

# Anti-Bullying Event Held at River Breeze Corn Maze

By Linda Harrington

"Jenna Bird" would surely be proud of her mom, Pam Murchison. A year and half after the heartbreaking death of her beautiful fifteen year old daughter, Pam has managed to reach out beyond her grief and bring forth a powerful message to help students put an end to bullying.

Jenna Bowers-Bryanton was harassed at school and through a social networking site. She took her own life in January, 2011.

Jim Lorraine, owner of River Breeze Corn Maze, says a year ago last May, he was driving his tractor planting corn when he heard a CBC Radio interview with Pam Murchison, talking about her daughter Jenna and this story touched him deeply. "When they played a beautiful audio clip of Jenna singing and playing guitar, I had tears in my eyes," says Jim, reflecting on this powerful moment. "I am not an emotional guy, but this touched me like nothing ever had and I knew I had to reach out to her. We struck up a great relationship and started planning last year's anti-bullying event."

The second annual River Breeze Corn Maze Anti-Bullying Event was held on Sept. 19th. Invitations were issued to every school in the Province, with 100% of all funds raised donated to the Jenna Bowers Bryanton Memorial Scholarship Fund at Cobequid Educational Centre, Truro. Scotiabank gener-



Students attending the Anti-Bullying Event were treated to a wagon ride around River Breeze Corn Maze.



Pam Murchison and Shelley Richardson, from Kid's Help Phone, share a hug in the big comfy chair.

ously offered to match the funds dollar for dollar, and Jim kicked started the money pot with a \$500 donation from his own family.

Guest speakers took to the River Breeze stage with messages of support for Pam and a common determination to give students the tools they need to put an end to bullying in the schools.

Pam Murchison says she awoke this morning having difficult time, as she dealt with the ever present emotional pain of missing her Jenna Bird, but because she feels so strong about getting the message to the students, she put her grief aside and took to the stage. "The anti-bullying message is getting

a lot more "out there" and people are beginning to realize their hurtful words can cause devastating consequences," says Pam. "If you were going to do or say something hurtful to someone, and just took 30 seconds to think about it, maybe you wouldn't do it. Please think about Jenna and what happened to her."

Jenna suffered from adolescent depression and Pam says you wouldn't know by looking at her. "People with adolescent depression often suffer silently and yet saying something hurtful to a person struggling with this disease can be devastating. Jenna would stand up for everyone else but wouldn't take a stand for herself."

Pam's simple but effective advice is always "give someone a hug".

About 150 students gathered at the River Breeze Corn Maze, listening intently to the speakers, many wearing bright pink t-shirts with anti-bullying messages.

Jim Lorraine extends the responsibility to parents saying, "I feel parents have a much larger role to play in all this then anyone. They need to pay attention to the texts, emails and social media messages their children are receiving and know what they are doing. Kids have the power, parents have the responsibility. And until parents step up to this responsibility we will hear other heart wrenching stories."



Pink shirts frame entertainer 11-yr old Makayla Lynn as she performs her original composition "The Joke's On You", which contains a powerful anti-bullying message.



Joining hands to help prevent bullying are RCMP Cpl Jane MacDonald, MLA Karen Casey, Truro Police Service-Cst Todd Taylor, Pam Murchison- Mother of Jenna Bowers Bryanton, Jim Lorraine- owner of River Breeze Corn Maze and Shelley Richardson- Kid's Help Phone.



Truro Police Service's Cyber gives students a fist bump for showing their commitment to help stop bullying.



Students from Gaetz Brook Junior High, Halifax County made their first visit to Riverbreeze Corn Maze wearing pink shirts saying "Stop Bullying Now".



Cyber and Pam Murchison are both fighting the same battle- working hard to help put an end to bullying, both in the school and online.



Staff of Scotia Bank (l to r) Arun Mohanan, Randy Jollie, Christina Colburne, Denise Dube-MacLean) pose for a photo with River Breeze Corn Maze owner Jim Lorraine and Pam Murchison. Scotiabank has pledged to match every donation received at the corn maze for the Jenna Bowers Bryanton Scholarship Fund.



Pam Murchison hands out "Kid's Help Phone" cards as students listen to guest speaker, Shelley Richardson.



## OUR NEXT EVENT:

Sunday, September 30<sup>TH</sup>

\$1 from each admission donated to Feed NS.

Unlimited pony rides - \$4 per person with \$2 going to Feed NS

Scotia Bank will match all money raised!



## Haunted Maze and Haunted House

Open Every Friday & Saturday Night in October.

## Corn Maze

Open Sat., Sun. and Thanksgiving Monday until Halloween!

Activities include jumping pillow, lazer tag, pig races held every hour, cow train ride, concessions and more!

For dates/times check [www.riverbreeze.info](http://www.riverbreeze.info) for details

