

# News From The Age of Sail



The Wagstaff and Hatfield Shipbuilding Yard, Port Greville built 12 wooden minesweepers for the British Admiralty in 1942-1943, which helped destroy enemy mines in the UK. The above photo shows Minesweeper #1063 being launched in November 1943. (Submitted)

Well the season is upon us at last. So much happens in such a short time here in Nova Scotia it all just runs together. The society held our Annual Bean Supper take out in May and our Salad take out in June, both of which were very well received. Our thanks to all the helpers, who make it possible, and to all those who support us through orders and donations.

The Annual Memorial to those who died at sea wash held in the afternoon of June 26 flowers are laid in honor. The Murder Mystery Play will be held on July 16. Advance tickets will be on

sale soon and seats are limited.

The board of directors and executive is awaiting funding news on phase 2 of the addition. It is anticipated when funding is approved, construction will continue this summer. Summer student employees start at the end of June. As the weather improves, we anticipate a great summer.

New stock is in the gift shop and fresh light lunches are available in the cafe. Now all that we await is the tourists. So far I have seen a number of people from Texas and BC and as

far away as New Zealand. It's always a pleasure to meet people from near and far.

To help increase visitation counts and to learn more about local history and activities of previous generations, I encourage Nova Scotians to visit the local museums and heritage sites our province has to offer. You would be amazed what is here in our own backyards.

The Age of Sail has at least one free-day a month for visitors to thank the local communities for their support and let you see all the new things at the museum

Most folks from the area know that it was a big ship-building area years ago but did you know the important role the Wagstaff and Hatfield Yard, Port Greville played during WW II? The yard built 12 wooden minesweepers for the British Admiralty in 1942-1943 which helped destroy enemy mines in the UK. This and more can be learned when you take a guided tour through the centre.

In closing I wish all our readers a wonderful summer and I hope to "sea" you all soon.

# Out and About with Ken

By Ken Kennedy

I mark a lot of stuff on my day-timer to remind me of things to do but somehow I forget to look at my notes!

We have been busy running back and forth to Halifax to babysit our new grand-daughter since Pamela went back to work last week. We have also been busy trying to set up a nursing home chaplain's seminar for Saturday, June 25th. I hear we are getting a couple of people from Parrsboro area as a result of the ad the Maurice ran for us in last month's issue. (Advertising in the Shoreline does get results!) More about that next month.

Velma and I did find the time somehow to make a trip to Diligent River on May 4th to the bi-weekly "Open Mic" country music jamboree at the hall there. There were quite a few entertainers in attendance, most of whom we had not heard before. We were surprised and delighted to see George Linkletter there, and between you and me, he stole the show! His rendition of "The Great Speckled Bird" was sung with feeling as he probably knew it referred to the second coming of Christ when all believers will be taken to Heaven in a cloud (speckled bird). (That's the way read the Book of Revelation anyway.)

That same afternoon we had been to Kemptown Fire Hall to help Bob Jones celebrate is 80th birthday. Bob does a lot of the kitchen parties in the area and usually plays the dobro or steel guitar.

I met with a guy from Samaritan's Purse the other day in regard to having the Debert Baptist Church involved in a community "Operation Christmas Child" program of filling shoe-boxes with trinkets to be sent to children in Third World countries. I know it's early for thinking about Christmas but there are people who are up to their ears planning this event to take place in October and November. If your church is interested, I suggest you contact Terry Whidden at 895-8483.

We took a quick run down to Bass River on Sunday after Shannon McAlloney called to say that lightening struck and blew a hole in the steeple of the Baptist Church. It didn't knock the spire off but it made quite a mess of it. It was about 2:00 pm when we got there and by the time we turned around and headed back we had to pull off at the pharmacy because the wipers couldn't clear the windshield of the pelting rain. Don't think I've ever experienced rain coming down that hard before.

# Londonderry Community Council News

By Sally Richard

It is often said that rural communities are dying out and in some cases it is a true statement. People can become stale and lose their motivation. It just takes a good leader with vision and organizational skills to recognize potential and turn things around. An excellent example is the Thirsty Church in Londonderry Station.

On May 29, over 100 people enjoyed "appreciation day" at the rejuvenated little church hosted by its congregation. Amanda Langille shared with us the history of the church which was built in 1949 by the men of the community at that time. The funds to build the church were raised by the ladies sewing circle called the "Cheerful Stitchers".

These ladies had a vision to bring a place of worship to their community. Over the years the community church served many denominations well and because of dwindling population eventually closed. A few years ago a meeting was held to decide the church's future and selling the building was an option. Amanda Langille felt a connection and saw the potential of the church and with the full support and co-operation of her community she entered the Vivian contest and the rest is history.

In his closing remarks, Alan Johnson, Chairman, noted that rural Nova Scotia still offers plenty of community spirit and is a great place to live. All it takes is good leadership and a desire for community members to achieve their goals. It is now a thriving little church brought back to life offering the community a warm place to come together. Because of the finished basement, it now offers more opportunities which are under consideration.

Another example is the old school house in Londonderry Mines. Some people had a vision of a Community Center. With lots of hard work by its few members and the sup-

port of the community, the building was renovated and now offers a great facility for residents of the area to host receptions, banquets, reunions, parties, etc.

On June 18, the two communities of Londonderry Station and Londonderry Mines came together to host a fundraiser called "Maya's Day". Just two years of age, baby Maya was diagnosed with leukemia. She is the daughter of Denise MacDonald and Mark Shankshaft, fairly new residents of Londonderry who purchased the Watson Rushton property.

Maya is being treated at the IWK in Halifax for the next six months. Several young mothers here came together to organize a fundraiser to help out the devastated family with the unexpected expenses they will incur. The event was held at the Community Center which included a yard sale, bake table, silent auction, barbecue and ball tournament. The event was well organized in a short time by our two communities and well supported by many surrounding communities.

A total of \$9524.00 was realized.

I have never felt more proud of our communities for the out pouring of compassion and support for baby Maya and her parents. An overwhelming spirit of love filled the Community Center that day as people came together to share their hopes, prayers and financial support for a family in need of all three. No, this part of West Colchester

County is not dying because we do have vision and determination to succeed.

Erma Patriquin, formerly a life long resident of Londonderry, passed away June 4 in New Glasgow. Erma was an active member of our community and was missed when she had to give up her home due to illness. Our sympathy is extended to her family. Our condolences to the Gamble family on the sudden passing of Darrell on June 15 at his home in Bayview, Pictou County. As a young boy Darrell entertained many of us with his musical abilities. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family. A service of celebration to commemorate the life of Alfred Claire Graham was held on Saturday, June 11 at Main Road Cemetery, Debert. Clair passed away on December 21, 2010. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Eddie Hatfield of Station Road, Great Village. It is shocking that such an incident happened in our neighborhood.

Belated birthday wishes to Alton George who celebrated his 75th birthday at the Center recently. Shep Scott reported that the pair of Canada Geese have nested at Sutherland's Lake again this spring and this time Warren Scott was able to capture a picture of their 6 goslings.

Contact Amanda Langille for hall rental inquiries at 668-2300.

Remember our military and their families in prayer. Have a great summer when and if it comes.

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