



Emma, Joanne, Stacey, two year old Jack and Belinda Culgin enjoyed a family lunch together at the Annual Trinity United Church Chowder Luncheon. (Harrington photo)



Rosaleen Smith and Evelyn McLean display some of the crafts they have been busy making. A lengthy table of beautiful hand made items and scrumptious baking was a must stop after the Chowder Luncheon at Trinity United Church. (Harrington photo)



Sweet job! Rose Selwyn-Smith was busy preparing trays of sweets to sell at the Trinity United Church Annual Chowder Luncheon, Craft & Bake Sale on Dec. 3rd. (Harrington photo)

Hospice Society's Angels Remembered Trees



By Linda Harrington

The holiday season is often a struggle for those who have lost a loved one. The Angels Remembered Tree provides a small way for people to recognize this special person, someone who has made a difference in their lives.

Vicki Thomson, of Debert, was the first to hang an angel on the tree located at Masstown Market this year. Her husband, Thomas Newey, only recently passed away, on Oct. 23rd. She says he was diagnosed in June, with lung and bone cancer, and thanks to Hospice and Palliative Care he was able to remain at home until the last week of his life.

The Colchester East Hants Hospice Society provides care and support to families facing end of life, through programs such as Volunteer Visiting, Food from the Heart, Practical Support, Hospice Wishes and Grief Support Services. They support the work of the District Palliative Care Program and are often alerted to special needs of individual families through the Palliative Care Program.

Vicki said she was looking

to the Hospice Society for advice on dealing with her emotions at Christmas time. "It is not going to be easy," she said. "I am planning on going to visit my daughter and grandchildren in Toronto for Christmas and will not come back until after New Year's." She is hoping a change of location will help her to cope a bit easier.

Wladyslaw (Laddy) Golemic, of Belmont, placed an angel in memory of his wife Dr. Phyllis Golemic who passed away just two months ago. He says his wife was under Palliative Care for about a year and these services helped to keep her at home during her illness. "If we didn't have their support I don't know how we would have gotten through it. They were such a big help around the house and other support."

Laddy has been attending the Hospice Society's Grief Support Meetings on Thursday's and finds it helpful to have someone else to talk with. "It is the worst thing when you are alone and have no one to talk to," says Laddy, "This is when you will think



too much and that's when you will break down."

Hospice Social Worker Serena Lewis says the angels are not necessarily placed in memory of a recent loss, they are for anyone who wants to remember a loved one. Ann Barley wanted to place an angel in memory of her husband, Philip, who passed away in April, of 2010. She says Philip was helped a great deal through Palliative Care and she has been helped by the Hospice Society in the time since his death. "Serena Lewis has been an excellent councilor," says Ann. "She makes you feel like you are normal in how you are feeling." Ann has attended the Service of Remembrance and the Hike for Hospice events.

People can visit the Angels

Remembered tree nearest to them to place an angel on the tree in someone's honour during the hours posted. A volunteer or the staff will be available to assist and receive any donations. The donations collected at the Angels Remembered Trees are used to support Hospice programs right here in Colchester County.

The Hospice is gearing up with more offerings in the coming months. Anyone interested in participating in a grief group, in further workshops, or in volunteering can contact the office at 893-3265.

Angels Remembered Trees are located at Fulton's Pharmacy in Tatamagouche, Masstown Market, Truro Mall and the Lloyd Matheson Resource Centre in Elmsdale.

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