First Public Information Meeting on Central Water Supply Filled with Questions

By Catherine Clute

There were a lot of questions in mid-December when the Municipality of the District of Chester held the first of two public information sessions on the issue of a central water supply for the village area.

Slightly more than a hundred people interrupted their pre-Christmas planning and preparation to spend an evening at the Chester Area Middle School to find out more about the proposal to install a central water system.

They looked at charts, at maps, read information sheets displayed on the wall and talked to each other.

Members of the municipal staff were on hand, as well as several municipal councillors, including Danielle Barkhouse, councillor for the area under consideration, to talk to interested citizens and to answer questions.

Many of the questions revolved around possible amounts of funding from other levels of government and specific details and scenarios.

For instance, business owner, Annette Collicutt, asked what would happen to existing wells on individual’s properties if and when a central water system would be installed and those wells abandoned.

Matthew Davison, Director of Engineering and Public Works, responded that the property owners would be responsible to follow any regulations and fill in the well and those costs are not included in any of the estimates for a central water supply.

Chester resident Joanne Grant wanted to know why the cost of the project had increased so much, since it had been estimated in 2011 at a lower cost. According to Davidson, that previous total did not include the same boundaries as the current proposal.

Story con’t on page 3

Happy Tails!

A Heart Warming Story to kick off 2019!

See Story on page 2
Boutilier's Point Outdoor Rink in Operation Again

By Keith Ayling

The Boutilier's Point Outdoor Rink, originally founded in 1954, has gone through three reincarnations, emerging this past New Year’s as a community gathering spot featuring free skating, new LED lighting, new end netting, new benches and a gorgeous ice surface.

A New Year’s Eve celebration at the rink featured skating, a barbeque, drinks, hot coffee and chocolate, and live music, all free for those in attendance.

The event was organized in just two days with 60 people showing up to get everything in place, according to one of the volunteers, James Mitchell.

Volunteers provided a second-hand pump and hoses for flooding the rink, along with a used ride-on mower with plans to transform it into a Zamboni machine.

Mr. Mitchell explains the rink has its own concrete dam to hold back the water that runs through and under the rink, providing the water in winter to flood the ice surface.

The ice surface itself, according to old records, was built the same size as the original Madison Square Garden rink in New York City.

The rink in the past, according to a 2017 report prepared by Lester McEachern and Kevin McEachern, was a very busy place with hockey teams from St. Margaret’s Bay, Black Point, Hubbards and Boutiliers Point competing in leagues in the Pewee, Bantam, and Midget age groups.

There was also a lot of holding hands on Tuesday nights, which were especially set aside for “skating only”, as no hockey sticks were permitted.

The second version of the rink gradually fell into disrepair and was replaced by a more permanent version in 1966.

The current organizers are trying to raise funds to keep the rink in operation throughout the winter and coming summer, and to provide any necessary maintenance.

Mr. Mitchell has set up a group page on Facebook called Boutilier’s Point Outdoor Rink, where interested volunteers can turn to stay abreast of the project and pitch in when necessary.

The rink can be found on Island View Drive, close to the Kennedy’s Road intersection, at the top of the hill.

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Unicorn Theatre’s Pegasus Program Kicks off 2019 Creation Project

Unicorn Theatre’s Pegasus Program is off to a flying start for 2019.

Pegasus is Unicorn’s enriched theatre program for young people in Grade 7+ who are interested in writing, acting, or being involved in the various behind-the-scene functions essential to a theatrical production.

At an exciting brainstorming session in December, Pegasus members decided on this year’s project—to create a production based on “Twisted Fairytales”, which they will perform in the Spring.

After the success of their two previous Creation Projects—“Oh Canada”, a musical show to celebrate Canada’s 150th birthday (2017) and “One Way Ticket”, a Murder Mystery Dessert Theatre (2018)—everyone involved with the Pegasus Program can’t wait to get started on the new challenge. The Pegasus Program Coordinators have put together a writing team that will meet once a week at the Unicorn Theatre in the Bay Community Centre and work together to create the new production.

In a couple of months they will be reaching out to find participants in grades 7+ who are interested in acting in the production, doing costume or set design, or creating props for the show.

If this is something you, or someone you know, may be interested in, the Pegasus Program coordinators would like to hear from you.

Email unicorn.theatre.pegasus@gmail.com to reserve a spot or if you have any questions.

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Happy Tails!

Thanks to Bay Treasure Chest for this story

Gordon came in as Rusty with a serious medical issue.

After eye surgery his foster mom, who would later adopt him, took him to work every day, because he required drops in his eye every couple of hours.

Here he is, a few years later, looking spry and peppy (see photo).

Says his mom, “He lives with his two fur brothers, human parents and human brothers. “He loves running around his huge, fenced-in yard and lying on his bed in front of the fireplace. When he gets his hair cut, he prances around like he’s ‘all that and a bag of chips’.

“He eyes are working perfectly and no issues! Every day we are grateful for the Animal Rescue Coalition for saving him and so thankful they trusted us to give him a life,” says his Mom.

The Animal Rescue Coalitions is a non-profit group based in Seabright and one of Bay Treasure Chest’s 40+ honorary groups.

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First Public Information Meeting

Frank Metzger asked about adding sewer service.

“It would make sense to put sewage treatment in at the same time,” he said.

“The Municipality is looking at the capability of the waste treatment plant,” said Davison. “If it has the ability to expand, Council will look at where the capacity can go.”

Some residents raised concerns about safe drinking water, while others were concerned the financial details were not as detailed as they would like.

One question that was asked more than once was what percentage of votes will be required to make this project move forward.

Malcolm Pitman, Acting CAO (at the time of the meeting), said, “Council will use the results from the poll to make their decision,” but without providing a break down of what percentage of yes and no votes would be required.

When a member of the public suggested that folks might vote “no”, because they are not sure what they are voting for, Councillor Barkhouse suggested a “yes” would mean people were interested in getting more details.

“I see it as a vote to proceed for a predesign for a solid Class A estimate,” she said.

The next information session will be held on January 15th at the Chester Area Middle School.

A question and answer session will be held from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., with a chance to review materials and speak with municipal staff from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Ratepayers will be allowed to vote in advance online from January 18th to the 24th or in person on January 26th.

Public Information Session on Water System Options and Costs Scheduled for January 15th Municipality of Chester

The Municipality of Chester will hold another public information session on January 15th regarding a proposed water system in the Village of Chester.

The session is open to everyone and will include information on water system options and costs to property owners, and a question-and-answer session with municipal staff.

It is being held to engage and inform the community in advance of a property owner poll being conducted later in January.

“This proposed project touches the lives of everyone who lives and works in the Village of Chester,” says Allen Webber, Warden for the Municipality. “Access to clean, sustainable water has health, environment and economic impacts now and well into our future.”

