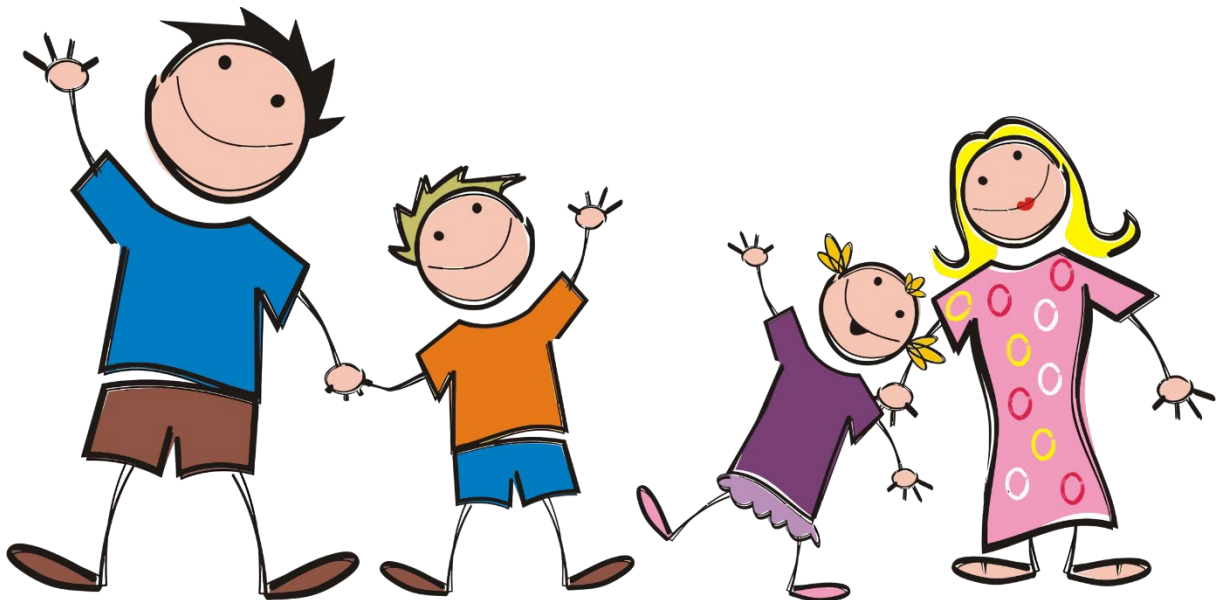




KIDS Summer Camp



December 2016

Report prepared by Shannon A. Keats

Acknowledgements

The Coasters Association would like to take this opportunity to thank those instrumental in the success of the 2016 KIDS Summer Camp. Much gratitude is extended to those who supported the 2016 camp through their monetary contributions:

- MNA, Lorraine Richard
- Commission Scolaire du Littoral
- Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS)
- MAMROT
- CRE - PARSIS
- Registration Fees
- Young Canada Works
- Service Canada
- Social Fund

In addition :

Special thanks to Arena in La Tabatiere, St. Paul's School, and St. Theresa School for the use of their facilities at the camps locations in La Tabatiere, St. Paul's River and Blanc Sablon. Thank you, as well, for allowing the use of equipment. Thank you to the Arena in St. Augustine for the use of their facility for the "Bring Back Play" summer program.

Sincere gratitude goes out to Basse Côte Nord enForme and the community of Blanc Sablon for providing part-time animation resources. Furthermore, genuine appreciation is extended to the Local Development Centre for providing additional animation resources. Moreover, to Young Canada Works (1) and Services Canada for the four (5) Student Counselors positions, to Quebec 4-H for their continued support and expertise.

Special gratitude goes out to the CRE- PARSIS. Funding was obtained in order to hire shadows for the children who required special needs and attention.

Heartfelt appreciation goes to the KIDS Summer Camp Community Committees (see page 33) in Blanc Sablon, St. Paul's, and La Tabatiere...many of you went above and beyond your duties and for that we are grateful. Due to funding restraints, a coordinator was hired to supervise the camps at only five (5) hours per week; the community committees, once again came through tremendously in ensuring the success of the camp. And, to the Advisory Committee (see page 33), the Board of Directors and staff of the Coasters Association for their continuing advice, support, throughout the duration of the 2016 camp season. Thank You.

