

Chad Norman's Latest Book "Masstown" Now Available



MLA Lenore Zann recently presented Chad Norman with a Certificate of Recognition for Publishing his 15th book "Masstown". (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Chad Norman has recently had his fifteenth book published. Titled "Masstown", the 64 page collection of poetry takes a poetic tour through old, rural Nova Scotia, following the lives of Chad's grandparents Bert and Gladys as they deal with daily struggles of owning a family farm.

Chad spent several years in Masstown, living across from his grandparents, back in the early 1970's before moving to British Columbia. He made his way back across Canada in 1997 on a reading tour, and wound up at his uncle's house in Masstown for a visit. In 2003, he moved back to the East Coast, settling with his wife and son in Truro.

Chad says he decided to write this latest series of poems about his grandparents back in 2005 while sitting at the Toronto airport. "I was thinking about the milk industry and began to think of my grandfather Bert and his three sons. I used to live across the road and was drawn into that type of life at a young age," he says adding, "Within a few months, I was put on the payroll and received a \$15 cheque from AA Putnam and Sons every 2 weeks."

The first poems in the collection were written from the perspective of his grandfather Bert but "I couldn't forget about my grandmother," laughs Chad.

The book took three years to write, finishing it in 2008 and it took another 4 years before it was accepted for publication. This

is Chad's first book with Black Moss Press and he couldn't be more pleased. "The 64/10 concept was their idea...64 pages of poetry for \$10. The Press is located at University of Windsor, where 3rd and 4th year students receive experience with digital publishing and layout."

Chad says the book contains very personal accounts of his grandmother Gladys and grandfather Bert but there is so much more. "People seem to relate quickly to the book, whether they have a farm connection or not. They are able to look at 20th century farming through Bert and Gladys and relive that life. The poems take readers by the hand into the barn, or into the kitchen where Gladys prepared meals from scratch," says Chad. "There is a sense of community inside the pages of the book."

MLA Lenore Zann met up with Chad recently to present him with a certificate of recognition for the book. "I was bowled over to hear about this presentation," says Chad referring to an email he received informing him he would be receiving a certificate of recognition from the local MLA. "This book means so much more than other books I have written."

Chad Norman was at the Masstown Market for a book signing on Nov. 16th. Copies of the book will be available at Masstown Market or by contacting Chad via email at mcnorman@eastlink.ca or phone 902-843-2752.



Lester Settle stopped by Masstown Market on Nov. 16th to pick up a signed copy of "Masstown" from author Chad Norman. (Harrington Photo)

Londonderry Community Council News

By Anne Spencer

December is here already. Christmas is just around the corner with lots going on in all the small communities in the area. Here in Londonderry, our Hunters Breakfasts are going strong with a tremendous turn-out each week. Once again, Hunt Outdoors

has sponsored our Hunters Breakfasts by providing \$1,000 in prizes. Each week we have a door prize valued at \$100 and all entries will go into the Grand Prize Draw for a \$300 gift card on December 7th. In addition we are handing out discount cards for 15% savings on purchases.

Hunt Outdoors is an independent family run business located at 50 Juniper St. in Truro. They have everything for the outdoor enthusiast. It's a good place to Christmas shop and they have been very supportive of our Community Hall. To date the winners have been Jamie-Lynn Rushton,

Patricia McCrae, Reg Culgin and Sally Richard. Congratulations to all.

Our new Limited Edition mugs have arrived and we could not be more proud. They commemorate the 40th anniversary of the community purchasing the old school house. The mugs are available for \$5.00 tax included, at the Hunters Breakfasts.

Congratulations to Victoria Lomond who was recently voted Vice-President of the Londonderry Community Council.

We are in the process of getting a natural playground added to the community hall grounds. Amanda Langille, Robbin Spencer, and Victoria Lomond have been spearheading this project and it is getting so exciting. Amanda and Vicki attended a workshop at the Agricultural College in Truro this week and we had an "on-site" meeting on the weekend with a nice turn-out for it. Stay tuned for further developments as we progress.

