

Lower Onslow Preschool Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Lower Onslow Preschool Celebrates 40th Anniversary- many current and former teachers and students gathered on Nov. 20th at the Lower Onslow Community Center to celebrate 40 years of Preschool. (Harrington Photos)



It takes many dedicated people to keep a Preschool running for 40 years. Some of those honoured where: (left to right) Ethel MacKinnon, Grace Fiddes, Cindy Doiron, Shelia Sabine, Joann Michelin, Claire Shepherd, Sheina Young and Bekah Donkin.

By Linda Harrington

The Lower Onslow Preschool began back in 1973, when a group of concerned parents felt

there was a need for this service in the community. Forty years later, it is the same dedication and passion for young children



One of the first teachers at Lower Onslow Preschool was Shelia Sabine (left), who taught from 1973-1977. She joins one of her former students Sheri Fiddes (1974- 1975) as they sign up on the registration sheets.



District 9 Councillor Doug MacInnes presents Shelia Sabine and Joann Micheline with certificates of congratulations from the County of Colchester and MLA Karen Casey, on behalf of the Province of NS.



Scarlett Michelin adds her hand print to the collection in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Lower Onslow Preschool.

that has kept the Preschool running.

Shelia Sabine recalls working with Ethel MacKinnon to distribute a survey to the community back in the early 70's. They both had young children at home and felt there was a need for a preschool and the survey confirmed others felt the same way. A committee was formed and the first steps were taken to organize and register the preschool.

"I had nine students in my first class and by the next year we were up to 15," says Shelia Sabine, Lower Onslow Preschool's first teacher. "I work in the school system and have often run into former students through the years. They always had a good time here. Teachers at Chiganois have said they notice a difference in students coming to school after being in the preschool program."

One of the current Lower Onslow Preschool teachers Joann Michelin thanked the Lower Onslow Church (which is now the Community Center) for their support over the years and noted the growth and many changes the Prechool has undergone. "We now have 36 students enrolled. The Village of Lower Onslow has raised a lot of cool people," she says.

Joann paid tribute to the "Angels of Lower Onslow Preschool" who have passed away. She thanked Marjorie McLellan, Bill Fiddes and Jack Hines for their valuable contributions to the Preschool over the years.

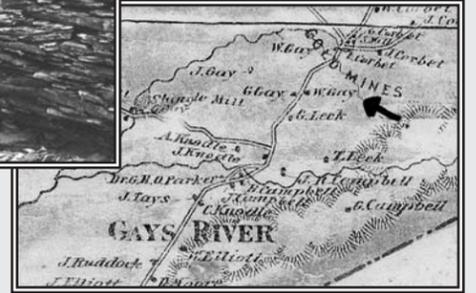
District 9 Councillor Doug MacInnes presented Shelia Sabine and Joann Micheline with certificates of congratulations to Lower Onslow Preschool from the County of Colchester and MLA Karen Casey, on behalf of the Province of NS.

Historic Sites

SLATE QUARRY IN WITTENBURG, COLCHESTER COUNTY



The Shoreline Journal, in collaboration with the Colchester Historical Society Archives, have inaugurated an ongoing feature utilizing a combination of the digital "A. F. Church Maps" to pin point the circa 1875 location of a Colchester site of historical importance, and connect it to an archival photograph of that site, in that frame.



By Dick Akerman

The arrow pointer on map #306 shows the approximate location of the Wittenburg Slate Quarry. One of the most durable, natural roofing materials known to man is a stone product called "slate". A type of stone that formed in thin fused layers which could be quarried and split into shingle shaped pieces of various thicknesses and sizes. The material could be easily drilled for nail attachment, and at the same time was not prone to cracking. This is the same material our forefathers used for school 'scribblers' as it could be written upon with chalk, and then erased with a wet cloth. Most of the great houses of Europe were roofed with slate, and when the fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island was reconstructed, slate was imported from Europe for the roofs, as were the original 18th century structures.

A slate quarry was established in Colchester County in the late 1700's, and operated until the 1850's. It was located on

what became known as "Sibley Mountain", near the village of Wittenburg, in South Colchester. Expert quarrymen were imported from England, and as was the custom, were housed at the quarry site. The better, early homes of Halifax were roofed with slate shingles from this site, and shiploads were transported to England, hauled overland to the Shubenacadie River, and then by sailing ship to the old country.

All that remains of this early industrial site are a few shards of split slate, the slate chimney of the manager's home, and a slate retaining wall, (shown here) built to control the spring runoff of the brook that ran through the site. The "Sibley" family name mentioned above is the same family that later in the 19th century created the "Sibley Furniture" factories, and the famous "Sibley" chairs. Most of the information contained here came from the publication, "The Slate Quarry of Colchester County", written by Greta L. Rose, and available at the archives.

Dick Akerman has been compiling information on behalf of the Colchester Historical Museum Archives, and is published monthly in the Shoreline Journal.

From the archives of the COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Onslow Belmont Notes

By Debbie Weatherby
662-2425

No wonder people are coming down sick with cold and flu, the temperatures just fluctuate like crazy, now today (18th) my outside one is reading 13 but the weather man is saying it is to drop to 2 by tonight. Wow, quite the change.

Now that deer season is here have not been seeing near as many deer as i usually do but today did manage to see three. They sure are fast when they want to be and so graceful when they jump the fences/.

Congratulations go out to Jeff, son of Mike and Lorna Cox of Onslow and Natasha, daughter of Brian and Betty Anne Ritchie of Urbana on their wedding which took place on August 24, 2013.

Regular Sunday service at 10:00 a.m. Services are held every Sunday at the Trinity United Church in Onslow at 10:00 a.m. Trinity is at the corner of Meeting House Road and Onslow Road. All are welcome to attend and we hope to see you there.

On Monday evenings at the Lower Onslow Community Centre there is 45 card party held at 7:00 p.m. with a light lunch served and cost is \$5.00 per person. All are welcome.

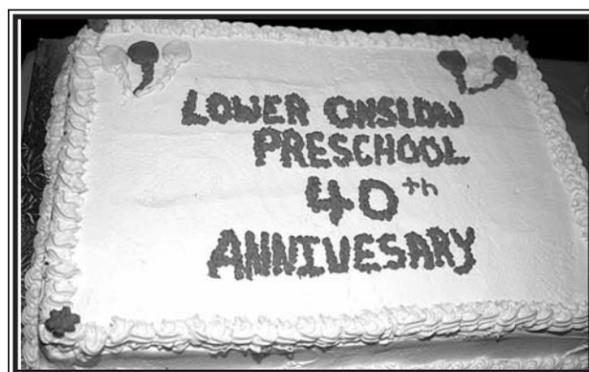
Belmont Baptist Church services are held every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School begins at 9:30. Prayer meeting is held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas is fast approaching and I am actually all done

my shopping and wrapping as well. Also have my Christmas cards done, stamped and ready to mail the first of December. Have a few batches of shortbreads in the freezer as well, ended up having to buy a new mixer as mine gave out on me with the first batch of whipped shortbreads and the new one works beautifully!!! Well until next time take care everyone and enjoy every moment of your family and life as you can.

Spread the news of your Community

Deadline for the December issue of The Shoreline Journal is December 10



Need we say more, this 40th anniversary cake looks delicious.

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