Lastly, an enormous thank you to *ALL* our partners for their guidance and advice, it is much appreciated. We could not have done it without you!

Shannon A. Keats
2016 KIDS Camp

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Overview

In the summer of 2006, a six (6) week summer camp pilot project was undertaken in the Municipalities of Bonne Esperance and St. Augustine to provide a Summer Camp for youth. The summer camp entitled Kindness, Inspiration, Determination, Spirit, “KIDS”, has proven to be a great success.

The mission of KIDS Summer Camp is to nurture and develop a safe and healthy environment in which youth can improve their health and obtain skills that will assist them in their future lives, through physical activities, mental development, artistic growth, environment awareness and community/family participation.

In 2007, the Coasters Association expanded the KIDS Summer Camp to two (2) additional communities (La Tabatiere, and Blanc Sablon), as well worked in partnership with, and supported, the Eau-Naturelle Discovery Camp in Chevery, and the two (2) camps already established were maintained. In 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 the five camps were in operation and ran very well.

Year	Theme	Youth	Counselors	Coordinator
2006	Kindness, Inspiration, Determination, Spirit (KIDS)	36	5	Volunteers
2007	Amazing Race	93	11	Full time/part-time
2008	Ocean Odyssey	90	12	Full time/part-time
2009	Going Green	68	11	Full time/part-time
2010	Green Adventure	132	14	Part-time
2011	Up in the Air	118	14	Part-time
2012	When I grow up	82	12	Part-time
2013	Exploration Celebration	85	13	Full time
2014	Countries around the world	93	12	Part-time
2015	A Green Adventure	93	13	Full-time/part time
2016	KIDS Summer Camp 10 th Anniversary	58	10	Full-time

Living in such a remote area as the Lower North Shore, finding new and exciting activities for our youth is a constant challenge. We do not have access to the amenities of a larger community; therefore, we have to be creative in our endeavor to provide a place where our youth can interact with other youth, as well as create an environment in which they can express themselves, learn new and exciting things and most importantly have fun.

Socialization is an important component of a well-rounded, healthy lifestyle. Isolation and a lack of interpersonal skills increase the stress of everyday situations and contribute to negative self-

esteem. Therefore, the involvement with a social group increase the youth's sense of community and social support, as well as providing an environment in which youth can improve their health and obtain skills that will assist them in their future lives.

Furthermore, with the economic downfall on the Lower North Shore, many parents have no other choice but to leave the coast to seek employment, leaving their children behind for a period of four (4) to six (6) months, with grandparents or guardians, thus causing problems for youth in the early stages of his/her life. Through the KIDS Summer Camp, the goal is to provide services to assist parents and guardians, thereby leading to the improvement of the social and learning capacities of children ages four to twelve (4-12) years.

The KIDS Summer Camp, not only fulfills its mission but provides employment opportunities for our students who are furthering their education. It is a social, educational, environmental, cultural, community and historical development activity. It is also known that kids who are involved in summer activities (such as the camp) do better in the up-coming school year, and participate more in community events.

The KIDS Summer Camp is an exceptional program; however, through assessments we have realized that much work has to be done to ensure the sustainability of this worthwhile initiative in the areas of program development, setting up of operational structure and continued expansion of the KIDS Summer Camp Program.

KIDS Summer Camp Locations

In 2016, three (3) camps were in operation from June 27th to August 12th.

Lourdes de Blanc Sablon :

- 5 counselors
- 3 shadow counselors
- 44 children registered full time

St. Paul's River :

- 1 counselor
- 7 children registered full time

La Tabatiere :

- 1 counselor
- 7 children registered full time

This year we were fortunate enough to have Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF) visit the camps in both Lourdes de Blanc Sablon and St. Paul's River. They conducted a presentation on bird watching

Partnership with MAMROT

In July 2015 the Coasters received funding from MAMROT to distribute among the various summer camp locations along the Lower North Shore in addition to the KIDS Summer Camp locations. In order to provide the funding to the various locations each location was requested to plan and implement activities and/or events whereby the kids benefited from physical activity and/or learning new skills.

Each summer camp planned and participated in an activity adapted to their specific needs and location. The following is a synopsis of the activities.

