



Santa joined the East Coast Carolers for a tune at Masstown Market on Dec. 14. (Harrington Photo)

## UCW Annual Meeting February 18th

**By Christine Urquhart**

The Truro Presbyterian UCW Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday February 18th at St. Andrew's United Church in Truro. Registration is from 9:30 - 10am. Morning

program will include a worship service with offering and the viewing of the DVD "Poor No More". There will be discussion time afterwards. In the afternoon there will be a Memorial Service of all those

UCW ladies who have passed away in 2013; the installation of officers and our business meeting. Bring a bag lunch and lug a mug! Everyone Welcome!

## Average Sale Price Drops 4.1%

**By Maurice Rees**

In Northern Nova Scotia, which is defined by realtors as the area from Brookfield to Amherst including Cumberland, Colchester and Pictou Counties, the number of properties listed for sale in 2013 increased by 2.45%; actual sales dropped 5.5%, while the sale price dropped 4.1%, when compared to the previous year.

Out of seven regions across the province, Northern Nova Scotia has the 6th lowest average selling price.

The region's average sale price was \$125,926 compared to the provincial average of \$214,842. Only the Yarmouth area at \$95,287 had a lower average selling price. That region has been devastated in recent years by the lack of ferry service.

The latest data released by the Nova Scotia Association of REALTORS® Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) System confirmed activity in Nova Scotia's housing market slowed in 2013 compared to 2012. The average sale price dropped by 1.5 per cent while the number of sales decreased by 13.9 per cent for the year.

"REALTORS® throughout the province found that there were fewer qualified buyers in the housing market in 2013," says Gary Mailman, President of NSAR.

More sellers entered the market in 2013, and listings grew by 1.9 per cent. For most regions, the average sale price remained steady, overall, keeping Nova Scotia's average sale price well below national levels at \$214,842.

"Last year, more than 9,100 homeowners sold their home with help from a REALTOR®, says Mailman. "The training and skill-set REALTORS® have as negotiators and marketing experts are an essential asset for buyers and sellers to achieve their goals in varying housing market conditions."

The Yarmouth Region had the largest decrease in prices, while Halifax-Dartmouth Region had the largest decrease in sales.

The tables below show the real estate story across the province for the various regions:

### Residential MLS Sales and Listings from January to December 2013

REGION	Sales			Listings		
	2012	2013	% CHANGE	2012	2013	% CHANGE
Cape Breton	630	621	-1.40%	1,628	1,577	-3.20%
Halifax-Dartmouth	6,128	5,087	-20.50%	12,289	12,746	3.60%
Highland	261	257	-1.60%	1,109	1,025	-8.20%
Northern Nova Scotia	1,067	1,011	-5.50%	3,131	3,209	2.40%
South Shore	827	748	-10.60%	2,576	2,728	5.60%
Annapolis Valley	1,347	1,260	-6.90%	3,668	3,608	-1.70%
Yarmouth	199	201	1.00%	681	682	0.10%
Provincial	10,459	9,185	-13.90%	25,082	25,575	1.90%

### Average prices from January to December 2013 in regions across the province:

Region	Average Price 2013	Compared to 2012
Cape Breton	\$ 128,308	1.0%
Halifax Dartmouth	\$ 271,556	1.4%
Highland	\$ 135,744	-3.1%
Northern Nova Scotia	\$ 125,926	-4.1%
South Shore	\$ 172,791	-2.1%
Annapolis Valley	\$ 160,037	0.2%
Yarmouth	\$ 95,287	-12.6%
Provincial	\$ 214,842	-1.5%

## Clifton 4-H Club News

**By Gill Blackburn**

Clifton 4-H club met on Tuesday January 7th. Roll call was taken and Scott gave the general leaders report. First off, we had a successful Christmas party hosted by the Blackburn family on the 10th of December where we had hot chocolate, sweets, and games.

Jacob Works volunteered to attend the exhibition committee meetings as the senior member representative and Marla McNutt will be our County Council senior rep.

Chocolate bar orders are to go in this month

and will be on sale during the month of March. Also, cheese orders have taken place the past two to three years in our club and have been successful.

This year we are joining up with Gems and will receive our cheese from ADL Dairy in PEI, please see your local 4-H member for more info. Our club rally is coming up March 1st and topics are due for next meeting, February 4th. All our project meetings are starting up for the first of the year and members were reminded to update their club diaries with any new activities that they recently attended.

Gill Blackburn is reporter for the Clifton 4-H Club

## Charges Laid in Fox Point Shooting

Neale Wagstaff, 67, has been charged by Cumberland County RCMP with Attempted Murder following a firearm's incident that occurred January 16th at Fox Point, Cumberland County. On January 16th at approximately 7 p.m., Cumberland County RCMP responded to a call of a shot fired at a vehicle while the occupant was exiting the pick-up truck. The shot shattered the driver's side win-

dow and damaged the door in several places. Further investigation revealed the victim's house was also shot at and sustained damage. The occupant was not injured.

Wagstaff was arrested on Friday morning without incident. He is facing several charges including Attempted Murder, Pointing a Firearm, Possession of a Weapon for a Purpose Dangerous to Public Peace,

Unsafe Storage of a Weapon, Mischief and Operation of a motor vehicle while impaired. He appeared in court in Amherst on January 21st and was released on several conditions. He is due back in Amherst Provincial Court on March 3rd, 2014.

A 39-year-old man who was also arrested on Friday and later released is being investigated for Accessory after the Fact. The investigation is continuing.

## 2014-2015 Grade Primary Registration for Area Elementary Schools Starting Soon

Registration for all Chignecto-Central Regional School Board (CCRSB) elementary schools will take place from mid-January to March. Registration is open to children who will be five on, or before, December 31, 2014. Parents/guardians are required to contact their local elementary school to arrange an appointment to register. The registration process takes about 30 minutes. Information regarding dates, times and phone numbers can be accessed on the CCRSB website at [www.ccrsb.ca](http://www.ccrsb.ca).

Registration dates (where applicable) and phone numbers for each elementary school in our coverage area are as follows:

February 6, 2014; Chignecto Elementary School - 392-3400-Friday, January 31, 2014; Parrsboro Regional Elementary - 254-5605 - Monday, January 27, 2014; Wentworth Consolidated Elementary - 548-6400 - Thursday,



## Church Services for February

**By Christine Urquhart**

Church services for the month of February are, as always, at 10am, rotating between our three Churches:



February 2 - Debert,

February 9 - Glenholme,

February 16 - Masstown and

February 23 - Debert.

Sunday School meets during the service time and the children always join the congregation at the beginning of each service.

We especially want to congratulate our minister Carol Gillard M.Div. on her recent acceptance for ordination which will happen at the Annual Meeting of Maritime Conference in May 2014.

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