

Debert Elementary Raises Nearly \$5000 for Haiti Relief



The 2nd Annual Help 4 Haiti Event at Debert Elementary School was a huge success, raising in excess of \$2800. Cameron and Morgan Barnes were having a look at the many items in the grocery basket. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Students and staff at Debert Elementary know all about the spirit of giving. This past year they have worked hard to help others, especially people living in a country suffering unbearable hardship.

Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti last January, student Canaan Hebb was an inspiration for the rest of his school, when he decided to donate money he had been saving for a gaming system to help the people of Haiti. His generosity kicked off a fund raiser at the end of January, which saw \$2148 donated to Doctors Without Borders in support of their efforts in Haiti.

The giving did not stop there. A second fund raiser was organized the last week of November. Teacher Shelly Langille and Educational Assistant Sherri Stevenson put the weeklong event into motion. Raffle tickets were sold on a huge grocery basket, with a few incentives as dona-

tions climbed to \$250, \$500, \$750, \$1000 and \$2000.

Money immediately began pouring in. By Monday donations had passed the first milestone and the reward was the pieing of Mr. Barley. Every student who had sold a book of tickets, was given the opportunity to throw a cream pie. Mr. Barley was a good sport, when more than 20 pies were tossed his way.

The \$500 mark was reached the very next day. Grade 5 teacher Dianna Graham was made into a human hotdog to mark this milestone. By late afternoon on Wednesday, the \$750 mark was passed. Sherri Stevenson allowed the students to wrap her from head to toe in toilet paper.

The students were excited when donations climbed over \$1000 on Thursday. Each student was able to help duct tape Principal Erma Cox to the gym wall using a total of 6 rolls of tape. Students were anxious when the chair was

removed, but the tape held and their Principal was stuck firmly to the wall.

Friday night a special evening of music was held. Many gifts were auctioned off, the draw for the groceries was made (winner Neil Burris) and Ian MacHattie, a volunteer for Haiti Relief Efforts, spoke on his involvement with helping people of Haiti since last January.

The tally for the weeklong fundraising was over \$2800. This meant the final milestone had been surpassed. Shelly Langille had agreed to have her head shaved if over \$2000 was raised and now she bravely plans to allow hair dresser

Sandra Allaby to shave off her brown locks.

This amazing sum of money will be donated to Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH), which translates to "our little brothers and sisters", for the purchase of five 'Haiti Houses', with money left over to assist with clean drinking water. Each house costs five hundred dollars (including shipping) and can shelter a family of eight. A sample house was on display at the school all week and students learned how important even this basic shelter is to those who have no roof over their heads.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Help 4 Haiti events this past year. Well done!

Several Christmas events were held at Debert Elementary School. A Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all on Dec. 8th. The annual Christmas Concert was held on Dec. 13th, followed by an encore performance at Debert Court on Dec. 15th. Christmas Blitz was held on Dec 15th and 16th, where students had the chance to shop for their family and take home brightly wrapped gifts.

Have an enjoyable holiday, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Classes resume on January 4th, 2010.



Brody Shearer, Canaan Hebb, Sierra Merriam and Nina Green (right to left) look over some information on Haiti that was on display during the 2nd Annual Help 4 Haiti Event at Debert Elementary School held on Nov. 26th. (Harrington Photo)

Veteran's Picture On Canadian \$10⁰⁰ Bill

If you have a Canadian \$10 bill, look at the back right side of the bill.

You will see an old veteran standing at attention near the Ottawa war memorial.

His name is Robert Metcalfe. That he managed to live to that age is rather remarkable, given what happened in the Second World War.

Raised in Yorkshire, he joined the British Army with war on the horizon. He graduated from Sandhurst military academy to begin a military career that would be the basis for his book No Time for Dreams: A Soldier's Six-Year Journey Through World War II, which was written when he was 80. A member of the famed Green Howards, he was among the 400,000 members of the British Expeditionary Force who faced the new German approach to warfare, the Blitzkrieg.

He was near the Canadian First World War memorial at Vimy Ridge when the Allied retreat began.

On May 27, 1940, "a day I shall never forget," he wrote, heavy mortar fire erupted. Applying a field dressing to a wounded comrade, Mr. Metcalfe was hit in the legs by shrapnel. Later, a German tank opened fire on his ambulance, then, miraculously, ceased fire. He survived the mass evacuation from Dunkirk on the HMS Grenade, yet saw two of its sister ships torpedoed.

Once recovered from his wounds, he went on to fight in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He was chased by the German battleship the Bismarck, went around the Cape of Good Hope and ended up in the Middle East, serving in Operation Desert Fox under the command of General Bernard Law Montgomery

where he developed great respect and appreciation for German Field Marshal Irwin Rommel.

