



Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce newly elected executive and directors are, front row, from left: Treasurer Amanda Pothier, owner of Atkinson's Accounting; Solicitor George White, Patterson Law; Past President Joanne McRae, CPA, CA, Senior Manager with MNP; Ron Smith, Manager of Business Development, Old Fletcher Farm Property Limited, a division of Masstown Market Limited; Vice-President Mathew Mossman, Sales Manager at Cat Country and Big Dog Radio, and Executive Director Sherry Martell. Second row, Connie Baird, Party Time Rentals; Nancy Johnstone, Lock and Stone Property Management; Phil Smith, Home Hardware Stores Ltd., Eastern Dealer Support Center; Peter Thiesen, Pulse Property Services; Karen Gillespie, Truro Campus, Nova Scotia Community College; and David Ritcey, Community Credit Union. Other elected directors, but not shown, are: Dr. David Gray, Dean of Dalhousie Agricultural Campus; Karen Baillie, Elegant Steps; Bob Brown Lynds Industrial Services; and Sam Abushenaf, PuroClean Restorations; Julie Taylor, Skin Decision; Trina Langille, Warmth By Design. (Submitted)

Chamber of Commerce Elects New Officers

The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated 129 years serving the business community at its Annual General Meeting held March 13 in Truro. A new slate of officers and directors was elected by the membership which will see Ron Smith, Manager of Business Development, Old Fletcher Farm Property Limited, a division of Masstown Market Limited, step into the president's seat.

More than 80 people attended the meeting where Smith spoke about the positive growth across many sectors taking place in this region.

"Our community shows continuous improvements and growth in commercial, industrial, residential and social infrastructure," said Smith. "The last number of years have shown large-scale investment in both public and private construction projects from our rural areas to our revitalized downtown cores. Each project offering more and more opportunity to retain and attract people to live and work in Colchester County."

Smith has served on the Chamber board for four years and was elected to serve a one-year term as President. He said during the next year the Chamber will continue to focus on membership growth and supporting the needs of business.

"Serving with the Chamber has presented the privilege to

meet one-on-one, in groups and en masse many of our local business people, community proponents and interested citizens, all willing to work together and strive for a more inclusive and prosperous Truro Colchester," said the newly elected President. "It is amazing to see behind the scenes what many of our local business people have contributed in time, resources and pure financial gifts to help this area prosper, often below the radar and without acknowledgement."

Outgoing president Joanne McRae, CPA, CA, Senior Manager with MNP, said there were many Chamber accomplishments to celebrate during the past year and looks forward to continuing her work with the board in the role of Past President.

"During the past year, we have continued to collaborate with government of all levels, local businesses and organizations, the Truro and Colchester Partnership for Economic Prosperity, and other Chambers in the region to ensure the voices of our members and businesses from the area are heard and their interests are protected as our region continues to grow and flourish," said McRae.

At the end of 2018 there were 431 members in the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce making it the largest Chamber in Nova Scotia outside metro.

Other newly elected executive and directors are: Vice-President Mathew Mossman, Sales Manager at Cat Country and Big Dog Radio; Treasurer Amanda Pothier, owner of Atkinson's Accounting; Solicitor George White, Patterson Law; and directors Dr. David Gray, Dean of Dalhousie Agricultural Campus; Karen Baillie, Elegant Steps; Karen Gillespie, Nova Scotia Community College; Bob Brown Lynds Industrial Services; Nancy Johnstone, Lock and Stone Property Management; Peter Thiesen Pulse Property Services; Connie Baird, Party Time Rentals and Sam Abushenaf, PuroClean Restorations; David Ritcey, Community Credit Union; Julie Taylor, Skin Decision; Trina Langille, Warmth By Design; and Phil Smith, Home Hardware Stores Ltd., Eastern Dealer Support Center.

The Chamber's Annual Awards and Dinner Gala will be held on April 25 at the Holiday Inn.

The Chamber has issued a call for nominations for BDC Business Person of the Year and the Community Credit Union Business Excellence awards. To reserve a seat at the gala or for more information about award nominations, call 902-895-6328 or email oa@tcchamber.ca. Deadline for nominations is April 1, 2019.

