

The Guide
22 February 2008

Potton youth shares its passion for natural sciences

Students from Le Baluchon and Mansonville Elementary Schools in Potton had many good reasons to celebrate at the open-house event held on February 28 at Mansonville's Youth Centre.

The event organized by the Ruitter Valley Land Trust (RVLT) was an occasion for the students to share the results of their research for RVLT's "Faune sans frontières" program. This year's program focused on wetlands, beaver habitat and the identification of animal tracks. The students presented their findings with the use of an impressive combination of miniature models, games and collages of their own creation. "Through their creativity and respect of nature these young people have once more demonstrated the importance of conserving natural habitats. They are our best ambassadors for transmitting the values of conservation which are so dear to us", said RVLT President, Stansje Plantenga.

The event wrapped-up with the unveiling of two nature interpretation panels in the presence of Jean Filion, Counsellor at the Municipality of the Township of Potton. The panels were developed by RVLT based on observations gathered by the students' over the last few years. They will be installed on the walking trail along the North-Missisquoi River Peninsula in Mansonville. « These panels are a useful tool to raise awareness of our natural heritage » noted Jean Filion.

In addition to sponsoring the production of the panels, the Municipality's assistance has also helped to set-up a collection of animal paws, furs and skulls. These items have already proved to be very useful to the students in their exploration of animal tracks and signs.

RVLT's environmental education program in local schools also benefits from financial support from the Table des MRC de l'Estrie (Volet II) and Pierre Paradis, MNA for Brome-Missisquoi

Julie-Anne Bellefleur
The Ruitter Valley Land Trust
www.ruittervalley.org