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Weather



TODAY:
60 PER CENT CHANCE OF FLURRIES
HIGH OF -2
LOW OF -11



TUESDAY:
MIX OF SUN AND CLOUD

HIGH OF -12
LOW OF -23



WEDNESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -14
LOW OF -19



THURSDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -10
LOW OF -16



FRIDAY:
MIX OF SUN AND CLOUD

HIGH OF -5
LOW OF -10

Community celebrates Potton's Firemen/First Responders



THE SCOOP MABLE HASTINGS

When Potton's new Fire Chief and Preventionist, James Bouthillier approached the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) with the idea of wanting to recognize the Potton Firemen and First Responders during the holiday season he had no idea where the project would lead. Youth Centre animator, Ethan Ball suggested that community businesses be asked if they wished to contribute to collective baskets for each of the members of the group. From this, the idea was born and all involved got busy with the planning and preparing.

Bouthillier, supported by Fireman First Responder member Jean Francois Giroux, through the Municipality of Potton, had new Potton team shirts printed at the ToroGraphix Company for each team member. Vignoble Domaine Bresee gave a great deal on bottles of wine. CABMN staff (with Debra Harding on the phones) and volunteers quickly climbed on board as did businesses and individuals who wished to contribute. Donations of maple syrup from: Peter Blatter/Danielle Cousineau, Edith Cote/Danny Jones, Neil and Lori Smith, G&R



PHOTO COURTESY

Some Members of Potton's Firemen-First Responders

Laplume, Julie Laplume, Masondale Farm Iron Hill as well as Coffee Gift Certificate: Torrefacteur Appalaches roaster,

FamiliPrix: Re-usable snack bags, St.Benoit Cheese donated by: CABMN and the entire Staff team, Merci Chocolates donated by: Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) Mansonville/CABMN

Handmade Soap: Savonnerie Integral, Pizza gift certificates: Resto-Bolton and The Owl's Bread Bakery.

A beautiful hand-painted card by SADD member Kate Eldridge accompanied each gift with a list of all of those who donated written inside. The card was signed with gratitude from the Fire Chief, Sec. Treasurer, Mayor Laplume and CABMN Director, Mable Hastings. The packages were assembled and wrapped by Patricia Lachance, who shopped for all of the wrapping and decoration assisted by volunteer, Terry Stott.

11 members of the Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) group joined Bouthillier, Giroux and members of the CABMN staff on Saturday morning, December 12 loading the baskets at 7 a.m. and driving to each Firemen/First Responders home from Bolton-Est through to Mansonville; taking side roads and snowy lanes to



Basket delivery for firemen



Fireman Paul Stogowski receives his surprise Thank you basket

deliver the baskets while singing and cheering on the recipients.

The surprise on the faces of the firemen/first responders was evident as most had been told only that they were asked to be home Saturday morning. As the tribe of youth exited cars and the First Responder truck pulled into each yard most were initially wondering where the emergency was? Opening their doors, they were greeted with "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and kind words regarding their efforts in keeping the community safe.

Almost four hours later as the youngsters were returned to their own doors, each one seemed a little taller, a little prouder and most definitely a little more awake. While this type of giving may have felt a little awkward to some, all were in agreement by their return that it felt good to acknowledge on behalf of the community the hard work, time and dedication of these men and women.

Firefighter Paul Stogowski said it best after being presented with his basket and some kind words: "It makes me want to keep doing what we do as a firemen/first responder group," he said. "It feels great to know we are appreciated."



Outside the home of fireman Jonathan Ducharme



PHOTOS BY ETHAN BALL

SADD youth, fireman Rejean Neron and Officer Jean Francois Giroux

Ben by Daniel Shelton



MERRY CHRISTMAS!
[A man offers a woman a gift.]

WHAT'S THAT?
MY PHONE, OF COURSE...
[The man shows her a picture of mistletoe on his phone.]

I DOWNLOADED A PICTURE OF MISTLETOE SO YOU KISS ME...
[The man shows her a picture of mistletoe on his phone.]

THAT'S NOT VERY ROMANTIC.
HEY, MISTLETOE IS NOT EXACTLY EASY TO FIND...
HOW 'BOUT BROCCOLI? IS THAT MORE CONVINCING?
[The man offers her a piece of broccoli.]