

Quacking Good Time



Happy boy! Christian Crowell holds up the winning duck, #55, belonging to Darren Lynds. Second place went to Becky Rushton, and third place to Emily Wilson. Friends and family have been overjoyed to see Christian looking so well.

By Linda Harrington

Leona Shearer organized a Ducky Race as part of "Christian's Journey Home Fundraiser" last month. Christian was present at the bridge over the Chiganois River in Belmont to help send the ducks on their way.

The event was a huge success and the proceeds from the race, along with proceeds

from a washer toss tournament, totalled \$954, which was donated to Christian's family.

Three year old Christian Crowell, who lives in Alberta, has battled cancer over the last year and he and his family were recently able to come home for a wonderful visit with family here in Nova Scotia.



The kids had a ball rounding up the ducks at the finish line. Back (l to r)- Nina Green, Marlee Green, Curtis Higgins. Front (l to r)- Grayson Spencer, Christian Crowell, Cooper Blackie, and Christian's sister Evelyn Crowell.

Lower Onslow Community Centre to Undergo \$31,000 Expansion

By Linda Harrington

Doug MacInnes has a huge smile on his face as he reflects on the success of the Lower Onslow Community Centre. "It is used every night of the week, except during the summer," he says with pride.

Doug is President of the Lower Onslow Community Centre Society, which formed when the Lower Onslow United Church closed its doors a few years ago. "I was married in this church, and living all my life just down the road, I did not want to see the building torn down or sit empty," he says.

Since the Community Centre opened its doors it has seldom been empty. Open mic nights, 4-H meetings, yoga classes, card parties and seniors socials are just a few of the activities keeping the place hopping. The Lower Onslow playschool has continued to operate in the lower level and have been so successful they are thinking of expanding with an afternoon class.

The Lower Onslow Community Centre Society knew when they took over the building there was work to be done and they immediately set a plan in motion.

"Everything really took off when we received a grant for \$1700 from the Along the Shore Community Health Board," Doug says. "This money was used to start up a Senior Support Group. Ethel McKinnon and Ann Fiddes planned three social/dances and they were such an overwhelming success that the Chiganois Senior's Group was formed."

The Senior's Group and Community Centre Society were then successful in their application for a \$25,000 grant from the

New Horizon's For Seniors Program. This money will be used to put in new windows both upstairs and downstairs and a new front door.

Doug says he has become somewhat of a professional application filler for the Society. Not slowing down, they recently applied for a grant through the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage are are very pleased to have just heard they will be receiving \$23,505 from the Community Jobs and Facilities Improvement Fund. This is 75% of the \$31,000 required to install a new parking lot, recreation area for the playschool, new washroom downstairs, new sink upstairs, refinish the upstairs floor, electrical upgrades and a new heating system which will also help to air condition the building.

"All this plus we already installed a new roof with the assistance of \$5000 from the Municipality," says Doug. "Thanks to all this funding we will be able to complete our 7 year plan in three years and we will be using local companies to complete the work, giving jobs back to the community."

The Community Centre Society has had to make renovations to the original layout of the building but they have tried to keep as much of the original look as possible. Pews were removed from upstairs to make a large area for various groups to hold their meetings/events. The existing windows have stained glass tops, installed when the church was built. Doug says they looked into ways of preserving this original glass but it was just not practical. A compromise was reached by ordering new windows that

will look similar to the old style and yet they will be energy efficient. "The carpenter has assured us he will take great care in removing the old glass. We plan to use some of the stained glass within the building and the other windows will be given to members of the original Lower Onslow United Church Congregation."

The extensive work inside and out will begin as soon as possible, hopefully keeping interruptions to the Community Centre's busy fall schedule to a minimum.

Doug expects the next major project to involve work on the septic system and if any funding is available, he will be just the man to find it.

(Also see Ann Fiddes' story on page 6)



Doug MacInnes looks over the decorative windows in what was once the Lower Onslow United Church. The building now belongs to the Lower Onslow Community Centre Society and thanks to thousands of dollars in recent funding they will be able to go ahead with necessary renovations, which will include replacing the windows. (Harrington Photo)

What's your SPF IQ?

By Christine Urquhart

With record-breaking heat in many areas this summer, it's important to stay safe and healthy yourself in extremely high temperatures. Heatstroke is the dangerous escalation of two other heat-related conditions, heat cramps and heat exhaustion. Seek immediate medical attention if you have this condition.

It is very important to drink lots and lots of water to keep hydrated. If you suspect someone has spent too much time in the sun, bring them inside, place a cool face cloth on their head and get them to drink at least a large glass of water.

If they start to vomit, or have stomach cramps, get

them to the hospital immediately. To protect yourself from the sun it is wise to use sunscreen.

How are your Sunscreen smarts: What's your SPF IQ? SPF stands for sun protection factor. The SPF number is a measurement of the amount of UVB protection a sunscreen offers. The higher the number, the greater the protection.

