

Doug Curry Wins President's Nova Scotia Hockey Award



Doug Curry, recent winner of President's Nova Scotia Hockey Award, relaxes by enjoying a meal at the Shellnut Restaurant located at Thompson Station. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

Doug Curry, a resident of Wentworth, has been known as Mr. Hockey in Cumberland County for about fifty years has been presented with the prestigious President's Nova Scotia Hockey Award. Around 1970, a friend asked Doug if he would coach a midget hockey team in the former Amherst and Area Minor Hockey Association. Doug took on the challenge and this began his longtime commitment to hockey as veteran manager for the Cumberland County Midget Minor AA Ramblers right up to the present day. Previously, Doug had received the President's New Brunswick Hockey Award for his work in that province. He worked at the former Robb Engineering before going into farming in Wentworth, but along with these jobs, Doug has been a

constant presence with the Midget Ramblers and in the previous years when the club was known as the Bombers. Doug worked with many different coaches, and he was at the forefront of numerous championship hockey clubs, including the years of 1993, 1997 and 1998. Doug and his late son, Byron Curry, were both active in the Minor Junior Program in Cumberland County, and they won two provincial championships. Doug is revered as a master organizer and fundraiser. He has taken his teams to tournaments throughout the Maritime region and to Quebec. Along with working within the Amherst and Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association, Doug has been active with the Tatamagouche Minor Hockey Association.

Doug has held numerous executive positions in minor hockey, including serving as President of the Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association for two years and being Provincial Director on numerous occasions. Doug has been a great supporter of junior hockey in Cumberland County by serving on the executives of the Amherst Junior A Ramblers and the Cumberland County Junior B Blues as well as supporting the Junior C Club in Oxford. Over the last four years, Doug has helped organize the Nova Scotia-New Brunswick Midget all-star games, with proceeds from the Amherst game going to support Kids With Cancer at Camp Good Time, Pictou County, and the Breast Cancer Fund. Last year Doug was interviewed on ATV's Alive at Five and presented with the ATV Maritimer of the Week award for his work in minor hockey over the years. Away from the hockey rink, Doug was coach and manager of the Wentworth Cougars baseball team for many years and has been a director with the Cumberland County Exhibition. Battling serious health issues in recent years, including major heart surgery just a year ago, Doug still manages to get to the rink to be with his "boys" of the Midget Ramblers. The Wentworth community is proud to have Doug as one of our residents and appreciate his many hours of volunteer work in hockey, fundraising and the Cumberland County Exhibition.

Sprague's Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Vernon and Eleanor Sprague celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. The Sprague were married on June 3, 1961 at the Wentworth Valley United Church. (Jordan Sprague Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

The Wentworth Recreation Centre was a welcoming place for the 50th wedding anniversary of Eleanor and Vernon Sprague. Eleanor and Vernon are renowned for being chosen Volunteer Family of the year in 1991 for many community activities, delivery of wood and snowplowing to the residents of Wentworth. Eleanor is the daughter of George and Mary Murray, lived in Appleton on the Lake Road, attended the one-room Appleton School until Grade 11 and, after high school worked at the Wentworth telephone office located at the home of Ida Little (later Murray). Later, Eleanor moved to Truro to take care of five children for a working teacher. On weekends, Eleanor traveled back and forth from Truro to Appleton on the train. During this time, Vernon and Eleanor became serious about their relationship and Vernon proposed marriage.

In 1961, June 3, they were married at the Upper Wentworth United Church and lived for about two years with Vernon's mom and dad, Ira and Myrtle Sprague in East Wentworth. In 1963, they bought and moved into the Roy Swallow house in Wentworth Centre. In 1963 daughter, Joyce, was born and in 1966 son, Kevin. In 1980, Vernon built a house in East Wentworth and they moved there where they still reside. Vernon was born in River Hebert, but most of schooling was in East Wentworth. Vernon worked with his father, Ira Sprague, in the lumber business and they also began a farm. After their marriage, both Eleanor (for 26 years) and Vernon (for a shorter time) worked during the winters at Ski Wentworth. Vernon has kept up his business of lumbering, snowplowing, and farming and was Wentworth Fire Chief from 1983 to 2003 until in 2004 his son Kevin took over this position. Vernon's hobby is camping, while Eleanor's hobbies are quilting and gardening.

The 50th wedding celebration spread over three days. On Friday, June 1, Vernon and Eleanor began the celebration by dining at the Shellnut's Family Restaurant with their immediate family: son Kevin and his wife Wee Wana, daughter Joyce and Robbie

McKellar, granddaughters Stephanie and Melanie, and grandson Jordan and Felecia McKinnon (Jordan's friend). Back home the family group enjoyed a gift-opening party with Vernon's niece from PEI, Vicki Cotton and her husband, Kendall, and two children, Sara and Kyle together with Vernon's nephew, Michael Hamilton and his wife, Mary Jane. On June 2, Saturday afternoon, Eleanor, daughter-in-law Wee Wana, daughter Joyce, and nieces, Vicki and Mary Jane took time to decorate the Recreation Centre. In the evening, Wee Wana and Joyce barbequed for all the above mentioned, as well as, Vernon's mother, Myrtle, and sister Grace Fiddes and her family. For the younger celebrants, Kevin made a bonfire and all had fun cooking wieners and marshmallows over the fire. On Sunday, June 3, family members attended the morning service at the Wentworth United Church, where the pastor, Steven Cochrane, representing the congregations, congratulated Vernon and Eleanor. On Sunday afternoon, the celebration continued at the Wentworth Recreation Centre, with over 160 people attending from the Wentworth community, Truro and surrounding area, New Brunswick (Moncton, Port Elgin, Baie Verte, Woodstock), PEI (Charlottetown and Summerside) and with Eleanor's two cousins from Alberta and British Columbia. Grandson, Jordan, had created a video which played on a screen and showed their wedding day 50 years ago, together with many family photos and activities of farming and lumbering life. The video included photos of Vernon's three Belgian horses, Champ, June, and Sandy, who can be seen most days in a farm field when passing by their house.

Members of the United Church Women made and served vegetables with dips, sandwiches, sweets and drinks.

Peniel United Church Yard Sale A Success



Members of the Peniel UCW work long and hard to prepare for their annual yard sale, which is a major contributor to providing operating funds for the church. Located in an area along the shore with an aging population of devoted workers, the ladies assisted by their spouses always seem to be



able to earn more than the previous year. The selection included lots of dry goods, plenty of used clothing for all ages, a large bake table, which has resulted from hours spent in the kitchen working over a hot stove. Glass, books, collectible items, speakers, cassette players all dotted every



area of the church, where merchandise could be displayed. The parking lots and all adjoining areas were filled with vehicles as customers came and went throughout the day. Tents were erected outside for larger items, and a large variety of garden tools and childrens play and

recreations items. Sandwiches, sweets, juice, coffee and tea were available from the kitchen. The Annual Peniel sale is one of the largest along the shore and contributes significantly to the operation of the church and furthering initiatives undertaken by the UCW.

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