The Municipality hired engineering firm CBCL Ltd. in 2017 to provide initial reports and analyses of water quality and quantity issues, as well as potential solutions.

“This has been an issue for Council, residents and businesses alike for quite a while,” says Webber. “The timing was right to bring a proposal forward for consideration.”

Two main options are possible: lake-fed and groundwater, says a release from the Municipality.

Test wells and further engineering design will determine which option is better.

CBCL reports have allowed the Municipality to make initial estimates on project scope, impacts and costs.

Cost is a critical factor with any significant infrastructure project, the release says.

In the Village of Chester, the estimated capital costs for a water system (including a treatment plant and water lines, for example) are $48 million.

If a water project proceeds, design and construction could take five years to complete.

Funding for up to 75% of the project must come from the federal and provincial governments, with the remainder of the costs being shared among property owners in the service area.

It is estimated that each property owner would pay approximately $850 per year for the first 10 years.

This figure would drop to around $670 a year for the next 15 years.

Additionally, there are costs associated with connecting individual properties ($2,500) to the system and consumption (average of $50 per year).

Without secured government funding, however, the water project cannot proceed.

“While many residents are in support of a water system, there are many who have concerns,” says Webber. “We encourage landowners and the community to come to the public information session to learn more and tell us what this project means for them.”

Gauging the level of community support is the next important step.

Landowners should have received a letter, outlining details of an upcoming poll that will measure their support.

Advance polling, via internet or telephone, will take place from January 18 to January 24.

In-person polling will be held Saturday, January 26.

Poll results will be announced at the Council meeting in February.

The Council for the Municipality will make the final decision on whether to proceed with a water system in 2019.

This decision will be based on several key factors including secured funding, landowner support, and a clear picture of the health, economic and environmental implications.

The January 15th meeting will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Chester Area Middle School gymnasium.

For more information go to www.voicesandchoices.ca, publicworks@chester.ca or call 902-275-1312.
If you are not currently advertising, but would like to reach an audience of approximately 18,000 homes and businesses in the Western HRM (Tantallon, Hammonds Plains and St. Margaret’s Bay), as well as Chester, here is your chance!

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For Outdoor Adventurers Who Like to Snowshoe & Hike
An Osprey Ridge Snowshoe or Hike is being held by Hike Nova Scotia and the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg on January 13th in Pine Grove at 2:00 p.m. This will be a guided snowshoe or hike. You must pre-register at recreation@modl.ca or call 902-541-1343. You may even qualify to win a trail prize. See www.hikenovascotia.ca for details.

Another showshoe or hike is being held at Graves Island Provincial Park in East Chester on January 3rd by Hike Nova Scotia and the Chester Recreation & Parks department. Stargazing and a chili supper are a part of the adventure. The event takes place on January 31st beginning at 6:15 p.m. You must pre-register at 902-275-3490 by January 24th. You may qualify to win a trail prize with this event as well. See www.hikenovascotia.ca for details.

Wondering what it’s like to live without a connection to the electric grid with no electric bill? Then this two-hour presentation and discussion is for you. Topics covered will include types of off-grid systems, off-grid for new construction vs. a retrofit for existing houses, components of off-grid systems, energy use reduction techniques, cost of some sample off-grid packages, and a general discussion of off-grid living. The primary presenter at this workshop will be Cam Farnell, who has been living happily off-grid for over five years, and he will share his experience with building and living in his own local, off-grid home. Hosted by Transition Bay St. Margarets, registration is required. Visit the listing on Eventbrite to reserve your spot. The presentation will take place at the Tantallon Library from 2:15 to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 17th.
TAX SALE
MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF CHESTER

The following properties will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION by the Treasurer of the Municipality of the District of Chester on Tuesday, the 29th of January, 2019 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. unless, before the date of the tax sale, the total amounts as indicated are paid in full. The Tax Sale will be held at the Municipal building at 151 King Street, Chester, Nova Scotia.

TERMS OF THE SALE: Cash, money order, bank draft, lawyers trust cheque, certified cheque or debit card (Before date of sale verify with your bank the amount of your available daily limit) NOT credit card – for the amount specified below at the time of the sale. Any excess to be paid similarly by 12:00 Noon, the 1st day of February, 2019.

10:00 AM GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Assessed To</th>
<th>Taxes, Interest, Expenses to Date</th>
<th>Redeemable</th>
<th>HST applicable at time of sale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Land, Highway 12, New Ross</td>
<td>Brian Thomas Collins</td>
<td>$1,349.22</td>
<td>Redeemable; HST applicable at time of sale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Land, Lot 43, 9 Big Rock Lane, East Chester</td>
<td>David R. Lane</td>
<td>$1,660.31</td>
<td>Redeemable; HST applicable at time of sale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Land, Dwelling, Building, 6705 Highway 12, Aldersville</td>
<td>Joseph and Anna McGregor</td>
<td>$4,035.76</td>
<td>Redeemable; HST not applicable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Dwelling, Lot 568, 116 Poplar Drive, New Russell</td>
<td>Mary Lou Wilson</td>
<td>$1,588.48</td>
<td>Redeemable; HST not applicable</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Land, 50 Upper Blandford Wharf Rd, Blandford</td>
<td>Gerald K. Moir</td>
<td>$3,494.68</td>
<td>Redeemable; HST applicable at time of sale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Land, Lot 17, Beechview Drive, Chester</td>
<td>Kirk L. &amp; Sylvia A. Swinimer</td>
<td>$4,944.51</td>
<td>Redeemable; HST applicable at time of sale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Land, Arthur Watt Road, Chester Basin</td>
<td>Charlene L. MacDonnell</td>
<td>$1,428.17</td>
<td>Redeemable; HST applicable at time of sale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Land, Swinamer Road, Western Shore</td>
<td>Morris A. Swinimer, Joy M. Adams, Stella M. Myra, Barry B. Swinamer, Cecil A. Swinimer, Franklyn E. Swinimer, Thomas K. Swinimer, Charles R. Swinamer, Naida A. Hamm</td>
<td>$547.73</td>
<td>Redeemable; HST applicable at time of sale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A full description of the above properties may be seen at the Office of the Municipal Treasurer at 151 King Street, Chester, Nova Scotia, weekdays during normal working hours – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on our website at www.chester.ca, select Menu; Property Taxes and Rates; Tax Sales and click on Helpful Links.

TAKE NOTICE that Tax Sales do not clear up defects in title in all circumstances. A Tax Deed conveys only the interest of the assessed owner, whatever that interest may be. A person intending to clear up defects in the title to the property by way of a Tax Sale is advised to obtain a legal opinion as per tax sales. You are also advised that the recoverable costs of a Tax Sale can be considerable.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that sales of vacant property, commercial property, and newly constructed residential property are subject to HST, which shall be added to the purchase price of these properties sold at Tax Sale.

Dated at Chester this 2nd day of January, 2019.

