

Volunteer centre holds annual volunteer party



THE SCOOP
MABLE HASTINGS

On Monday, Dec. 5, the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) held its annual volunteer celebration by hosting a 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. wine and cheese gathering in the Feather in the Wind Senior Centre located in the hall of the former St. Paul's Anglican Church in Mansonville. The CABMN staff team and its board of directors welcomed the close to sixty persons in attendance.

International Volunteer Day is held annually on Dec. 5. It's a day that recognizes the efforts of volunteers in transforming their communities, economy, and environment. On this day, the public focuses on the affects of volunteering in the betterment of communities and in helping improve the quality of life of the clientele served. On this date each year, volunteers are celebrated for all that they do in the giving of life's most precious commodity; time.

As each volunteer arrived they were

gifted with a CABMN pen as well as a door prize ticket for a drawing held later in the evening that included the following prizes: a copy of Louise Penny's latest novel autographed by the amazing author herself, a gift certificate from Brome Lake Books, pottery from Robin Badger and Robert Chartier Pottery, Owl's Head Ski passes, as well as honey from the Rucher Boltonnois and maple syrup from Cabane a sucre Vincent. The CABMN extends a big thank you to all who donated these wonderful prizes! A shout out to our friends in Lac Brome who are always so generous when the CABMN asks for their help.

The cheese served was purchased at a reduced cost from the Abbaye de Saint Benoit-du-lac. The wine was donated by CABMN board members and staff, the sausages were a donation from Jenn and Mike Mierzwinski purchased through the Euro Deli in Mansonville and the baguettes and crackers came from Epicerie Jacques Ducharme. The CABMN Executive Director baked chocolate chip cookies served on trays with delicious chocolates.

Each year the CABMN presents certificates to the winners of the Karen Muzerall Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award. This award has been presented in Memory of Karen since her death in 2016. Karen was a songstress, amateur actress appearing in plays with the Knowlton Players, she was a volunteer and she supported volunteers who worked to improve the communities in which they live. Hailing from Miramichi in New Brunswick Karen lived in Potton



ETHAN BALL

and was married to former Potton Mayor, Jacques Marcoux who attended the event to present to the recipients. Those honored by this award also have a plaque with their name added to the reception area coffee table where this functional award welcomes all who enter the CABMN each day. This year the winners are: Madeleine Langlois, Lucie Maurer, Jean-Pierre Gauvin and Pierre Landry.

The evening included speeches and a short video celebrating the CABMN's 40th Anniversary by looking back on

the organization's early years. The CABMN has 250 registered volunteers of all ages who work tirelessly in supporting the organization's programs, activities, groups and events. Many of these volunteers also support activities throughout the five areas served by the CABMN in the MRC Memphremagog west: Potton, Bolton-Est, Sainte-Etienne-de-Bolton, Eastman and Stukely.

The CABMN salutes its volunteers and extends abundant gratitude to all who do so much.

Warming centres are now open in Cowansville and Farnham to help the homeless

By Louise Smith

Homelessness is often associated with bigger towns and cities, but in reality it has become more of an issue even here in the Townships. The towns of Cowansville and Farnham have opened up warming centres. The Cowansville warming centre is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5 pm to 9 pm at 101 Albert Street, Suite 1002. The Farnham warming centre is open on Mondays and Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. It is located at 151 rue Principale East. They are advertised as helping places where people can go to get warm and to rest.

The centres are an initiative from the comite en itinérance

with the financial help of the MRC Brome-Missisquoi, the Desjardins bank, CJE comtes Iberville St. Jean, Centraide, BMP Foundation, Isabelle Charest the provincial representative for Brome-Missisquoi, Uniprix, and the health services network covering Sherbrooke and the Brome-Missisquoi area.

As inflation increases and all essential items rise in cost, it becomes more and more difficult for people in marginal financial situations to be able to manage. In October Cowansville had an event, Night of the Homeless, to raise awareness of the homelessness situation, poverty and disaffiliation. It was organized through the Living Room/Espace Vivant.

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