

Masstown Motel Property under New Ownership

By Linda Harrington

The intersection of Hwy #2 and #4, at Masstown, looks rather different these days. Masstown Motel, which has been at this location for over 40 years, has been demolished. The property, including a 22 unit motel and adjacent lodge, was purchased by Masstown Market's owners at the end of October.

An auction at the Motel on Nov. 16th, which was well attended, saw the removal of all furnishings and many of the fixtures including the metal roofing. On the following Thursday, an excavator moved in and demolition began.

"We are clearing the site to begin installation of a modern gas bar," says Market owner Laurie Jennings. "The plan is to clean up the property and get the foundation laid before the frost settles in. If all goes to plan we should have the pumps open by spring."

The new property is directly across the road from Masstown Market and butts up against the Market's Captain Cob's Corn Maze, where a new visitor's center is currently under construction.

"This will give us more land in the immediate area for other opportunities," says Jennings. "The only immediate plan is for the service station with a suitable convenience center but who knows what else might fit in the mix."

There has been a gas bar at the Motel location for a number of years. "We felt there was a need for this service to continue. The gas pumps have only been closed a few weeks and people have already been saying how much they are missed," he says. No decision has been made on the fuel brand but Laurie Jennings expects it will be a nationally recognized company.



Quite a crowd gathered for the Pidgeon Auction at the Masstown Motel on Nov. 16th. (Harrington photo)



Need a lamp, or two, or three? Even the toilets and roofing were auctioned off on Nov. 16th at the Masstown Motel. The building was being demolished later in the week. (Harrington Photo)

Falls the Curse of Winter

By Christine Urquhart

One of the biggest problems with winter is falls.

We slip on the ice, we trip over poorly shovelled steps, we get bogged down in deep snow and fall trying to move. Ah, such is the life as we age but all falls don't happen outside. Sometimes we fall indoors as well. We can prevent falls though.

First we should exercise regularly to build up strength and improve our balance and coordination.

Ask your doctor about the best physical exercise for you. Next, take your time. Get out of chairs slowly. Sit a moment before you get out of your bed. Stand and get your balance before you walk.

Be aware of your surroundings. Keep stairs and walking areas free of electrical cords, shoes, clothing, books, magazines, and other items, especially those slippery throw rugs! Improve the lighting in and outside your home. Use nightlights

or a flashlight to light the path between your bedroom and the bathroom. Turn on the lights before using the stairs.

See an eye specialist once a year - better vision can help prevent falls. Use non-slip mats in the bathtub and on shower floors. Have grab bars installed on the wall next to the bathtub, shower and toilet. Wipe up spilled liquids immediately. Be aware of uneven surfaces indoors and outdoors. Use only throw rugs that have a rubber, non-skid backing. Consider non-skid rug pads under rugs. Always smooth our wrinkles

and folds in carpeting. Be aware of uneven sidewalks and pavement outdoors.

Ask a family member or a friend to clear ice and snow from outside stairs and walkways and always use hand rails if available. Step carefully. Stairways should be well lit from both the top and the bottom. Have easy-to-grip handrails installed along the full length of both sides of the stairs. Wear sturdy, well-fitting, low-heeled shoes with non-slip soles. They are safer than high heels, thick-soled athletic shoes, slippers or stocking feet.

Always dress for the weather if heading out of doors. If you do fall outside you may have to lie there for some time before someone comes to help you up if you are unable to rise. Carry your cell phone with you, even when just going for the mail, if the weather is bad or your balance is off, then if you do fall you can call for help.

Debert Students to Attend "We Day" in Halifax

By Erma Cox

Debert Elementary is generating lots of excitement as we prepare for the first ever Atlantic Canadian WE Day. We are very excited to let you know that Grade 6 will be attending We Day in Halifax on Wednesday, 27 November, 2013.

This is an event for students and youth in Atlantic Canada organized by Save the Children. The show is intended to inspire and motivate students to take action for positive social change in the world. The event will feature celebrities and inspirational speakers from across North America.

Our students will be taking non-perishable food items with them so that food banks within our province might get a much needed boost just before Christmas. Should you wish to contribute to this cause we will be accepting donations at the school up until the morning of the 27th. The grade six class is also planning activities to make a difference both within their communities and globally.