Malcolm Pitman, CPA, CA
Director of Finance/Treasurer
The Municipality of Chester
Call Dropped, Message Deleted, but Meg Sims Wins the Big Jackpot

Meg Sims of Hubbards missed the call at suppertime when Treasure Chest director Gwen Colman called to tell her that her BTC number 4214 had been drawn.

Gwen left a message but when Meg was listening to it, the call was dropped, the message deleted. Oh, so close!

She then sent an email to Bay Treasure Chest, following up with a voice message and a message via Messenger. Had she heard correctly? Within a few minutes Gwen called Meg back and confirmed her win of $44,045—the highest to date!

“Not necessarily,” she replies. “But as many people would understand, it’s a rough time of year. To share it is better than to keep it all for yourself.”

She then sent an email to Bay Treasure Chest volunteer Alana Zeigler (right). Meg’s parents, James and Mary-Ellen Sims, are also shown. The family has been settled in Hubbards since the early 1800s. James is the third James Sims to live on the same property.

It Truly is Dust to Dust—A Discussion on Green Burial

The topic of green burial generated a lot of interest during the November meeting of the St. Margaret’s Bay Seniors Association.

Four speakers were asked to give their viewpoints on green burial, Ray Mattholie, Hannah Longard, Michelle Malloy and The Reverend Brieanna Andrews.

Ray is a director with the Green Burial Society of Canada and is helping to launch Green Burial Nova Scotia. Ray explained the green burial concept by simply saying, “The body is placed in the ground to decompose naturally, and contributes to the growth of new life. It is truly dust to dust.”

Bodies are not embalmed (a process which inserts up to three gals of formaldehyde) and a simple wooden, or even wicker, casket can be used. A small number of cemeteries in Nova Scotia are accommodating green burials. A full list can be found on the Green Burial Nova Scotia website.

Hannah, a philosophy/anthropology student at Mount Allison University, is studying environmentally friendly funeral practices. Hannah talked about green burial as giving people an opportunity to reclaim ownership of death care, rather than relying on others to dictate the process. Hannah discussed the negative environmental impact of some funeral and death care practices, and contrasted that with the minimal impact of natural, or green, burial.

“Natural burial not only prevents harm to the environment, but it enables a healthy ecosystem,” she says. “It is about enabling healthy decomposition, rather than inhibiting it.”

Michelle is a counselling therapist who has a special focus on supporting patients through periods of grief. Michelle suggested that open conversations about death care can enable joy to be part of the grieving process, as the dead are taken care of before the person passes away.

There is no timeline on grief, she said, and no grieving process is the same as another. Michelle commented on green burial as being part of a larger conversation regarding death care, which includes cultural, traditional and local nuances.

The Reverend Brieanna Andrews stressed the importance of funeral planning for all families.

Funeral planning was not just to support the person who has died, but was just as, if not more, important for family and friends left behind.

Once you died, she reminded the audience, you no longer have jurisdiction over your body.

So, if you want something specific done upon your death, you need to make your wishes known.

The Rev. Andrews surprised many people by saying that a body does not need to be embalmed and that you need to make your wishes known.

Community Support Makes 49th Annual Seniors Christmas Dinner a Continued Success

By Heather Cochrane

Saturday, December 8th, saw a wonderful turnout for the St. Margaret’s Bay Legion—Branch 116’s Annual Seniors Dinner and social.

Entertainment started at 3:00 p.m. with Bernie Sharpe leading the crowd in Christmas carols and crowd favorites. Following dedication of the Legion’s refurbished cenotaph, turkey dinner was served to 250 seniors.

This was after almost another 100 meals were packaged and sent out with a fleet of volunteer drivers to be hand delivered to those who could not attend the Legion on Saturday.

Santa, Mrs. Clause and the elves managed to squeeze in a visit and helped distribute treat bags to everyone as well as draw the names of the lucky gift winners.

Branch 116 has been serving a free turkey dinner to seniors and providing an afternoon of comradeship and entertainment for 45 continuous years! This is made possible with support from our community. The Legion receives gifts and donations from businesses and individuals and volunteer support from the Seniors Association of St. Margaret’s Bay who organized prep volunteers and the fleet for meat deliveries.

BayRides provided free transportation to and from the event for those who wished to attend and needed a ride.

Sea Cadets Corp 328 was on hand to serve meals.

Bermadette Jordan, Member of Parliament for South Shore—St. Margaret’s, brought greetings and helped out with the afternoon’s festivities.

St. Margaret’s Bay Legion Branch 116 thanks all for their help and support.

To the many businesses and individual sponsors who offered monetary donations, gifts and contributions in kind, thank you. And a big shout out to the vegetable peelers, turkey carvers, dressing and cranberry makers— the food prepared received rave reviews.

Thank you also to the seniors and their helpers who made up treat bags, to the hall set up and clean up teams, the Seniors Association and BayRides.

Next year’s Seniors Dinner, the 50th, will be on Saturday, December 14th.

Masthead News January 9, 2019 Page 7

It Truly is Dust to Dust—A Discussion on Green Burial

Draws a Lot of Interest

Thanks to the St. Margaret’s Bay Seniors Association

The topic of green burial generated a lot of interest during the November meeting of the St. Margaret’s Bay Seniors Association.

Four speakers were asked to give their viewpoints on green burial, Ray Mattholie, Hannah Longard, Michelle Malloy and The Reverend Brieanna Andrews.
The St. Margaret’s Bay Lions Club had another successful year—this time selling 690 Christmas trees. “Thanks to those folks who continue to buy from us year after year,” said spokesperson Peter Lund. “A big Thank You goes to the Sir John A High School Junior League hockey team for their help unloading trees when they arrived on December 1st and 8th, and to the Vimy 250 Air Cadets who helped with the sale of the trees on weekends,” Peter said. The proceeds from the annual fund, which is now 25 years running, will all go back into the community to those folks in need of assistance, as well as to the hockey team and air cadets for their assistance. This is the second year we have sold 50/50 tickets,” said Peter, “the proceeds of which have gone to the ATV Christmas Daddies program.” The Daddies received $525. The winner of the 50-50 was Daisy Dauphine, a well-known person who has given many hours of her time year after year volunteering in the community. She won $526.

By playing a toonie – the price of a coffee – in any given week you could win a tax-free treasure of $10,000+ PLUS, you are supporting local service organizations. Register a number for this weekly 50-50 draw and play at one of 17 local retailers. See website for details.

Bay Treasure Chest

By playing a toonie – the price of a coffee – in any given week you could win a tax-free treasure of $10,000+ PLUS, you are supporting local service organizations. Register a number for this weekly 50-50 draw and play at one of 17 local retailers. See website for details.

