

Christmas Hampers Overflowing at CCJHS



Hannah Morrissey (centre) presented Arlene Stevens (left) and captain Stephen McNeilly, of the Salvation Army, with a cheque on behalf of Central Colchester Junior High students and staff. (Harrington Photo)



Quintin Gamble (right) presented Val Smith (left) and Yvonne Higgins of the SPCA, with a cheque on behalf of Central Colchester Junior High students and staff. (Harrington Photo)



Several of the CCJHS Christmas Hamper Committee were enthusiastically greeting everyone who entered the gymnasium. Left to right - Hilary MacIntyre, Jessica MacCallum, Molly Wood, Katie Nowell, Taylor Lynds, Emily MacKay. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Central Colchester Junior High students made their way to the gymnasium on Dec. 11th and in their arms were boxes overflowing with gifts. It was time for the annual Christmas Hamper assembly.

A group of enthusiastic greeters, dressed as Santa's elves, were wishing everyone a happy holiday and cheering students who brought in donations for the Salvation Army and the Colchester SPCA.

Quintin Gamble and Hannah Morrissey acted as the MC's for the event, which was

organized by the Christmas Hamper committee.

The CCJHS Christmas Hamper Committee had been meeting for weeks to plan the event. They had put up posters throughout the school to encourage donations and they had been busy decorating the gym.

The assembly began with Mr. Regan, playing guitar, and Jenna Bryant, Hannah Connors, Jillian Connors and Kathryn Simms singing a few Christmas songs.

Guest speaker Arlene Stevens, from the Salvation Army, told students this was her 9th year coming to



Student members of the CCJHS Christmas Hamper Committee included: Front (l to r) - Shawn Putnam, Mychal McNutt, April McKay, Taylor Lynds, Olivia Burns, Jessica MacCallum, Spencer Pellerin, Calder Saunders, Hannah Morrissey; Back (l to r) - Emily McKay, Cassidy Langley, Molly Wood, Katie Nowell, Quintin Gamble, Hilary MacIntyre, Kent Gallant. Students helped organize this year's Christmas Hamper program. Donations were collected for the SPCA and Salvation Army. (Harrington Photo)

CCJHS for Christmas Hamper and she was "proud and impressed" by what she saw this day. She said she has talked to the recipients of these goods and she knows how much they appreciate it all. "Thank you from the bottom of my heart," said Arlene.

Captain Stephen McNeilly, also from the Salvation Army, gave students a brief history of how the Salvation Army began in London, England back in 1865. He said the Salvation Army has been in Truro for 120 years. He told students, "you guys are terrific!", for making such a huge contribution.

Hannah Morrissey presented the Salvation Army with a cheque for \$121.52 on behalf of Central Colchester Junior High students and staff.

Val Smith and Yvonne Higgins were at the school on behalf of the Colchester SPCA. Val said this was her third year coming to the Christmas Hamper event. She said the Truro animal shelter has been there for 8 years and helps between 300-400 cats and about 100 dogs each year. Val thanked the students for their kind donations and wished everyone a "Meowy Christmas and a Happy Howliday!"

Quintin Gamble presented the SPCA with a cheque for \$121.52 on behalf of Central Colchester Junior High students and staff.

Kent Gallant and Spencer Pellar used the digital projector to put on a power point presentation about the work of the Salvation Army and SPCA.

Alison Faber, Megan Purdy, Melissa Currie and Kourtney Fraser sang a delightful revised version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas",

using gift ideas for what the SPCA might like to receive.

Mychal McNutt, Cassidy Langley and Holly Wood announced the class winners from the school challenge. Class 9-1 brought in the most donations, 8-1 was second and 7-3 was third.

Vice Principal Chad MacPherson told students he was astonished by the amount of food and gifts he saw before him in the gymnasium. He said he was proud to be a part of the Christmas Hamper program for a second year and he thanked students and the staff for all their hard work.

Mr. MacPherson then praised the students for the spirit they bring to school each day. He said staff is noticing student's are smiling in the halls and being very pleasant to one another. They wanted to give all the students a Christmas present. Excitement spread throughout the student assembly as Mr. MacPherson announced their gift.

"All students will be bussed to the theatre on the last Thursday before Christmas holidays. Grade 6, 7 and 8-1 classes will attend a Christmas movie in the morning and the rest of grades 8 and 9 classes will go in the afternoon," said Mr. MacPherson. "This is not a reward for your work on the Christmas Hampers but instead it is a gift from the staff for who you are each day."

Cheers and clapping erupted from the students in a tremendous show of appreciation for their Christmas gift from the CCJHS staff.

Congratulations to CCJHS staff and students for their generous giving to the Christmas Hamper program.

Be Alert For Possibility of Break and Enter

By Linda Harrington

There has been a rash of homes suffering break-ins in Colchester County over the last few months. The good news is three individuals have been apprehended and are thought to have been involved in at least some of the crimes.

Sergeant Al Affleck, of the Bible Hill Detachment of the RCMP, says there were as many as nine homes broken into in one day. Thieves targeted homes in Bible Hill, Debert, Bass River, Londonderry, Wentworth, Upper Stewiacke and Enfield.

The arrests occurred when a homeowner arrived home during the break-in and blocked the vehicle in the

driveway. The three who were apprehended fit the description, as did the vehicle involved, which was given earlier to RCMP by another home owner in Bible Hill. She happened to be at home when entry was attempted to her house.

"These people are from the Halifax area and they are very organized," says Sergeant Affleck. "They drive around rural Nova Scotia looking for homes with no vehicles in the yard and no sign of life. They will bang on the front and back door to see if anyone is home. If they don't get any answer, they kick in the door, or break a window, to gain entry."

They usually travel in



groups of three by van. They are looking to get in and out of the houses quickly, with the idea to "grab and go".

"The thieves even target homes with alarm systems because they know there could be at least a 15 minute delay in our response to rural areas," says Sergeant Affleck. "They grab all the cash, jewelry and electronics they can get in their arms and are gone before we can get there."

The RCMP would like the public to be on the look out for suspicious activity in your neighbourhood. "If the thieves knock on your door and get

an answer they will say they are lost, need gas or are looking for a friend. If you are suspicious by their appearance, we ask you try and get a description of them and their vehicle and give the RCMP a call immediately," he says. "This is the key to catching them and it is how we were able to apprehend the three currently in custody and the two others who were apprehended back in August."

Sergeant Affleck says there are three ways criminals dispose of the stolen property: it is sold to a pawn shop, traded for drugs or ends up for sale in places online like Kijiji. He says people often recognize their personal property listed on Kijiji and the RCMP recommends they check these sites.

Keep on the look out in your neighbourhood for suspicious activity. Don't be afraid to report what you see to the RCMP and let them decide if it needs a follow up.

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