

# REES' Pieces

## Proposed 6 Member Board Invalid

It's been a long hard cold winter confining many to an indoor climate, or because of the extreme weather, we have found excuses to stay inside. Not having to bundle us up, we get more time to watch Trump's ongoing fiascos, and occasionally, we get some happy coverage.

I detest his actions and how he abuses people using threats to get his way. Is he capable of telling the truth? Make me feel like a frog in a big pond, hopping from lily to lily pad. But he sure gets us to look at the entire globe. First Venezuela to steal their oil using over 20% of his naval fleet and 15,000 soldiers. Then he is off to Iran, sending part of the fleet on a two week sail.

With upcoming World Economic Congress (WES) in Switzerland he needs something topical to grand-stand so he can be topic of conversation and centre of attraction, he gets hyper on Greenland to ensure all eyes from NATO are focused on his foolishness, pleading for him to reactivate some of the bases which were subsequently closed when the cold war became less prominent. The agreement with Denmark / Greenland even thought the broad-based agreement involving several bases still exists even though it was signed in 1951.

Trump is such a deal maker and uniter, we should not have been surprised he was able to get a concept of an agreement involving Greenland, while at WES in Switzerland. If you need confirmation how good of a deal maker TACO Trump is, please consider within 11 months he solved eight wars and Ukraine-Russia is awaiting his face-to-face involvement between the two leaders.

Need more proof, consider how quickly a year ago, he was able to unite 40-Million Canadians, so everyone was in unison, with elbows up, behind Prime Minister, not governor, Carney and the premiers. It sometimes takes a while, but Carney showed Trump what the Canadian fabric is like.

At the Economic Summit, when Trump's Greenland fiasco was drawing all the oxygen out of the room, it took Prime Minister Carney only 20 minutes, delivering the best speech of all leaders to turn the tables on Trump, when he said there is a "rupture going on", and "if you are not at the table you are on the menu".

I've been knocking around these corners and watching Canadian leaders on the global stage. Not one of them has generated and received as many compliments from other world leaders, or the American shows on CNN, MS Now, and others.

Now it's time to move on to a major problem facing Municipality of Colchester and Town of Truro. The RECC is in shambles, Not only in the recent events, which became public at the end of October when Colchester swung the 90-day sledge hammer. Problems have existed for years.

I am not, in any way, suggesting Colchester should not have taken the action it did. Perhaps it was time. Enough is enough. Both Truro and the Municipality pay \$750,000 each to amortize the building construction costs. On top of that, each contributes approximately \$500,000 in operational cost. That is \$1.25-Million each for a grand total of \$3-Million manually.

Then earlier this year, RECC lost a \$1-Million battle with Canada Revenue Agency for funds advance during Co-Vid19. Additionally approximately \$500,000 more is required for equipment replacement/update or there probably won't be ice next September.

Their handling of the RECC not only in recent years, but even during construction is inexcusable.

If you think the above things are bad, search this issue for three important stories on page 1, 2 and 9, all dealing with the RECC, when Councillors, Sherry Martell, District 7; Lisa Patton, District 8 and Marie Benoit, District 9 focused on RECC items on the agenda at the January 16th council committee meeting. Martell's decades of experience on policy, governance, and community involvement in project, provided a eye-opening governance situation facing the Society which operates the RECC on a day-to-day basis. Martell is calling for governing the RECC to return to the status of October 23, 2025. She claims a proposed six member board is invalid because Society's by-law requires 12 members.

Maurice

# Hello from the Wentworth Recreation Centre

By Norah Topping

Thank you everyone who turned up for the New Year's Day Levee. It was a lot of fun to see so many people come enjoy the food, the wonderful music, and the company of friends and neighbours. Our Rec Centre volunteers put on a wonderful spread with homemade seafood chowder, chili, corn chowder, and lots more and Kayden Mattinson provided the music performing everything from Johnny Cash to Bob Dylan. And it was a good fundraiser for the Ladybug Pantry foodbank. What a great start to 2026 in Wentworth!

And welcome back to our Wentworth winter cottagers! Here are the upcoming events at the Recreation Centre: On **Saturday, February 14**, we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Bob MacLean Crib Tournament. Registration is from 12 to 1 pm. Play starts at 1. \$20 per person \$40 per team. \$5 High Regular Hand is optional. 1st 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be awarded amounts to be based on attendance. Bar services, food, and lunch available.

On **Saturday, March 14**, from 3 to 6 pm or while supplies last, the ever-popular **Annual Pancake Supper** is taking place.

