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As our economy continues to fare well relative to others, the OECD has forecasted Canada to continue leading the G7 in average annual growth over the next 50 years.

Our Conservative Government is on the right track for the Canadian economy and Canadian families, but we are not immune to the global economic instability that plagues our trading partners such as Europe and the United States - and Canada can't become complacent.

That's why we're remaining focused on implementing key measures from Economic Action Plan 2012 to help grow Canada's economy.

Further, my Government colleagues and I have commenced budget consultations with Canadians from across the country- including here in Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley - to find the best ways to strengthen Canada's economy with pro-growth ideas as part of the next federal budget. At the same time, as part of our focus on returning to balanced budgets, the federal government is also inviting comments from you on how it can even further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government spending.

I strongly believe talking and consulting with Constituents is the best way to get input in how to help fuel job and economic growth in Cumberland - Colchester - Musquodoboit Valley, and across Canada. Indeed, in the past, many of the ideas brought forward in local pre-budget meetings have been reflected in the actual federal budget.

In order to further ensure all Canadians can participate in the process, the federal government has also launched an online pre-budget consultation through the federal Finance Department website. All those interested in participating can find more information at www.fin.gc.ca.

As always, if you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact my office toll free at 1-888-752-0552; visit me website at www.scottarmstrongmp.ca; add me as a friend on Facebook; or follow me on Twitter@Armstrong_MP.

Scott Armstrong, MP Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley

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had been successful. They had been preparing for this experience for the last year. Chris Hadfield is making history as he will be the first Canadian to command the space station. The students at the school have made their own history.

One may ask why and how Canada became involved in the Space Program. The International Space Ship belongs to many countries. We know the Canadarm was built in Canada in 1981. It is a critical part of the space station. It was given to NASA (North American Space Agency). In return, Canada was invited to have Canadian astronauts selected to travel on space missions. Chris Hadfield was selected for the program in 1992, and in December 2012 he blasted off from Russia to the space station. He will return in May 2013, after 5 months in space.

Some Facts about the Mission & the Space Station:

1) Travel time from launch to reach the Space Station - 2 days; 2) Speed of Space Station - 28 000 km/hour; 3) Time to circle the earth - 90 minutes; 4) Rocket used (over 2000 times) for launch - Soyuz Rocket; 5) Time for contact (within range) - 12 minutes; 6) First mission to space - Sputnik (Russia) 1957; 7) Number of people in Space Station - 6 people; 8) Size of ISS - 2 football fields; 9) Number of sunrises and sunsets in 24 hour period - 16 of each; 10) Astronauts view the Northern Lights from above rather than below; 11) Stars are brighter, but do not "twinkle" as they do through condensation in the atmosphere when viewing from earth.

The information, excitement and opportunities this event provided for the students will give them the incentive to further explore math, science, technology, space and related studies during their school years. The ability for all students to communicate with Chris Hadfield through tweeting can give everyone a greater understanding and appreciation for the reality of space travel. I encourage all, young and old, to seize that opportunity. Chris will be there for the next 5 months.

Karen Casey, MLA, Colchester North Ph: 902-893-2180

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in the future AIS would be making application to release this water into the municipal waste water treatment plant.

Council was advised that these NORMS were just slightly above what was permitted in Health Canada guideline for the discharge of NORMS and if we permitted this that Dept of Environment would or could approve...At that time council was given legal advice our current bylaw would not stand a legal challenge should we refuse. We were advised when and if this permit was requested we should approve it with a 30 day appeal process.

Once an appeal was made then council had the full and legal right to make the final decision. Mr. Hunka was at this meeting and was very well aware of these facts yet, it appears he chose to mislead in an attempt to inflame the residents at the meeting.

As I said, I was at that meeting and I challenged these statements at that time. To say I was angry would be an understatement. My point is that as we go through this and other environmental issues it is important we all attempt to understand the facts.

This is my version of the facts and please take the time to check them out.

As for your concern about Council allowing these fluids to be released into our wastewater treatment plant and from there into the Bay of Fundy, please be assured that we will do the responsible thing.

Londonderry Post office update, I have been advised by Canada Post that it is their intentions to keep the Londonderry post office open. They advised that they were reviewing the hours that would be open as well as the potential remuneration that would be paid for space. When that is complete they will go forward with finding a new location.

Tom Taggart, Councillor District 10, Colchester County

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ring radioactive material (NORM) being held in the containment ponds at AIS in Debert is a serious one. As I had stated at this meeting "I am not a chemist or any type of scientist" and would certainly never let on that I know anything about NORM more than I've learned over the past 4 1/2 months.

What I can tell you is that after the waste water was treated at AIS's site in Debert, samples were taken and they have been analyzed by AIS, the Department of Environment (DOE) and a third party laboratory. These results are what County Council is waiting to study. There was a lot of numbers being thrown out there by the speakers at the meeting on Jan 15th but I believe (and once again I am no expert) that the most important numbers we need to pay attention to are the number of experts, who are analyzing the samples who will then provide us with scientific facts on what really is in this waste water. It's, not only, the level of NORM but also any other chemicals that may be found in such waste water.

By the time you read this article the results will be in from some of these tests. I would like to thank everyone for having patience and faith in their council representatives while waiting for these results.

No matter the outcome of this issue, moving forward there will be a citizens monitoring committee set up with the support and cooperation of the County of Colchester, AIS and the DOE. County Council is in the process of updating their sewer use by-law to allow Council to have more control over what goes into the tax payer's treatment plants. I would also like to see a monitoring device installed on the end of the pipe at the sewer treatment plant in Debert so that we can better understand on a daily bases what it is we are releasing into the Chiquanois River which flows into the Cobequid Bay.