KIDS Summer Camp Locations:

Lourdes de Blanc Sablon – The funds enabled the KIDS Summer Camp to hire additional counselors in order to accommodate more youth. The Community Committee, along with the camp counselors organized and participated in an outing to the Whalers Museum in Red Bay Labrador whereby the children learned about local culture and history. There were 35 kids, 7 counselors and 1 member of the Community Committee in attendance.

St. Paul's River – The funds enabled the KIDS Summer Camp to hire additional counselors in order to accommodate more youth. The KIDS Summer Camp Project Coordinator organized an outing to the Whiteley Museum in St. Paul's River, whereby the children and counselors participated in two (2) art workshops conducted by a local well known artist as well as learned about local history and culture.

La Tabatiere – The KIDS Summer Camp counselor planned and participated in a healthy eating activity with the children. The counselor purchased ingredients and, along with the children,

prepared a lunch and snacks whereby the children learned about how to plan for and make healthy foods.

Other Community Summer Camps/Infrastructures that benefitted from the MAMROT funding:

St. Augustine – This summer due to low enrollment for KIDS Summer Camp, St Augustine took another approach and implemented the “Bring Back Play” Summer Activities program. The days were divided into 2 groups; mornings 3 to 6 years old and afternoons 7 to 12 years old. Both groups thrived and attendance was impressive; however, as with all camps on the Lower North Shore, funding to ensure these tremendously important camps continue to succeed is always subject to question. The funds received allow for craft supplies, healthy snacks, and small outings. There were a total of twenty-eight (28) children who participated in this summer program.

Chevery – Each year the Summer Camp in Chevery, like all camps along the coast, struggles to secure funding to maintain and/or carry out activities/events. The funds provided were used to offset the cost of maintaining the camp this season. Costs such as healthy snacks, bug repellent, sun screen, craft supplies, etc., can be very expensive; however, with this additional funding, it allowed the camp to purchase the necessary items needed to ensure a healthy, safe and fun environment for the children. A total of eighteen (18) children were registered for summer camp this year, and benefitted from this Partnership with MAMROT, as well the numbers seem to be on the rise.

Harrington Harbour – Harrington is a little different than the other usual summer camps. Harrington boasts an outdoor swimming pool as an alternative to a children’s summer camp. The funds received offset the cost of essential upkeep and maintenance of the pool in the summer months (June, July and August), as well as support the employment of a certified lifeguard, and assist in water safety activities for the children. A total of 19 children partook in the pool activities this season.

The above mentioned activities, events and assistance would not have taken place with the generous financial support from Ministère des Affaires municipal et de l’Occupation du territoire (MAMROT). Moreover, the camps would not have been able to accommodate as many youth or created as many jobs. The camps in both St. Paul’s River and Blanc Sablon were able to accommodate 21 more youths, the program in St. Augustine helped 28 youths and support was provided to the 37 youths in Chevery and Harrington Harbor for a total of 86 youth.

Therefore, instead of 93 youth at the camp, it would have been 72, instead of 13 students hired it would have been 10, and there would not have been a program established in St. Augustine, nor funding to support the Chevery camp and Harrington Harbor swimming program. Due to MAMROT, six (6) communities carried out a very successful camp.

2015 funding partners

- Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS)
- Commission Scolaire du Littoral
- CRE - PARSIS
- MAMROT
- Lorraine Richard, MNA
- Social Fund
- Commission Scolaire du Littorale
- Service Canada
- Young Canada Works
- D & M Variety
- Auberge de la Mer
- CJAS Radio
- Restaurant des Soeurs
- Registration Fees

Centre intégré de santé et de services sociaux (CISSS) :

Once again financial support from the CISSS for the 2015 camp season was designated to increase the Blanc Sablon Counselors from thirty-five (35) hours per week to forty (40), opening the camp early and closing it later accounted for the extra five (5) hours. As this camp is always the most populated (with thirty seven (37) campers enrolled in 2015) and, with the majority being children of CISSS employees was a criterion for their partnership.

CRE-PARSIS:

In June 2015, the Coasters were extremely fortunate to receive funding from CRE, under the PARSIS program to hire shadows/attendants for children who needed extra support. Five (5) shadows were hired in total.

