

# Wentworth has its Own Historian

By Carol Hyslop

As people interested in the history of the community of Wentworth, the Friends of the Old Wentworth Valley Schoolhouse thought it was time a local writer of newspaper articles was recognized for the work she does on their behalf.

At the annual Directors' Christmas dinner on November 25, 2019, attended by approximately 30 people, Hope Bridgewater was presented with a plaque which read "Pre-

sented to Hope Bridgewater in appreciation of her help and support, in particular her newspaper articles".

In the presentation introduction it was noted Hope has done more than write about the group's activities. One of the aims of the Friends is to preserve the history of Wentworth through maintaining a historical building. Using the building to introduce young children to the past is a valuable contribution to the un-

derstanding of their community.

Hope was instrumental in arranging the first visit by elementary school children as part of the program "Intergenerational Exchange" which she developed with the Wentworth Pioneers and Wentworth Elementary Consolidated School in 2005.

This program organized activities in which seniors and school children could interact and get to know each other. The school visit was in 2006

and was a great success leading to other school visits in 2010 and 2015.

The Friends have hosted an annual reunion/open house in the summer since 1995. Planning a program for each is an interesting procedure. Hope has always been available with suggestions and has participated in any contests, some of which she won. In 2003, the Friends commissioned a hand crafted quilted wall hanging depicting the schoolhouse for a raffle. The crafters were Greta Tratt and Betty Duizer, then members of a local quilting group. Hope won the raffle, but donated the hanging to

the schoolhouse for display. It was on view for the presentation.

Hope's ability to write and her contribution to our community through her newspaper articles is truly something to be valued. Those of us who

delve into the past for whatever reason realize articles like Hope's will live on giving future historians a window through which to view the community of Wentworth as it is in our time. A gift indeed.



Hope is presented with a plaque by Friends of the Old Wentworth Valley Schoolhouse Chair Debbie Barclay made the presentation. (Submitted)



Hope shown as one of the winners of a home-made crown contest in 2012 (the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year); the other winning crowns were modeled by Harold Barclay and Bob Lafrance. (Submitted)



Hope presenting the wall hanging she won in 2003 to directors of the Old Wentworth Valley Schoolhouse. Pictured - Bob Hyslop, Hope Bridgewater, Carol Hyslop, Doris Letcher. (Submitted)



Hope speaking to students of Wentworth Elementary during their 2010 visit to the old schoolhouse. (Submitted)



Sharon Miller and Jocelyn Morris stand beside many wreaths, crosses and poppies placed at the Wentworth Cenotaph. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)



The Barra MacNeils perform beautiful Celtic music on stage in Wentworth. (Laurel Adams Photo)

## Interesting Autumn Days in Wentworth

By Hope Bridgewater

Wentworth community has a list of events happening all month such as Bingo, Card Parties, Capsite library and activities, parents and student activities, and more. However, added were three special programs of one event activities which were, interesting, educational

and cultural as follows: The Barra MacNeils, Remembrance Day, and the Christmas Craft Fair.

The Barra MacNeils were invited to Wentworth Recreation Centre by volunteer director, Laurel Adams, who said, "I thought the show was awesome. We had a packed house and everyone enjoyed the show." The Barra MacNeils are a Cape Breton based family who in this show had three generations on stage: one older man, middle aged types, and younger types. They played instruments while singing and brought beautiful Celtic music to life.

Remembrance Day in Wentworth had a beautiful ceremony organized by Jocelyn Morris and had a large crowd attending. At the end of the ceremony many wreaths, crosses, and poppies were laid at the Cenotaph. It comes once a year.

Councilor Barbara Palmer organized a Christmas Craft Fair at

four organizations in Wentworth which were the Learning Centre, the United Church, the Recreation Centre, and the Heritage Old Valley Schoolhouse. She gave this report as follows: "The 29th annual Wentworth Craft Fair was once again a great success. We had four venues this year. Shoppers coming in to the venues were given a wide variety of beautiful handcrafted items and a display of tasty treats. This was a great start to getting everyone into the Christmas spirit for the upcoming festive season. With the four venues we had over 75 vendors and with the cooperation of weather this year, we saw an increase of shoppers that came through the door...With over 550 visitors from Wentworth and surrounding areas, this was an opportunity for the Wentworth community to display its hospitality by opening its doors to both crafters and the visitors."



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