

## Goodtime Senior Citizens' Club Preserve Traditional Dances



Members of The Goodtime Senior Citizens' Club take part in a waltz quadrille. Shown are: Frank Andrews, Stewiacke, and Pat Martin, Lower Onslow. (Linda Shears Photo)

By Linda and Garry Shears

The Goodtime Senior Citizens' Club was incorporated in June, 1980. The club has members from Truro, Stewiacke, Bible Hill, Brookfield, Onslow, Portapique, Tatamagouche, New

Glasgow, Debert, Wentworth, Lantz, Shubenacadie, Nine Mile River, Milford and areas in between. Special theme nights such as tropical night, country-western, prom night, Easter Bonnet night, St. Patrick's, Hallowe'en and Christmas add to the group's enjoyment. Theme nights include costumes, table decorations and music for the occasion.

Music is provided by a five-member band playing drums, keyboard, fiddle, and guitar with meetings every Tuesday evening from 8:00 PM til 11:00 PM at the Royal Canadian Legion, on Brunswick Street, Truro, where we rent a spacious hardwood floor on the upper level. Admission is \$6.00 per person, with a shared lunch. Visitors and new members are welcome. After a person attends two or three dances, he or she is encouraged to join the club, for a membership fee of \$10.00. We break for the summer months of July and August.

With the help of the Province of Nova Scotia's Department of Health and Wellness, we hope to get people interested in learning the waltz quadrille and other dances, such as the fox-trot, polka and jive.

In the Goodtime Senior Citizens' Club at the Truro Legion, on Tuesday nights from September to June, the waltz quadrille is danced three times each night. One interesting feature of the evenings is the "peel off", which ensures that everyone has an opportunity to dance. During the two "peel offs", the women form a line on one side of the dance floor and the men form a line at the front. The two lines converge and people get an opportunity to dance around the floor with a variety of partners. Generally after a turn around the floor, the lady is dropped off at the end of her line and the gentleman gets in his line.

Many of our current club members recall attending dances "along the shore", notably at the Portapique Beach Dance Hall and the Dickie Barn Dances, and say the Tuesday night music and dances are very reminiscent of those dances. It would be a regrettable loss of cultural heritage if these traditional Nova Scotia dances were to be lost.

With the aim of preserving the waltz quadrille, the Club, with assistance from Nova Scotia's Dept. of Health and Wellness, is offering dance instruction for the month of April.

Instruction by club members will be provided from 7:00 to 8:20 PM each Tuesday evening in April. For more details, contact Helen at 897-6707.

## Ryan Spencer Wins Provincial Spelling Bee



Provincial Spelling Champ Ryan Spencer practices new words with WCCS teacher Laurel Conrad, who organizes his school's spelling bee each year. Ryan won the Chronicle Herald Nova Scotia Spelling Bee and will represent the province at a National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC at the end of May. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

How do you spell a word for "totally amazing accomplishment", like prodigious! Simply ask the spelling champ, Ryan Spencer.

This spelling wiz, is a Grade Seven student at West Colchester Consolidated, Bass River. He has won his school's Spelling Bee the last three years and has been to the Provincial Championship in Halifax for the last three years. In 2012, Ryan tied for 6th place, in 2013, he tied for 5th place and this year he won the 2014 Chronicle Herald Nova Scotia Spelling Bee.

Forty-three students from Grades 4 to 8 competed in this year's event. Ryan captured the top spot by correctly spelling the word placebo. He won a \$5,000 education bursary from the Nova Scotia Egg Producers, and will represent this province at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, from May 25th to 31st.

"I am not sure of my chances at such a large event," says Ryan. "But I will do my best." There will be 280 students participating from all over the world including the United States, Bahamas, Canada, China, Ghana, Jamaica, Japan and Korea. Additional participants are from Department of Defense Schools in Europe and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Laurel Conrad, a Grade 5 teacher at WCCS, has organized the school level spelling bee for the last three years.

"We hold a few practice bees and then students in grades 4 to 8 compete to represent the school at the Provincial Spelling Bee," she says. "We are all very excited for Ryan, winning the Provincial competition was a very big deal and the National event will be a great experience for him."

Ryan is the son of Glen and Jennifer Spencer, Great Village. He has been putting in many hours of preparation for the Spelling Bee and says they often hold family spelling bees, but he is able to beat his parents and brother quite quickly.

Preparations include learning 1100 words on the study guide plus all the words in the Webster's Dictionary, including their definitions. Wow!

The trip to the U.S. capital will be exciting on its own. Ryan, will be joined by his grandmother Marilyn Campbell, of Sydney and he is looking forward to the sight-seeing and hopes to take in a ball game.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee starts with a Computer-Based Test (Preliminaries) on Tuesday, May 27th and continues with two days of eliminations until the Semifinals and Championship on May 30th.

The first two rounds, and semifinals will be televised on ESPN3 and ESPN2 with the Championship Finals on ESPN, Thursday, May 30 8:00 - 10:00PM, EDT.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Ryan, we are very proud of you.

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