On **Saturday March 21**, we are hosting a **Dance Party with Signal Hill**. Doors open at 8:30 pm. **Advance tickets are on sale** for \$45 plus service fees. Get your tickets now before Valentines Day. They could make a great gift!

On **Wednesday, February 11**, we have the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Wentworth Recreation Centre Association. All are welcome at the AGM. We have committees for kitchen, maintenance, special events, recreation, social programs, and more. And we have fun!

Our regular programs include:

**Games Night** - Every Monday from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, join us for a variety of games. **Crib** is the most popular, but we also have a table going with 45's. Other possibilities include Sequence, LRC, Crokinole, and Darts. It costs \$5/Person and is open to all ages. Tea/Coffee and a snack are provided. A prize is awarded to the winner of the night. Everyone is welcome!

**Bingo** - Sunday's at 2pm.

**Walk and Talk** - Tuesdays and Thursdays 12 to 2 pm.

**Mixed Pickleball** - All levels of play. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 am to 12 noon.

**Women's Pickleball** - All levels of play. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays 6 pm to 8 pm.

**Basketball** - Thursdays 8:30 to 10:30 pm

**Badminton** - Saturday 12 to 2 pm.

**Youth programs** - At various times for different age groups including basketball and other fun activities. Free of charge.

For more information on any of these events and programs, please see our website at [www.wentworthrecctr.com](http://www.wentworthrecctr.com)

Thank you. We really appreciate anything you can do to help spread the word about these programs and events, like by forwarding to your community email list. It all contributes to a more vibrant community here in Wentworth.

Best regards,

Norah Topping, Publicity Chair, Wentworth Recreation Centre Association, 902 957-0630

## Amherst Wellness Garden Project Lauds Youth Leadership, Community Pride

Strengthening generational ties and promoting food security are among the reasons why a Cumberland County-based youth wellness garden project proved successful in bringing community together.

The Amherst and Area Black Education Committee, in collaboration with the African Arts Education Society, launched a program this past summer called the Young Growers Collective with support from a \$1,500 grant from the Springhill, Oxford, Amherst and Region Community Health Board.

Over eight weeks, about 15 children (between the ages of seven and 13) learned planting and agricultural skills while connecting with older adults who shared stories about the historic Black neighbourhood, once known as Sandhill.

The Young Growers Collective was born out of a desire to create a safe space for Black youth while teaching practical skills, said Lisette Sumbu, chairwoman of the Amherst and Area Black Education Committee.

"Honestly, it means everything to us," Sumbu said of the concept. "The future is about these kids and making sure we can instill qualities and skills they can take with them for the rest of their lives. To have something like this - and the community support behind it - felt like it was meant to be."

The garden, located along East Pleasant Street (close to a nursing home and local school), produced a bounty of carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, kale, spinach, lavender, herbs and berries. While participants were encouraged to take produce home, surplus harvests were donated to local organizations such as the YMCA, a youth centre and a homeless shelter.

The community health board wellness grant helped cover the cost of seeds, garden supplies and harvesting equipment.

Community health board wellness funds support non-profit groups working to improve health in their communities. Among other things, grants go toward programs that promote food security, housing, transportation and social participation. The goal is to reduce risks of poor health outcomes in Nova Scotia communities.

High school students signed on to oversee small groups of children. The program ran mornings twice a week and included carpentry, painting and storytelling sessions alongside gardening.



The community health board-supported wellness garden in Amherst gets attention.



"We wanted the kids to be excited to come and know they had some freedom while they were here," Sumbu said. "Sometimes that meant stopping for soccer or journaling, but it kept them engaged and learning."

Community partners played a key role in getting the project off the ground. The Association of Black Social Workers provided a substantial grant to start the garden, while the Town of Amherst partnered to supply water. Local businesses donated seeds, tools and supplies.

Sumbu, a ninth-generation resident of Amherst, said the intergenerational aspect was especially meaningful. Locals shared stories of the history of Sandhill, once a thriving Black community.

"It was important to connect the kids to their roots," she said. "Having seniors tell stories about what this community was like decades ago gave them a sense of pride and belonging."

The project also encouraged entrepreneurship. Children organized small sales of kale and other produce, raising money to re-invest in the garden.

Looking ahead, Sumbu said the committee hopes to expand the program into a day camp model, running five days a week and open to all families.

"People need to eat, and gardens bring people together," Sumbu said. "We want this to be something that lasts for generations, a place where kids learn, families connect and the community thrives."

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