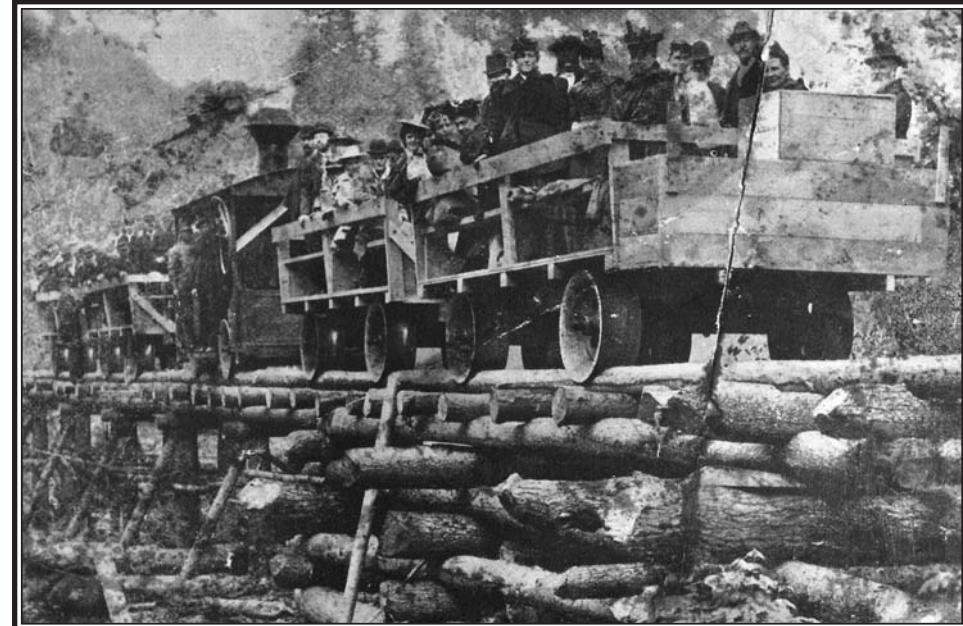




Masstown Hardware's Nick Redden is looking forward to the 2013 Colchester Home Show on April 12th-14th at the Rath Eastlink Community Center. Store staff will be onsite to assist with custom kitchen designs and house plans, along with any other building advice or information they can provide. Visit the Masstown Hardware facebook page for a chance to win free tickets to the Home Show. (Harrington Photo)

## An Excursion on the Castlereagh Pole Railway



This photo taken June 28, 1895 shows a portion of the 90 people riding the pole railway for an eight hour trip top to Castlereagh, stopping at Christie's lumber camp for lunch. (Submitted by Colchester Historical Society)

In 1893, large quantities of silica, a mineral of many uses, were discovered in Castlereagh and, in 1894, an American firm called, "The Fossil Flour Company" sent David S. Collins to open and manage a processing plant. Collins built a mill at Silica Lake and a pole railway between Castlereagh and the company's warehouse at Saint's Rest, Bass River.

The four-and-a-half foot gauge railway was built of spruce logs of about six inches in diameter, mitered end to end. The locomotive, designed by Alexander McPherson and built in Oxford, was placed in the middle of the train with two cars at either end. An exciting day's outing was arranged on 28 June 1895, when ninety people - including the Truro Citizen's Band, Colchester community leaders, members of the press, and photographer Charles McLennan - rode the pole railway for an eight hour trip top to Castlereagh, stopping at Christie's lumber camp for lunch.

The closing lines of a poem, written by R. S. Fulton to commemorate the event, catch the exuberant spirit of the day:

*Success to D. S. Collins as business onward rolls*

*And long may McPherson's engine run up and down the poles.*

(Editor's Note: The above small write-up and photo was published in "Historic Colchester - Towns and Countryside", which the Colchester Historical Society published a few years ago.)

## Church Services for April

By Christine Urquhart

Church services for the month of April are all at 10am with Sunday School.



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
COME AS YOU ARE!

April 7th - Masstown, April 14th - Debert, April 21st - Glenholme and April 28th - Masstown. We welcome each and every one of you to our services.

Our minister is Carol Gillard M.Div. and she is a breath of fresh air to all of us.

