



Lawrence Nicoll captures natural beauty in all types of weather. (Lawrence R. Nicoll Photo)

CCRSB Teen Reader's Choice Award is Back

The Chignecto-Central Regional School Board's Teen Reader's Choice Award is back for its sixth year. "The Teen Reader's Choice Award introduces all Grade 7 to 12 students to 10 titles that were thoughtfully and carefully selected by CCRSB Library Service staff, and encourages them to read, discuss, and voice their opinions," says Jolene Shaw, CCRSB Library Services Manager. "The 10 titles chosen represent a wide variety of today's best young adult fiction."

Students will determine the winner of the award by reading, and voting, for their favourite book from March

21st to June 2nd. TRCA is working toward the goal of at least 1,000 student votes this year!

The 2017 Top 10 books are: All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely; Audacity by Melanie Crowder; Exit, Pursued by a Bear by E. K. Johnston; Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli; The Lie Tree by Frances Hardinge; The Memory of Light by Francisco X. Stork; The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness; The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly by Stephanie Oakes; We Are All Made of Molecules by Susin Nielsen and Wolf by Wolf by Ryan Graudin.

Students are encouraged to read one or more of the Top 10 books and to discuss them in school and online at <http://ccrsbteenchoice.wordpress.com>, or by using the hashtag #TRCA2017 on Facebook and twitter.

The 2017 CCRSB Teen Reader's Choice Award winning book will be announced on June 13th with a series of in-school awards ceremonies. Students can track the progress of their favourite books on the Teen Reader's Choice Award blog and through the #TRCA2017 hashtag.

Debert Elementary Notes

By Erna Cox

It appears Mother Nature forgot to look at the calendar to see that Spring has arrived. March Break was extended by a day and the temperature is still very cool. Hopefully we will soon see some double digits allowing us to shed some of the heavier winter clothing.

Second term has come to an end and report cards will be going out on Tuesday March 28th. Parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the teachers of their child to remain informed and involved with their progress. Appointments can be made by calling the school at 902-662-4400.

With Spring also comes new beginnings. We will have our new little primaries in for a half day of class soon and plans are also being made for our grade six students to start their transition to the junior high. A new group of students will be entering the Early Lit. Support program this week and we will begin to host our "Student of the Month" Assemblies again. We, also, will be starting the staffing for the upcoming school year in April so we are hopeful to have accurate numbers of students for this process. If you haven't yet registered your child we would appreciate having a call to update our data asap.

Students have been busy throughout the school with art projects, technology assignments, science experiments and math calculations. We are thrilled by

the excitement as each student hones their skills and grows as a student. I am sure that many of them are looking forward to warmer days so that we can get started on the garden, outdoor sports and a host of other activities.

PTG and SAC meetings will start again with the next meeting be held on April 18th. Parents are encouraged to participate in PTG meetings monthly.

Stay tuned for more exciting news from the students next month.

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\$1.44-Million for Rural High-Speed Internet

People in communities across rural Nova Scotia will begin to see improved access to high-speed internet as early as this summer.

Government announced \$1.44 million today, March 27, for 22 municipal and community high-speed internet projects. The projects have the potential to add or improve service for up to 5,400 homes and up to 420 businesses and local facilities such as business hubs or parks, community centres, fire halls and emergency shelters.

"Connection to high-speed internet enhances quality of life, access to essential services, and helps businesses to innovate and compete in today's global digital economy," said Premier Stephen McNeil. "These projects will help many Nova Scotians get better service within months, while we continue to invest and work with partners in federal and municipal governments, community

groups and internet service providers on broader, long-term solutions."

One example of the program's impact is the \$75,000 for the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg to erect two towers that will improve service for up to 288 homes in the Sweetland area. The project will provide internet speeds of up to 15 megabits per second, ten times faster than the current levels of 1.5 megabits per second or no service at all. It will also provide public Wi-Fi at a community centre or fire hall. The municipality is contributing \$58,500. Service is expected to begin in August.

"High-speed internet is vital for maintaining strong, vibrant rural communities," said Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, mayor of the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg. "Our children need it to do their homework; businesses need it to operate; and families need it to

effectively communicate on a day-to-day basis. High-speed internet will create an environment where families choose to live."

The funding is part of Municipal and Community Rural High-Speed Internet Funding Program which launched in November 2016. The projects are smaller scale projects, most serving multiple communities and expected to be completed within six months. They include a range of technologies and speeds, and some will serve as pilots that could lead to innovative solutions that can be applied in other regions of the province.

A summary of projects is available online at novascotia.ca/business/Internet/

A list of the municipalities and groups receiving funding by region is below:

SOUTHWEST NOVA

--Cedar Lake Wireless Cooperative, \$41,879 --Municipality of the District of Yarmouth, with Forest Glen Community Centre, \$75,000

SOUTH SHORE

--Municipality of the District of Shelburne, \$75,000 --Region of Queens Municipality, \$75,000 --North Queens Business Centre and Innovation Hub Coop, \$10,812 --Municipality of the District of Lunenburg, \$75,000

FUNDY-ANNAPOLIS VALLEY

--Shore Drive Community Development Association, \$75,000 --Shore Drive Community Development Association, \$48,248 --Municipality of the County of Annapolis, \$75,000 --Glooscap First Nation, \$75,000 --Municipality of West Hants, \$75,000 --Grand Pré and Area Community Association, \$75,000 --Municipality of the County of Kings, \$25,000

EASTERN SHORE

--Sheet Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce, \$75,000 --Municipality of the District of St. Marys, \$66,922 --Moser River United Board of Trade, \$75,000 --Moser River Community Hall Association, \$75,000

CENTRAL HRM

--Halifax Regional Business and Community Economic Development Association, with Goffs-Devon Internet Initiative, \$75,000

COLCHESTER COUNTY

--Community Technology Network Association of Nova Scotia, \$75,000

PICTOU COUNTY

--Lismore and District Recreational Committee, \$73,240

CAPE BRETON

--Cape Breton Partnership, \$54,128

--Municipality of the County of Victoria, \$68,990

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