

## Wentworth Schoolhouse Directors' Dinner

By Hope Bridgewater

People may say on seeing the title, "What! There are no schoolhouses in Wentworth now!" It is true that there are now no operating schools in Wentworth under the Department of Education (sad to say), but there is still the Old Valley Wentworth Heritage Schoolhouse with the history of being a typical one room school with grades one to eleven all taught in one room by one teacher, but as the

Secretary/Treasurer of the Wentworth Valley Community Hall Association, Carol Hyslop, says the Association takes its past history as an asset, but has now a larger purpose: to preserve the history of the community, in particular in reference to the Wentworth Valley/Station. The Association was created a Heritage School by the Municipality of Cumberland.

Carol Hyslop acting for the Association Directors sent out special invitations to the volunteer workers who specifically helped with the maintenance of the schoolhouse during the past year.

Entering the Old Valley Schoolhouse for the Christmas dinner, there was time to meet, greet, and chat before sitting down to eat. Debbie Barclay had spent the entire day cooking the meal. The menu consisted of turkey with dressing, cranberry sauce, tomato chutney, vegetables, rolls, tea and coffee. Norah Topping helped by bringing in an apple pie and Howard Waugh brought in ice-cream. Everyone had a fine time eating and chatting in friendship for two hours.

After people had left, the Director of the Community Hall Association stayed for a business meeting with Debbie Barclay, Chair, Carol Hyslop, Secretary/Treasurer, Bobby Hunt, Francie Hunt, Harold Barclay, Butch Atkinson, Debi Atkinson, Ernest Wood (absent this time), and two regular volunteers: Norah Topping and Howard Waugh.

The Old Wentworth Heritage Valley Schoolhouse, once School Section No. 14, is 115 years of age. In 1902, Alexander Munroe, a resident of the Valley, received a contract from the school trustees to build a new school for \$530. This was because Visiting School Inspector Craig had ordered the present school be placed elsewhere and a new one built at the same site by August 1, 1903. This beautiful site remains as it is situated next to a Cobeguid Mountain range which has the highest peak (High Head) in the area and a brook which begins the Wallace River.

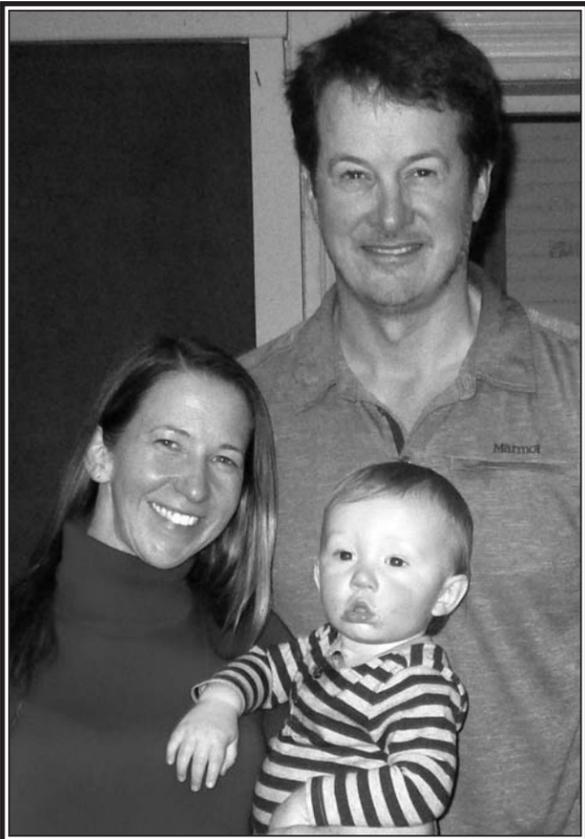
In 1959 the Community Hall Association was formed

to buy the schoolhouse after it was closed due to amalgamation of all the Wentworth one room schools into one central Elementary School at Wentworth Centre for grades one to six and for grades seven to eleven to go to Pugwash District High school. The Valley Schoolhouse was first kept as a Rifle Club and Ski Club. Then Friends of the Old Valley Schoolhouse ( a nick name for the Association) did more maintenance and repairs: painting, deck waterproofing, building a storage shed, door repairing, floor scrubbing, window washing, firewood stacking, making new steps, installing curtains, nearby forest clearing, landscaping, erosion protection from a nearby brook, regular snow plowing and grass mowing.

