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NEWS LOCAL

Batawa featured on new TV series

By Emily Mountney, Trentonian
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Batawa residents were treated to an advanced screening of one of the episodes of TVO's new show Givers, Sunday evening. One episode was filmed last year at the Batawa Ski Hill. Batawa residents were treated to an advanced screening of one of the episodes of TVO's new show Givers, Sunday evening. One episode was filmed last year at the Batawa Ski Hill. EMILY MOUNTNEY/TRENTONIAN/QMI AGENCY

Batawa - The red carpet was rolled out here Sunday night for six young people.

Members of the community and representatives from TVO gathered at the ski hill to congratulate the kids on their involvement in a

new television show called Givers.

Five of the children- Angelina Medved, Xavier Medved, Liam Comeau, Hayden Comeau and Sarah Davidson - arrived in a limo, walked the red carpet, and had front row seats for the advanced screening of the show filmed last year in Batawa (Isabella LeFort, another participant, was away).

Heather Candler, general manager of the Batawa Development Corporation said she was approached by Sinking Ship Entertainment last year who said they would like to film an episode at the hill's dino dig area.

"They get six kids and give them three days to transform a park," said Candler. "From the time they contacted me, we had only eight weeks to get everything organized."

"It was a crazy, unique experience."

Sinking Ship, in partnership with TVO and the Ontario Parks Association, filmed a series of Givers episodes where children get engaged in their communities and help transform one of their local parks.

Batawa's dino dig area was transformed into an entire dino park with a tree fort, dino egg and dino hopscotch area.

The kids designed the playground with some help from local business Research Castings International. RCI created and donated the dino items through their sister company Exploration Playgrounds.

"The kids did a marvelous job and we really felt they deserved this night" said Candler.

Batawa residents were treated to an advanced screening of the show with the kids.

"It feels great with all these people watching. It was such a great time," said Liam Comeau.

"I was very proud of what we did. I think everyone in the community really liked it, especially everyone in our school (Sacred Heart Catholic School). I learned that teamwork and everything else made a beautiful playground for Batawa."

Liam also said his favourite part was "meeting all the great people that made this happen," adding that he had "a really good feeling" when the project was finished.

Hayden Comeau joked that seeing himself on television was "inevitable" and his favourite part of the experience was "being able to hack down a tree with a chain saw."

Sarah Davidson said that not that many people were hanging out at the park before the playground was built.

"I think it is better for the community," she said. "I learned that if you help people, you can really make a difference."

Both Angelina and Xavier Medved agreed they had a great time on the show and would want to do it again.

Batawa Ski Hill general manager Darren Lobb said the dino park is a place where students can come to have fun and learn at the same time and he felt "very privileged to be able to watch the advanced screening of the show."

Members of the Batawa Lions Club also volunteered and helped out with some of the work involved in transforming the park.

The show aired Tuesday evening but repeat episodes will be shown this Saturday on TVO at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3:30 p.m.