MAMROT:

The Coasters were privileged to receive funding from MAMROT to open the camps to its capacity and fund a special event or activity as part of KIDS Summer Camp as well as other kids programs in various communities on the Lower North Shore.

MNA Lorraine Richard:

Monetary support from Cote Nord MNA, Lorraine Richard, was focused towards the positions of the 2015 KIDS Summer Camp Counselors.

Social Fund:

This year the KIDS Summer Camp was fortunate to receive funding from the Social Fund to offset the cost of running the KIDS Summer Camp.

Commission Scolaire du Littoral (CSL) :

2016 K.I.D.S Summer Camp

The CSL supported the KIDS Summer Camp with financial means, along with their usual infrastructure and equipment provisions. These funds contributed to the salaries of 2015 Camp Counselors.

Due to the support of the CSL, efforts were made to increase reading, French and math in the KIDS Summer Camp. The 2015 program reflected these efforts by scheduling reading/story time each day, providing French coloring pages and puzzles and providing French music to be played during craft time. Additionally, math pages were provided to ensure that the children's math skills were maintained during the camp season.

Service Canada/Young Canada Works:

Funding provided by Service Canada and Young Canada Works permitted the KIDS Summer Camp to hire four (4) camp counselors for the 2015 camp season.

from Sports Max was used to support the 2015 Blanc Sablon KIDS Summer Camp.

Registration Fees:

Registration fees that were collected prior to the KIDS Summer Camp was used to support the three (3) KIDS Summer Camps in the communities of La Tabatiere, St. Paul's and Blanc Sablon. St. Augustine held registration as well to assist in offsetting cost to run their program.

Staff Evaluations

1. Training:

Was your pre-camp training adequate?

100% - Yes

Comments:

- Could have been better, but we managed with what we had
- Telephone conference calls are not beneficial as video or onsite
- From my understanding some of the counselors did not receive all of the training prior to camp starting
- The training was very hard to understand and keep up with. Most of the time we couldn't hear what was being said even with the great efforts on the opposite end. Due to the fact that the training was being presented at an audience (other participants in St Paul's) and we were by video conference, I found it difficult to feel involved in the activities.

What would you like to see added or changed to the training?

- Nothing
- In my opinion, the training would have been better with face to face contact rather than tele-conference
- The workshops need to be more in-depth concerning children with special needs
- How to deal with problem children, like ADHD, etc.
- Learning how to deal with specific issues (i.e. ADD, ADHD, ODD)
- Get rid of telephone conference
- Should watch videos on other summer camps to see how they function
- If someone was speaking directly to all of us and not to a group in the same room, it may have been easier to follow. Looking directly at a presenter and not the back of people's heads would be more engaging and easier to follow.

2. Locations:

Were the locations satisfactory for the program, number of campers, experience of camper and staff?

75 % - yes

25% - no response

Comments:

- Location was alright, kind of far from everything. Mostly everything else was great.
- Yes, but without the extra shadow it would have been hard with our group
- The St. Theresa School was a perfect location. We were close to the beach.
- It was fine considering we had no other place this year. I would like to see it back at the school at least part of the day.
- More outings with the campers, like this year

What changes would you suggest for another year?

- Nothing
- Lunch hour needs to be reconsidered, or re worked
- School is fine. Using different room for lunch worked well
- Organize where staff could get a lunch break, an hour away would give the counsellors a good break

3. Equipment and materials:

Were there adequate and appropriate equipment and materials?

50 % - Yes

50% - No response

Were arrangements satisfactory for storing and distributing the equipment?

80 % - Yes

20% - No response

Comments:

- Containers needed to organize crafts

What changes would you suggest?

- None

4. Program:

Do you feel program activities were appropriate?

100% - yes

Comments:

- Very fun activities.
- The kids didn't always like them
- The outings were great

- It was good to have the extra help with the shadows this year
- Perfect, many different ideas, we were never left bored

Which program activities did you enjoy the most?

- Doing crafts with the kids
- The outing/activity with the campers – it would be great to have some funding from MAMROT to do that every year
- Games and crafts
- Arts and crafts were always fun
- Nature walks/exploring, crafts and some games
- The beach
- Going to the beach, water games were fun. Science week experiments were also great
- Beach and outside time
- Outdoor activities
- All
- Swimming with the kids. On days we didn't go swimming, we played games and the kids also brought their bikes to ride in the Arena.

