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Weather




TODAY:
CLOUDY




HIGH OF 4
LOW OF -15




TUESDAY:
PERIODS OF
RAIN




HIGH OF 3
LOW OF -7




WEDNESDAY:
A MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUD




HIGH OF 5
LOW OF -11




THURSDAY:
SNOW



HIGH OF -6
LOW OF -15



FRIDAY:
SNOW



HIGH OF -11
LOW OF -25

Slip sliding away

Skates for students in Potton update



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

In the fall of 2022 I shared a story with Record readers about a fundraiser held by the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) following the donation of an autographed player jersey received from the Montreal Canadiens hockey team and an additional monetary contribution received through the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation that would allow for the purchase of ice skates for every student who registered in each of the two local elementary schools in Potton.

The Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation community grants are presented annually to charitable organizations supporting youth sports programming in low-income areas across the province. The CABMN applied for funding wanting to assure that as many children as possible be able to enjoy the rink located in the multi-functional shelter situated in the Parc Andre Gagnon in the northern sector of the village. Assuring yet another way for youth and families to partake in physical activities while



Ava and Kendra Jersey-Fortin enjoying their new skates at the local rink.



PHOTOS COURTESY

Karl L'Espérance, Educator at Ecole du Baluchon in Mansonville poses with some of the students as they received their new skates

enjoying the fresh air and winter fun.

The fundraising was merely one part of bringing the project to fruition. Coordinating with the two local elementary schools to determine sizes, types of skates and communication with parents as well as abundant coordination with a sports store in Sherbrooke to assure order possibilities for such a large number of pairs of skates and more details all required time and effort. Once the skates arrived, the process of determining any wrong sizes, missing pairs or other issues had to be dealt with.

The final delivery resulting in the completion of the skates to students happened last week. The youth own their skates and have them to use for school and community outdoor fun days as well as giving them the opportunity to go to the community rink to skate whenever they wish. There has been some amazing feedback from the parents, the school personnel and the children.

"I wanted to thank you for the beautiful skates you gave to my son. He is so happy to have received real hockey skates. Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of our youth so that he can have fun and play sports. What better way to grow. Thank you so much." Sophie Daigle, parent of a student attending the Ecole du Baluchon.

"Thanks, so very much to you, the CAB, and all the partners and people that made free skates for Potton's youth a reality! What an absolutely

spectacular project that benefits so many kids! Today we took advantage of the snow day and headed to the rink as a family. The girls have found a passion for skating, and I couldn't be happier to see their rosey cheeks outside enjoying nature."

Thank you sincerely,
The Jersey-Fortin Family

"What a great initiative from the Montreal Canadiens, the CABMN Youth Centre and Foundation! We, the teachers, were privileged to be able to give this beautiful gift to the children. The eyes were shining, the excitement was at its peak. They left that evening with something very precious and they were very proud of it. We could already feel the excitement of wanting to try them. It is with a heart full of love that I have the pleasure of seeing them on the weekend at the rink, thanks to people like you. Thank you for taking the time for our youth." Alexandra Bruneau- teacher at Ecole du Baluchon, Mansonville.

The old adage, "Good things come to those who wait," is certainly applicable here. However, you can't get a better feel good story than this one. There is something quite heartwarming to lookout from your office window and watch groups of neighbourhood children, skates draped over their shoulders heading toward the local rink for an afternoon of fun and exercise.

Potton extends a heartfelt thank you to the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation for making this project a reality.

Ben by Daniel Shelton