Report Cards will be going out on Monday November 25th. Once again we will be holding Parent-Teacher interviews on Thursday evening and Friday morning to accommodate those parents who work shift work. Please call the school to make an appointment. Report cards have changed and we encourage all parents to meet with the

teacher so that you have an opportunity to get a clear "picture" of your child's progress.

A very special Remembrance Day service was held here at the school on November 7th. Students lit candles for ways of remembering what has been done to give them the freedoms and opportunities as well what role they can play in creating peaceful environments in their homes and communities. The students were also led in song by Mr Black.

On November 11th, Mikayla Isenor participated in the service at the local cenotaph by reading "In Flanders Fields" while Mallory Priest laid a wreath on behalf of the school. I was very pleased to see so many of our children in attendance at this service, including many who laid wreaths in memory of relatives who have served.

Christmas is fast approaching and with that comes the planning of Christmas concerts, Christmas dinners and a variety of other activities. Our concert is scheduled for Monday, December 16th and the annual Shopping Blitz will be held on the 17th and 18th.

Students are presently selling Christmas wreaths that will be ready the first week of December. Purchasing a wreath allows you to start decorating for the holidays while at the same time supporting our students.

The Christ Child's Day

Hey, look me over
Lend me an ear
While you're at it
Pass me a beer.
On the Christ child's day

Rugs and thugs
Jail and court
Wicks and bics
Propane and profane
On the Christ child's day

Bubbles and soap
Thongs and songs
Socks and keys
Prayers and knees
On the Christ child's day



Doors and glass
A desert past
A saviour born
One special morn
On the Christ child's day

God bless and Thank-you
Thomas A. Marshall (Ex-Navy)

Great Village Elementary Notes

By Linda Harrington

A new security system installed at the school during the summer allows the front door to be unlocked from the office. While students are in class, the front door is now locked. Parents and visitors coming to the school during class time will need to use the monitor to be able to enter the school.

Classroom Café this year started off with the school's first ever Thanksgiving dinner. Students and staff enjoyed this delicious meal together in the gymnasium.

A Remembrance Day Service was held on Nov. 8th in the Learning Center. Each grade took part with Mrs. Ross's Grade 4 students leading the Service. Haley, Colby and Jenah Spencer laid a wreath on behalf of Great Village Elementary School students at the Remembrance Day Service on Nov. 11th.

Students will have tickets available to sell November 27th with the selection of prizes being drawn for immediately following the Christmas concert on December 17th.

This month's virtue was "peacefulness". Students generated a list of peaceful problem strategies and are encouraged to use these strategies when needed to solve problems. December's virtue that will be highlighted is "patience".

Teachers recently participated in an in-service on the topic of "writing". Students in Grades Primary to Four are expected to have 30 minutes each day devoted to writing.

In that time, the teacher may be modelling a form of writing (e.g. friendly letter, story writing, report writing) or students could be practicing the form of writing. There are forms of writing that are specific to each grade level.


The PTG is collecting donations for the Christmas Bazaar. Drop off new or gently used items within the next few weeks.

Eddie's Litterless Roadshow came to school on Nov. 22nd. Eddie is a loveable cat (puppet) and environmental superhero that is standing up for all the "critters" of the world and the environment they live in. Through humour, rhymes and song, he helps children learn the importance of keeping their neighbourhoods clean from litter and the importance of water and its conservation.

Report cards went home on Nov. 25th. Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held in the evening on Nov. 27th and throughout the day on Nov. 29th. There is no school for students on the 29th.

Looking ahead to December events. Gingerbread houses will be made on Dec. 13th. The Christmas Concert will be held on Dec. 17th and a Christmas Bazaar will be held on Dec. 19th. Volunteers will prepare a Christmas dinner for students and staff on December 18th. Students will go swimming at the RECC for a swim on Dec. 20th, the last day of school before the break.


Classes resume on Jan. 4th.







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**30 Duke Street, Truro, NS
 B2N 2A1
 Phone 893-2180
 Fax 893-3064**

Email: karencasey@ns.aliantzinc.ca

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