Which program activities did you enjoy the least?

- Playing in the gym, kids got too hyper
- Reading, the kids didn't like it
- Story time, no one seemed to enjoy it
- Journal and circle time
- Some themes were hard to incorporate
- Weeks like exploring the sky were hard to incorporate into the week
- Gym time with the kids, any type of free time they had

5. Camp staff position:

What parts of your job did you feel went really well?

- Taking care of the kids and making sure they were happy
- Playing in gym, outside
- Interacting with the kids
- Overall, mostly everything, kids were great, always enjoyed ourselves
- The parents communicated well and were really supportive. The kids enjoyed the camp overall and that's the most important
- The outdoor activities
- Kids cooperated when going to the beach and in the playground sometimes.
- Doing fun activities like beach, volcanoes, water games, dress-up
- Entertaining the kids
- All areas
- It was nice that during lunch the kids from Mutton Bay could stay

What parts of your job did you feel you could have done better? Why?

- Played more games in the gym
- I think I wouldn't change anything
- Being more organized when it came to the daily evaluation forms

- Following the schedule a little better
- The rainy days cause the kids got restless
- Walking away from kids when getting frustrated would prevent us from feeling bitter towards certain kids
- Organization, could have improved things
- Did my best.

What did you like about the KIDS Summer Camp?

- Being with the kids every day
- Kids
- The outing we did with the kids. It was great that we had some money from MAMROT this year to be able to do that
- The kids are so funny! Always a fun time
- Learnt many things about myself, over all this was a fantastic time that I'd enjoy doing again.
- It was very interesting and fun for me as well as the campers
- The activity themed weeks
- Going to the beach and other things when the kids were good. Also liked our team of counsellors
- Outside time
- I feel the kids enjoyed it
- The children's enjoyment
- The girls had fun; the counsellors would paint their nails, fix their hair, and make bracelets and color with them.
- I like that it gives parents an option to have their children go to a safe and fun environment. It's also a great way for the Teens to gain work experience.

What did you not like about the KIDS Summer Camp?

- The hours were long
- Nothing
- We had a complaint about parents not being happy with watching movies. If the child is happy then we should do what they are interested in doing!
- The kids didn't get along a lot of the time
- Cranky kids
- The amount of discipline that was required with the kids
- Amount of discipline that was needed
- Several kids were disrespectful and misbehaved
- n/a
- The lack of structure. The lack of diversification in daily activities.
- With the small numbers it's harder to keep the few kids we have entertained.

What suggestions do you have for the KIDS Summer Camp next year?

- Hours should be from 8:30 to 4:30
- Less kids at lunch (only kids who need to stay)

- Only allow so many times to be sent home during the summer
- More organization
- Make sure we have more counselors next year, it was great

If you had the chance, would you do it again? Why or why not?

75 % - Yes

25% - Maybe

Comments:

- It was a great job but I was tired at the end of the day
- It was good to have all the extra help this year
- I don't think I will apply next year
- Not sure if this is something I want to do
- I loved it!
- The kids were great, I would definitely do this again next year
- The outings were wonderful, hopefully we can do them again next year

6. Other comments:

- It was super!
- Was tired at the end of the day
- I was very glad of the amount of counselors this year

Recommendations

Due to the fact that there was no funding secured to hire a Coordinator until June first (at which that time the Coordinator was only hired for 5 hours per week), an Advisory Committee meeting was not able to be properly organized or implemented. However, many of the previous recommendations are still current and necessary. This is why it is vital and necessary to secure funding to hire a KIDS Summer Camp Coordinator to ensure that the camps run to the best of its ability and that the counselors feel they have that essential support when needed!

It seems as though every year the KIDS Summer Camp is in operation, it becomes increasingly more challenging to secure funds. It is vital for communities on the Lower North Shore to support the camps or their continuation will be uncertain.

Recommendation: Continue to approach all businesses in the upcoming 2016 KIDS Summer Camp Season to encourage donating to the program.

It has been suggested once again that training for all Counselors be done in person; however, funds continue to be limited. The training will continue to be adapted for telephone or video conference (when funds are available).

