

Horsemen's Club Seeks Assistance

By Maurice Rees

Glen Porter, who until recently was president of the Truro's Horsemen's Club, appeared before Municipal Council on presentation night seeking assistance in lowering the club's tax bill. He was not seeking a tax free status, but hoping council could show leniency similar to the level offered by the Village of Bible Hill.

Porter said he was comfortable with the request because they are a non-profit members club which gives a lot back to the community in terms of jobs, local purchases, and offering the facility to community groups on a regular basis.

Responding to Councillor Boutilier's questions, Porter said they have two full time employees for bartender and

janitor, plus four part-timers for an overall membership of around 320 of which approximately 200 are current with membership dues.

The club has recently borrowed \$40,000 to update its facility to continue to appeal to community organizations as a place to hold various events and activities. On motion by Councillors Cavanaugh and Masters council agreed to accept the presentation and to ask staff to work with the organization to determine its corporate status to see if it might be possible to move it into a different tax bracket, which could reduce the municipality's annual tax bill. Currently, the organization pays approximately \$9,000 in property taxes to Bible Hill and the municipality.

West Colchester Rivers to be Studied

By Maurice Rees

The Coastal Restoration Fund, under Canada's Ocean Protection Plan will be undertaking a significant project in West Colchester according sources to the Shoreline Journal. The Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council has been approved and are in final negotiations with DFO for a significant study and possible restoration work in West Colchester.

Referred to as The Watershed Project it is believed to be a five year study for salmon habitat, populations and possible restoration work in inner Bay of Fundy which will include the lower watershed of the Debert, Great Village, Folly, Economy and Bass River areas. Improvement to the watershed environment for fish in the area is expected to be the main thrust of the initiative.

The Shoreline Journal contacted DFO for an update on the initiative and received the following reply. The Coastal Restoration Fund, under Canada's Ocean Protection Plan, has committed \$75 million to support coastal restora-

tion efforts. The program was well received nationally, resulting in 163 Expressions of Interest requesting a total of over \$310 million dollars.

Of these, 32 projects totalling approximately \$46.9 million were approved for funding. All 32 of these approved projects will contribute to the protection and restoration of Canada's coastlines and include Indigenous involvement in planning or implementation.

To date, 4 of the 32 projects have been formally announced: Restoring a Healthy Placentia Bay Coastal Ecosystem project, led by the Marine Institute; Pacific Salmon Explorer, led by the Pacific Salmon Foundation; Stewarding Coastal Habitats Monitoring and Restoration for Priority Species in Newfoundland and Labrador, led by the World Wildlife Fund; and River bank restoration Miawpukek First Nation.

Successful CRF projects will be announced by the Minister or a designate together with project partner(s) as agreements are finalized.

New Pilot Program to Improve Competitiveness

By Maurice Rees

With project costs between \$2-Million to \$15-Million a new pilot project to improve competitiveness might not have much application to West Colchester businesses. On January 16th, the government announced NSBI would deliver the Innovation Rebate Program to increase innovation capacity and the adoption of new technologies and business processes.

The program will provide a 25 per cent rebate of eligible project costs, which include the implementation of new or significantly improved production or waste stream processing, investment in production capacity to enable entry into new markets or the production of new products and establishment of new production facilities in Nova Scotia.

NSBI will be accepting applications for the program until March 31, 2020. More information about the program is available online at: novascotiabusiness.com.



Chiganois Elementary Notes

By Linda Harrington

Best wishes to Mrs. Sharon Robertson in her retirement. Mrs. Robertson has been teaching for 18 years, 13 of those at Chiganois. We will all miss you very much Mrs. Robertson! A warm welcome is extended to Ms. Small, who is assuming the term position in the Grade 5 classroom.

Once again, there was a very successful turnout for the annual Turkey Draw. Over \$300 was raised in Turkey Ticket Sales. Congratulations to the winner Greg Muise Sr!! The PTG would like to send a huge "Thank You" to the Hill-Macmillan family for donating the turkey. Congratulations to the big winner at the Christmas Concert, Mr. Chris Wildbore who won \$557.50 from the 50/50 draw! Thank you to everyone who supported these events. All profits go directly back to the students. A huge thank you is extended to everyone that came out and supported the annual Christmas Concert. Special Thank You to Lisa Jennings for once again accompanying Mrs. Saunders. Thanks also to John and Catherine Simms who also offered their musical talents.