Then, as the Hall Association was an Incorporated Not For Profit Organization managed by volunteer workers, it applied for government grants and did local fund-raising. By 2010, the Hall Association announced the following renovations had been done: a new wheelchair

accessible ramp, a new well and water system, a new septic system, a new foundation, a kitchen area containing a stove, sinks, refrigerator, cupboards, two toilets, and a storage room. A clapboard from the old woodshed with the names of students of that time scribbled on the wall in their own handwriting was placed on a kitchen wall as a memory from the past.

This Heritage Wentworth Schoolhouse is a symbol of the hundreds of closed one-room schools in Nova Scotia and a symbol of now preserving past and present community culture and history. This Schoolhouse is an inspiration, because of all the hard and difficult work done by these Wentworth Valley volunteer workers, both directors and friends.



The Wilson family enjoyed the Christmas dinner at the Heritage Old Valley Schoolhouse. Show above are: Mother, Erica van Vulpin, father, Gregor Wilson, and son, George. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)



Norah Topping and Debbie Barclay - excellent cooks - prepared the menu for the Directors' dinner at the Heritage Wentworth Old Valley Schoolhouse. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)



Bobby Hunt, Robert Lafrance, Monica Lafrance, and Kathy Saxton enjoy the Christmas supper at the Heritage Old Wentworth Valley Schoolhouse. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

## Ruth Thompson Reports

By Ruth Thompson

Happy New Year. I hope that everybody had a nice holiday season. Now it's upward and onward to another new year and we've already enjoyed a cold wintery month. Just 11 more to go. My sympathies go out to the family of Morton Lewis, Sydney Lewis and Joyce Starratt. These people will all be missed.

There is not much to report. If the readers want to read the news, I need to get it from the readers in Economy and Five Islands. I need to know about community events, plus the activity of local residents, as we go through winter and await the arrival of spring.

This could be my last report, so it is up to the folks in these two communities to give me the news. Please email me at: [maggie.thompson447@gmail.com](mailto:maggie.thompson447@gmail.com)



**TURNERS' EXCAVATING  
AND TRUCKING**  
41 Onslow Mt. Road, Belmont

(Earth Turners) All Gravels, Backhoe, Dozer, Roller, Septic Plans And Installation, New Land Development, Driveways, Culverts, & Building Lots For Sale.

Cells (902) 890 5409, (902) 890-7348,  
(902) 897-7688, (902) 890-986-4584

# 2019 90 & 90+ BIRTHDAY PARTY

We wish to thank all those who attended the 2018 Annual 90 & 90+ Birthday party. We hope you had a good time.

We are planning this year's party and need your help. I ask you to think about friends, relatives and neighbours from our coverage area, who will be turning 90 in 2019. Let's not wait until next year to get them registered.

If you know of someone who turns 90 in 2019, or is over 90 and never been invited, please pre-register them by sending name, mailing address, phone and date of birth so we can invite them to the party being held in Economy on May 11, 2019.

Please send to:  
**The Shoreline Journal,**  
Box 41, Bass River, NS B0M 1B0  
PH: 902-647-2968; Fax: 902-647-2194;  
Cell: 902-890-9850  
E-mail: [maurice@theshorelinejournal.com](mailto:maurice@theshorelinejournal.com)

### PLAYSAFE:

Don't Let  
It Happen  
to You

The War Amps  
new "kids-  
to-kids"  
safety video,  
featuring stories  
from young  
amputees who  
have lost limbs  
in accidents,  
delivers the  
hard-hitting  
but positive  
message:  
"Spot the  
danger before  
you play!"

Visit [waramps.ca/  
playsafe](http://waramps.ca/playsafe) for the  
video and safety  
resources.



The War Amps

# Masstown Hardware