The St. Margaret’s Bay Lions Club Sells 690 Christmas Trees, Gives to the Needy

From left to right in the front row are King Lion Leonard Bugbee, Head Coach Scott Pellerine, Assistant Coach Justin Hurbert, Manager Paul Smith and Trainer Braydon Anth. They and the Sir John A Junior League Hockey Team behind them helped unload 690 trees onto the Rona lot at Hwy 103, Exit 5.

Shown from left to right are John and Andy Venoit who provided the trees grown on their property north of Bridgewater.

Lion Michael Hart (left), RONA manager Bruce Pooler and Lion Tammy Crew get ready to draw the name of the 50/50 winner at the St. Margaret’s Centre on December 20th.

From left to right are Captain Amy Sharpe, CV Alex Mahtab and Corporal Johnathan Sanders getting ready to bail a tree.

The Masthead News ~ The Best Read Community Newspaper in the Fastest Growing Area of Nova Scotia! Going into approximately 18,000 Homes & Businesses!
Four Hammonds Plains Area Students Gearing Up to Play in Winter Hockey Games in Alberta By Keith Aylling

Four Hammonds Plains area hockey players are gearing up for a trip to Red Deer, Alberta, and competing in the 2019 Canada Winter Games from February 16th to the 22nd. They will compete in games against Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick and, according to team member Luke Vardy, "Hopefully we will pull it off and get through" to win.

The players on the team include Jacob Goobie, Davis Cooper, Cam MacDonald and Luke Vardy.

In an interview with the Masthead News the players say they have been looking forward to this for the last four years and have actually been playing hockey for at least 11 years.

They have played with TASA (Timberlea and Surrounding Area) and in Bedford and in leagues at the St Margaret's Centre in Upper Tantallon. Hockey Nova Scotia selected them to play in the games, which will be played at the University of Red Deer.

Their selection was made after watching them compete in Under 15 and Under 16 leagues in Halifax.

Jacob plays in goal for the Halifax MacDonald's; Davis plays forward in Halifax MacDonald's; Cam is also a forward, currently playing in Select Academy at Southport Connecticut; while Luke plays defense for Dartmouth Steele Subaru.

All except Cam are currently enrolled in grade 10 at Sir John A MacDonald High School and CP Allen High.

They will be the only group from Hammonds Plains playing on the Nova Scotia team.

Cam went to the Academy in September but prior to that has always played in the Nova Scotia hockey system, having lived in Tantallon.

He attended all the team tryouts, was successful, and will travel back to Halifax before heading to Red Deer with the rest of the Nova Scotia team.

The four all have aspirations to continue in hockey as they grow their careers and hope to be drafted for the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

The local hockey season takes a two week break for the Canada Winter Games and then it's back to playing here and the playoffs in April.

The Winter Games support team for the Nova Scotia team include Jon Greenwood as Head Coach, Erin King as Assistant Head Coach, Tom Lee as Assistant Head Coach, and Meredith Waiseman as their Trainer.

Hockey Nova Scotia is funding the team’s trip and participating in the Canada Winter Games.

Good wishes and support will follow them as this is probably their first major competition.

From left to right are Jacob Goobie, Davis Cooper, Cam MacDonald and Luke Vardy.

St. Luke’s Community Players Bring Erma Bombeck to Their Stage

The St. Luke’s Community Players will be presenting “Erma Bombeck; At Wit’s End”, a one act, one woman play which pays loving tribute to America’s funniest housewife and mother. This performance, set in a coffee house environment, is the first of its kind for the Players, who have been bringing music theatre to the St. Luke’s stage since 2006.

Amy Thomson, who plays Erma, is thrilled to be a part of it. “I’m excited about this project,” says Amy. “I think people are really going to like the intimate feel of this format.”

“And I’m pleased to be working on this specific production. Everyone knows Erma Bombeck’s funny side. This show tells the part of the story people may not know—the sad and sometimes tragic events that shaped her personality and her writing, her intense love for the people around her, and her formidable efforts in the women’s rights movement.”

“Erma Bombeck; At Wit’s End” will be performed on February 2nd at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., February 3rd at 2:00 p.m., Feb. 9th at 2:00 and 7:00 p.m. and Feb. 10th at 2:00 p.m., with matinee performances available.

Tickets are $15 each and include coffee, tea and assorted sweets and snacks.

For reservations, please email mastheadreviews@gmail.com or call 902-222-6440.

The shows take place at the St. Lukes United Church, 5374 St. Margaret’s Bay Road, Upper Tantallon.

Deadline for the February 6th Issue of The Masthead News is January 30th.

Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture—an Op-Ed

By MLA Hugh MacKay

In 1973 famed ocean explorer and conservationist Jacques Cousteau wrote, “As population mount and land grown food supplies are unable to feed the growing numbers of the hungry, man is turning more and more to the sea for his food.”

On land, man has slowly learned to conserve the soil lest it stop producing crops. “If the bounty of the sea is not to be exhausted, man must learn to farm it as he farms the land, by sowing as well as reaping.”

Now, nearly 50 years later, mankind has developed a robust global approach to aquaculture. In fact, during these past years, global output from aquaculture grew at a rate of 9.1% while output from wild fish capture grew at an annual average rate of 1.2%.

Aquaculture is the fastest growing food production sector in the world and provides about half of all the fish we eat. In Canada, farmed seafood represents three times the value of beef in food exports. Aquaculture generates $3.1 billion of economic activity and employs over 15,000 full-time workers with thousands more on a seasonal basis, mostly in rural communities.

Aquaculture has become an economic powerhouse and sector analysts report that eight in ten Canadians support regulated expansion of our national aquaculture industry. Along the way, however, something happened to the promise of aquaculture in Nova Scotia.

There were some missteps and some misinformation with the result that it wasn’t welcomed by all parties as a supplementary food supply.

Yoga Around the Bay Workshop February 2nd

Yoga Around the Bay—a morning yoga workshop with three gifted, local teachers—will take place at the St. Margaret’s Bay Sailing Club on Saturday, February 2nd.

Jody Myers, Bonnie Vanchuk and Brenda Mailer will teach you yoga in support of the Bay Grandmothers.

Registration is $25.

To reserve your spot, email Sandy Larsen at sandy.larsen@bellaliant.net or call 902-826-2464. You will need to reserve early as spots are limited. The workshop will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the St. Margaret’s Bay Sailing Club is located at 5 Forbethey Hill Road, Glen Haven.
Immediate Action Required to Protect Proposed Ingram River Wilderness Area

By Nick Horne, Board Chair, St. Margaret’s Bay Stewardship Association

The St. Margaret’s Bay Stewardship Association feels the Nova Scotia government should hold off on planned clearcutting within the boundaries of the proposed Ingram River Wilderness Area. The Ingram River Wilderness Area is well known to the Department of Lands and Forestry and Nova Scotia Environment for its significant recreational and community value, which includes species at risk, such as the mainland moose, and the common snapping turtle, as well as rare old-growth Acadian forests.

