

## Christmas Craft Fairs in Wentworth Very Successful

*By Hope Bridgewater*

The 23rd annual Christmas Craft Fair with 36 vendors was held in November at the Wentworth Recreation Centre and a smaller 3rd annual Craft Fair with 15 vendors was held at the Wentworth Consolidated Elementary School.

Norah Topping, secretary of the Wentworth Recreation Centre executive, sent a extensive report to me in which she said, "Over the 23 years that this fair has taken place, it has grown in its reputation as a place for shoppers looking for local, reasonably priced, and beautiful hand-crafted gift items. Many also shop for... such essentials as hand-knit socks and mitts, and some come for the delicious food offered...in the canteen."

The crafters came from Wentworth, Halifax, Amherst, Wallace, Oxford, Pugwash, Pugwash Junction, Truro, Tatamagouche, Onslow, Westville, and PEI.

As many people, counting 450-500 people (not counting children), went down the aisles from table to table, they saw the following variety of items made by friendly crafters who willingly explained their wares: placemats; tree ornaments; holistic and segmented glass jewelry; sculpted glass items of different colours and shapes; jewelry, buttons, magnets, cards; hand-crocheted or sewn or embroidered or knitted items of wool or cotton.

Other items included: hand bags, doilies, head bands, slippers, aprons, special baby and children's clothes, adult size mitts, socks, tams, hats; and socks; decorated scarves: some three dimensional of different colours and patterns.

Additional items included: special Christmas ornaments: fans, snowflakes, bells, shoes, angels and also broken plate-glass angels, and lighted snowmen; hand painted glasses, vases, plates,

and decanters; Christmas wall hangings; Nova Scotia Tartan items from head bands to teddy bears; clothes featuring pullovers of wild animals and household pets; quilts; wreaths.

Christmas craft fairs are not complete without food, which included: certified organic cheese, preserves, jams, fudge, homemade chocolate, decorated gingerbread men, mincemeat pies (especially popular), baked sweets; condiments: rhubarb/curry relish, and green onion/cucumber dressing. Other crafts were there as well. Onlookers were amazed at the display of talent and artistry.

Once again the Recreation Centre showed its value as a craft display

area. Betty Currie, chair of the Recreation Centre executive, and Norah Topping, secretary, booked and organized the crafters. Sonya Seymour, treasurer of the Recreation Centre executive, and members of the Wentworth Volunteer Fire Department organized the table set-up, take-down, and clean-up.

Mary Anne Jay, kitchen manager at the Recreation Centre, planned and organized the menu at the canteen: corn chowder, seafood chowder, turkey burger platter, hotdogs, cinnamon buns, cookies, blueberry cheesecake, coffee, tea, and pop.

Kitchen staff consisted of eight community volunteers: Mary Anne Jay, Reg Jay, Rev. Brian DeLong, Eleanor

Sprague, Marie Duranceau, Peggy Patriquin, Marilyn MacLean, and Brenda McLean. Rev. Brian DeLong, maître d'hôtel, efficiently supervised the set up and clear off of tables on stage and surrounding area for the many people who came for lunch.

Local community groups played a role: Marion Gower and others sold tickets on the local cancer quilt donated by Georgie Patriquin; The United Church Women and a local 4-H group sold various baked goods. Volunteers Bob Smith and Jan Smith worked at the door and on publicity. At the local Wentworth Elementary School, their Craft Fair was successful and 60 children had their pictures taken with Santa Claus.



Five year old Magregor Alexander was anxiously awaiting Santa's arrival at the Londonderry Community Center on Dec. 8th. (Harrington Photo)



Debbie McMullen was looking a bit like Mrs. Santa as she prepared the pancakes for "Breakfast with Santa" at the Londonderry Community Center. (Harrington Photo)



Brenda McMullen serves Katelyn Burns and James Johnson their beverages as they enjoy a hearty breakfast before the arrival of Santa Claus at the Londonderry Community Centre. (Harrington Photo)



Joan George, crafter from Amherst, accompanied by her sister, Barbara Gorveatt, participated in the Christmas Craft Fair at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. Joan George shows her wares including sewn and/or embroidered oven mitts, aprons, and quilts. (Hope Bridgewater photo)

## Debert Elementary School Notes

*By Erma Cox*

The grade six students were very "pumped" over their latest experience in attending the "WE Day" celebrations in Halifax. Students took over 10 bags of groceries to the event to help with Feed Nova Scotia. They got to hear Hedley and Classified, listen to some inspirational speakers such as Martin Luther King III, Molly Burke, Spencer West and co-founders of Free the Children: Craig and Marc Kielburger. Students from across our province were motivated and entrusted with the ability to make change for a better tomorrow.

All students at Debert Elementary are preparing for our annual Christmas concert that will be hosted here at the school on Monday December 16th at 1:15 and again at 6:30. We ask that a gift of a non-perishable food item be donated as a fee for

these concerts. The last week of school will also include two short little plays being put on by our drama groups, a holiday dinner on Wednesday by the cafeteria and a presentation of our concert to the seniors at the Shannex. We hope that we can share the holiday spirit with all of our Debert Community.

The weather has certainly turned much colder lately so students are reminded that hats and mittens are necessary. Students are also encouraged to have winter boots for outdoor activities and students wanting to play in the snow need to have ski pants.

School will start up again on Monday January 6th. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone Season's Greetings and a reminder that the best gift of all is the gift of family time together.

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### Merry Christmas

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