

"The road to volunteering"

Volunteer action week celebrated in Potton

By Mable Hastings
The Scoop

On Thursday evening, May 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. the Missisquoi North Volunteer Centre (CABMN) in Potton celebrated volunteers in the MRC Memphremagog West and beyond with an event held at the

CABMN Feather in the Wind Senior Centre located at 309 Principale in Mansonville. Some 50 people gathered to celebrate the generosity of those who give of their time and talents to improve and enhance community life in a multitude of ways. The evening was sponsored by the Municipality of Potton and Potton Mayor, Bruno Cote

and Pro-Mayor, Jason Ball were both in attendance for the event.

When guests arrived, they were welcomed into a themed evening decorated with the intent to highlight this year's theme, "on the road to volunteering." The tables had tablecloths that made each table look like a paved highway complete with the yellow lines as road signs adorned the walls. CABMN staff wore safety vests which made each person easy to identify and that matched well with the theme. This year the organization opted for a dessert bar with a variety of delicious and decadent sweets and fruits that were served with delicious coffee and herbal teas by the enthusiastic CABMN staff.



Potton Mayor, Bruno Cote presented flowers acknowledging the CABMN's work to Executive Director, Mable Hastings, while Potton Pro-Mayor, Jason Ball presented a bouquet to CABMN Volunteer Coordinator, Debra Harding recognizing her work coordinating community volunteers over the past ten years in the Municipality and

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Speeches were presented by CABMN President, Madeleine Langlois, Volunteer Coordinator, Debra Harding, volunteer, Mary Lachance (resident poet), Mable Hastings, Executive Director, Bruno Cote, Mayor and Jason Ball, Pro Mayor. Flowers were presented to Debra Harding by the Mayor in recognition of her wonderful efforts in the coordination of volunteers at the CABMN.

Each attendee received a door prize ticket and following the speeches as well as a presentation on the impact of volunteering using the CABMN Volunteer Centre's 43 years in existence and the sharing of the desserts over a visit with neighbours and fellow volunteers, the second portion of the evening was filled with games. Volunteer Bingo where the names of the winners were put into a draw for a massage (donated by massage therapist, Anna Segal) with a value of \$150. This was won by Madeleine Langlois who not only volunteers as the CABMN President but who also gives her time in the main office of the CAB at reception, at the Youth Centre offering home economics related workshops for kids and at the Senior Centre doing embroidery, sewing and more.

The games continued with door prizes being drawn randomly by choosing tickets but when a winner came up to collect his or her prize, they were offered the opportunity to keep the prize they won, exchange it for something magnificent hidden in mystery boxes or choosing from an envelope in a variety of colors. Each was asked, "deal or no deal?" This resulted in many laughs and the

winning of a variety of prizes including those donated by: Jewett's general store, Giroux and Giroux, Torrefacteur Appalaches Coffee, Maple syrup from Neil Smith, A gift from FamiliPrix Mansonville, a gift certificate from Microbrasserie Equinoxe and another from BoniSoir. The CABMN sincerely extends its appreciation to these businesses who are always so generous when asked and who were all happy to join in celebrating the amazing volunteers.

The presentation done by the CABMN Executive Director emphasized the different buildings of the CABMN and the services provided by staff and volunteers in each and went on to post photo after photo of volunteers in action including those on the CABMN board of directors, on committees, providing accompanied transport, income tax volunteers, program volunteers, events, fundraising, the services and faces went on and on... Boasting 230+ registered volunteers in its volunteer bank, it did not take long for the organization to clearly demonstrate the accomplishments and services provided by those who give so much and who compliment and expand upon the work and needs of not only of the CAB but all of the organizations, events and places that these 230 volunteers are implicated. This is true in organizations all over the world. Volunteers are the heart of success, growth and sustainability in every community.

For more information about the CABMN volunteer centre or to become a volunteer, contact 450-292-3114 or visit www.cabmn.org



PHOTOS COURTESY

Volunteers attending the May 1 event had the opportunity to learn about the 43-year history of the CABMN and the outstanding difference made by volunteers over the years