These natural treasures are under immediate threat with 222.7 acres proposed to be cut in the coming months. The St. Margaret’s Bay Stewardship Association’s position is that the Nova Scotia government is putting the cart before the horse. A full wilderness assessment must come before any harvests are considered for this proposed wilderness area.

Allowing clearcutting first makes a future wilderness area assessment less accurate and less valuable. Several of the planned harvest areas directly border on either the Old Annapolis Nature Reserve, or on highly solvent clear cuts that occurred directly on the border of that nature reserve, fragmenting an already at-risk area.

The Old Annapolis Nature Reserve comprises three parcels that have already been fragmented and stressed by extensive clear cuts occurring along its borders and in surrounding area. With only eight percent of its total area protected, the St. Margaret’s District of the former Bowater-Mersey lands falls well behind the provincial average, which sees roughly 30% of lands protected.

For context, some areas of the province are much less protected than others, with less than 13% of the province currently protected. In 2016, when these same areas were slated to be clear cut, the St. Margaret’s Bay Stewardship Association, Scouts Canada, the Ecology Action Centre, and the broader community came together in protest, saying the Ingram River Wilderness Area was simply too valuable to the thousands of annual visitors, including residents and tourist, to lose to clearcutting, which would affect the area for generations to come.

The Stewardship Association is very upset that clearcutting is being considered within the boundaries of the proposed wilderness area, asking, “What has changed? Why does the community have to fight this battle again?” It is unacceptable that the proposed clear-cutting offers the public so little time to respond, and the association and I urge the government of Nova Scotia to reconsider this area haste.

Nick Horne
Board Chair
St. Margaret’s Bay Stewardship Association

Ten-Year-Old “Unstoppable Kid” Meets with Toronto Blue Jays Plans to be a Lawyer

Paige McNally of Hammonds Plains is just starting her life journey and has already been selected as the number one Unstoppable Kid by the Toronto Blue Jays, has been awarded the Hammonds Plains Citizen of the Year, and has received the Nova Scotia Challenger Baseball Award. The Baseball Award is usually presented to a community program coordinator, but in Paige’s case, it was felt that no one else has done more to promote Challenger Baseball in Nova Scotia. The Masthead News met with Paige about her trip to Toronto, accompanied by her parents, Jan and Joe, and brother Cohen.

A younger brother, Judd, did not travel with them. Paige attended and spoke at the Curve Ball Gala at the Rogers Centre while mingling with members of the Toronto Blue Jays. Paige said the trip included a visit to Canada’s Wonderland which “was a real highlight for me.”

Another meaningful touch for her, upon her return home, was an appearance on CTV’s Morning Live Show and an interview with hosts Jayson Baxter and Kelly Linehan.

Paige said she did a total of three interviews with Jayson. Paige plays baseball in a group called Challenger Baseball, a league with four teams made up of kids with various challenges that play for the whole summer. She played first base for the Hammonds Plains team and also assists in coaching.

In addition to playing baseball she loves acting at the Maritime Theatre School, has earned her Friendship Badge at Girl Guides, and is heading off to Madeline Symonds Middle School after completing schooling at the Kingswood Elementary School. Topping off an eventful year, Paige is also training to run in the four kilometre event at the Bluenose Marathon held each year in Halifax.

Paige has already set her next goal—that of wanting to be a lawyer for her career.

Community Transportation Pilot Project Links South Shore to Halifax

The Province of Nova Scotia has invested in a community transportation pilot project linking the South Shore to Halifax as part of the Nova Scotia Community Transportation Network. The commitment to develop community transportation across Nova Scotia over the next five years.

The pilot project provides three round trips from Bridgewater to Halifax every day, also making stops in Lunenburg, Mahone Bay, and two stops in the Municipality of Chester: the Exit 9 (Chester Basin) car pool lot and Hubbards Mall.

To see departure and arrival times, please look online at https://www.maritimebus.com/locations/bus-stops/nova-scoria or call 1-800-275-1807.

If you go online, select your location and then scroll down to select your destination. With a credit card, you can purchase tickets online or by calling the toll-free number. Tickets range from $13.00 to $57.00, depending on destination and return.

If you don’t have a credit card, Maritime Bus offers ticket sales at their head office at the Via Rail Station, 1161 Hollis Street in Halifax or at the Enso gas stations in either Bridgewater or Lunenburg.

Community Wheels offers to pick up residents at their home and take them to or pick them up from bus stops on a donation basis.

Call the Community Wheels Transportation Coordinator at 902-275-5585 to check availability.

To offer suggestions for improvement or words of encouragement, submit a contact form online at www.maritimebus.com.

Call for Volunteer Nominations

Thanks to Municipal Insight, the newsletter put out by the Municipality of Chester

Every community group in the Municipality of Chester is encouraged to nominate one volunteer from their group to be recognized at the Municipality of Chester Volunteer Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 10th.

Application forms can be picked up at the Municipality of Chester Recreation & Parks Department, located at 151 King Street, Chester, or on their website at www.chester.ca.

For more info call Chad Haughn, Recreation & Parks Director at 902-275-3490 or email chaughn@chester.ca.

Have you seen the On Line directory attached to our Web page? Just go to www.themastheadnews.ca and click directory. If your business isn't there, send us the info to Richard@bytheseapublishing.ca and Get Listed.
MP Peter Kent Provide Tips on Keeping Information Safe Online

By Chantal Pelham-Edwards

The Senators Association of St. Margaret’s Bay had a special guest at their December meeting and Christmas party.

Member of Parliament Peter Kent gave a presentation on internet security and provided tips on how to keep your information safe.

Mr. Kent is touring the country meeting with seniors’ groups to talk about keeping information safe and secure when using the internet or email.

One look at your junk email folder and there’s no doubt that scams are alive and well in the online world.

The presentation had two areas of focus: what you need to know about internet security and what you can do to protect yourself and your private information.

Mr. Kent told the audience that there is a relative state of “lawlessness” in Canada regarding internet security.

While other countries are doing marginally better in terms of regulations that protect citizen’s private information, Canada is playing catch-up, and the responsibility is on the user to protect their own information.

It is also important that internet users be critical of the information being presented to them.

“Social media programs such as Facebook use the information you provide to develop an understanding of your likes and dislikes,” said Mr. Kent.

“Your clients use this information to market their products to you. So, while Facebook is free, the price we pay is the provision of our information and preferences.”

The implications of information harvesting can be far-reaching than a company advertising a specialized product, as seen in the results of the 2016 United States presidential election, or in the Brexit vote in the United Kingdom.

If people in these regions were identified as having a particular political leaning, they may have been exposed to information that was intended to sway their vote one way or another.

A scam may appear to be an email or message from a particular person or company that you are familiar with.

There are numerous scams where the scammers pretend to be from the Canada Revenue Agency, Nova Scotia Power, etc.

The message may say that your account is overdue and you need to pay them right away or suffer consequences.