Our Remembrance Day services were held at the hall due to inclement weather. It was a full crowd, a really nice turn-out and a nice service as usual.

The Thirsty Church

Great Village Legion Notes

By Ken Kennedy

lunch afterward. At the same time, similar ceremonies were being conducted by Comrade Ronnie MacBurnie assisted by members of Parrsboro Legion.

The totals from the Poppy campaign have not yet been tabulated at press time but whatever the amount it will be put to good use.

The branch is on a major fund raising campaign. The cost of replacing the Legion roof is estimated at approximately \$10,000. The cheese sales, dinners, and bingo fundraisers will be tasked to provide for some of the cost and all donations will be gratefully received.

The traditional Legion banquet was held that evening with Comrade Fred Richard, branch treasurer, emceeing and announcing the presentation of Long Service Awards to Walter Millen (40 years), Dan Wesley (40), Jim Chipman (35), Fred Richard (35), Artd Chisholm (30), Shannon MacAloney (20), Julie Thompson (15), Carlotta Langille (5), J. Patrick Murphy (5).

The banquet also saw the giving and responding to various toasts and Comrade Logan Spencer giving a reading of the history of Branch 72 from its beginning in 1946 up to 1960.

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- Bad luck has hit the McMullens once again. Ice flew off the overhead railway bridge and smashed through the windshield of Dick's truck. Thankfully, no one was hurt but I hear Dick had to drive to the Market to buy toilet paper...

- I heard via the grapevine that Glen Matheson had a little accident on his tree lot the other day. Apparently he required a few stitches but is mending nicely....

- On November 16th, Jeff Maxwell and his brother Bruce were made honorary Lions at the 50th anniversary of Camp Lion Maxwell. This was in honour of their father. The camp is for kids with diabetes. Their lovely wives each received a Christmas Cactus. Jeff and his wife, Shelley live in Londonderry....

Our best wishes go out to Ruth Casey who recently had surgery. We wish her a speedy and full recovery.

Well, that pretty well wraps things up for this month. Merry Christmas to all and don't forget, if you want to see your name in print, call me @ 668-2002 and don't forget to tell your family you love them every day. Love to you Peter and Nick.

I Heard It At The Company Store

By Wendy Cox

Do you know what I heard... I heard the biggest deer story ever... I heard that a nice big buck deer ran into the side of a certain hunters barn and then of course that hunter on the hill had to 'deal' with it by hanging it up. Well, you just can't let that good meat go to waste, can you George. Someone will just have to make some mincemeat. Oh, the stories get better each year.

Congratulations to Judy Bristow-Roberts for getting the Military Mothers Pin at the Remembrance Day Service at the Veterans Memorial Park this year. The weather held enough that the service was at the park again this year. We are all very proud to have this park in our community. Good job to all who worked so hard again this year to make it another great service.

I was pleased to see such a good turn out at the Economy Hall Session this time. Fitz and Them played at the Economy Rec. Center in the afternoon and then later on the Elliott family played, and when I say Elliott family I mean at least a dozen Elliotts. What a great day it was... Fitz is a nephew to Carl and Gerald Elliott, a sister's son. And then we enjoyed as more Elliott nephews and cousins and sisters and sons and grandsons play.

A big thank you to the

wood inside where it's dry and ready to burn. The time has changed, it's dark early and we all seem to want to hunker down and stay in where it is warm and dry. But don't forget Christmas is coming and there will be some Christmas sales and teas in your communities. The Bass River United Church Stewards are hosting a Christmas Bake Sale and Auction on Nov. 3rd 2-4pm at the Bass River Fire Hall. Come out and get some Christmas baking. Watch for posters for more sales in your area.

Now if you need to see it here let me know, but for now keep those car windows frost free so you can see where you are going. Play safe and enjoy the season.

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The Thirsty Church



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