

Home / Community / Gravenhurst Kids Turn Nobody Into...

Gravenhurst kids turn nobody into somebody with kindness, compassion

Students taught to put others before themselves

COMMUNITY Jun 30, 2017 by [Mary Beth Hartill](#) Gravenhurst Banner



Alison Durocher's Grade 6 class at Muskoka Beechgrove Public School learns they can make a difference in their community through the Nobody Doll Project - turning nobody into somebody. They were joined by Chris Eby of Muskoka Victim Service and therapy dog Willow to chat about the importance of thinking of others. - Mary Beth Hartill/Metroland

GRAVENHURST — It began as nobody and by the time the kids were done, it was somebody — somebody important, somebody who was the embodiment of love, kindness, and compassion.

The kids in Alison Durocher's grade six class at Muskoka Beechgrove Public School in Gravenhurst have been giving back to their community throughout the school year with acts of kindness, and the community has benefited from these acts.

It all began with a doll — a nobody doll — a clean slate. As each child did something wonderful, an act of goodness, they added something to this doll. A hat and boots for shovelling, a bandage for helping Sick Kids Hospital, a small bag of garbage for picking up trash in the neighbourhood ... each good deed a new item. The doll went from "nobody" to "somebody" — somebody special.

One child helped Muskoka Victim Services, raising nearly \$275 for their therapy dog program, educating the public on what they do, and attracting two potential volunteers to the organization. Another child raised and donated money to the Salvation Army and books to the public library; another donated her hair to make a wig for a child without hair; another taught her brother with autism how to do his ABCs. A bake sale raked in more than \$600 for Jake Thomas who was in an accident, money for sick kids, donations of clothes and blankets, money to help a friend with travel costs to hospital, helping a neighbour shovel the drive, visiting the elderly. The list goes on.

"It's just something that teaches kids to think of others before they think of themselves," Alison Durocher's grade six teacher at Muskoka Beechgrove Public School

Durocher has done this with her class in the past and got the idea from a teacher in Bracebridge several years ago.

"It's just something that teaches kids to think of others before they think of themselves," she said.

For Chris Eby, executive director of Muskoka Victim Services, it meant so much more.

"There are things in our happen in our community that make us sad," he said. "When Seth came into my work, he inspired me."

He told the children he hopes others, when they learn how big an impact they had on their community, will realize that they can too.

"It's about touching hearts," he said.

by [Mary Beth Hartill](#)
Mary Beth Hartill is a reporter with the Bracebridge Examiner. She can be reached at mhartill@metrolandnort. Follow her on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)
Email: mhartill@metrolandnorthmedia.c
[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)



Tags: [Community](#)

TOP STORIES

NEWS

Dec 20, 2017
Hunt 'Pipe Man' saga ends with apol sadd cour

MORE

LOCAL

NEWS

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN...

FOOD

Where to find a Christmas dinner in Muskoka

COUNCIL

Proposed play to combat ageism with...

FOOD

Happy New Year: alcohol-free mocktail recipes from...

REGISTER | LOGIN
TO POST A COMMENT PLEASE REGISTER OR LOGIN

SUBMIT

Like our stories? Sign up for our newsletter! [SIGN UP](#)

LATEST NEWS [MORE STORIES](#)

CRIME 01:28 PM

Police asking public's help in 11 unsolved Huntsville break-ins in last...

CRIME 12:08 PM

Judge concerned about Muskoka's young people in alcohol-related accidents

CRIME Dec 18, 2017

Charged with impaired, Muskoka man falsely tells cops he's 'Richard Dawson'

CRIME Dec 18, 2017

Bracebridge man receives jail time for 'out of control series of events'

IN YOUR COMMUNITY [MORE NEWS](#)

FOOD 03:29 PM

Where to find a Christmas dinner in Muskoka

MUSKOKA — In need of a warm meal and some fellowship in Muskoka on Christmas Day?

COUNCIL 01:31 PM

Proposed play to combat ageism with...

MUSKOKA — A one-act play with an ulterior motive may soon take to the stage across Muskoka — if provincial funding comes...

EVENTS IN THE AREA [MORE EVENTS](#)

DECEM 2 THURS	DECEM 2 THURS	DECEM 2 THURS	DECEM 2 THURS	DECEM 2 SATURI	DECEM 2 SATURI	DECEM 2 SATURI	DECEM 2 SUNDA
----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------

MORE NEWS [MORE NEWS](#)

SCIENCE 05:00 PM

Stars of wonder: UBC prof captures 'spectacular' images of cosmic clusters

Astronomer's team snaps pics using the Hubble telescope of star groupings which NASA likens to 'snow globes'

CANADA 01:03 PM

She's only 12 and she's had 17 major surgeries. But now she's expecting the...

Kaleigh Wright-Barton's family was in featured in the Toronto Star in 2014 when they were trying to head home to Nova...

OF	CR	OL	OL	OL	ON
12 PM	De 21, 201	De 21, 201	De 20, 201	De 19, 201	De 19, 201
Th to 10	Kil De Mi ge a lav for the ne: tric	Bil Ba Sh wr fra ab: ath co: in..	Bil Ba Sh we try to qu pr: int po	De Ba an Ho Sh de pr: WI ha ins the ma at.	Is pro Del Mil a thir tim for mu a wa of tim an

Like our stories? Sign up for our newsletter! [SIGN UP](#)

MUSKOKA REGION	LOCAL INFO	NEARBY COMMUNITY SITES	POPULAR NEWS SITES	RESOURCES & AFFILIATES
About Us Feedback Accessible Customer Service Policy Commenting Guidelines Commitment to Accessibility Contact Us Corporate Sales Newsletter Signup Print Editions RSS Sitemap Staff Directory Work for Us	AutoCatch.com GottaRent.com Homefinder.ca LifeNews.ca LocalWork.ca Save.ca TravelAlerts.ca Wheels.ca YourClassifieds.ca	BramptonGuardian.com CambridgeTimes.ca GuelphMercuryTribune.com InsideHalton.com Mississauga.com MyKawartha.com NorthBayNipissing.com TheRecord.com Simcoe.com YorkRegion.com	DurhamRegion.com InsideToronto.com NorthumberlandNews.com ParrySound.com TheSpec.com WaterlooChronicle.ca	Goldbook Insurance Hotline Lease Busters Metroland Media Metro News Metroland Store Toronto.com Toronto Star Tradyo.com Workopolis