SPF is not an indication of how much time you can spend in the sun. If you use a sunscreen with an SPF of 30 rather than one with an SPF of 15, it doesn't mean you can stay in the sun twice as long.

In reality, an SPF of 15 filters out about 93 percent of the UVB rays; SPF 30 filters about 97 percent of UVB rays.

Six One-Room Schools Reunion – August 25th



Members of the Planning Committee for the Wentworth One-Room Schools Reunion have been hard at work all spring. Standing from left to right: Shirley Langille, Shirley Tuttle, Carol Hyslop, Hope Bridgewater, Doug Betts, Annie Broughton. Seated are Georgie Patriquin and Betty Curry. Absent are Don McGill, Carol Smith, Eleanor Sprague, Anne Feeley-Legere, and Grace Fiddes.

By Hope Bridgewater

Celebrating one-room rural schools in Wentworth, 1819-1959, is happening at a Reunion of alumni on Saturday, August 25, 2012, at 1 p.m. located at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. All alumni from the schools of West Wentworth, Lower Wentworth, Wentworth Centre, Appleton, East Wentworth and Wentworth Valley are invited to come on over and meet friends from schooldays gone-by. If you have not done so as yet, register with Doug Betts at 902-897-7333 and join the fun. You may bring your spouse or partner/friend with you to enjoy "meet and greet," activities, entertainment and supper. We have sent out invitations, but, if you have not received your invitation as yet, contact Doug at the above phone number and he will make sure that you will receive your invitation. Don't miss a good time!

A bit of history will jog your memory of the joys and advantages of a one-room school. The rural culture of those days for both the community and the schools has passed away and at that time the general culture had an impact on the atmosphere and operations of the school. In those days most families lived on small farms, neighbour helped neighbour in a barter system of labour, and families of all ages knew each other well. An example of the influence of parents with the relationship of the teacher was in regards to discipline. The parents knew well the students in the school and, if a teacher had to discipline a student or students, she usually had the backing of the parents as there was a community agreement on the issue of right and wrong as regards school behaviour, ie: students you obey the teacher! Bullying was kept low as older students looked after their smaller siblings and other younger students. With this system, the teacher did not have to patrol the school grounds.

In the year 1914, for example, a teacher was paid \$100 for the school term. The teacher was often a woman, a "newcomer," who boarded with a family in the community, often married a local man, and once she was married had to resign. Only one teacher in the one-room schools taught all the grades in the room from Grade 1 (Primary came along later) to Grade XI. In the morning, the teacher would ring the bell, all would salute the flag, the teacher would have a short worship period and then begin the lessons. The teacher often called the older grades to stand and recite their daily lessons to her while other grades worked on their assignments at their desks. Memorization was an art to be conquered. Discipline was enforced strictly by most teachers and, if not, a lenient teacher could be taken over by the students and this did not make for good teaching.



Third cousins Greta Tratt and Barbara Tuttle, students at the Wentworth Centre One-Room School, greet Gilbert Henderson (back to camera). Barbara wrote Story Two and mentions Greta Tratt in her story. (Submitted)

Students had to walk to school on gravel roads and, because they were not required to walk more than two and a quarter miles, it was necessary to build several one-room schools in a large community such as Wentworth. The first school was built in 1819 and in 1826 the government of Nova Scotia passed the Compulsory School Act with school sections set up and each school responsible for its section, having three elected trustees, secretary/treasurer and ratepayers meetings to administer all aspects of the school.

School taxes were collected locally from property own-

ers by the secretary, and bachelors over 21 years of age and without property paid a poll tax of \$1. The everyday janitorial work was done for a small fee by an older student who started and stoked the wood fire each school day during the cold season, swept the floor and kept the blackboards in order.

Twice a year a School Inspector came to examine how well the school was doing with regard to the teacher, the students and the trustees. One of the well-known School Inspectors was B.R. Hall. Each year a school nurse came to examine each child. Other visitors included trustees, parents, interested citizens and all would sign the teacher's school register.

Schools were painted white, had one room for teaching, a woodshed and water pump at the back, had dug wells for water, two back-houses (one for boys and one for girls), a school wood stove, double desks for two students, a teacher's desk, three blackboards, large windows for daylight, oil lamps for meetings or concerts at night, no electricity, and two separate entries (one for boys and one for girls). Games at recess outside were baseball, Alley Over, Tag, Six-Sticks, with all ages and genders participating. Christmas Concerts, School Fairs, and Arbor Days were important events.

As mentioned before, one-room schools had their positive side in that its surrounding culture was local: students and parents knew one another socially and this fact helped to keep a well functioning school. A disadvantage was that the schools lacked science labs, and, also, when writing provincial exams, students had to board in town for the week, be in a strange environment, and face exam questions about facts never covered at the one-room schools. At the one-room schools, students often dropped out in grades nine or ten to take local jobs or else leave the community for other jobs.

All you alumni come on over in August and you will be glad you did.

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