

Casey Takes Action on Report Card Comments

Karen Casey, MLA Colchester North and Education and Early Childhood Development has ensured the Government is taking immediate action to address initial findings from a report card survey that calls for more personalized comments about student performance. Casey has asked school boards to build on the good work already being done by teachers to provide more useful comments to families and students.

In a statement on May 30th when the report was released, Casey said, "We have heard loud and clear from families and students that they are not getting the feedback they want and need. I want to see this change now. I expect to see comments in the June report cards that will help students and parents better prepare for the next school term."

She continued, "I want to recognize and acknowledge the challenges that teachers faced when the department rolled out the new report card program. In some cases, teachers needed clearer direction to implement the new report card with success. I want all teachers to know



Karen Casey

that the department is committed to working with them to improve this means of communication with parents, beginning immediately."

She has asked boards to ensure June report cards include teacher comments that are: clear and jargon-free; individualized to the student; based on students' strengths, any areas for improvement, and what students can do to improve and providing advice to parents on what they can do to support their child's learning at home

In total, 5,811 students, parents, teachers and school administrators from across the province filled out the survey. Key findings from parents were: 58 per cent felt teacher comments did not help them understand where

their child may be struggling; 63 per cent felt comments did not help them understand report card grades and wording and 62 per cent felt comments did not help them support their child's learning at home.

Key findings from teachers and students were: 61 per cent of teachers felt comments did not help students understand how well they are doing while about 40 per cent of students felt comments did not help them understand how well they are doing, or where they are struggling

"I want to thank the thousands of Nova Scotians who participated in this important survey," said Ms. Casey. "This announcement is an immediate action to address concerns raised by all those who participated, and I look forward to improving the reporting process even more in the fall when I receive the final recommendations from the report card review committee."

The committee will do an analysis of other areas identified in the survey, which will be included in the final report this fall. An overview of the survey results can be found at www.ednet.ns.ca

Debert Legion Notes

Branch 106 will be hosting a Washer Toss Tournament on Saturday, July 5th at 3PM, the cost is \$5 a person and there will be prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place, with a dance to follow, music by DJ Harv from 9PM until 1AM. Cost is \$10/person. All members and guests are welcome. Sober drivers will be available at the end of the night, at no charge.

To register for the "Toss" call 662-2454 and leave a message if closed.



thank you. To Marilyn and Debbie who looked after the salads, thank you. To Terry Sack, who donated a ring for the League to sell tickets on, thank you. To Marcia, Barb and Debbie Cock who sold an awful lot of tickets on the ring, thank you for your efforts. To the Bar staff, thank you.

The League donated \$610 to the Branch, also \$100 to 'Relay for Life' and \$100 to our Veterans in Camp Hill Complex to buy the Tattoo tapes for our Veterans to watch in the comforts of the Complex.

The winner of the ring, the league was selling tickets on was Debbie Cock. To all who bought tickets on the ring, thank you very much for your support, it is/was greatly appreciated. To all Crib players, mark Wednesday, Sept. 3rd on your calendar, that is the fall startup date for the 2014-15 season.

On behalf of the entire League, I pass along a very special thank you and a tip of the hat to Earl Harvey for all he has done for our Crib league. (Thanks, Earl)

Well, the Hockeys season is over for another few weeks and I must say the 29th of May was a beautiful night, the Rangers kicked the Canadiens out of the Play-Offs and do you know on the 30th of May I couldn't find hide nor hair of a Montreal fan. Rumor has it that Audrey sneaked off to PEI to hide for a few days. I should have sent a thank you note to

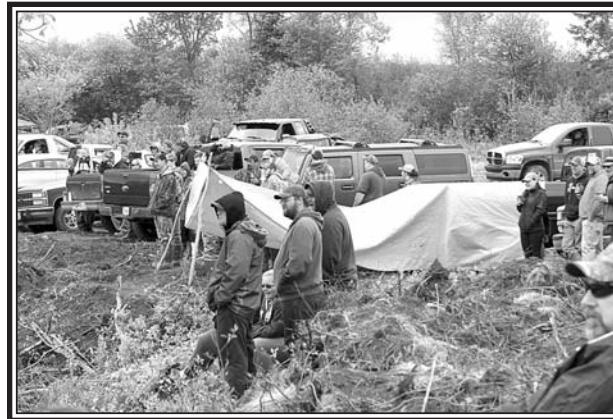
the Rangers front office. Boy it has been quiet. The Montreal fans were just about rare as hen's teeth.

Happy Anniversary wishes for June are passed along to Jean and Don MacQueen, Debbie and Garnet Buchanan, Lois and Loyal Crocker, Debbie and Harold Barclay, Shawna and Bruce Higgins.

Happy Birthday wishes for June are passed along to Maurice MacDougall, Marilyn Dykens, Gordon McCullum, Donna Eastcott, Charles Borden (Sr.), Ardith McCullum, Annette (Jo) Williams, Debbie Cock and Lee McCulloch.

Please don't forget to thank a Veteran, it is because of their sacrifices that we are able to enjoy our freedom and our Country. Please say a prayer for our Troops who are serving in foreign countries and their families.

Belmont Mud Bog & Raceway Holds First Event



By Linda Harrington

After months of site preparation, it was finally race time!

Matt and Gena Priest purchased land about a year ago for their Christmas Tree Farm and discovered one corner of the land was not suitable for planting because of flooding. They began discussing potential uses for the 5-6 acres of land and were excited about the possibility of putting in a mud bog and raceway.

"We really didn't know much about the sport and went in totally green," says Gena. "We literally jumped in with both feet, with lots of help from racers and volunteers. Isaac Culgin, of Culgin Construction, was a huge help getting track ready, especially digging the mud bog."

The new business venture is a real family affair with daughters Michaela and Mallory pitching in to help, as well. "We want to hold family friendly events at Belmont Mud Bog & Raceway," says Gena.

Gena says they were very pleased with the turnout for the event on June 7th, with about 250 cars through the gate and an estimated 750 people in attendance.

Winners included: Drags: 4 cyl - James Langille; 6 cyl - Regan Saunders and 8 cyl - Dylan Blenkorn. Modified: Dwayne Hutchinson. Slalom: 4 cyl - James Langille; 6 cyl - Regan Saunders and 8 cyl - Dana Gilby. Mud Bog: 4 cyl - Anthony Bell; 6 cyl - Ryan Ripley and 8 cyl - Mark Bower. Modified: Kenny



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