

25th anniversary!  
25e anniversaire!

## LOCAL NEWS

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# Youth Centre hosts \$1,500 benefit dinner

By Corrinna Pole

There was a saucy and festive mood Wednesday night at the Amédée-Beaudoin Community Centre as the Lennoxville Youth Centre served up a benefit lasagne dinner to commemorate its 25th birthday.

Youth Centre Coordinator Rachel Hunting said the milestone celebration was made even more special by the family like atmosphere that dominated the evening.

"I'm really happy people didn't just eat and leave," she said. "They stayed and chatted and had a really good time. It was really nice to see everybody being social."

Although the centre's 25 years worth of achievements were supposed to be the focus that night, the LYC board and

youth members decided to give the party purpose by helping a fledgling non-profit organization, the Pet Connection.

Hunting explained that the "pay-it-forward" act was motivated by the gratitude those at the centre have for the support they have received over the years by the community. It was also a way of celebrating their strength.

While not all of the LYC members could attend the benefit dinner, Hunting says six members of the centre were helping to prepare and organize the function earlier in the week.

The LYC's nine board members pitched in to cook up five large pans of vegetarian and meat lasagna that were served with salad and bread then followed with dessert.

During the dinner three youth mem-

bers, ages 17, 15 and 14, acted as hosts before helping to serve and clear tables. Animators from the centre and a stagier helped with the cooking and waited on tables.

The youth, who all sit on the LYC's Teen Activity Committee, were relieved when each one of the 70 Townshippers in attendance was fed.

"The kids were really happy by the time they got to eat," Hunting said. "But they were more excited about how much money we raised."

By the end of the night the centre had \$1,475 raised from ticket sales, business sponsorship and donations. An extra board member's donations Thursday morning pushed the tally to an even \$1,500 all of which will be given to the pet placement service.

Along with feeling surprised with

the amount of funds raised, Hunting says she's proud of the kids participation in the benefit since, like all of the activities at the centre, it was on a voluntary basis.

Hunting says the dinner was a wonderful experience for locals to see that their "youth really care about their community and they are aware of its needs and are willing to help out."

Located Underneath the Cafe Java, the LYC has given local teens a place of their own to hang out, learn, grow and find a listening ear since October 26, 1986.

Fun and games have been complimented with activities that encourage positive interaction between youth and adults in an effort to create "citizens who are critical, active, and responsible."

