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## Weather



TODAY:  
30 PER CENT  
CHANCE OF  
SHOWERS

HIGH OF 23  
LOW OF 10



TUESDAY:  
SUNNY

HIGH OF 23  
LOW OF 11



WEDNESDAY:  
SUNNY

HIGH OF 28  
LOW OF 12



THURSDAY:  
MIX OF SUN  
AND CLOUD  
HIGH OF 26  
LOW OF 12



FRIDAY:  
CLOUDY  
PERIODS  
HIGH OF 28  
LOW OF 10

# Annual youth centre outdoor clean-up day



## THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

The Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) Youth Centre held its annual outdoor clean-up on Saturday, May 15. The Youth Centre is located at 282 Principale in Mansonville and each year the staff, property committee, youth and parent volunteers come together to partake in a spring clean up to prepare the ground and building for summer. This year due to Covid restrictions, a much smaller group formed and split into duos and trios to perform a variety of tasks.

Youth Coordinator Ethan Ball and Animator Eleanor Cote greeted the group and presented the morning's plan. Youth attending included: Hunter and Payton Bouchard, Kate Eldridge, Amelya Jersey, and Danika Robinson (all members of the SADD group) as well as parent volunteer, Heather McPhee and fireman/youth centre volunteer, Shannon Derby. This was a dream team according to Ball and Cote, who were extremely impressed at how the youth kept their masks on, hands washed, indoor needs at a minimum and had the desire to get their hands dirty and improve the space and grounds.

Tasks accomplished included: washing the ramp railings, pressure washing the building, gutters and concrete slabs (front and back), raking of leaves, picking up garbage, cleaning basketball court and setting up the swings, weed, grass, stick and debris removal, small repairs to cutters...

"We stopped midway for a slush puppy break," shared Ball. "But other than that, the kids worked steady with great attitudes and humour."

Eleanor Cote, the Youth Centre Animator worked alongside parent volunteer, Heather McPhee. "We gave



Part of the clean-up crew

PHOTOS COURTESY



Shannon Derby - an amazing volunteer!

Heather the title of MVP," shared Cote. "This we determined to stand for, "Most Valuable Parent" of the day. Heather worked with me in the dense part of the driveway as we listened to the kids enjoying a small outing after so much time isolated from each other due to the pandemic."

Fireman and business owner, Shannon Derby likely had others things he could have been doing but, to help the youth and perhaps inspired by his partner, Julia Eldridge a Former Youth Involvement committee member at the centre who had committed herself to the trail clean up with the Municipality the same day, Shannon was there with his usual know-how and extremely enjoyable attitude.

"He was the only one with "credentials" to climb a ladder," laughed Ball. "We named him the "siding repairman" upon arrival and he

did a wonderful job," Ball added.

For Ball, he felt proud to be considered as a part of the team assembled and how much they all accomplished. He admitted that it was great to see the Youth Centre clean again but reflected as follows on the experience.

"The youth all looked so much older and Eleanor and I got to hear about their teachers, schooling online, triumphs and failures and for a couple of hours everything seemed normal but looking up at the masked faces, reality struck that, I could not see their smiles," said Ball. "I long for the days when we can gather and feel safe and for a time when Eleanor, who helped organize and orchestrate the entire day and I can be with the youth again without worrying how close we stand and to get back to what matters most, the kids."

## Ben by Daniel Shelton

