

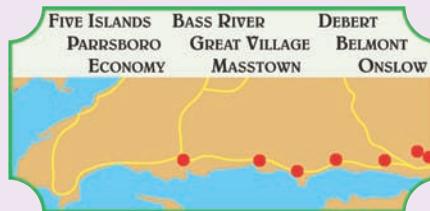
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The Shoreline Journal

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The Debert Elementary School Choir opened their Christmas Concert, with Abi MacKenzie (center) performing a delightful original solo. More DES photos are on page 7, and school photos from along the shore are throughout this Shoreline Journal.

FRONT PAGE BRIEFS January 2016

This year the schedule for Christmas Concerts at area elementary schools aligned themselves enabling the Shoreline Journal to include a picture from each grade in the Bass River, Great Village, Chiganois and Debert Elementary Schools in this issue.

Masstown Market is looking into providing complimentary transportation for seniors in the area each Thursday, with pick up at 11AM, returning about 1:00PM. The Colchester Transportation Co-operative (CTCL) bus can transport up to 18 people and is wheelchair accessible. "Ideally we are looking to stop at a senior's complex, where a group of people would like to come to the Market and socialize for a few hours," says Masstown Market's Laurie Jennings. "The winter months can be long and it's often difficult to get out of the house. We hope the CTCL bus ride, with a stop at Masstown Market, might brighten someone's day now and then." The first trip is planned from MacCaull Villa, Great Village on Thursday, January 7th. The Market needs to know who might be interested in this service. "We hope this becomes a weekly event. Pick-up locations could alternate to reach more people and perhaps we could arrange stops for individuals along the route. Right now we need people to contact us to show there is an interest," says Laurie. Phone Linda at 902-662-3710, or email lindah@masstownmarket.com for more information or to book a seat on the bus.

A public meeting of the Great Village Community Association(GVCA) will be held January 19th in the Lower Level of St James Church Building commencing at 7:00 pm. The agenda will include: Updating the community on the re-vitalization of the GVCA and seek direction on future initiatives for the Association.

The Shoreline Journal has awarded \$25.00 Gift Certificates purchased from local businesses to 8 loyal subscribers who renewed personal or gift subscriptions in our annual Subscription Renewal Promotion. The winners were: Alice Pugsley, Five Islands (Wright's Pharmasave, Parrsboro); Art Sargent, Parrsboro, (CrossRoads Co-op); Debbie Ross, Eureka, Pictou County, (Masstown Market); Cole & Cameron Allaby, Debert, (Bayside Pharmacy); Chris & Suzanne Bartlett, Bass River, (T-shirtsRus.ca); Arnold & Barb Warren, Truro, (T-shirtsRus.ca); Iva Scott, Bass River, (Wilson's Go Store, Great Village) and Jim Elliott, Debert, (Wilson's Go Store, Great Village).

Notice of Sale of the Great Village Community Hall. Both the past and present directors of the GVCA have determined due to ongoing and increasing maintenance and repair costs the existing hall located at 8713 Highway 2, Great Village no longer meets the future needs of the GVCA. As a result it is the intention of the GVCA to sell this property ASAP. Anyone who feels directly impacted by this decision or who wishes to express an interest in purchasing the property should contact: Steve Mazur, Chair of the GVCA Phone 902-655-2033 or e-mail at stmazur51@gmail.com. No later than January 16, 2016.

As we are about to turn the calendar into a new year, it's time to think about former and current residents in our coverage area who will be turning 90 in 2016. In early May, the Shoreline Journal will be holding its 6th Annual 90 & 90+ Birthday Party. If family members or readers know someone who will turn 90 this year, please send their name, address and phone number to: Maurice Rees at 902-647-2968 or email maurice@theshorelinejournal.com

Belmont Family Homeless Days Before Christmas

By Linda Harrington

As terrible it is to lose your home, especially at this time of year, the Landry family is counting their blessings.

The family of five, including Jay and Heidi Landry, their two children and Heidi's

mother were all at the Belmont Road home when fire in a wood stove got out of control. Jay's clothing actually caught fire as the flames took on a life of their own.

The Landry children, ages three and six, were tucked in

their beds when the fire started but with no time to spare, their parents got them out of the house and thankfully everyone was safe.

Jay's sister Jillian Landry says it seemed like members of Onslow Belmont Fire

Brigade were on the scene within minutes. "The family is so grateful for the fast response of the fire brigade. Even though the mini-home suffered a lot of interior damage, the firemen were able to save the structure of the home."

The Landry family is staying with neighbours while Jay and family members work on gutting the inside and rebuilding. "The day after the fire they were in there ripping out the burned areas and seeing what could be done to rebuild," says Jillian.

Heidi and Jay were in attendance at the Debert Legion on Dec. 19th for a benefit Variety Concert/Silent Auction organized by friends and family. They received lots of hugs and took the opportunity to express their gratitude to everyone who has been supporting them. "I probably should feel really down

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The joy of Christmas through the eyes of a child! Little Josie Eagles enjoys her special moment with Santa at the Londonderry Community Centre. (Harrington Photo)

Eric Jennings Receives Distinguished Alumni Award

By Linda Harrington

Eric Jennings, of Masstown was recently awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2015. The Distinguished Alumni Award is one of three awards presented to NSAC/Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture Alumni every year.

The other two are the Young Alumni Achievement Award and the Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Blue and Gold Awards program honours alumni who have distinguished themselves through outstanding service to the alma mater,



Eric Jennings was recently awarded the NSAC/Dalhousie Distinguished Alumni Award. The Distinguished Alumni Award is the Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture's most prestigious award, recognizing truly outstanding service and commitment to Faculty of Agriculture, Industry and the Alumni Association. Left to right: Jean Lynds, Chair, Alumni Association; Eric Jennings; Dr. David Gray, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Principal, Agricultural Campus (submitted photo)

their communities, and the province of Nova Scotia and beyond.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is the Faculty of Agriculture's most prestigious award, recognizing truly outstanding service and commitment to Faculty of Agriculture, industry and the Alumni Association

Eric Jennings was presented the Distinguished Alumni Award at the annual awards dinner held on November 5th at the Faculty of Agriculture Campus in Bible Hill.

Eric graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in 1958, and left his home community of Masstown for employment in the Annapolis Valley. However, he knew that what he truly wanted to do was farm, and where he truly wanted to do it was at home. And so in 1965, he and his wife Priscilla headed back to Masstown, where they began to grow produce and sell it to their neighbours.

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Preservation Society Seeks Input

By Dawn Sprecher

A community meeting was held in the basement of St. James Church of Great Village on November 30th to update community members on the activities of the Preservation Society since it was first formed in the fall of 2014. The Society was created to take over responsibility for the preservation of St. James Church in the village so that it could remain part of the community's heritage and be used for community activities, events and functions.

About 20 people showed up at the meeting and heard about the operation of In the Village Café, the events which took place in 2015, including the Elizabeth Bishop Festival, weddings, receptions, music nights and the November Ardyth and Jennifer Christmas concert.

John Patterson, chairperson of the Preservation Society Board, outlined some of the upcoming plans for the church in 2016, such as much-needed upgrades and a series of workshops to take place over the winter and spring, in addition to the continued operation of In the Village Café. Meeting attendees were asked for input and ideas on

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