Masstown Community News

By Chris Urquhart

As March comes to an end we know that spring is really just around the corner! Keep an eye out for birds returning after the winter weather. The gold finches changing back into their bright yellow. Red wing black birds at your feeders once more. Be sure to keep those feeders full, you never know what different type of bird might drop by for a bite! You can still put out your suet; the birds still need the fat for body heat. Also, you can put out a bird bath but only keep water in it on days above zero or if it's a heated bird bath. As it warms up so you can open your windows for some nice, fresh air, the bird songs will make your day brighter.

Masstown UCW will hold their next meeting on Thursday April 4th, 7pm. Not sure yet if this meeting will be held

in the back vestry of the Church or at one of the apartments at the senior's complex on G. Porter Road but you can call me to find out closer to our meeting date, at 902-662-3550.

The Cobequid Men's Club, the old DGM Club, will hold their breakfast meeting on Saturday April 6th, 8 am, at the Double C Restaurant in Lower Debert. All men are welcome! The Double C ranked #3 out of the top 10 best truck stops in Atlantic Canada! Congratulations to them!

The Masstown Community Association will hold their next meeting on Tuesday April 30th, 7pm, in the restaurant part of the Masstown Market. All welcome! We will be discussing the upcoming events of the summer.

As many of you know, we have sold the Debert United

Church and the Erskine United Church in Glenholme. The Erskine location will now be the Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church. For more details see the 'Letters to Editor' section on Page 4 of this issue.

Wishing Rosemary Baas a very belated Happy 90th Birthday! Congratulations to Doug & Joan Stiles on their recent 50th Wedding Anniversary. A party was held for them after Church on Sunday March 17th with cake and ice cream! Visiting her parents Rodney and Joy Reid is Holly Reid from Ontario.

Paula Digout spent a week in Florida with her sister, who won the trip! They had a wonderful time.

Condolences go out to Rhoda Rushton and family on the death of her twin sister, Mable Rushton.



In early March, the Truro Fire Service, Truro Police and management and staff at the Atlantic Superstore collected 6,410 pounds of food from customers and supporters in aid of the Colchester Food Bank. (Submitted)

Volunteers Make Ten Thousand Villages Happen

By Brenda Leenders

Truro has hosted Ten Thousand Villages sales for 25 years and during that time Truro Sales has reinvested \$575,000 into global communities. Ten years ago a pre-Mother's Day sale was added enabling the community to offer two Fair Trade sale events a year; one in the spring and one in the Christmas season. The next sale is May 4, 5, 2019 at St Andrews United church, King St Truro.

A dedicated team of local volunteers logged thousands of volunteer hours. The team's mission is to create opportunities for artisans and food growers in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products and stories to our markets through long-term fair-trading relationships.

The income from the sale of these products helps pay for food, education, health care and housing and visibly raises the standard of living in the communities where the artisans and farmers live. Ten Thousand Villages makes a difference for over 20,000 artisans and food growers in 66 countries in 26 countries.

One of the many groups that supplies Ten Thousand Villages inventory is Mai Handicrafts

in Vietnam. It is a non-profit organization founded by social workers concerned about the plight of street children in Ho Chi Minh City. When it began, schooling was only available to those who held legal papers and could afford the tuition fees. Street children were excluded. Mai Handicrafts gave work to youth and provided them with informal literacy classes. Now that schooling is free for all children in Vietnam, Mai Handicrafts provides work for the marginalized, including women and ethnic minority groups. Artisans receive social and health care insurance and may apply for scholarship funds.

Each sale in Truro engages at least 40 volunteers. The two festival sales in Truro are: Friday, May 3rd (10 a.m. - 9 p.m.) and Saturday, May 4th (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) at St. Andrew's United Church and Friday, November 29 (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.) and Saturday, November 30 (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.) at Immanuel Baptist Church.

If you want to volunteer, there is a Volunteer Appreciation Pizza Party, Sunday April 7, 5 PM, at the home of Brenda Leenders and Ian MacHattie, 84 Fairview Dr, Truro NS. RSVP to leenders@eastlink.ca



Ten Thousand Villages Dix Milles Villages

International Fair Trade Gift Sale

St Andrew's United Church 55 King Street, Truro, NS

**Fri. May 3 - 10 am to 9 pm
Sat. May 4 - 10 am to 5 pm**

Discover fairly traded gifts & home decor
handcrafted by skilled artisans
from over 27 countries

Free Admission

Give a Little Good!

