

Welcoming Year 2016 in Wentworth



Eleanor Sprague and Martha Wilson organized a successful New Year's party in the downstairs hall of the Wentworth United Church. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

Eleanor Sprague and Martha Wilson organized a New Year's party at the Wentworth United Church's hall and were ready to sing Auld Lang Syne with joy and enthusiasm. From 8 pm to 11 pm, folks played games of Auction 45's, Dominoes and Cribbage.

Friends brought potluck food consisting of fruit and vegetable trays with dip and cheese, brown bread and biscuits, a variety of

cookies/cake/squares, and drinks of punch, tea and coffee. During the playing of the games, folks went up to the long food table for snacks.

At 11 pm, games stopped and Beth Crouse gave a blessing for the food available as a light lunch to be enjoyed while we waited for the stroke of midnight to bid farewell to the good times of the last year and welcome in the year 2016. At exactly midnight, talented Betty Curry at the piano began

playing Auld Lang Syne (in praise of the good old times) and people in a circle with hands joined began singing and doing a rhythmic stomp.

When the music stopped people cheerfully wished others "Happy New Year!" and there were lots of hugs going around.

Auld Lang Syne represents Scottish culture, being written by Robert Burns in 1788. Burns said he took the words down from an old man who was repeating words from the "olden times," and the melody derives from an old Scottish folk song. In Scotland it became the custom to say goodbye to the old year by singing Auld Land Syne at exactly midnight of Christmas Eve meeting the New Year. At the end of the song it was time to wish each other, "Happy New Year."

This custom spread with emigrating settlers of the Scots, English Welsh and Irish to North America and now is world-wide in such countries as Denmark, the Netherlands, Poland, India, Thailand, and Japan. Once on the BBC News, it was reported that at a special concert Auld Land

Syne was performed in 41 different languages, all singing done in unison.

Once again, in addition to Auld Land Syne, Scottish culture was celebrated by playing the game of Auction 45's which was first written about in the 1500's with rules written down in 1576 and was then called "Maw."

King James VI of Scotland (also King James I of England) made Maw popular at court with the result Scottish, Irish, Welsh, and English settlers later brought it to the Atlantic Provinces, Quebec and the New England States where variations of Auction 45's are often played today.

We also celebrate English and Chinese cultures when Cribbage and Dominoes are played: Cribbage was invented by the English poet. Sir John Suckling in the 1600's, and Dominoes was invented in China, brought to Europe in the 1300's and spread across the world from there.

Of course, we added Wentworth culture to the entire event by always adding food to an event, telling jokes, and being friendly with each other. Thanks to Eleanor and Martha for arranging this great New Year's Party.

WCCS Pumped up for Winter!

By Heather Boyd

Students and staff at WCCS enjoyed the holiday break and are pumped up, with everyone looking forward to an interesting and productive winter! A friendly reminder to dress children appropriately for the cold. P-6 students go outside for recess and lunch breaks, so hats and mitts/gloves are expected and snow pants needed for playing in the snow.

"Our Student of the Month" will be selected on January 28. This award is presented to students who demonstrate positive social relationships, who continue to put forth their best efforts to their studies, and contribute to school life positively by volunteering, being caring and energetic, and good role models for other students.

Primary Registration for 2016-2017 will take place on January 29, 2016. Please call the school at 902-647-3500 as soon as possible if your child is five years of age or before December 31, 2016. Registration for all Chignecto-Central Regional School Board elementary schools will take place from mid-January to March. Parents/guardians are required to contact their local elementary school to arrange an appointment to register, the registration process takes about 30 minutes.

There will be an information meeting for parents and incoming grade 10 students at CEC on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

The community is welcome to order chicken dinner at the school on February 2nd. Please place your order by 9:30 am. All community dinner dates and details can be found on the calendar on the school website.

Junior High Varsity Basketball has ramped up, practice and

games times/locations are on the school calendar. Social Justice Exploratories start on February 5th.

The Home and School February meeting date has yet to be determined and will be posted on our Facebook page when it has been set. Parents are encouraged to attend the H&S meetings to share ideas and be involved in fostering positive and enjoyable learning experiences for our students.