Scammers may also pose as a relative or friend and say they need your financial support to help them out of a tight spot.

It is important to always check the source of the message and ensure that it is legitimate before providing any information.

Aside from being vigilant, there are other ways that you try to keep your information safe:

Two-factor authentication (or multi-factor authentication) provides more security than just one password.

Take the time to read the fine print before clicking “ok”.

You may be agreeing to more than you think.

If you sell or give away your computer, you should reset the hard drive.

Simply removing your files and deleting your web browser history does not guarantee that your information has been removed.

Seek assistance if you are unsure.

Nova Scotia doctors work hard for patients

Dear Editor,

Nova Scotia’s doctors work hard to care for their patients, provide them with appropriate advice and advocate on their behalf.

In 2005, the federal government expanded the disability tax credit.

This non-refundable tax credit helps disabled people (or those who support them) reduce the amount of income tax they may have to pay.

As a result of the expansion, individuals may now backfile for up to 10 years.

While this has been very welcome for many Canadians, the expansion has resulted in several unintended consequences that are of concern to Doctors Nova Scotia.

Chief among these has been the proliferation of third-party companies aggressively marketing to Canadians with the message that disabled people may be eligible for tens of thousands of dollars in tax refunds—and that all it takes is to have their physician complete the disability tax form.

However, these for-profit companies don’t have the complete health profile of the patients they are dealing with, and they are not positioned to suggest medical diagnoses.

In addition, these third-party companies often take a percentage of any refund in return for their services.

The challenge is that these companies often create great expectations of financial windfall for individuals, but, in some cases, physicians are not able to confirm the patient’s disability to the degree needed to qualify for the tax benefit.

This then strains the physician-patient relationship.

If a physician determines they cannot ethically support a determination of disability, these companies will implore the patient to ask the doctor to change the diagnosis to support a claim.

Nova Scotia physicians will always provide the best medical care, support and advice for their patients.

They will always try to do what is best for their patients’ health and well being.

Physicians are regulated by authorities such as the Nova Scotia College of Physicians and Surgeons, and they are bound by their code of ethics.

Physicians cannot—and should not—be pressurized to make diagnoses on the basis of aggressive marketing tactics used by companies that want to make a profit from patients.

If you believe you have a disability that would entitle you to claim the disability tax credit, speak to your family physician.

Trust that your physician will, as they always do, treat you with your best interest at heart.

You don’t need to be seduced by the self-interested marketing of for-profit businesses.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim Holland, MD, CCFP (EM), President, Doctors Nova Scotia

Survey Ranks Gardening, Walking as Top Hobbies

Thanks to the Senators Association of St. Margaret’s Bay for this Article

Seniors around St. Margaret’s Bay like to be outdoors and they like to keep active.

Top of the list of favourite activities was gardening, the number one choice of 56% of respondents.

Second, and maintaining the outdoor activity theme, was walking, hiking or Nordic walking (45%).

This information comes from a survey recently conducted by the Senators Association of St. Margaret’s Bay.

There was a tie for third place between cooking and reading (both 41%).

The survey showed a real breadth of support for a range of activities and hobbies.

A third of all respondents expressed an interest in group travel, art, meditation, biking and yoga.

Traditional crafts like knitting and crochet were close behind at 30%.

Seventy-four percent said that the Senators Association activities and programs interest them, 67% take part in the Bay Treasure Chest, 59% enjoy the lectures at the library, 38% go for fitness classes and 30% enjoy the Bay Expo.

The association intends to use the results to refine its programming and activities.
Jan. 9, “Exploring the Heart of the Buddha”, Wednesday open houses starting at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Margaret’s Bay Shambhala Centre at 13495 Peggy’s Cove Road in Upper Tantallon at 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Meditation followed by a talk, contemplation and conversation. Initial meditation instruction is offered each week. Free and open to the public.

Sat., Jan. 12, Breakfast at the Chester Legion from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy eggs any way you like them, French toast, hash browns, bacon, sausage, toast, coffee/tea and juice.

Sat., Jan. 12, Trinity’s Big Breakfast (Truckler Style), Trinity Church, 67 Trinity Way, Timberlea (across from Tim Hortons), 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Adults $8.00; Child $4.00, Preschoolers Free. Tickets available at the door. Book Sale. For more information, please call 902-471-5245. Drop in and have breakfast and say hello!

Fri., Jan. 18, Pre-Teen Dance at Through The Years Day Care & Community Centre, 7:00 p.m. An evening of music, dancing, and fun. Adult chauffeured; canteen available. Ages 7 to 12. Cost $5.00. Contact 902-857-1777 for more information.

Sat., Jan. 19, Snowflake Frenzy CNS Winter Fair at the Chester Legion, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a Penny Auction, Bounce Castle, Cotton Candy, Pintoke, Mini Golf, Snowman Bowling, Cake Walk, Magic Show, Bake Sale, Gag Ball, Silly Su-cows, Hot Chocolate Buffet, Pizza and more. All proceeds will go to the CDS Home and School to help towards resources and events for all the students.

Sat., Jan. 19, Dance with “3 am” at the Chester Legion starting at 9:00 p.m. for those 19 and older. For more info call the Legion 902-275-3315.

Sat., Jan. 19, Blindfold Breakfast at District #1 Community Centre, Blandford, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Enjoy scrambled eggs, hash browns, sausage, baked beans, toast, juice and tea/coffee. Adults $7.00, children ages 5 to 12 $3.50, and under 5 FREE.

Sun., Jan. 20, Crib Tournament at the Chester Legion starting 1:00 p.m. For more info call the Legion 902-275-3315.

Sun., Jan. 20, Are you interested in learning about fermented foods and discovering how to make your own interesting and tasty foods? Learn about sour cream, Farm and Ferments will be on hand to show us some tips and tricks for getting great results with fermented foods. This is a free program open to all. Taking place in the Tantallon Library from 2:15 to 4:30 p.m. and hosted by Transition Bay St. Margarets.

Sun., Jan. 20, The Atheneaum Society of Nova Scotia presents “Life in North Korea” with Dr. Robert Huish (see story elsewhere in the Masthead), 2:30 p.m., at the Ocean Swells Community Centre, Northwest Cove, 2726 Hwy 329. All are welcome.

Tues., Jan. 22, Feb. 12 & Feb. 26, Enjoy heritage handwork by taking part in hooking, knitting, quilting, sewing (machine work as well), or any other portable handwork at the District #1 Community Centre, Blandford, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Enjoy the sharing of handwork knowledge; $3.00 drop-in fee. Coffee and tea available.

Fri., Jan. 25, Writer Group Information Session at the District #1 Community Centre, Blandford, 7:00 p.m. Are you interested in becoming part of a writers’ group? Both experienced and novice writers are welcome. There will be a writing activity, so bring a pencil/pen and paper. Contact Rachelle at rmwatts2018@outlook.com for more information.

