



A beautiful Christmas tree, donated by Denny and Winnie Spencer of Londonderry Station, and decorated by members of the Great Village Garden Club is a welcome sight on the front lawn of Saint James United Church. (Harrington Photo)



Patti Sharpe and Arthur Haskins add lights to the Great Village Christmas tree while they can still reach the top. (Harrington Photo)



Tony van den Hoek makes sure Harold Sharpe cuts the tree base to an exact diameter...these guys have this down to a science. See a video of the Great Village tree "installation" online at The Shoreline Journal facebook page. (Harrington Photo)

Masstown Community News

By Chris Urquhart

Winter officially arrives on December 21st, the shortest day of the year. Although that is just a figure of speech, it seems shorter because it is the day of the least daylight hours in the year. There are still 24 hours in the day! Many folks find this special day of the year very sad and lonely, especially those who have lost a loved one during the past year. Some folks have no family left, or their families live far away. They, too, are often depressed at this time of year. The sounds of Christmas carols playing in the stores just add to their feelings of being left out, being alone.

For those of us with families, we need to count our blessings. Yes, sometimes our families drive us crazy, but at least we are not alone. On December 21st at 7pm there will be a special Church service, a Blue Christmas Service, held at the Masstown United Church.

This service is meant to help give people without hope, hope. Everyone is welcome at this service so if you are feeling lonely or know someone who is, come along, bring a friend or a neighbour if you wish, and attend this comforting service. Maybe Christmas won't seem so "blue" to you afterwards.

Masstown UCW will meet on Thursday January 3rd at 2pm, please note that we are in to our winter time schedule. All ladies welcome. The Masstown UCW would like to thank all those who helped out in any way with our recent Breakfast With Santa, which was a huge success! They would also like to thank Santa for coming to their Christmas party. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the UCW ladies who decorated the Masstown Church for the Christmas season. It is very uplifting!

The DGM Men's Club will hold their regular breakfast meeting at the Double C Restaurant on Saturday January 5th at 8am. All men welcome.

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Saying Goodbye to Another Year

*By Heather Fraser
Fund Raising/Public Relations Assistant
Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre Project*

As another year comes to a close, this is the time when people typically reflect over the past 12 months and hopefully they have a feeling of achievement and fulfillment. In 2012 the Central Nova Scotia Civic Centre has seen many changes as the project and campaign teams plan for the opening of the new Community Centre.

Abenaki Road continues to bustle with activity with great strides being made on site of the new Community Centre. The arena will be the new home for the Jr.A Bearcats and will also host the Fred Page Cup in 2013. The more than 2500 fixed seats were installed over the summer and the NHL size concrete pad was poured early in September. Just recently the dasher boards and glass were also secured in place and the score clock has been hoisted over centre ice.

Early in 2012, the aquatic centre started to take shape when the cement structure for the competitive pool and the pool deck were completed and the leisure pool just a few weeks later. Recently, the tiling around the pool area has begun giving a vision of what the finished picture will look like. On-deck seating will be available alongside both pools, as well as, a unique second level viewing area for approximately 250 people.

Great progress has also been made in the fitness centre and with the 46-foot rock climbing wall. The purchasing of equipment for fitness programming has been an exciting process for staff. Specialized pieces of cardio equipment will be available to the community that will be unique to the region serving a broader user group. The rock climbing wall installation has begun and will surely be a highly anticipated component of the facility.

Late in 2011, the Ignite the Spirit Campaign team launched the Name that Seat Campaign, which has continued throughout 2012 to be an opportunity for the community to leave their personal mark on the Centre for generations to come. Many people have used this as a way to remember a loved one, to honor a community member or simply as a way to have their name a part of this important community project. In October, the campaign team led by Jon Stanfield announced the new name for the Centre - the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (or the RECC as some are calling it) and then just a few weeks later the naming of the arena - the Community Credit Union Arena. Both naming opportunities were made possible because of the generous spirit and contributions that were made to the Ignite the Spirit Campaign. "The community has stepped up and

made the dream of a new recreation and wellness centre for the community a reality" says Stanfield. "As we move towards the finish line, we hope that everyone will consider the Ignite the Spirit Campaign as part of their charitable giving for 2012" adds Stanfield.

As anticipation and excitement builds for the opening of the RECC, we are reminded of how far we have come and look forward to the future. "When all the hard work of planning, designing and construction of the Centre is behind us, we will only have the future of the RECC to think about" says Bob Taylor, co-chair of the project and Mayor of Colchester County. "The project team has strived to bring a state-of-the-art facility to the community, and I believe we have done that" adds Taylor.

Whether it be a personal best achieved in the competitive pool, a first goal scored on the ice pad or reaching the top of the rock climbing wall for the first time...memories are sure to be made at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre!

Information regarding membership structures and pricing were released in the fall which can be found on the campaign website www.ignitethespirit.ca or by phoning 902.893.2224.

The Ignite the Spirit Campaign team would like to thank all those who have supported the campaign thus far and to those who will continue to support the facility after opening day. For more information on the Ignite the Spirit Campaign or the Project, please contact the campaign office at ignitethespirit@colchester.ca or phone 893-9706.



I hope you have taken the time to drive through our lovely village during the evening to see all the Christmas lights! There is a lighted tree at our Community Park which was donated by Diane Robinson of Folly Mountain Trees & Wreaths. They also donated a tree and an advent wreath to the Church. Thank you so much.

The tree lighting at the Park was fun with quite a large turnout. The children enjoyed hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows and eating the candy canes that Santa had left for them. Santa was unable to attend as he had to fix a minor problem with his sleigh. Thanks to Tim Hortons for the hot chocolate and to Rodney Morgan for making the bon fire. We were pleased with fine weather for this event which meant we didn't have to use our "storm date".

Congratulations go out this month to Rodney and Joy Reid on the birth of their second granddaughter, a daughter for Vicki and her husband, Olivia Joy.

Visiting this month we have Sandra Guindon, Airdrie, Alberta visiting her mother Kay Maxwell. Valerie Huntsley is visiting friends while on leave from Portugal. She will be going to Ontario to visit family before returning to Portugal where she is serving in the armed forces.

Rodney and Joy Reid made a short visit to Ottawa to visit their daughter Krista Dease and family and to celebrate their first granddaughter's first birthday.

Condolences go out this month to Jim Richards and family on the death of his sister Ruth Richards.

Here are the answers to the Christmas Trivia Quiz printed elsewhere in this issue. Answers: 1 A (Mistletoe), 2 C (Jacob Marley), 3 D (James Woodforde), 4 A (The Grinch), 5 B (The Snowman), 6 D (Cranberry Sauce), 7 C (Indian Ocean), 8 D (T.S. Eliot), 9 B (North America), 10 A (C.S. Lewis)

Hope you enjoyed this quiz. Merry Christmas to you and yours from both Ron and myself.

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