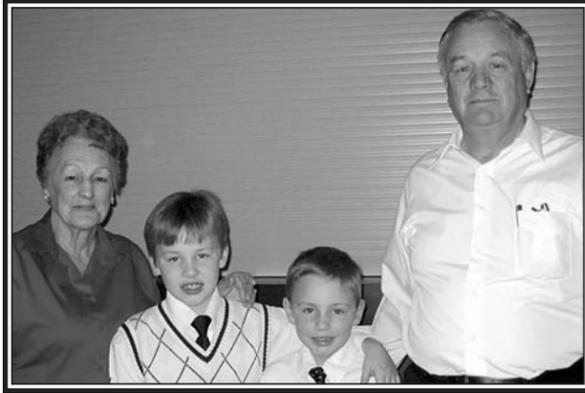
When all the reports from testing and other appropriate information is gathered there will be a public meeting called. At that meeting these scientific facts will be made available with an expert present to explain what exactly all this information really means.

County Council will never make a decision on this matter or any other matter based on speculation, innuendo or rumor.

If you wish to contact me on this issue or any other matter I can be reached at 895-2242 or drop me a line at councillordistrict9@colchester.ca

Doug MacInnes, Councillor District 9, Colchester County

Cumberland Singers Perform in Wentworth



Bill Baker, Municipal Councillor District Six, and his family perform at the concert "Sounds of Christmas" held in Wentworth. Shown are: Jean Mooring Baker, grandsons Mitchell Baker, 9, Max 8, and Councillor Bill Baker. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

The Cumberland Singers performed "Sounds of Christmas" the 14th time as an annual concert at the Wentworth Recreation Centre in order to raise funds for Chalice-Christian Child Care International which provides for children who need help as regards food, shelter, education and freedom from abuse. Once again a large audience attended and enjoyed the splendid musical presentations and other activities of the concert, and this audience was happy to help a good cause for children.

At this concert, three members were friends of the group, but all of the other 27 performers are direct descendants by blood and marriage of Ellsworth and Edith Patriquin who lived in Greenville Station and, with musical instruments and "kitchen parties" in the home, brought up 12 children who were trained in music. This musical training and love of music has continued down to the present time up to the fourth generation with ages ranging from three years to 86 years!

This "Patriquin Clan" of extended families has not kept the musical talent just in their homes, but has gone out in the Wentworth community to raise funds for charity which began in 1982 when Pearl Patriquin Crowley and her sister Jean Patriquin Mooring-Baker, both daughters of Ellsworth and Edith Patriquin, decided to stage a concert to buy a piano for the Wentworth Recreation Centre. This group continued to perform for charity until 1991 and

then disbanded. Fortunately, Pearl Crowley's daughter, Jocelyn Morris, in 1999 asked the extended Patriquin clan members to come together to stage a Christmas presentation for Child Care International and most members have continued performing ever since. One example of four performing generations in one family are founding coordinator Pearl Patriquin Crowley, her daughter Jocelyn Crowley Morris, her grandson Nicholas Morris, and her great-grandson, Lucas Morris.

The "Sounds of Christmas" raised funds totaling \$4,600 and a cheque was presented to a representative of Chalice-Christian Child Care International at the recess of the concert. Funds raised came from tickets at the door, a raffle of prizes, an auction, and private donations of \$1,200. Private donations came from Paul and Gloria Merlin, Ricky and Judy Clarke, the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, and Wes Patriquin. Expenses for advertising and use of equipment were paid for by MacDiarmid's Funeral Home, the Canadian Salt Co. of Pugwash, and Rick and Judy Clarke. The volunteer performers paid for their own expenses such as time spent rehearsing, gas for travel, and any other personal items.

The concert had variety and this made it interesting as well as enjoyable, and it featured the following: both Christmas religious hymns and secular songs; solo, duet, quartet, and group singers; old-time music tunes; step dancing; a comic skit of

jokes and funny costume with Sadie (Sharon Miller); a band playing the music instruments of piano, guitars, violin, and drums; a PA system; a recess featuring a raffle and auction; and a catered canteen. At the door selling tickets were friends, Bob Smith and Janice Smith. Georgina Patriquin tended the nearby table with various raffle prizes, tickets, and auction prizes of baked food and groceries.

Three friends who performed with the 27 members of the Patriquin Clan were Wayne Reid (singer and lead guitar), Faye Henderson (singer) and Page Oickle (singer).

The other 27 performers are listed in categories for clarity: Individual Singers: Jocelyn Morris (singer, show coordinator); Charles Patriquin (Master of Ceremony, singer, band member as fiddler); Amy Morris (singer, band member as guitarist, sound technician); Nick Morris (singer, band member as drummer, sound technician); Ron Rushton (band member as bass guitarist); Jean Mooring (duet singer, band member as pianist); Ashley Baker (singer, band member as rhythm guitarist); Sharon Miller (singer, comic performer); Pearl Crowley (duet singer); Carmen Baker (singer); Larry Patriquin (singer). Members Who Performed in the Choir Only: Laurene Decoste, Erica Decoste, Joe Patriquin, Councillor Bill Baker, Shawn Patriquin, Leann Patriquin. Young Performers: Natalie Decoste (step dancer & fiddler); Jensen Patriquin (singer, pianist); Mitchell Baker and Max Baker (child duet singers). Cameo Appearance by Audience Children: Luke Morris (singer, conductor); Seamus McKim (singer); Damian Miller (singer); Cortney Patriquin (singer); Gracen Webb (singer); Avery Webb (singer).

A note to explain the "Cameo Appearance:" Jocelyn Morris called these very young children (three years of age) up from the audience to sing "Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer" to immense applause and explained that already they are being trained to take their place in the group to continue the tradition of singing for pleasure and for charity.

The Deadline for the March issue of
Shoreline
Journal is February 19

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