Fri., Jan. 25, Karaoke at the Chester Legion starting 9:00 p.m. for members and guests 19 and older. For more info call the Legion 902-275-3315.

Sun., Jan. 27, Fish Fry at the Hubbards Area Lions Club, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Pan fried haddock, potatoes, veggies, coleslaw, homemade Mendocino tea, coffee and water. Bar available. 50/50 is available. Adults $2, children’s price $6.00. Call Lou at 902-857-9714.

Sat., Feb. 2, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The Bay Grandmothers will host Yoga Around the Bay at the St. Margaret’s Bay Sailing Club with teachers Bonnie Vanuchek, Brenda Mailler and Jody Myres. All levels of experience are invited. Pre-registration mandatory as spaces are limited. $25.00. Contact Sandy Larsen at 902-826-2464 or sandylarsen@bellaliant.net.

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Sat., Feb. 9, Breakfast at the Chester Legion from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy eggs any way you like them, French toast, hash browns, beans, bacon, sausage, toast, tea/coffee and juice.

Sat., Feb. 9, 19th Annual Coldest Day of the Year at the Foc’sle Pub, Chester (Pleasant Street entrance) from 3:00 p.m. to closing. This is a benefit for the Chester Drama Society. Live entertainment, raffles, silent auction and more. Cover charge $10.

Sat., Feb. 9, Unicorn Theatre Valentine’s Breakfast with Snoopy, 9:30 a.m., at the Bay Community Centre, 11 Station Road, Head of St. Margarets Bay. Everyone is invited. There will be a delicious pancake breakfast, followed by a heartwarming little show featuring Charles Shultz’s beloved Peanuts characters in several short plays about Valentine’s Day, love, and friendship. Tickets are $5.00 and reservations are essential. To reserve, email info@unicorntheatre.ca or call 902-857-2121.

Fri., Feb. 15, Pre-Teen Dance, Through The Years Day Care & Community Centre, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. An evening of music, dancing and fun. Adult chauffeured, canteen available. Ages 7 to 12. Cost $5.00.

Sat., Feb. 16, Dance at the Chester Legion starting 9:00 p.m. for those 19 years and older. For more info call the Legion 902-275-3315.

Fri., Feb. 22, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For information and to register. Please indicate which session you will be attending.

Sat., Sun. Feb. 2 & 3 and Sat., Sun. Feb. 9 and 10, The Luke’s Community Players present “Erma Bombeck: At Wit’s End”, a one act, one woman play which pays loving tribute to America’s funniest housewife and mother. Performances will take place on Feb. 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th with matinee performances available. Tickets are $15 each and include coffee, tea and assorted sweets and snacks. For reservations, please email tickets@lukesunited.com or call 902-222-6440.

Annual Valentine’s Breakfast with Snoopy February 9th

Unicorn Theatre invites everyone who loves Charlie Brown, Snoopy and company to come along to the Bay Community Centre and enjoy Unicorn’s Annual Valentine’s Breakfast Theatre on February 9th at 9:30 a.m.

For $5.00 you get a delicious pancakes breakfast and a heartwarming show, “Valentine’s Breakfast with Snoopy”, which consists of a number of little plays about Valentine’s Day, love and friendship, based on “You’re A Good Man, Charlie brown” and the Peanuts comic strip.

Reservations are essential. To reserve, please email info@unicorntheatre.ca or call the theatre at 902-857-2121.

Deadline for the February 6th Issue of The Masthead News is January 30th.
Christmas Village Nearly a Whole Living Room

These four photos were sent to us by Dianne Lanteigne, who has a friend, Sue McNeil, that sets up an elaborate Christmas Village in her living room.

We thought that readers might like to see a portion of what she did this Christmas.

Her husband constructed the foundation for it.
Dan McDougall to Assume Role as CAO for the Municipality of the District of Chester

By Catherine Clute

Dan McDougall

When Dan McDougall starts his job, he will be looking for a new running route and a new place to live.

The 56-year-old plans to move from Truro to the Chester area with his partner, Marie, and Portuguese water dog Chesa, when he assumes the job of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Municipality of the District of Chester at the end of January. He is no stranger to municipal government in rural Nova Scotia, having 12 years experience in the CAO position for the County of Colchester and the District of Guysborough.

McDougall also has experience at the provincial level of government, serving as a Minister of the Department of Municipal Affairs, and most recently has been serving as the Chief Executive Officer of Housing Nova Scotia—the government agency responsible for the administration and delivery of affordable housing in the province.

“We are the landlord with the largest number of units in the province,” says McDougall.

McDougall graduated from Dalhousie with a Bachelor’s degree in physical education and is passionate about fitness and recreation.

An avid runner, he has been participating in marathon events for the past several years. McDougall has set himself a goal to run in every province and has managed to run in six different provinces so far.

He credits a former CAO of the Municipality of the District of Chester, Erin Beaudin, with getting him into running. Both of them competed in the Boston Marathon in 2013 as part of a contingent from Nova Scotia.

Although he was born in Ontario to Cape Breton and Newfoundland parents, he moved to Nova Scotia as a teen and considers himself a Nova Scotian. He is excited about the challenges in his new position.

“I see the CAO job as the middle of the hourglass,” he says. “I report to Municipal Council and provide advice on policy and programs, and when Council makes a decision, I support staff in delivering on their decisions.”

He is looking forward to meeting his new staff and colleagues from Simon Fraser University. Dr. Huish’s presentation is free and all are welcome.

Life in North Korea Today: A Presentation by Dr. Robert Huish January 20th

With the recent meetings between the leaders of the United States and North Korea, interest in the “Hermit Kingdom” has grown substantially as we have come to know more about this secretive and isolated society, says the Athenaeum Society.

Dr. Robert Huish, an Associate Professor in the Department of International Development Studies at Dalhousie University, pursues research on human rights and security issues involving North Korea.

In particular, his work exposes how North Korea continues to violate human rights, and pursues military aggression despite global isolation and international sanctions.

Dr. Huish has a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) from Queen’s University, a Master of Arts from Queen’s University, and a PhD from Simon Fraser University.

“‘He has been a guest on many national radio and television shows and his presentation promises to be interesting and engaging,” says the Athenaeum Society.

It takes place on Sunday, January 20th, at 2:30 p.m. at Oceanstone Seaside Resort, 8600 Peggy’s Cove Road. Call 902-857-1133 for more information and to register.

Firefighter Volunteers Actively Being Sought

The Black Point Fire Hall in Black Point and many other fire stations throughout HRM are actively recruiting volunteer firefighters to join their ranks.

Fred Layton, District 1 Division Captain and Black Point Station Chief, tells the Masthead News that volunteers must live in the community you serve as a volunteer and be able to make a personal commitment of responding to at least 25% of emergency calls.

