

PHOTO FEATURE

Lower Onslow Preschool Fall Fair- Annual find raising event was held Oct.18th at the Community Centre.

(Harrington Photos)



Dylan Stanley helps Maggie Warren at the Sucker Pull, during the Lower Onslow Preschool Fall Fair.



Owen Connolly gives the ring toss event his best try as Frasier Warren looks on.



Allie and Ian Eisses try spinning the prize wheel to see what surprise awaits.



Alexander Fields has a good aim in the bean bag toss, as volunteer Mary Emma Barnhill looks on.

EXCLUSIVE Armstrong represents Nova Scotia in Australia

By MP Scott Armstrong

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When the Shoreline Journal was advised Scott Armstrong, MP would be travelling to Australia as part of Canada's delegation to the G-20 Summit, we asked him to write an article about the opportunity to represent Canada and his constituency down under. The following is his report).

Last week Prime Minister Stephen Harper attended the 26th annual gathering of the Asia Pacific Economic Corporation and the G-20 Summit in Australia. The APEC Summit, held this year in Beijing China, is the premier platform for the APEC Economic Leaders and business executives to discuss Asia-Pacific economic issues and promote regional trade, investment and cooperation. It is the most influential and high-level business event in the region.

Due to the Summit falling on Remembrance Week in Canada the Prime Minister was able to schedule several meetings early and then return to Canada for the ceremony at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. After the vicious terrorist attacks in Quebec and Ottawa, where we lost two brave members of the Canadian forces, it was extremely important for the Country that the Prime Minister be in Canada on November 11th.

This schedule, however, required the Prime Minister to then fly back around the world to attend the G-20. This was an unfortunate schedule for the PM and his staff but it turned out to be a great opportunity for me. On the Sunday the 9th of November the Prime Minister invited me to join the Canadian Delegation to the G-20 summit. The G20 started in 1999 as a meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis.

In 2008, the first G20 Leaders' Summit was held, and the group played a key role in responding to the global financial crisis. Its decisive and coordinated actions boosted consumer and business confidence and supported the first stages of economic recovery. G20 leaders have met eight times since 2008.

On November 11th I attended the wreath laying ceremony in Truro. Following the ceremony I attended the banquet at Branch 26 of the Royal Canadian Legion and then headed for the airport and flew to Ottawa where I joined the delegation.

The Canadian delegation included eight Members of Parliament from different regions of Canada including

the Prime Minister and Joe Oliver the Minister of Finance. In addition, Government officials, staff and members of the media also travelled with us.

The first stop was in New Zealand where we attended several events with the Prime Minister and met with corresponding members of the New Zealand Parliament. New Zealand has a lot in common with Canada and has seen a large turn around in its economy over the past several years.

One of its key sectors is agriculture. They are doing great things with agricultural exports, particularly into the Asian countries. With agriculture being one of the largest economic drivers in our riding and our recent successful negotiation of the Canada - Europe free trade agreement, we can learn a lot from New Zealand in regards to marketing and exporting our products overseas.

After our brief stop in New Zealand we headed for the host city of the G-20 Brisbane Australia. Although the focus of the summit agenda was on economic and security issues the event that garnered the most media attention during the Summit was the relationship between the G-20 and Russia. There was particular focus on the relationship between the West and Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

Canada like most Western Nations strongly condemns Russia's aggression in Ukraine. At a Leader's meeting the Prime Minister was greeted by Mr. Putin offering a handshake. The Prime Minister shook his hand but stated strongly that Russia had to withdraw from Ukraine. By standing up for our principled stand on the sovereignty of Ukraine's borders the Prime Minister received international support and kudos.

Although this incident was covered heavily it should not over shadow the purpose or the accomplishments of the Summit. One of which was the commitment to support the International Monetary



MP, Scott Armstrong, at the National War Museum in New Zealand with Major Brian Mills from Halifax! Laying a wreath on behalf of Canada. (Submitted)

Fund initiative to release an additional \$300-million to help stem the spread of Ebola. The Summit also committed member countries to an ambitious goal to lift the G20's GDP by at least an additional two per cent by 2018.

One of the best experiences we had as Parliamentary delegates was the interaction with members of the Australian Government and Canadian business leaders who are finding great success trading with Australia. In my role as Parliamentary Secretary for Employment and Social Development I met with one of my Australian counterparts and discussed the many similarities between our economies.

Like Canada, Australia suffers from a mismatch of to many people looking for work while many skilled trades' jobs go unfilled. They, like Canada, are increasing their supports for apprenticeships. In addition, they are expanding their vocational education system for 16 and 17 year olds so that they can chose to get trades certification at a younger age. This is something we fully support the Provinces doing and I believe Nova Scotia is heading in this direction.

On Sunday night we boarded the plane and headed back to Ottawa. We took off at 8 p.m. and 22 hours later we landed but due to the International Date Line we arrived in Ottawa early Monday morning. It was a great experience and it is great to see how well Canada is doing economically when compared to other countries around the world. We are setting the standard for economic prosperity and management.

As the Member of Parliament for Cumberland Colchester Valley my priority continues to be supporting individual constituents as they find issues dealing with the massive bureaucracy that is the Federal Government and bringing infrastructure dollars and job creation to our riding.

As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office toll - free at 1-888-752-0552; visit my website at www.scottarmstrongmp.ca; add me as a friend on Facebook; or follow me on Twitter @Armstrong MP
Scott Armstrong is Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Social Development and MP Cumberland - Colchester - Musquodoboit Valley.

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