WCCS has many ways to help keep you up to date on our news and events. Visit our website <http://wcc.ccrsb.ca/>, join the West Colchester Consolidated School Facebook page, and keep an eye on students' agendas for our newsletter and calendar.

Taking Care of Veteran's Graves

By Ed Langille

Cobequid Branch #72 Royal Canadian Legion, Great Village takes care of the decorating over 500 Veteran's graves from Folly Mountain to Five Islands. As time passes and family members move away and/or die off, the Veteran's graves stones sometimes fall into disrepair.

The Legion can go to the Last Post Fund for help to repair the Veteran's stones, however, the Last Post Fund

requires the stones have proof of Service on them.

It is strongly suggested, so your loved one who has served his or her country is never neglected, you have the stone engraved with branch of service. For example: R.C.N, R.C.A.F, R.C.A, etc. Your loved one will always be identified as a Veteran and will not be neglected.

Ed Langille is RCL Branch #72 Service Officer.

FRONT PAGE BRIEFS

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Education and Early Childhood Development Minister Karen Casey represented Canada's ministers of education at the World Education Forum in London, U.K. which began February 23. She was part of a panel addressing Education in Areas of Conflict and Crisis: Refugee/ Migrant Education. The Canadian Council of Ministers of Education funded the minister's trip.

Nova Scotians have a chance to honour those who have put themselves at risk to help others. This is the ninth year for the award and nominations are open for Nova Scotia's Medal of Bravery. Nomination forms are available at Access Nova Scotia centres, offices of members of the legislative assembly and at www.novascotia.ca/bravery. The deadline for nominations is May 1. Only acts of bravery that occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2007, will be considered under the Nova Scotia Medal of Bravery Act.

The Atlantic Journalism Awards is seeking nominations for its Lifetime Achievement Award. Any individual who has demonstrated a career of journalistic excellence in Atlantic Canada may be nominated up to the closing date of Monday, February 1, 2016. Nominations for this award can be submitted by any interested person. A letter highlighting why the individual should be honoured, accompanied by other supporting material should be included. The award will be presented at a gala dinner and awards show on Saturday, May 7, 2016, at the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel. Complete details of the all award categories, including the Lifetime Achievement Award entry rules, regulations and the digital entry system can be found at www.ajasonline.org.

The Nova Scotia Government will invest \$82.0 million to build and renovate schools to give students modern learning facilities. The ongoing design and construction of eight new schools are included in the plan. This year's Capital Plan contains an overall investment of \$26.5 million in hospitals; \$19.6 million for construction, repair and renewal of other medical facilities; \$12.3 million to replace equipment; \$3.7 million for ambulance replacement, and \$3.9 million to improve information technology.

Government of Canada's federal drug plans will join the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance (pCPA). The Alliance negotiates on behalf of provinces and territories to lower prices for Canadians on brand name drugs and works to reduce the cost of generic medications as well.

To date, the pan-Canadian Pharmaceutical Alliance has completed more than 89 negotiations on brand name drugs and achieved price reductions on 14 generic drugs, resulting in combined savings of more than \$490 million annually. Through federal health plans, the Government of Canada provides drug benefits to First Nations and Inuit, the RCMP, the Canadian Forces, veterans, federal inmates and refugee protection claimants - for a total of \$630 million in drug-related spending in 2014. Canada joins Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon as a participating member of the Alliance.

Cancer Care Nova Scotia is looking for volunteers to serve as public advisors on a committee to develop programs to help cancer patients quit smoking. Advisors may be former or current smokers, who have experienced the cancer system as a patient, family member, friend or caregiver. The committee will also include clinical experts, administrators and community partners. Anyone interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity should visit www.cancercare.ns.ca/volunteers or call 1-866-599-2267.

February Church Services

By Christine Urquhart

Church services for the Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge will all be at 10am and all at Debert United for this month. Rev. Carolyn Rushton will be leading the worship services. Everyone welcome at each and all of these services.

The Annual Meeting for the Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge will be on Sunday February 7th with a storm date of the 21st. This means that after the regular Church service the separate congregations will meet prior to lunch. After lunch the Pastoral Charge will meet. All members and adherents are urged to attend these meetings.

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