Recommendation: All training sessions will be mandatory for all Counselors.

The safety of all campers is always a top concern for the KIDS Summer Camp. Ensuring that Counselors are prepared in the event of an incident/emergency will be explored to the fullest of the KIDS Summer Camp program's ability. Criminal checks have already been made mandatory regarding the counselors.

Recommendation: First Aid, CPR and Lifeguard certification of all Counselors, as well as a designated swimming area for each camp and life jackets for all campers.

It was recommended that a protocol/procedure manual be development for all Community Committees for the KIDS Summer Camp to be used as a guide to ensure the best possible camp experience for the children.

Recommendation: Manual be developed and forwarded to the Advisory Committee and Community Committee for approval.

It was recommended that a mid-camp (approximately 4 weeks into the camp season) evaluation be completed to ensure the camps are running smoothly and verify whether changes need to be implemented.

Recommendation: Survey/evaluation be developed and carried out mid-way through the camp season.

It was recommended that each camp incorporate an adult as lead counselor to ensure the camps run smoothly and the camp program is followed.

Recommendation: A lead counselor (adult) be designated in each camp or a project be submitted to Emploi Quebec to hire an adult to supervise each camp in the 2015 camp season.

Should the submitted project not be accepted, a lead counselor be selected from the Young Canada Works applicants of the counselor positions.

It was recommended that a KIDS Summer Camp program be developed that involves parents more on a weekly basis.

Recommendation: *A program be developed for the 2016 KIDS Summer Camp season where the parents are more directly involved (i.e. end of week presentations by campers whereby parents can see what the campers have been learning/doing throughout the week).*

This year the camps were extremely fortunate to have received funding from MAMROT in order to carry out specific activities and events as well as hire additional counselors to accommodate more kids. However, this is not always possible.

Recommendation: *Continue to write project applications and persistent in applying for funding from all government agencies and organizations as well as local and regional businesses and organizations.*

As with every year the KIDS Summer Camps would not be able to be carried out without the dedicated parents and volunteers of the Community Committees. As with all things, some committees and/or members are more active than others. However, it is important for all those involved to contribute in order to ensure the success, and longevity, of the KIDS Summer Camp program.

Recommendation: *Continue to ensure the Community Committees are very much involved and make certain that there is always a committee member available each week to each of the camps (especially in the locations where the coordinator is not able to visit weekly).*

All of the aforementioned have been identified in order to improve the KIDS Summer Camp experience for Counselors and campers alike.

Annexes

2015 KIDS Summer Camp Advisory Committee:

Name	Organization	Contact info
Vicki Driscoll	CEDEC	(418) 461 -3450 Insdirector@cedec.ca
Joanne Jones	CLD	418-461-2652 x 4 joanne.jones@cldbnc.gc.ca
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Shelley Fequet	BCNeF	(418) 379-2006, ext 229 shelley.fequet@coastersassociation.com
Laurette Gallibois	St. Augustine Camp	(418) 947-2239 cjasradio@gmail.com
Molly Organ	La Tabatiere Camp	(418) 461-2053 mclc_morgan@live.ca
Shannon Keats	St. Paul's Camp	(418) 379-2324 shannie_adele@hotmail.com

2015 KIDS Camp Community Committees:

Blanc Sablon

Name	Role	Contact info
Joanne Jones	Member – parent – Resource Person	418-461-3361/2652 x 4 danielandjoanne@live.com
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Jessica Purcell	Member- parent	418-461-2300/3383 jessicapurcell07@hotmail.com

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Name	Role	Contact info
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Kimberly Buffitt	Member-Community Rep.	418-379-2901 kimberlybuffitt@hotmail.com
Trina Roberts	Member- parent	418-379-2258 trinaroberts2@hotmail.com
Gail Roberts	Member -Community representative	418-379-2970
Dale Keats	Resource person	418-379-2951

St. Augustine

Name	Role	Contact info
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Trudy Driscoll	Member – Parent	418-947-2570/2727 trudydriscoll2@hotmail.com
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La Tabatiere

Name	Role	Contact info
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Marie McKinnon	Member- Parent	418-773-2212 (W) 418-773-2528 (H)
Fay Collier	Resource person	418-773-2500 ext 1