In Italy, he met and married his wife, Lieutenant Helen Porter, a physical therapist with a Canadian hospital. They were married twice on Oct. 28, 1944 — once in the morning by the mayor of a small Italian town and again in the afternoon by a British Army padre. Mr. Metcalfe ended the war a major attached to the U.S. army in France.

In 1948, the Metcalfes settled in the Chatham, Ont., area where he sold steel and hardware until his retirement. Along the way, he served as reeve of Wallaceburg, Ont., became a warden of Kent County and served on the Wallaceburg Industrial Commission where he was instrumental in attracting industry to the area. He also helped establish a Wallaceburg group home. Yet he never forgot his fellow veterans.

On the 30th, 40th and 50th anniversaries of D-Day he and his wife organized tours to Europe, not forgetting Sicily and Italy. In 1977, Mr. Metcalfe received the Queen's Jubilee Medal. About 20 years ago, the couple moved to Ottawa to be near family and became involved in service work, often visiting schools to share their knowledge.


Bob Metcalfe was born in Richmond, Yorkshire, England on Jan. 25, 1915. He died of a heart attack in Ottawa on April 6, 2005. He was 90. Now you know the story of the old veteran on the \$10 bill.

Submitted By
Zone F1 Commander Cyril Best
(August/2005 Hunter News of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #322)
This article was submitted to the Shoreline Journal by Danny Martell, Debert, NS



Debert Elementary School held a week of fund raising activities to assist the people of Haiti. On Friday, Nov. 26th an evening of entertainment and auctions was held in the gymnasium. Debert Elementary Guitar Club members Bailey Duvall, Alyssa Newman, Marlee Green and Madison Shearer (right to left) played a few tunes for the audience. (Harrington Photo)

ROADSIDE



WILLIES

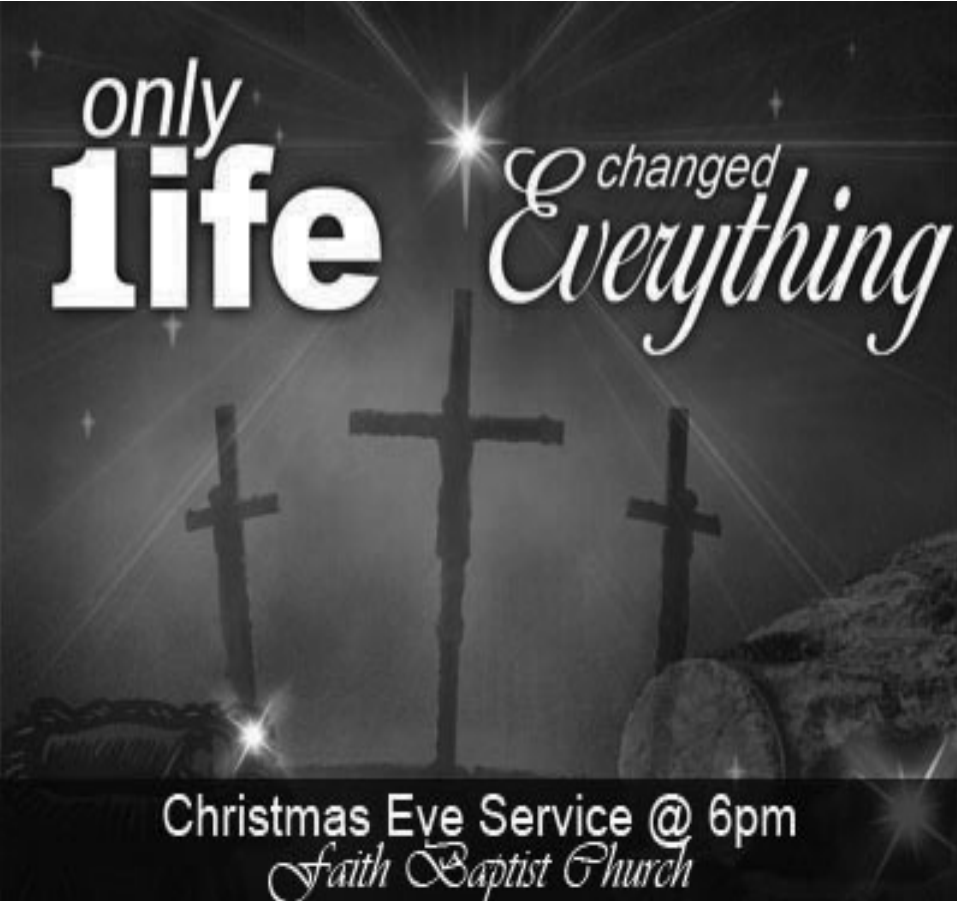
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