

A-Maze-ing Anti-Bullying Event



Travis Price, wearing a pink shirt, spoke about how “Pink Shirt Day” began back in 2008. Students in many schools are encouraged to wear pink on the 2nd Thursday of September to bring awareness to the anti-bullying message. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Pam Murchinson’s plea for everyone to “stand up and say that bullying is not right”, had a powerful impact on the crowd gathered at Riverbreeze Anti-bullying Corn Maze on Sept. 17th. Her daughter, Jenna Bowers- Bryanton, committed suicide nine months ago on January 17th, 2011 and Pam believes bullying contributed to her daughter’s death.

“Adults and kids need to know every action has a reaction. Word hurts and they can never be taken back,” said Pam, wearing a pink t-shirt with a photo of her beautiful Jenna.

Tears trickled down young faces, and many parents dabbed

their eyes, as Pam played a recording of Jenna performing Heart of Gold, by Neil Young. This obviously talented teenager loved music, played several instruments and even wrote some of her own songs. Pam says Jenna was the champion of her friends and cousins, always by their side when needed, but she just couldn’t save herself.

Jim Lorraine decided last winter to make an anti-bullying corn maze to bring awareness to “an issue causing a lot of heartache to our children.” A few months later he happened to hear Pam speaking on CBC radio and he was moved to tears as she talked about Jenna, and when he heard Jenna sing.

“I admired Pam for standing up and making sure Jenna’s circumstances are not forgotten. She has courage beyond belief,” says Jim. This was when he decided there had to be an anti-bullying event.

Travis Price was also invited to speak at the anti-bullying event, held on the 17th. Travis was one of two high school students who helped start Pink Shirt Day in Nova Scotia in 2008, after standing up for a classmate, who wore a pink shirt to school. He spent the last few years furthering his education and says when he heard about Jenna’s death he felt like maybe he had not done enough.

Travis feels we must do more to bring awareness and “Pink Day needs to happen every day, not just the 2nd Thursday of September.”

Ten-year-old Makayla Lynn, a singer-songwriter, took to the stage to perform her powerful anti-bullying song, The Joke’s On You. She asked those in the crowd to “be who you are” and to know “nobody stands alone”.

MLA Lenore Zann spoke about the government’s new Anti-bullying Task Force, the

awareness of bullying in the schools and the production of a new CyberAntibullying video to be released into schools this fall.

Pam Murchinson says she was honoured when Jim Lorraine called and said he wanted to raise money to help establish the Jenna Bowers Memorial Scholarship. “I am really happy Jenna will be remembered,” she says, adding she wants to make sure the scholarship goes to a student who has had made an active difference in bullying at the school.

Pam wanted the younger people gathered to know, “Jenna did not make a good choice- THAT is not an option, but sometimes children make decisions they shouldn’t make,” and then she pleaded with everyone to stand up and say that bullying is not right, “Everyone can make a difference.” She feels by speaking out about bullying, if she is able to save one life, then Jenna’s life will not have been lost in vain.

Jim Lorraine told the crowd WBLI Chartered Accountants were making a \$500 donation to the Jenna Bowers Memorial Scholarship and he, along with his wife and daughters, were donating \$1500.



Jim Lorraine (left) poses with guest speakers and performers Pam Murchinson, Makayla Lynn and Travis Price (l to r) following the anti-bullying event held at his Riverbreeze Corn Maze on Sept.17th. (Harrington Photo)

Ski Wentworth’s Fall Festival of Colours



Ride the lift to savour the fall foliage Thanksgiving Weekend, Oct. 8 & 9 at Wentworth Valley’s annual Fall Festival of Colours.



The chairlift runs from 10am to 4pm. Cost is \$15 per person or \$40 for a family (maximum 5).

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The Wentworth Recreation Centre (two minutes from Ski Wentworth) will be holding a Yard Sale and Brunch starting at 9am on Saturday, October 8. Please note: there is no Pork Dinner this year.

Hiking the Maritimes largest ski area is almost as much fun as skiing it! The Early Bird Season pass is on now until Oct. 31. Pick up your application at the Fall

Festival of Colours or buy online at skiwentworth.ca.

Need new or used ski or snowboard gear for the upcoming season? The Wentworth Open House, Ski Swap and Craft Sale is Saturday, November 26 at Ski Wentworth.

Make the Fall Festival of Colours part of your family Thanksgiving tradition, Oct. 8 & 9 in the beautiful Wentworth Valley.



Wow, what talent! Ten year old Makayla Lynn presented an anti-bullying message in the form of a song, The Jokes on You, at the Anti-bullying Corn Maze on Sept. 17th . (Harrington Photo)



Friends of Jenna Bowers-Bryanton listen intently as Jenna’s mother, Pam Murchinson, asks everyone to help put an end to bullying and to give someone a hug if they seem to be having a hard time, as “hugs make a difference”. Pam was a guest speaker at the Riverbreeze Anti-bullying Corn Maze. (Harrington Photo)



MLA Turo-Bible Hill Lenore Zann, speaks to those gathered at the Anti-bullying Corn Maze as farm owner Jim Lorraine looks on. (Harrington Photo)



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