

Cumberland County Senior Citizens' Council Meeting



Stu Fraser, Fundy Driving School, and Cheryl Laliberte, Seniors Safety Coordinator for Cumberland County, both spoke at the latest meeting of the Cumberland County Senior Citizens' Council in Oxford. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

The autumn meeting of the Cumberland County Council of Senior Citizens was held in Oxford at the Oxford Seniors' Centre. President Judy Shultz invited two speakers to take the stand from 11 a.m. to noon. The first speaker, Cheryl Laliberte, Seniors Safety Coordinator for Cumberland County, stated that the Safety program enhances inclusion, safety, and well-being of seniors ages 55+. This program enables seniors to feel safe, healthy, and independent in

their own homes. During her speech the following items were covered by Ms. Laliberte: know how to avoid phone mail and travelling scams; know how to report fraud, scams and elder abuse; increase independence and self-confidence; be empowered to lead safe, healthy, and independent lives; expect from others respect and confidentiality; be sensitive to one's physical and cognitive abilities; be able to discuss issues during home visits. Ms. Laliberte gave out important

pamphlets on Seniors Safety and Identity Fraud.

The next speaker was Stu Fraser from the Fundy Driving School who explained how the Nova Scotia Department of Seniors will pay for the "55 Alive Mature Driving Program For Seniors," but that this free driving course is restricted to one time only for any Senior Club. Mr. Fraser suggested Senior Clubs could try to obtain sponsorship or send a resolution to the Department of Seniors for a free driving course once every five years. Mr. Fraser then spoke about motorized driving wheelchairs and the need for more government regulations regarding them, both for the safety of the drivers and for the other drivers using the roads. President Judy Schultz thanked Mr. Fraser for his remarks and suggestions.

The meeting continued with a discussion about the role the Federation and Senior Citizens and Pensioners of Nova Scotia has with all the Senior Clubs of Nova Scotia. At the next meeting on Wednesday, March 20, 2013, each Club needs to bring an item for a large basket which is to be raffled off at the meeting for a final basket winner, and the funds resulting from the raffle are to be sent to the Federation.

The next Federation Convention will be in Truro on May 7th and 8th at the Best

Western Hotel. Cumberland County Senior Club members should now be writing up Resolutions about senior concerns to be presented at the Convention and voted on. Resolutions should be sent to Don Fitzgerald, Treasurer, Federation of Senior Citizens and Pensioners of Nova Scotia, 1410 West Big Intervale Road, P.O. Box 130, Margaree Centre, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, B0E 1Z0, Phone: 902-248-2202.

Those resolutions which pass by vote at the Convention are then taken by Federation representatives to an autumn meeting in 2013 with the relevant Nova Scotia government departments. The new Executive of the Federation are President Bernie LaRusic from Sydney, Treasurer Don Fitzpatrick from Margaree Centre, and Secretary Virginia Crane from Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Five clubs from Springhill, Wentworth, Northport, Wallace and Oxford gave interesting reports of their recent activities since the September meeting.

The next meeting of the Cumberland County Council of Senior Citizens will be on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at the Springhill Senior Citizens and Retired Pensioners Centre, 4 McDougal Street, beginning at 11 a.m. Come, meet friends, find out the latest news, and have a good time.

Great Village Garden Club News

By Patti Sharpe

The Great Village Garden Club held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 26. Member Linda Giddens provided the program for the evening by sharing with us a presentation regarding the buried trees excavated on her Little Dyke property in the fall of 2011, the challenges with regard to their dating and what this reveals about climate change, both in the past and future, along the Cobequid shoreline.

The program committee reported on speakers and activities planned for the coming months. The March 26 meeting will take the form of an informal gardening discussion/question and answer session among members and an exchange of gardening items as enjoyed at past meetings.

In April, we will not be holding a regular monthly meeting, but instead invite anyone interested in learning basic gardening skills to an afternoon of gardening workshops to be held on Sunday, April 28 from 2 to 4 p.m. (rain date May 5) at the home of members Sybil and Pat Flemming, 64 Station Road, Great Village. Club members will be hosting approximately a dozen different workshops dealing with topics such as pruning (ornamentals and fruit trees), perennial division (free handouts), dahlia and gladiola growing tips, tool maintenance, water gardening basics and much

more. The workshops will run concurrently, but attendees will have the option to move from one to another as they wish. This is to be an informal afternoon of gardening instruction outside so dress accordingly.

In May, we hope to have a representative from Faith Baptist Church attend and share with us the plans they have for walking trails and development of the land behind their church. June will be our annual garden tour and dinner out. We will once again this year try to tour the NSAC Rock Garden and aim for a date in mid June so that we might avoid a conflict with prom photos that happen in the gardens.

The Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs in partnership with Dalhousie's Faculty of Agriculture (formerly the NSAC) will be offering an online course beginning in May to train certified horticultural judges. There will also be a practical or practice judging component to the course. Horticultural judges are an essential part of county exhibitions, flower shows and 4-H shows throughout the province. Arthur Haskins, Great Village, a certified horticultural judge, will be instructing the course. For further information contact Jolene MacEachern, Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University at 893-5301 or jmaceachern@dal.ca.

Bass River Elementary School held Winter Carnival activities March 11th to 14th. Tuesday was Tropical Day, sponsored by the parent support group. (Harrington Photos)



Trent Gallant, Jason Rushton, Sebastian Patriquin, Blake Fisher, Carl Elliott and Cece McLaughlin were crafting Hawaiian flower leis.



Ewan Patriquin, Norah McLaughlin, Sierra Patriquin (front l to r) and Jared Phinney (back) were excited to try different tropical fruit including starfruit, prickly pear, passion fruit, dragon fruit and tamarillo.



How low can you go? Lisa McCully and Kelly McIntosh hold the limbo pole for students Chloe Faulkner and Mason MacBurnie.



Bringing the beach inside on a cold winter's day. Robin Davis helps Blake Turner-McLean, Sebastian Patriquin, Cullen Patriquin, Blake Fisher and Breanna Young with their sand art.

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