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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS November 2009

Central Nova Women's Resource Centre are hosting the Titanic Toy Drive with all toys collected to go to the Christmas Index Program. We are looking for NEW, unwrapped toys in the price range of \$15-25. These can be dropped off at CNWRC at 535 Prince Street, Truro anytime from now until December 11, 2009.

The Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River is selling natural wreaths adorned with 2 red poppies to either remember or honor a loved one. Service will begin at 10:45 on November 11, and wreaths may be laid by family members or at a request. Cost is 25.00. Please contact: Ken Jamieson, 647-2895 or Rilla MacDougall, 647-2721.

Last June the Chignecto-Central Regional School Board laid off 65 Educational Assistants, then rehired 23 in September. On October 2, the board posted and additional 38 Educational Assistant positions on the CCRSB website. The 42 EAs on lay off are being offered first opportunity to accept the 38 posted EA positions. Noel Hurley, Superintendent of Schools says, "There's a misconception in the community that we have cut services for students with special needs".

That's just not the case," says Hurley. "The Board has, in fact, increased service hours for students with special needs from 1905 hours per day last year, to 1910 hours per day this year, even though student enrollment declined by over 800 students." CCRSB is comprised of 17 Board members and over 3000 staff striving to provide a well-rounded education for approximately 23,000 students throughout Colchester, Cumberland, East Hants and Pictou counties.

The Chebucto Symphony Orchestra is joined by award-winning cellist Maia Bruce on Saturday, November 14th at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's United Church, King Street, in Truro. The 17-year-old rising star will play Dvorak's Cello Concerto in B Minor. The orchestra will also perform Schubert's "Unfinished" Symphony and "Autumn" from Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. The Vivaldi will feature the orchestra's concertmaster Gina Burgess on violin and Brian Start on Harpsichord. This performance is conducted by Eszter Horvath. Tickets are \$15 regular, and \$10 for seniors and students and are available in advance from MacQuarries Pharmasave on Esplanade Street and at the door.

The Great Village Community Association is looking for any ideas or suggestions for ways to improve the community. They have the opportunity to apply for a grant, but need input from the community. Contact Heather at 668-2501, or, greatvillage-learningnetwork@gmail.com.

Advocate Harbour to get seawall repairs. Federal Fisheries & Oceans Minister, Hon Gail Shea, who toured the area last week, assured local residents she will find the emergency funding to deal with the matter immediately by having rocks placed across the damaged seawall before the onset of winter. A portion of the community is below sea level and residents are fearful another storm could cause irreparable damage to the community. Many have been calling for the construction of a breakwater to protect the existing seawall and the community. Members of the community estimate emergency seawall repairs will cost upwards of \$1-million.

Seaside High Speed Internet are holding information meetings to advise when service will be available in several West Colchester areas. The sessions are also be billed as a Service Update for West Colchester communities. The first session for the communities of Carrs Brook, Cove Road, Five Islands, Little Bass River, Lower Five Islands, Montrose, New Britain, Portapique and Upper Economy will be held at the Economy Recreation Centre on November 4th commencing at 7:00 pm. A second session for the communities of Belmont, Clifton, Debert, East Folly Mountain, East Mines, East Mines Station, East Village, Folly Lake, Folly Mountain, Fort Belcher, Glenholme, Great Village, Little Dyke, Londonderry, Londonderry Station, Lower Debert, Lower Onslow, Masstown, Old Barns, Onslow and Scrabble Hill will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion on Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 pm.

Remembering Lt. Col. George Isaac Smith, MBE, E.D., D.C.L., LL.D, LL.B.

By Rob Smith
and Alison MacLean

November 7, 2009, will see the opening of an exhibit at the Colchester Historical Society Museum entitled "Life and Times of G. I. Smith". G. I. was the MLA for Colchester County from 1949 - 1974, and Premier of the Province of

Nova Scotia from 1967 - 1970. The exhibit will highlight the life, contributions and accomplishments of G. I. Smith against the backdrop of the political, military, legal and social climate of his time.

The year 2009 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Isaac

Smith in Stewiacke. The Smith family and the G.I. Smith Memorial Trust feel this to be a natural time to celebrate the achievements and contributions of "Ike", as he was known by family and friends, while at the same time fostering understanding of the importance of dedicated

political and government service. Ike, and his wife Sally, believed it was vital to the success of our province, that able, dedicated people commit to public and political service. They both saw public life and service as a high calling.

A truly remarkable cast of Colchester men and women has served as MLAs over the past 160 years. It is important to remember these people and the values for which they stood. It is hoped this exhibit will help to ensure that a legacy of integrity, ability and innovation in public service will continue to thrive.

Ike performed with distinction in three different important fields of endeavour; the practice of law, military service and public life.

In 1936, he and the late Frank Patterson, Q. C., formed the Truro Law firm Patterson and Smith - now known as Patterson Law.

In 1939, just before the outbreak of hostilities, he went on active service with the North Nova Scotia Highlanders. He remained in active service until six months after World War Two. By the end of the war he had achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, had been awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire), was mentioned in dispatches and was honoured by the Dutch Government

continued on page 3



Fall colors frame Erskine United Church in Glenholme. (Harrington Photo)



By Linda Harrington

The 2010 Olympic Torch Relay began its journey to Vancouver with a traditional lighting ceremony in Olympia, Greece on Oct. 22nd, 2009. The Olympic Flame will then travel 45,000 kilometers across Canada, passing through every province and territory.

Twelve thousand Canadians will be given the opportunity to carry the Olympic Flame, with more than 1000 communities involved. This will be the longest Olympic Torch Relay in a single country.

The Canadian torch jour-

Local Torch Bearers Thrilled Once in Lifetime Opportunity

ney begins in Victoria on Oct. 30, 2009. The relay will come to an end at BC Place on February 12, 2010, with the lighting of the Olympic Cauldron, signaling the start of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Truro is a celebration community for the route and a gathering is being planned for 7PM, on November 17th, at Victoria Park. Bob Piers will carry the torch the last 300 meters into the park.

At least two other members of our local community will be involved in the excitement of the Olympic Torch Relay.

Cara Murray, of Masstown, will be carrying the flame for 300 meters along Route 2 in Elmsdale. Ralph Bastarache, of Lower Onslow, will have his opportunity to share in this part of history as he carries the torch along North Provost St. in downtown New Glasgow.

Cara was encouraged to enter an online Olympic Torch Relay contest by her son Matthew early last spring. "There were different categories for the applications,

looking at how you were involved with improving your community. My application was presented under the volunteer category, through my work at Chiganois Elementary to support and promote

continued on page 8



Dana Jennings carries bags of cranberries back from the bog, as Ellis MacDonald continues filling more bags with the tasty fall fruit. (Harrington Photo)

See story and photos on page 15

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