

Fireworks Conclude Wentworth Tree Lighting Event



Carol Hyslop, a community volunteer, reads the poem "The Night Before Christmas" to the children, teenagers and adults in the large audience. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

Wentworth volunteer, Amanda Patriquin, 2012 Director of the Tree Lighting Ceremony, with the help of other Wentworth volunteers created a successful Tree Lighting Ceremony recently held at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. Amanda inherited this position at the request of Marie Duranceau, Chair of the United Church Women. The Wentworth Garden Club, started the Tree Lighting event under the direction of the late Garden Club President, John Bagnell.

The ceremony started as a celebration for young people, but it quickly evolved for all ages. The Garden Club continued the Ceremony for many years and did other gardening and decorating services for Wentworth and they will be greatly missed as the club has closed down.

Under Amanda's direction, decorated cookies on a long table at the Recreation Centre are now a tradition. Amanda contacted the following people to bake cookies: Donna Reid, Linda Patriquin, Melissa Topple, Barb Palmer, RoseAnn Hansen, April Dares, Georgina Patriquin, Lisa Hawkes, Debbie DeLong, and Stacie MacLeod. Amanda also made cookies.

Amanda and Georgina

Patriquin, a former Garden Club member, spent the afternoon decorating all the cookies while Georgina gave Amanda more details about past garden club activities. Ceremonies. After decorating cookies, Amanda and Georgina went to the Recreation Centre to continue Christmas decorating.

Amanda decided to ask for donations to be used for gifts at the planned raffle at the Ceremony from several Wentworth businesses: Al Huestis, Appleton Chocolate Co., a gift of chocolates; Janet Murray, a free hairdressing appointment; Todd Seymour, Sonya Seymour and Kim Shand, three decorated Gingerbread Houses; Joel Miller, Wentworth Market, three pizzas; Ski Wentworth, a ski basket; Cecil MacLeod Property Services, one free snowplow removal; Barbara MacDonald, two wreaths; Wentworth Valley Inn Split Crowe, two \$20 certificates; North Nova Forest Owners Coop, a wreath; Carson Dares, Crane Safe Ltd., a box of chocolate truffles; Stephanie Stewart, free photography appointment; while Jonathan Patriquin Your Mudder (Drywall) and Danny Palmer Palmer's Customer Renovations contributed Fireworks.

Amanda contributed a gift basket of spices from her busi-

ness, Epicure Selections. A final gift came from the Garden Club: hot chocolate and funds to help Santa. Fire Chief Kevin Sprague and members of the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department wired the tall tree near to the Fire Hall with Christmas lights to be ready for the Tree Lighting Ceremony. The after-school program run by Rev. Brian DeLong, Pastor Darryl Dykens and students of Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School made Christmas decorations at their craft sessions for a tree at the Recreation Centre.

A large crowd of all ages gathered for the December 1st lighting ceremony. The Tree Lighting happened with Fire Chief Kevin Sprague in the background pressing a remote switch. The crowd of approximately 50 children ages preschool to age 11 then gathered in the Recreation Centre where Carol Hyslop awaited everyone. Students from the Wentworth Elementary School hung their decorations on a nearby Christmas tree.

The children each had a turn to sit on Santa's lap as he gave them a candy cane, while parents took photos. Hot chocolate, tea, and mulled apple juice with spices from Amanda's Epicure Selections were enjoyed with the decorated cookies for the long table. Kitchen helpers who tended to the drinks were Barb Palmer, Nicole Allen, RoseAnn Hansen, and Georgina Patriquin.

Fire Chief Kevin Sprague read out a list of the Wentworth donors and then the raffle began as Amanda read out the winners from the tickets drawn. After the raffle Jonathan Patriquin and Danny Palmer set off fireworks into the night sky.

Residents from the area are worried as the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School is undergoing the School Review process. The threatened closure will impact negatively on the school students, their identity with the Wentworth community as well as the economic and social infrastructure of Wentworth. Many feel the Elementary School needs to remain in Wentworth.

pieces on December 1st with the proceeds being split between the Christmas Index Program and the Club. The club also had its Christmas party on Tuesday December 4th. The party included games and snacks to entertain the members.

Andrea Chestnut is Club Reporter for the Clifton 4-H Club.

Clifton 4-H Club News

By Andrea Chestnut

November was another busy month for the Clifton 4-H Club. Many projects had meetings this month including Woodworking. At their meeting the members started cutting and sanding their first project.

The Onslow-Belmont 4H Club invited the Clifton 4-H Club members onto their float to participate in the Santa Claus parade on Saturday, November 24th.

Club members assisted community members to make 46 Christmas center

pieces on December 1st with the proceeds being split between the Christmas Index Program and the Club. The club also had its Christmas party on Tuesday December 4th. The party included games and snacks to entertain the members.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Best wishes for a Happy New Year.
Wishing you and your family
peace and joy this holiday season.

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Historic Sites

ALONG THE SHORE - A. W. McLelan Home

The Shoreline Journal, in collaboration with the Colchester Historical Society Archives, have inaugurated an ongoing feature utilizing a combination of the digital "A. F. Church Maps" to pin point the circa 1875 location of a Colchester site of historical importance, and connect it to an archival photograph of that site, in that frame.



By Dick Akerman

The arrow pointer on map # 302 locates the spot on the main #2 highway in Great Village where the home of the Honourable Archibald Woodbury McLelan was located just west of the "John M. Blaikie" house and east of the interval occupied by today's "Lowland Gardens".

The gracious home and outbuildings were a conspicuous landmark in Great Village. McLelan, born in 1824, was a member of the "Peter Pioneer" McLelan family of Great Village. With the departure of the "Acadians" in 1755, "Peter" was the first English speaking settler in Great Village, arriving in the early 1760's.

A.W. McLelan, along with his brother-in-law John M. Blaikie, owned the shipyard in Great Village, a general store and ships chandlery, sat in the Nova Scotia legislature in the early 1860's, was a member of Sir John A. McDonald's first government in 1867.

He was a Senator in the 1870's, at the same time was a Railroad Commissioner, responsible for the construction of the Intercolonial Rail Road between Truro and Amherst.

By 1900, the property had become part of the Blaikie Family holdings, and was lived in by Gloud Wilson Blaikie, owner/manager of the "Londonderry Stove Works".

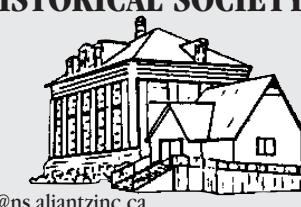
The property was largely vacant after the Second War, and was burned by vandals in 1970.

Dick Akerman has been compiling information on behalf of the Colchester Historical Museum Archives, which will be published as a monthly column in the Shoreline Journal.

From the archives of the COLCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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