

## PHOTO FEATURE

Besides a new roof, the Londonderry Community Centre has lots of smiles to share when Santa comes to visit.  
(Harrington Photos)



The Londonderry Community Centre is sporting a brand new green roof thanks to some hard work and appreciated monetary donations.



Isaac Lomond ran and gave Santa a great big hug when he arrived at the Londonderry Community Centre.



Logan Gamble had a chance to tell Santa what he wanted for Christmas at the Londonderry Community Centre on Dec. 10.



Brooke Gamble takes a turn on Santa's knee.



Children gathered round Santa with a welcoming "HoHoHo" at the Londonderry Community Centre.



Janet Maybee, Stacey McCully Culgin and Bob Taylor were at Masstown Market on Saturday, Dec. 9th autographing copies of their individual books. (Harrington Photo)

# 1/3 of Food Produced Not Eaten

*By Maurice Rees*

In a written submission to Council on November 30th, councillor Tom Taggart reported on a recent conference in Halifax by the Waste Resource Association of Nova Scotia. The two day conference focused on presentations regarding: Redirecting lost resources; Composting cat litter; Textile diversion; Waste "A resource in the wrong place" and Fix and repair.

Colchester's Deborah Searle was lead for the conference. Speaking about the conference Taggart said not only was there great subject matter but it was one of the most efficiently run conferences he has ever attended.

During the presentation on "Redirecting Lost Resources" presenter Laurel Schut, co-founder of Lost and Forgotten Food, talked about a volunteer group who gather food from farmers which is often left in the field. Most of the food is in the field because it may be deformed and does not present well on the table. Large modern mechanical harvesters also leave large amounts in the field. Volunteers gather this food giving it to soup kitchens and food banks.

Farmers like the program primarily because they get a tax credit for a percentage of the value of this food. A lot more of this food could be available for food banks, if groups and volunteers got organized to collect. Schut said she could find volunteers if there is wasted food. Research has shown 1/3 of the food produced in the world is not eaten and that 50% of this or 1/6 of world food production is wasted in our homes.

The conference's second presentation was about composting cat litter which is a program which has been a success in Colchester. Taggart wondered why with the weight of kitty litter and weight of organics compared to weight of garbage sent to the balefill why the municipality has exceeded the target of

300kg per household? He suggested the job has been done residentially, there is work to be done on commercial garbage.

Lise LeBlanc, L B Consulting works with NViro to turn Halifax's bio solids into a soil additive for agriculture during her presentation "Waste - A resource in the wrong place". She spoke about the different types of what used to be waste, ashes, biosolids, fly ash and some construction debris which are currently being used as soil additives. She spoke about how compost used to be viewed as no value by farmers, that now they are willing to pay for. Taggart suggested it might not be possible to cover costs, but would be better than giving it away. He suggested discussions should be held to look for more economical solutions to biosolid and compost programs.

The presentation on Textile diversion was a presentation by the Salvation Army about the magnitude of their textiles

and thrift store operation. Colchester has a working relationship on this matter. Taggart feels there is a future economic development opportunity and has passed along information to Mark Austin, Colchester's Economic Development officer.

The growth of society's "throw away" attitude has continued to add to problems in waste management. In a presentation on Fix and repair, the conference learned about a group of volunteers who started a program of repairing discarded appliances and starting a loaners program for folks. The group easily repaired a large percentage of the discarded products.

Taggart feels when you consider all the cheap appliances we currently purchase; their short life span and the fact we just throw away and repurchase there may be a pilot project to repair and of those not repairable to sort the metals and higher quality plastic instead of burying items with such large weight and volume.

The conference included a detailed presentation on overall waste management operations in PEI which includes burning some of their garbage and have a co-heat plant in Charlottetown. He found it interesting, but feels it is not as efficient and more expensive than in Nova Scotia.



**Wishing all the best  
to you and your family this  
Joyous Season**

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from Michael, Kristell, Verdell, Cory,  
Nicole, Susan, Kenn, Anne and John.*

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