

Potton's annual Spirit Festival fun!



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

This past weekend the Municipality of Potton held its annual Spirit Festival starting with an outdoor movie projection by Cinema Potton at the Round Barn site on Thursday evening, Aug. 14 of the Thomas Rinfret film, "Les Derniers Vilains" the story of the Vachon wrestling family (Mad Dog and the Butcher). With over 60 people in attendance and the smell of freshly popped popcorn dancing through the air, the movie was enjoyed and resulted in a lot of positive feedback from attendees. Jean-Marc Bourgeois, Cinema Potton volunteer always does a remarkable job projecting these films.

Friday, Aug. 15 activities continued with the CABMN Bingo sponsored by local businesses including: Construction Mathieu Laplume, FamiliPrix Mansonville Cathy Riendeau and David Rousseau, EGH Tree Services, Mike Cyr Real Estate, Marie Elaine Hvizdak-Coldbrook Real Estate, AFRP Marcoux Inc, Owl's Head Ski and Golf, an anonymous donor and Brome Bird Care. This popular annual event was attended by 150 people as volunteer bingo caller, Real Forget kept the fun and flow to perfection. Over \$2,400 was raised to benefit the CABMN volunteer centre with this Bingo fundraiser.

The bingo was followed by the Community Supper to benefit the Potton Covered Market. This was a Lebanese meal enjoyed by over 125 people. The market committee members put in a lot of time and effort in making the event a successful fundraiser in support of their weekly market held from summer through to late fall under the multifunctional shelter in Parc Andre Gagnon.

The final event of the Friday evening activities was the live wrestling with the Johnny LaMagouille wrestlers. Hundreds gathered for the display of athleticism, outrageous costumes, and exaggerated antics! Inspired by wrestling legends like Mad Dog and the Butcher, folks gathered were reminded of days passed when wrestling was for many, a Saturday morning ritual as families gathered around their television set to cheer for their favourites and hiss at the villains. The Johnny LaMagouille troop was great with the crowd and the atmosphere was one of excitement and fun.

The Saturday, Aug. 16 Main Event was chalked full of activities: an

expanded farmer's market, food trucks, entertainment including: A 360 degree Photo Booth, arcade games, petting zoo, inflatables, activity zones like the recently added Teen Zone, shows like the "Entre Nous" circus performers and live music (HomeBrew Dixieland Band, Hurricane Sugar and KlassiX) throughout the afternoon and evening. The events and activities organized kept those attending busy with much to do, see and enjoy. Unfortunately, the annually anticipated fireworks with Vincent Giroux had to be postponed due to potential fire risk given the recent lack of rain.

The festival organizing committee is made up of volunteers and Potton Municipal staff. The inspiring, creative and motivated group are always coming up with new ideas and creative additions and this year was no exception! The children's area is bursting with colour and each year new decorations and activities are added. As the event expands, new ideas, signage and decorations emerge. Volunteers creating and bringing the areas to life are the means by which the event continues to grow. The Teen Zone, in its first year, the brainchild of Patricia Lachance (committee volunteer), who got sponsorship from the Mansonville Optimist Club, the Municipality and the CAB's SADD group expanded activities to the ball field.

The Festival is growing. Potton residents have good reason to be proud. The community is filled with beauty, people power and this and other events and activities held throughout the area demonstrate that. The festival happens once a year however Potton's pride is displayed all year long in its schools, businesses, eateries, organizations, and in the smiles of its people.

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The immeasurable contribution of the volunteers implicated in this and so many other events put them at the forefront when thanks are being expressed. There is no other way to say it, without volunteers, these events would not be the success that they are. A huge thank you to all who give of their time and talents AND to those who donate funds to bring these events to fruition.

To all who participated, volunteered, attended and planned this year's festival, while there isn't much time to rest with a variety of events just around the corner, take a moment to regenerate. The Epiq Triathlon, local county fairs, corn roasts and fall fun will be here before we know it!



Johnny LaMagouille wrestlers join Potton Mayor, Bruno Cote, pro Mayor, Jason Ball and former Potton DG, Martin Maltais in the ring after the show for a fun photo



The Teen Zone debuted for the first time at this year's festival. Ethan Ball, CABMN youth and Special programs Coordinator and Kate Eldridge, CABMN summer student pictured here manned the inflatable obstacle course while DJ Alexis Eldridge served up some music! Cote Sucre served up the treats for all youth who participated!



The extremely popular Lawn Tractor races always bring out a crowd at the Potton Spirit Festival. Organized by Mathieu Laplume, Festival organizing committee member; a festival highlight.

PHOTOS COURTESY