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Weather



TODAY:
MAINLY CLOUDY

HIGH OF 10
LOW OF 1



TUESDAY:
CLOUDY

HIGH OF 9
LOW OF 4



WEDNESDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD
HIGH OF 18
LOW OF 5



THURSDAY:
MAINLY
SUNNY

HIGH OF 11
LOW OF 3



FRIDAY:
RAIN

HIGH OF 11
LOW OF 7

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) re-starts for 2021-22 youth group year



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

Mansonville's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) program is a non-school affiliated local group operating under the umbrella of the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) since 1987. Each fall a new group of youth come together to form the SADD committee for the year where they partake in leadership and decision making, community involvement and organizing activities for the youth centre while fighting destructive decisions and positive action to keep the community and youth safe.

SADD began in Wayland Massachusetts in 1981 when Hockey Coach, Robert Anastas and students from Wayland High School created the group after losing two team members in drunk driving accidents in the same year. Anastas felt that getting youth informed and partaking in the sensitizing of this destructive behaviour might have an impact. Little did he and his students know that forty years later the movement would be operating through High Schools all over the world! In 1997 the name was changed from 'Driving Drunk' to "Destructive Decisions" and the focus was aimed at all decisions made where the well-being of youth and others might be impacted. The message of SADD is to be responsible with your actions.

Anastas's comment when a student suggested he get the

Government involved in SADD's mission many years ago quickly became the group's motto as Anastas replied, "I believe if we can dream it, it can be done." This is now SADD's motto.

The Mansonville SADD chapter started in 1987 in response to a group of youth wanting to prevent future deaths in Potton related to driving drunk or other destructive behaviours. Over the years the SADD chapter Board of Directors made up of youth has varied in size. Once year the Board consisted of 27 members and a few years later there were six youth on the Board. One year when the numbers had dwindled to four youth on the Board, the SADD leader was going to end the chapter but a police officer who collaborated with the group said,

"Listen, even if one youth is interested in taking up this cause, DO the group as it is valuable and needed."

The Mansonville SADD has never stopped since 1987. This year, following the Covid Pandemic, it has been harder to recruit youth

to partake on the Board however; we know that Covid has caused a dependency on social media and devices as well as a social anxiety for many youth who need to be supported in getting back into their former activities.

The CABMN youth centre coordinator, Ethan Ball and animator, Eleanor Cote held a first meeting inviting any and all youth to come. Five youth took part in the first meeting this past Saturday at the Youth Centre located at 282 Principale in Mansonville. Many of the youth who attended felt that they had friends who would be interested in trying the group and so, all left after a day of fun and who knows, next Saturday the group may grow to eight participants!

For more information about SADD or the other CABMN youth programs contact: 450-292-4886 or visit www.cabmn.org or go to the youth centre Facebook page.



COURTESY

In this photo we proudly introduce four of the five new members of SADD: Mia Gardner, Vicky Gaulin, Dakota Paige and Amelya Jersey (missing from photo: Alexis Eldridge).

Ben by Daniel Shelton

