, June 4, youth from the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CAB) youth programs held a youth talent show at the Mansonville Elementary School. Youth ages 5-16 took part in the show as well as musical performances by volunteer and friend, Christian Rodrigue. 240 enthusiastic parents, grandparents, siblings and neighbours gathered to cheer for the kids as they danced to a variety of numbers. The school was at maximum capacity with standing room only.

The gymnasium where the show was

held was decorated with a photo display of enlargements of photos taken of the youth throughout the year. The vernissage of photos was made possible through funding from Desourdy Funeral Homes in support of youth, families and the arts. Also contributing to the photo display was Pharmacie Rene Claude Gagnon located in Lac Brome.

This type of show would not be possible without the volunteer work of a multitude of people. The sound, lighting, refreshments, set-up, take down and a hundred things in between were all thanks to some pretty terrific people. The Youth Centre staff sends out a big

held was decorated with a photo display of enlargements of photos taken of the youth throughout the year. The vernissage of photos was made possible thank you to all who contributed to making the show happen. An especially big round of applause goes out to the youth who took part.

Many commented, at show's end in regards to how talented, proud and joyful the youth were. The purpose of the evening was not perfection but rather, to have a great time. That being said, the youth really enjoyed being onstage and performing for their family and friends.

For more information about the Missisquoi North Youth programs visit www.cabmn.org or call the Youth Centre at 450-292-4886.



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