



North Grenville youth hit the red carpet at premiere of TVO's GIVER

Posted Jun 28, 2012 By Ashley Kulp

EMC News - The red carpet was literally rolled out for North Grenville's youth who participated in the TVO Kids show GIVER June 21 as the community was given a sneak peek of the two episodes filmed here before they air.

The Municipality of North Grenville hosted the premiere event, which had guests traveling the red carpet and being treated to a host of movie theatre treats, including popcorn, candy and refreshments.

"Is everybody ready for a movie tonight?" remarked TVO regional councillor Keith Clingen prior to the showing. He brought greetings from the television station. "We have stars here and I imagine they'll be available for interviews later tonight."

Clingen said TVO's TVO Kids block of programming is "committed to engaging Ontario children between the ages of two and 11 with the highest quality on-air and online resources."

The first episode of GIVER, featuring the refurbishment of Kemptville's skate park in Riverside Park, premiered on TVO Kids this past Tuesday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m. but the second show documenting the creation of an obstacle course in South Gower Park will air Tuesday, July 3 at 6:30 p.m. The 13-part GIVER series is a reality children's renovation program which sees teams of youth improving local parks and playgrounds across Ontario.

"It (GIVER) was conceived as a way of teaching and encouraging kids to become more involved in their communities," Clingen said. "...Congratulations on such a great project you've had in this community and to all the TV stars here in front of us."

The premieres culminate a nearly year-long wait since Sinking Ship Entertainment, which produced the GIVER series, visited North Grenville for a week last September to film the two episodes. As the light dimmed, it was clear that all the excitement of that week was back in the theatre that evening.

First up was the renovation of the skate park, which showed local youth Amber Schening, Catherine and William Armour, Owen Wright, Grace Maher and Derek Wendler, working with host Michael Lagimodiere to construct a concrete half-pipe, make graffiti art, repaint features of the park, create a BMX trail around the park, skateboard swing and funbox.

"By doing little things like this, you know you can make a difference," Schening noted in the show.

"The best part of the GIVER experience was getting into the community and knowing I can help," added Wendler.

The episode highlighting the creation of the obstacle course was up next with Lagimodiere working with Hailey Scharf, Cheska Onasayna, Sam Windsor, Hannah Fear, Jacques Bigras and Devon Rogers. Seven-year-old Rogers provided many comedic moments, including accidentally spray painting Lagimodiere's jeans and boot with fluorescent paint. Along with motivation from guest star Sergeant GIVER (Ray Ansell), the team finished the course in record time, helping to build a chin-up bar, rope obstacle, climbing wall, two zip lines, chain crawl, tire obstacle and balance beam.

"The best part of GIVER is building stuff for our community," remarked Bigras during the show. "That's the most important thing about GIVER."

When the lights came back on, the GIVER teams admitted it was weird to see themselves on television. "I didn't realize how many new words I made up," Schening joked.

"I felt funning watching myself," added Onasayna.

Wendler said a lot of editing had been done to the show, but Mather said they were "better than I thought they would turn out."

Overall though, the true spirit of GIVER and having youth be active in their towns, remained alive and well.

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Ashley Kulp, Kemptville EMC

A group of North Grenville youth became stars of the small screen June 21 when the Municipality of North Grenville held a special red carpet premiere for TVO's GIVER show. Guests were treated to an advanced screening of both episodes, featuring the renovation of the Kemptville skate park and creation of an obstacle course in South Gower. Back row, from left: GIVER stars Owen Wright, Grace Maher, Catherine and William Armour, and Derek Wendler. Front row, from left: Amber Schening, Hannah Fear, Natalie Scharf, Cheska Onasayna and Sam Windsor. Missing are Jacques Bigras and Devon Rogers.

"I liked it because it helped out our community and everyone will use it (obstacle course and skate park)," concluded Scharf.

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