

EYC Executive Director recognized for years of hard work

By SORCHA CROOKER

The hard work and dedication of a local woman makes all the difference to the Essex Youth Centre.

The Essex Youth Centre is a place for youth to hang out and attend social and recreational activities. EYC holds a number of events during the year where teens participate and have fun.

Over the summer, teens have been able to drop in at anytime from 9 am to 11 pm. The youth centre has a large television, computers and ping-pong, among other things. With the kitchen and friendly staff, it's an ideal place for teens.

Kayla Lebert and her friends are regular visitors

at the youth centre.

"It's a place to go after school and hang out with your friends," said Lebert, a grade 11 student at EDHS. "The staff make it fun there, they're nice people."

Sandy Larivee, Executive Director of the Essex Youth Centre, has been dedicated to youth for 25 years.

"Sandy's legendary. She's known from coast to coast," said Les Voakes, Executive Director of Town Youth Participation Strategies (TYPs) and a former EDHS student.

TYPs is a national organization that supports youth centres and youth councils.

Larivee runs the oldest

small town youth centre in the county, and they don't have the financial resources of cities, said Voakes.

On Aug. 22 Larivee's commitment was recognized when she was presented with a plaque from Voakes and Essex Mayor Ron McDermott.

"It's nice when someone outside our community recognizes what goes on in Essex," said McDermott. "Thanks Sandy, keep up the good work."

TYPs also presented the youth centre with another award for the best bragging booth. At the annual TYPs conference, youth centres from across the country are given the opportunity to boast about their group. The

presentations are called bragging booths.

Teddy Logronio and James Market received the award for the best bragging booth. With help from a few friends, Logronio and Market built an arcade game from scratch that was part of their bragging booth. The game now sits in the EYC for all to enjoy.

Kayla Lebert hopes the youth centre will continue for a long time to come.

"It's a great place for kids to be," said Lebert.



Mayor Ron McDermott, left, and Les Voakes, Executive Director of TYPs, right, present Sandy Larivee, Executive Director of the Essex Youth Centre, with an award for her years of support and commitment to the youth centres in Canada.



(Left to right) Les Voakes, Executive Director of TYPs, presents the Best Bragging Booth award to Teddy Logronio and James Market.

Scouting with Hospice 2008

By ANDY COMBER

Developing teamwork was one of the learning experiences for 13 children who attended the 4th Annual Scouting with Hospice Camp held at Camp Cedarwin, Aug. 18-21.

The program, a partnership between Hospice of Windsor and Essex County and Scouts Canada, is offered to children who have a parent or sibling with a life-threatening illness or have recently lost a loved one due to illness. The program is offered free of charge through special spon-

sorships and community fundraising.

"This gives them a few days away to have some fun, worry free," said Amy Pinsonneault, council field executive for Scouts Canada.

"Our goal is to ensure each child will experience a fun-filled, safe and supportive environment, through play and adventure," said Pinsonneault.

A team of experienced Scout leaders, staff and trained Hospice volunteers and staff assembled for the program. Highlights of the week included learning outdoor skills, canoeing, com-

pass reading, nature hikes, archery, swimming, and camping.

On their return, the children shared their camp experiences with their parents and siblings in a special presentation made in the auditorium at the Hospice Wellness Centre in Windsor.

The Hospice of Windsor and Essex County offers a wide range of services for patients living with life-threatening illness, including support groups, healing and wellness practices, patient and family education programs, and supportive care teams.



Scout leaders, volunteers and children pose for a group picture during the 4th Annual "Scouting with Hospice - 2008" held at Camp Cedarwin.

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