

Pursuit of Awareness Relay Brings Important Message to Central Colchester Junior High School Students



Brittney Clough, Logan MacDonald, Josh Johnson and Tristan Chaulk (right to left) were helping bag groceries at the Superstore in Truro recently. Students were accepting donations for the Central Colchester Junior High Breakfast for Learning Program. (Harrington Photo)



Taylor Geldart (right) and Kourtney Fraser (left) were pleased to serve CCJHS Vice Principal Chad MacPherson and his family, 5 week old Egan, his wife Shanna and 4 year old son Callum, their pancake breakfast during a recent fund raiser for the Breakfast for Learning Program. The program is held daily at Central Colchester Junior High School and donations of food and money are necessary to keep food items in supply. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Grade Eight students at Central Colchester Junior High attended an intensive two hour drug awareness session on Dec. 15th.

The Pursuit of Awareness Relay, facilitated by Drugs and Organized Crime Awareness Services (DPCAS), has been presented at different schools around the Province in the past year, with over 3000 students taking part to date.

The "Relay" consisted of five or six stations each with a different drug awareness message. The stations focused on core topics with learning outcomes at each. Students were divided into groups and spent 20-22 minutes at each station. The topics included: alcohol awareness/impaired driving; marijuana/inhalant use; choices/self esteem; and Synthetic drugs and their dangers. The last two stations involved the use of Fatal Vision impairment simulation goggles in the gym in both a relay and in a coordination task test. Student's attempts to shoot basketballs and ride scooter boards while wearing the fatal vision goggles gave them a firsthand feel for the effects of impairment.

Sgt. MacKinnon, RCMP DOCAS coordinator states that, "A large knowledge gain in all the topics has been our goal, primarily in dispelling myths surrounding certain drugs and working toward giving students the information they need to make wise choices and stay drug-free. We wanted to combine this with a positive fun experience". Recent testing of the program shows significant knowledge gain/retention in the students attending. The program fits very well in Provincial Health Curriculum guidelines.

CCJHS Vice-Principal Chad MacPerson was extremely pleased to have the program presented at the school. He says, "We are fortunate the RCMP take a proactive stance in the educa-

tion of young people concerning drug use. This is a battle parents and educators of all communities across Nova Scotia and beyond cannot win alone. Drug use of any kind, regardless of its potency, is linked to higher crime, school dropout and unemployment rates. I believe that now, perhaps more than ever due to the changing attitudes around so called "soft drug" use, our communities must ban together to form a unified front that works to teach our young people there is no such thing as "soft drugs". Our young peoples' futures are too important for us not to."

Sgt. MacKinnon and Cpl. Woodfine were involved with implementing the program at CCJHS along with several members of the local RCMP, including Community Safety Resource Officer Cst. Jane MacDonald, who is a continually presence in area schools. Also assisting with the Relay were local addictions services volunteers and Addictions Specialist/Retired Olympic boxer Ricky Anderson.

Grade Nine students at CCJHS will be attending the Pursuit of Awareness Relay in the New Year. Grade 6 and 7 students will be receiving a variation of the program with a similar theme in the next few months.

Onslow Belmont Notes

By Debbie Weatherby

Here it is almost the middle of December already and soon will be Christmas Day. Not sure where 2010 went but it sure did go by pretty quick. My niece, Christa Turner and Elliott Brown were married on Dec. 4th in a beautiful wedding in Great Village. Everyone looked stunning and Skylar Rushton, the little flower girl was gorgeous as well as the rest of the wedding party.

Belmont Baptist Church services are held every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. with Sunday School held at 9:30 a.m. Prayer meeting is held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Services are held at the Trinity United Church every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. There is also card playing of 45's every Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. with lunch and prizes provided. All are welcome to come out for an enjoyable evening. There will be a children's White Gift service on Dec. 12th, Baptism on Dec. 19th and Carol service on Dec. 26th. The Christmas Eve service is at 7:00 p.m. There was a chowder luncheon held on Dec. 4th which I am sure as always was a huge success and yummy.

Condolences go out to Florence Shearer and the families on the loss of her son, Perry Vincent Shearer on Nov.

14, 2010; to Mary Catherine Gonzales of Onslow and the families on the loss of her mother, Catherine Florence (McKinney) Ramsey on Nov. 14, 2010 and Gail (Allison) George of Crowes Mills and the families on the loss her brother Terrance Scott "Terry" Lloyd on Dec. 2, 2010.

Well I guess the kids have one more week of school and are then home for Christmas holidays until after the New Year. They will be so excited and will be thinking the time is going much too slowly until Santa arrives. Wishing everyone out there a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR and hoping Santa is good to all of you.

Great Village Historical Society Notes

By Linda Shears

The Historical Society held its regular monthly meeting on December 1. Richard Akerman informed us that about 50 residences and businesses have now been identified in the 1889 Currie map of Great Village.

In his research, he has

also discovered more interesting details in the life of Captain Wilbur Johnstone. However, all will soon become known when the writings of Captain Johnstone become available.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 5, at 7:30 PM. in the Legion Hall.

Upper Londonderry Pastoral Charge Church Schedule

By Chris Urquhart

There will be a Christmas Eve Church Service at 7pm, Dec. 24th at Debert United Church. December 26th there will be one service on the charge at 9am at Erskine United in Glenholme.

Starting in January services will be: 9am in Glenholme every Sunday, rotating services between Masstown and Debert at 10:15am. Jan. 2 - Debert, Jan. 8 - Masstown, Jan. 13 - Debert, Jan. 23 - Masstown and Jan. 29 - Debert.

You are welcome to join us at all of these services and please note that Sunday School is held at our 10:15 services. All children of any age are welcome in our Sunday School.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year • Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

**All of us join in wishing you
A Happy Holiday Season and a Prosperous New Year!**




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