In December, students handmade cards and ornaments with love and care. They sent these precious items to various local hospitals and senior homes. This was a way to truly demonstrate the virtue of Joyfulness; "Giving of your time and talents to spread joy to other people".

This month the focus was on the virtue of Respect. Students learned the many ways they can demonstrate respect in their school, homes and communities to make them all better places in which to live learn, work and play. January 15th, 22nd and 29th a Learn to Skate program was held with the Grade 2 students.

Maritime Marionettes visited on January 19th.

Chiganois Idol was held at the school on January 19th for the Grade 4/5 students. Congratulations to all students, you did a fabulous job! Thank you to Jonathan Torrens for mentoring the students and for being the Emcee at the Idol contest. The judges chose MC Twist as the overall winner. Isabella Taylor, Sophie McCabe and Brooke Orlik will have the opportunity to make a music video in the coming weeks.

There was No SAC Meeting at School on January 23rd as a Conference at CEC was held for SAC Members from 6:00-9:00PM. The PTG met on January 25th.

Pancakes with the Principal for January Birthdays was held on January 25th

Primary Registration for students beginning school in September 2018 will take place on Thursday, February 15th. If you have a child that will be 5 years old by December 31, 2018, please contact the school at 662-4420 to make an appointment. If you know of any other families who have school

age children; please pass on this important information. Thank you.

Please remember to have your child/children dress appropriately for the weather when coming to school. The temperature is dropping, and students will be expected to be outside for play time unless the weather is too inclement. The play field is open and is not very sheltered from the wind. Students should have a hat and gloves/mittens as well as a warm jacket and appropriate foot wear for outside play. Snow pants or splash pants keep students warm and dry after playtime for afternoon instruction. It may be a good idea to slip an extra pair of gloves/mittens in your child/children's backpacks, especially the little ones.

Chiganois school cafeteria has 2 microwaves students have access to during lunchtime. These are for heating purpose (no longer than 60 seconds) not cooking.

If your child is arriving late (instruction begins at 9:10) for any reason you must come in and sign your child into school. Please

do not send them in alone. In addition, our school day ends at 3:15. If for any reason your child must leave prior to dismissal, you will need to come in to the school and sign out your child. This is to ensure the safety of all students.

It is important the school has parent/guardian's most recent contact information. Please contact the office or your classroom teacher with any changes and those changes will be made in the student information system.

All students in Grade 4 & 5 recently traveled to the Truro Cineplex to see the movie WONDER. They have been reading the book in class. This movie was perfect to teach many of the virtues focused on at Chiganois Elementary such as Kindness, Patience, Compassion and Joyfulness. Thank you to all the volunteers who joined the classes that day.

All students at Chiganois have now been matched up with a reading buddy from a different class. Each week they will meet to read with each other. It is a great opportunity for the older students to demonstrate and practice their leadership skills. As well, it is nice for the younger students to get to spend some time with other members of their school community. Virtue Assembly will be held on Feb. 1st. February's virtue is Kindness.

On Friday, February 16th the students at Chiganois Elementary School will get to experience some hands-on drumming. Also, the students will get to learn the history, construction and sounds of the drums. They will explore some proper techniques and cultural relevance. The students will learn to drum a traditional West African rhythm and possibly some various arrangements. The day will be interactive allowing students the opportunity to work together to create song and listen to each other. It will be lots of fun. What a great opportunity!

Pancakes with the Principal for February Birthdays will be held on Feb. 22nd. The SAC will meet at 6:00PM on February 27th, followed by the PTG at 7:00PM.

Looking ahead to March activities will include: The Virtue Assembly will be held in March 1st. Each year Chiganois always tries to organize a ski day for grade 4's & 5's. This year the trip is scheduled for Thursday, March 8th, 2018. A meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 29th at 6:00PM at the school. CCRSB Policy states parents/guardians AND the student MUST attend a mandatory ski meeting hosted by Ski Wentworth should their child wish to participate in the ski day.

All students in grades Primary - 3 will be going bowling Friday March 9th at the Bible Hill Bowlcade. Per-mission forms and volunteer requests will be sent home prior to this event.

Winter Carnival Week will be held March 5th - 9th. March Break will be held March 12th -16th.

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