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Weather



TODAY:
FLURRIES OR
RAIN SHOWERS

HIGH OF 0 LOW
OF -8



TUESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 14
LOW OF 4



WEDNESDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF 16
LOW OF 6



THURSDAY:
RAIN OR
SNOW

HIGH OF 6
LOW OF -12



FRIDAY:
60 PER CENT
CHANCE OF
FLURRIES
HIGH OF 0
LOW OF -10

Bringing spa day and other fun to Potton’s youth throughout the pandemic



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

Throughout the pandemic the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Youth Program has had to find ways to stay connected to the youth as well as using their creative magic to implicate, inspire and keep the morale positive during what can best be described as an unusual time. The addition this year of the MAYO (Mansonville Agricultural Youth Organization) as well as the combining of the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and Leadership group in the fall of 2020 found a consistent 30+ youth participating in these two initiatives alone. Despite the efforts of Youth Centre Coordinator, Ethan Ball and Animator, Eleanor Cote,

Covid seemed determined to kibosh the operation and planning. The two found themselves having to invent new ways of doing things to reach the youth in their own homes rather than in groups at the Centre.

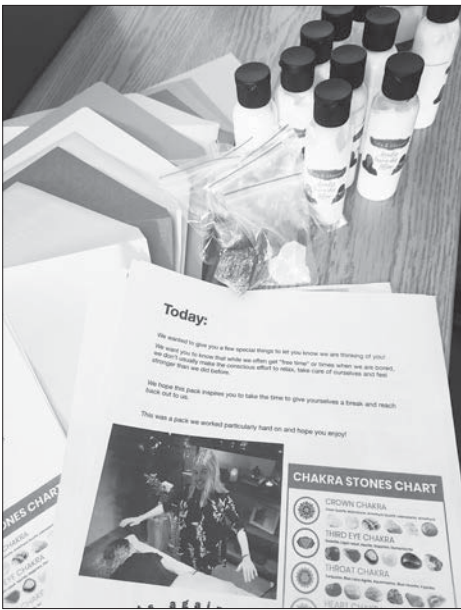
In an effort to see the youth and check in on them, the two began weekly drop-offs to each home of the MAYO/JAM youth and the members of SADD/Leadership. Living in a rural area the back roads can be a challenge, but the duo was determined to give the plan a try. For the past six months drop-offs to the homes of the youth have been a consistent thing. Initially deliveries consisted of pizza lunches, plates of homemade desserts and now over the past few months a plethora of surprises have found their way to the doors of kids. Each week the kit is accompanied by a photo of Ethan and Eleanor themed to the kits’ contents.

Recently members of both programs received a spa day kit prepared by the CABMN Youth Centre consisting of face masks (made with materials sensitive to young skin) made with charcoal, cucumber and a variety of sweet smelling natural ingredients. The kits also included meditation instructions with an ethically sourced gemstone purchased for each youth. Hand creams made with essential oils like lavender were also included.

“We had some great feedback from the parents,” shared Eleanor Cote who animates at the Centre. “One parent contacted us to say that the kid’s grandmother was visiting and could not believe how excited her grandchildren were when the youth centre package arrived at their door.”

Parent of four with two children in the program, Krysten Vanier shared the following comment. “My kids and the neighbours’ children wait by the door on Saturday mornings for Ethan and Eleanor to arrive anticipating what will be in their package each week. It is awesome to see them looking forward to something so much,” she added.

The youth in the MAYO/JAM farm program have received key chains with photos of the animals they help take care of on the hobby farms of Eleanor and Ethan. For Christmas they received mugs with photos from the farms and



PHOTOS COURTESY

each week’s packages contain contests, games, colouring pages and the occasional treat.

“I post many of our initiatives on the Mansonville Youth Centre Facebook page,” said Ethan Ball (Coordinator). “This week we are presenting our “tower of dreamers,” where the youth’s faces appear on some pretty special dreamers faces. I want the youth to be reminded that all of the people I am posting them as were once dreamers and no matter how big or small, dreams DO come true if you apply yourself.”

On the Facebook page the youth have celebrated local businesses, restaurants, heritage sites, animals on local farms and much more. The number of people checking out the site and leaving comments is interesting and inspiring. Some postings are receiving thousands of hits.

In this article I am sharing photos of the “spa day” using pictures sent in by some of the parents. From charcoal to cucumber I can well imagine the fun that the parents also had in watching their kids as they spent a Saturday afternoon relaxing all their Covid stresses away. For more information about the Youth Centre visit the Facebook page (Mansonville Youth Centre) or the CABMN website at www.cabmn.org



Ally enjoys her facial mask as part of spa day fun!

Ben by Daniel Shelton