Volunteers, he explained, must be 18 years and older, go through seven weeks of training that includes two weeks of first responders medical training and five weeks of practical firefighting training, and commit Tuesday evenings for on-site training.

A partial list of responsibilities of a volunteer firefighter includes carrying a pager and responding to emergencies when available, drive and operate emergency vehicles, participate in training, fire prevention education and community events as required, and provide emergency medical care.

Chief Layton explained driver training for emergency vehicles is provided separately.

All of this provides a return to volunteers such as health benefits through ongoing training, financial recognition, including an average honorarium of $3,000, protective equipment, uniforms, accident and sickness insurance, a firefighter and family assistance program, free vehicle registration, and federal and provincial tax breaks.

A full list of fire stations accepting applications for volunteer firefighters is available at Halifax.ca/fire.

Black Point area volunteers can call Chief Layton directly at 902-240-8087.

Two Hour Seminar on Internet Security and Fraud Protection January 30th

A presentation on internet security and fraud protection is being given by Lori Dale of the Aspotagon Heritage Trust in Hubbards on Wednesday, January 30th, at 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. or 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Learn how to protect and defend yourself from fraud.

Lori will focus on recognizing techniques used by scammers and how to avoid being a victim. She will also review internet browsing strategies and search engine settings to keep you from being at risk.

There is no cost but registration is required. Call 902-857-1133 for more information and to register.

A History of Nova Scotia—Looking at NS Communities and Peoples—to be Presented January 28th

The Hammonds Plains Historical Society General Meeting and Presentation will be on Monday, January 28th, at the Cornerstone Wesleyan Church, 1215 Hammonds Plains Road. The topic will be on “A History of Nova Scotia—A Historical Perspective Reflecting Nova Scotia Communities and Peoples.”

The presentation will be given by local author Leo Deveau starting 7:00 p.m. Refreshments are provided.

Please indicate which session you will be attending.

The Black Point Fire Hall in Black Point and many other fire stations throughout HRM are actively recruiting volunteer firefighters to join their ranks.

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Black Point Community Centre Gets a Re-Start, Holds Open House

By Keith Ayling

The Black Point & Area Community Centre welcomed residents to their first open house on January 5th to help celebrate their official launch. It has taken several years to reach this point with the hard work of local people pulling together to finally complete the necessary paperwork with HRM.

The Centre is located in the District 1 Fire Hall in Black Point and occupies almost half of the building. HRM pitched in during the efforts to complete the paperwork, having painted the ceiling, replacing many of the ceiling tiles, and making improvements to the kitchen and bar areas.

More than 10 local volunteers participated in getting the Centre leased and up and running. Funding for a new industrial size refrigerator came from the Aspotogan Heritage Trust, new chairs from the Estabrooks Community Centre, and some financing from the Bay Treasure Chest.

Plans for the use of the building are in the final stages with word going out that the Centre can be used for weddings, fitness classes, special meetings, birthday parties, sports events, family reunions and much more.

The Masthead News met with three representatives of the Centre, including Co-Chair Marlene MacMichael, board member Janene McIsaac, and Colleen Johnson (Secretary Treasurer) during the open house, who all expressed their excitement of finally being able to welcome the community to the Centre. They advised that bookings can be made through Tom Donnabhe at Neighbourhood Realty, 902-857-8001 or on their Facebook Page (Black Point & Area Community Centre), or via email at blackpointcentre@gmail.com.

Anyone wishing to volunteer and work with the organizing committee to move forward can also go through these contacts.

Fans have New Way to Test Luck in Chase the Ace Draw

By Catherine Clute

Fans of Chase the Ace lotteries have a new way to test their luck of the draw in Chester.

Throughout the fall, and early winter, every Thursday night, since September 13th, a group of volunteers have been holding a Chase the Ace lottery at the Forest Heights Community School, and the jackpot has been steadily growing.

In a “Chase the Ace” lottery, the object is to choose the Ace of Spades from a pack of cards. Tickets for a chance to pull a card are sold during a limited time.

After the sales close, a winning ticket is picked. Fifty percent of the proceeds of the evening will go towards fundraising efforts, while 30% is added to the jackpot.

The Hanløse Mills winning ticket gets to choose a playing card. If they manage to pick the Ace of Spades, they take home the jackpot.

If they don’t, they still manage to take home 20% of that night’s ticket sales.

The card that was drawn is destroyed and the remaining pack of cards is stored in a locked safe until the following week.

The lottery is a fundraiser for the school.

According to Devan Naugler, Physical Education & Athletic Director at Forest Heights Community School and organizer of the draw, the proceeds will be used to upgrade the gymnasium and open a new fitness center in the school for both the students and community.

“The school is 26 years old now and the bleachers are in need of a major upgrade,” he said. “The same can be said about the basketball standards. Also, we removed all of the old gym equipment two years ago because most of the fitness equipment was unsafe or we were unable to get parts for broken equipment because it was too old.”

Naugler says interest has been picking up as the deck of cards gets smaller—and the jackpot grows.

“We have people who show up each week and play for many other people who can’t make it and their lists grow larger each week,” he says.

Ticket sales start at 6:30 p.m. at Forest Heights Community School.

Tickets are sold for $5.00 for a strip of five until 8:00 p.m.

There are 35 cards left in the deck for the next draw on January 10th, with the jackpot currently standing at $1,941.

An Op-Ed Piece on Health Care

By MLA Iain Rankin

Health Care Infrastructure Going through a Revitalization

Health care infrastructure is also going through a revitalization under the QEII New Generation Project—the redevelopment of the QEII Health Sciences Centre.

This will see services move out of the aging Victoria and Centennial buildings and delivered at other hospitals or new health care facilities being built or renovated.

The Halifax Infirmary site is being expanded.

There will be a new outpatient centre, innovation and learning centre, and a new QEII Cancer Centre at that site.

New Community Outpatient Centre

You may have noticed work on a site in Bayers Lake where land has been cleared. It will be home to a new Community Outpatient Centre as part of this project.

The Centre will be minutes away from residents of the Timberlea, Prospect and surrounding areas, and the thousands of Nova Scotians who have to travel to Halifax for certain services.

Space will be provided for primary care to be delivered by a team of doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

Clinics such as physio and occupational therapy, high blood pressure, diabetes and orthopaedic assessment are also being planned.

In total there will be 17 examination rooms, 24 dialysis stations, diagnostic imaging for x-rays and ultrasounds, blood collection and post-surgery or post-treatment follow-up appointments.

We are also supporting Nova Scotia’s first hospice residence by moving five beds from the Victoria General site of the QEII Health sciences Centre.

We are doing these projects because the health care needs of Nova Scotians are changing. Most recently we announced plans to double the size of the IWK emergency department and funding to replace the aging MRI.

These are just a few examples of the unprecedented progress happening.

I look forward to working on all of these exciting initiatives to benefit our local region and Nova Scotia.
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Charles Higgins, General Manager.