

Thyme to Garden



Uncovering a love for agriculture.

You don't have to grow up with a farming background to uncover a passion for agriculture. Something that fourth-year Plant Science major, Morgan McNeil knows all too well.

Morgan grew up in the small residential community of Hantsport, Nova Scotia. Though she didn't grow up on a farm, that didn't stop her from getting involved with agriculture and joining the 4-H program at the age of 10.

"It's by fluke how I got involved in 4-H actually, given that I don't have a farming background. My dad was browsing the newspaper one morning and saw an ad for 4-H in the local area. He

inquired about it, and my family attended a meeting."

Morgan was drawn to plants by taking the gardening project in 4-H and learning to grow her own food. The health benefits of fruits and vegetables made her interest in plant crops for food use even greater.

Just like that she was hooked.

"I am very passionate about agriculture. I love gardening and growing plants. It's rewarding to harvest a healthy crop and I feel like a true Aggie working with my hands in the soil!"

It was Morgan's involvement in 4-H that brought her to Dalhousie University and the Faculty of Agriculture. "I

truly believe that if I didn't join 4-H, I would never have considered pursuing a post-secondary education and career in agriculture," she explains.

In January, Morgan was named as one of two people in the country to receive the Canada Outstanding Young Farmers Memorial Scholarship.

"Paired with my love for good quality, nutritious, fresh local food to sustain life and good health, I strongly believe there isn't a better industry I could dedicate my time and efforts towards," she explained.

"I was lucky, very honored and appreciative to receive this scholarship."

Morgan recently received word that she has been selected to participate in a Going Global 4-H Exchange program this summer. She will be traveling to the U.K. for two weeks and hosting a delegate here for one month.

"This experience will give me a perspective on agricultural practices in Europe and how they compare to Canada," she explains.

Over her four years with the Faculty of Agriculture, Morgan has gotten to know many wonderful people who remember her by name, which in her opinion, is more meaningful and provides her with a sense of community. As for her 4-H community? Having just aged out as a 4-H member, Morgan has been approved to return to 4-H as a Garden Project Leader.

"I think it's important to have a positive attitude, to be optimistic about life and to follow your dreams."

And it all began with 4-H.

A WALK IN THE WOODS

You are invited to Conference about the Woods and Wild Animals

By Don Cameron

On Saturday April 2, the public are invited to attend a full day conference covering many interesting topics for people who own or are interested in woodland. The event will be held at the Oxford Regional Education Centre at 249 Lower Main Street, Oxford.

Department of Natural Resources Deputy Minister Frank Dunn will kick-off the conference at 9am. The registration cost is \$25 each, which includes a hearty lunch, two snack breaks, and as a special bonus - a chance to win the grand door prize of a new chainsaw. The first 20 students registered are free, thanks to the sponsorship of Athol Forestry Ltd of Amherst. Any additional students will pay \$15 registration.

Woodland owners will learn about sustainable ways to manage their forested lands, as well as meet other landowners. Those that have participated in the conference in past years have provided valuable input to what they would like to see and hear. The conference agenda was created with this feedback in mind.

Some of the topics and speakers will include: Experiences of a woodland owner by Mike , of Windsor, who won the



Don Cameron

2015 Woodland Owner of the Year award for the central region; Wildlife population trends of deer, moose and bear by DNR wildlife biologist Mark Pulsifer; Silviculture and forest biodiversity funding programs by Dave Sutherland of the Association for Sustainable Forestry; Woodland boundary lines by Nova Scotia licensed surveyor Andrew Sutherland of the College of Geographic Sciences in Lawrencetown; Managing woodlands and blueberry fields utilizing a drone by Jason Stewart, RPF of Bragg Lumber and Oxford Frozen Foods; Potential impacts of climate change on Maritime forests by Anthony Taylor, RPF of the Canadian Forest Service in Fredericton; Watercourse alteration program of Nova Scotia Environment by Kevin Garraway; Results of the DNR selection harvesting research by DNR research forester Jane Kent; and Lyme

Disease - risks, potential impacts and prevention by Nancy MacVicar of Public Health, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, NS Health.

The conference is sponsored by DNR, Association for Sustainable Forestry, Athol Forestry Ltd, Bragg Lumber Co., Canadian Institute of Forestry, Conform Ltd, Federation of NS Woodland Owners, Forest NS, Great Northern Timber Inc, JD Irving Ltd, Maple Producers Assoc. of NS, Municipality of the County of Cumberland, Northern Pulp Nova Scotia Corp, NS Assoc. of CBCD's, Nova Scotia Power Inc, and Wilson Equipment.

The registration desk opens at 8:30am and the conference will run from 9am to 3:30pm.

For more information, or to register call toll free 1-855-679-6637; or register online at www.nswoods.ca. Those interested are encouraged to register as soon as possible due to limited space.

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Bible Hill to Host Seniors Games May 9-13

By Maurice Rees

Bible Hill is traditionally known as the eastern bedroom community of Truro full of families of all age categories with an emphasis on younger families with sufficient growth in children that a new school will soon be under construction. However, May 9-13, the age pendulum will swing more to the seniors bracket as Bible Hill plays host to Seniors in Action at the Local Seniors Games, a cooperative project of Bible Hill, Colchester and Truro Seniors.

Events will start at 9 am on Monday, May 9th continuing through until the closing banquet at the Bible Hill Fire Hall at 5:30 pm on Friday, May 13th. Any senior 55 or better can participate in as many events as they wish. Schedule of activities has been published and is available at the village office and certain locations throughout the community.

Participants have a choice of playing for Truro, Bible Hill or Other. Games include: Scrabble, Social Bridge, Auction 45's, Crokinole, Pickle Ball, Bowling, Ship-Bo,

Cribbage, Washer Toss, Lawn Bowling, Casual Walking, Golf, Darts, Duplicate Bridge and Euchre.

Nine different locations have been chosen for the five days of events. Game sites include Bible Hill Village Hall, Mountain Golf Club, RECC, Bible Hill Fire Hall, MacMillan Show Centre, Douglas St Rec Centre, Lion's Club, Harmony Heights School and Bible Hill Bowlcade.

Deadline for registration is Monday, May 2, but two in-person registrations will be held: Thursday, April 21st, 1-3 pm at Bible Hill Village Office, and Monday, April 25th at 2 pm at Bible Hill Bowlcade.

Fees are \$5 for one event, \$10 for two or more events; add \$7.00 for bowling and \$10 banquet guest. Golf is \$35.00 per person for green fees and cart and must be paid at Mountain Golf Club.

Information on the local games is available from: Tim Leger, 902-895-9524, e-mail: tel@eastlink.ca; Helen Smith, 902-895-6327, E-mail: helene@ns.sympatico.ca; Les Haley, 902-897-2511; or Larry Armstrong, 902-895-5224

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