



Shown following annual tree decorating night at the Londonderry Community Centre are: (L-R) Emily Matthews, Abby Matthews, Bridgette Matthews, Ella Lomond, Wyatt McMullen, Connor Spencer, Logansport Gamble, Like Spencer and Brookes Gamble. (Victoria Lomond Photo)

**School is in...Please
DRIVE CAREFULLY**

Using an Activity Tracker

By *Chris Urquhart*

As winter approaches we often find ourselves wanting to spend more time indoors! Want to be more active and fit? Use an activity tracker or a pedometer. You can buy activity trackers online and at most fitness and sporting goods stores.

Once you have your activity tracker, set a goal, such as

increasing the number of steps you take to reach a target of 10,000 steps each day.

The simple process of recording your steps and tracking your progress may help you increase your physical activity. Besides, sometimes it's nice to get outside and breathe in some fresh air! How extra nice if it's good for us.

Getting pre-approved for a mortgage

Pre-Qualified, Pre-Approved... What's the Difference?

When you're pre-qualified for a mortgage, a lender has simply given you a good idea of how much you may be able to finance to buy your home.

You'll save time, seeing only homes you can afford.

You can better manage your money, knowing your monthly payment amounts, as well as how much your down payment will be. Real estate agents will serve you better because they know you're serious and ready to buy.

When you make an offer to purchase, the seller is more likely to give it serious consideration because you have solid financial backing. Your pre-approved status may give you more negotiating power with a seller. Normally, your mortgage rate will be locked in against increases for 120 days,

if you select a fixed rate term (and it can go lower if rates go down). There's no cost to you and you're not obligated to accept the mortgage.

Be prepared for pre-approval. You're under no obligation when you're pre-approved, but you should still feel comfortable with the amount and terms of your pre-approved mortgage. That's why it's vital that you review all your personal expenses and have some idea of your future expenses before you talk with a mortgage specialist about pre-approval. Learn more about knowing how much you can afford.

Most financial institutions have an on-line pre-approval process. Once you have completed the application as far as you can go, a mortgage specialist from that institution will contact you to finish the application.

Debert Elementary School Notes

By *Linda Harrington*

Debert Elementary students were supposed to join Great Village and West Colchester Consolidated students in Bass River at Veterans Memorial Park for a Remembrance Day Service on Nov. 10th but due to inclement weather, the Service of Remembrance was held indoors. Debert students had their service in the gymnasium at Debert Elementary. Thank you to those who helped pull together a very moving Service in a short amount of time.

An assembly with Legion members will be held on Nov. 29th to announce the winners of the poster contest for Remembrance Day.

Pick up date for the wreaths ordered for the fund raiser will be Nov 30th. They can be picked up in the gym 1- 4:00PM.

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on the evening of November 30th from 6:00- 7:30PM and the afternoon December 1 from 1:00- 3:00PM.

We have had an outstanding fall with the children able to play outside almost every day. As we move into November please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the colder weather. Also, a reminder to all parents of the early dismissal system the Board piloted last year. Please check the CCRSB website each morning to see if our school is going to dismiss early during to inclement weather predicted for later in the day.

Fundraiser Craft Sale will be held at DES on Dec. 2nd from 10:00am -1:30pm. The annual Christmas Concert will be held on Monday, Dec. 11th,

with a 1:00PM rehearsal and the Concert at 6:30-7:30PM. The storm date for the Concert is Dec. 18th.

Dec 13/14th will be Shopping Day at Debert Elementary, with the annual Holiday Blitz in support of the Learning Centre. This sale provides you an opportunity to donate any new or gently used items that you have cluttering your homes. Items will be priced from 5 cents to \$2. All students will have the opportunity to purchase items for their family members at bargain prices and experience the pleasure of giving a gift that they have selected and purchased themselves. There are lots of real life learning experiences associated with the sale as students budget their time and money and make change. If you have any questions on this, please feel free to call the school.

On December 14th, we are having a delicious Christmas Dinner. Students will not be charged for this meal. Debbie will be going to each classroom asking the children if they want the dinner. If your child does not wish to have the meal on Dec. 14th, kindly let us know via email or call the school. There will be no other choices that day to purchase from the kitchen, so a lunch from home will need to be provided. The storm date for the Christmas Dinner is Dec. 18th.

Students get your instruments and voices tuned up! A Talent Show will be held at the school on Dec. 22nd.

Last day for students before the holidays is Dec. 22nd. Have a safe and very Merry Christmas. See you back on January 3rd!

WBPANS - Wild Blueberry Producers Decline to Take Back Dues

By *Linda Harrington*

With members facing an industry low for pricing, the NS Wild Blueberry Producers Association Board of Directors decided, after much discussion, to present a 2018 budget that included a recommendation for a one-time rebate of ½ cent per pound of membership dues and to withdraw funds from the WBPANS Restricted Investment Fund to support ongoing WBPANS activities during the current mar-

ket conditions.

WBPANS members currently pay 1 cent per pound to the Association annually.

With everyone taking a drastic hit in profits, one would think the extra money in the bank would be readily accepted but discussion, held at the WBPANS Annual General Meeting prior to the vote, brought forth a different perspective.

Wild Blueberry Producers expressed their overwhelming

appreciation for the show of support from their Board of Directors. Several producers stepped to the mic to give pros and cons of refunding the ½ cent per pound. The majority of the speakers wanted to see this ½ cent/lb continue to support the industry, and they felt the money would serve the greatest membership by leaving it with the Association to fund more promotion and research.

Once all the votes were

counted, the motion was defeated. A further motion to have the Board of Directors set the annual dues to a sliding scale, based on price, was also defeated.

The membership was most interested in giving the Board of Directors direction to work at removing the tariff on wild blueberries to China and making sure important promotional activities and research continues.

New Product Development Workshop for WBPANS

By *Linda Harrington*

For the second year in a row, Perennia has partnered with WBPANS to present a workshop the day before the AGM, with a focus on new product development.

These workshops are aimed at small to medium sized producers and/or processors who are looking for opportunities to change their current business model.

Kyla Pierik, Business Development, Perennia Food and Agriculture Inc., hosted the event and explained how the goal was to build on last year's sessions and give additional information and ideas.

Greg Connell, of Nurture Atlantic gave an update on what his company has been doing on behalf of the industry. He reported how data has been collected from focus groups, consumer intercepts, published reports and observations and offered several suggestions for new products and packaging. A new website is now up and running with an overall focus on Canadian Wild Blueberries (canadianwildblueberries.ca). A

new industry and consumer logo has been designed, and there is an increased presence on social media platforms.

An Industry Panel, featured Nova Scotia business success stories from William Alloway, Acadian Maple;

Greg Gerrits, Elmridge Farms; Andrew Rand, Randsland Farms and David Parish, Scotian Gold. Their stories shone an optimistic light on building businesses slowly over time, being innovative and not being afraid to diversify and change.

A tour of the Perennia Innovation Centre took place in the afternoon. This state of the art facility offers top of the line equipment and resources for businesses looking to expand their product line.

Guardian

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