**Come and hear her speak!**

**You will be glad you did!**

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## Baillie calls for Moratorium on School Closures

Nova Scotia P.C. Leader Jamie Baillie is calling for a moratorium on rural school closures until the Dexter Government releases its report on rural economic renewal. Baillie told about 100 business leaders in Truro on Feb 26th "The Nova Scotia Commission on Building Our New Economy" needs to make its findings public if rural Nova Scotia is to have a chance to figure out its future before any more school closures are announced.

The Tory leader says it's wrong for the NDP to cut education funding in rural areas

without knowing where rural Nova Scotia is headed.

He used his Truro event to lash out at what he calls a lack of direction from Premier Darrell Dexter and his NDP government, saying the Dexter administration continues to "do less with more." He claims extra tax dollars from

the increased HST rate set up by the province along with half a billion in extra funding from Ottawa should lead to better education and health care systems for Nova Scotians, but says "that's not the case."

He says a moratorium on rural school closures would

show that Premier Dexter's government is serious about re-building the under-performing rural economy, which is currently under study by the "Commission on Building Our New Economy." That panel's mandate was announced by the province last fall.

## Lr. Onslow Community Centre AGM – April 2<sup>nd</sup>

By Ann Fiddes

Spring is here and it is time for our Annual Meeting, to be held on April 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at the Centre. All residents of the area are invited/urged to attend to hear reports of the past year and plans for the future. If you are lucky enough to have some spare time we would like to hear from you. We have spots for at least two more Board Members, and can always use help, sweeping the floors, setting up/taking down chairs and tables, shoveling snow from

the door steps, many tasks to maintain our building.

This past winter has been quite busy, the crowds at our Open Mic on Thursday night have grown, with musicians from Sackville, NB to Hammonds Plains, NS and points in between entertaining us.

Those enjoying the music come from all around, people who really appreciate the talent we have in our area. Our Monday night card parties have continued to grow in numbers, people who enjoy a good game of

45's. Yoga on Wednesday night and Friday noon has been popular, numbers have been steady. 4H continues to meet monthly on Tuesday evenings.

Weekends have seen children's birthday parties, an 80th birthday party, corporate rentals and other special occasions. Anyone who would like to volunteer some time to help please contact our President, Doug MacInnes or the writer.

Looking forward to seeing a good crowd at our Annual Meeting.

## Historic Sites

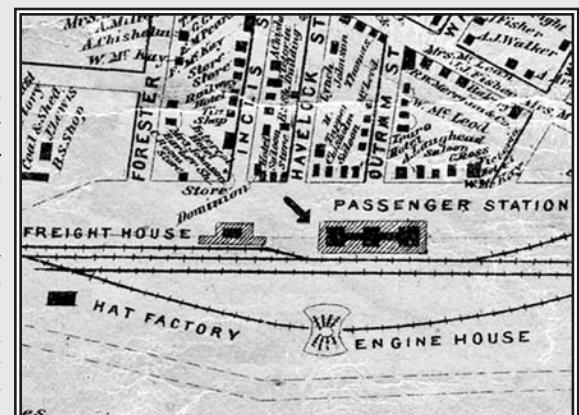
### TRURO TRAIN ICR STATION

*The Shoreline Journal, in collaboration with the Colchester Historical Society Archives, have inaugurated an ongoing feature utilizing a combination of the digital "A. F. Church Maps" to pin point the circa 1875 location of a Colchester site of historical importance, and connect it to an archival photograph of that site, in that frame.*



By Dick Akerman

Map #305, a "blow up" of the town of Truro, locates, on today's Esplanade, the 1872 built train station of the Intercolonial Railroad. This building replaced the original 1858 structure which served the first line traffic from Halifax to Truro. In 1867 the line was extended to Pictou and in 1872 was pushed on towards Amherst. The pictured building was replaced in 1914 by an imposing sandstone station, well remembered by many res-



idents of Colchester County.

Be sure to see next month's "Historic Sites" feature in the Shoreline Journal. If you have a suggestion for future, "sites", submit it to the editor, or to the Archives at 895-9530.

Dick Akerman has been compiling information on behalf of the Colchester Historical Museum Archives, and is published monthly in the Shoreline Journal.

### From the archives of the COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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