

CCRSB gets \$5.7-Million Additional Funding

By Maurice Rees

For the first time in four years, CCRSB will be hiring teachers. In fact they will be hiring just over 80 teachers. Currently 50 teachers are retiring and will be replaced. An additional 33.2 full time equivalents (FTE's) will be hired because the board has received additional funding. The 33.2 FTE positions are a result of the Primary to Grade 2 class cap and other targeted initiatives, including five guidance counsellors at the elementary level, three new mathematics mentors and implementation of the Early Literacy Framework. Targeted funding was also provided for "Student Support Grants".

An additional \$5.7-Million in new funding has been received by CCRSB for the 2014-2015 budgeted year, which increases the operating budget to \$201.3-Million. \$3-Million of the new funding has been allotted to specific initiatives, which include: Early Literacy Framework - \$279,700; Mathematics Strategy - \$309,700; Student Support Grants - \$395,100; High Needs Students - \$219,300; SchoolsPlus - \$125,000; Guidance Counselors - \$384,200 and Primary to Grade 2 Class Cap - \$1.32 million.

The remaining \$2.7 million of the unallocated new funding, according to documentation released by the CCRSB board falls short of covering all cost pressures; therefore, reductions were made across departments to bring the budget to balance which includes budget cuts of: Education Services - \$1.75 million (includes the 19 FTE NSTU related to declining enrolment); Operational Services - \$200,000 and Board Governance/Regional Management - \$75,000.

To implement the new initiatives, CCRSB is in a hiring position and will staff 33.2 FTE teaching positions for the 2014-2015 school year. The majority of these positions are being added as a result of the Primary to Grade 2 class cap.

Guidance counseling to students will be increased with the addition of five guidance counsellors to bridge the gap at the elementary school level, as part of the 33.2 FTEs, while three math mentors will be hired, specifically to add extra support at the secondary level - Grade 11, as part of the 33.2 FTEs.

Early Literacy Framework funding is targeted toward the expansion of Early Literacy supports to Grade 3 and the re-introduction of Reading Recovery at eight sites within CCRSB, two in each Family of Schools: Oxford Regional Education Centre (Chignecto Family), West Highlands Elementary (Chignecto Family), Cobequid Consolidated Elementary (Cobequid Family), Tatamagouche Elementary (Cobequid Family), Brookfield Elementary (Nova Family), Shubenacadie District Elementary (Nova Family), Pictou Elementary (Celtic Family) and F.H. MacDonald Elementary.

A SchoolsPlus site has been added in New Glasgow, at New Glasgow Academy (September 2014 opening), servicing the Academy, A.G. Baillie Memorial and North Nova Education Centre.

Declining enrolment also remains a challenge for all school boards across Nova Scotia. For CCRSB, a decline in the funded enrolment of 481 students for the 2014-2015 school year has led to a reduction of 19 FTE NSTU, mostly at the secondary level.

EBSNS Celebrating 20 Years



ESBNS Past Presidents Lois Bray and Angus Chisholm present Sandra Berry with a gift of appreciation during the 20th Anniversary Celebration. Laurie Gunn was the photographer of the framed picture titled "Sand Pipers". (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

Great Village: Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia members, guests and friends gathered at the Royal Canadian Legion hall on Saturday, June 14th for the Annual General Meeting and to celebrate their 20th Anniversary.

Sandra Barry welcomed everyone to the event and presented the minutes of the 2012 AGM. Joy Graham presented the financial report followed by the Nominating Committee Report by Angus Chisholm.

President Laurie Gunn gave a recap of the past year's events, including the book launch of "Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop" and the CD launch of "I Am in Need of Music", by Susie LeBlanc. The CD won an ECMA for Best Classical Album. EBSNS has donated a copy of "Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop" to every school in Colchester County and are working toward a goal of every school in Nova Scotia.

There will be an EBSNS gathering on August 17th, at Saint James United Church, to honour the young people who have shown a great interest in Elizabeth Bishop, including Anneka Stroink, who recently won first place at the Regional Heritage Fair for her project on Elizabeth Bishop.

Joy Graham brought congratulations to EBSNS on their 20th Anniversary from MLA Karen Casey on behalf of the Province of NS.

Joanne Hatfield, Dawn Hatfield and Jeff Wirchenko, who together make up COCADA, provided wonderful Brazilian music following the cutting of a celebration cake. Joanne and Dawn gave a very special performance of "Lantern", a work written by Joanne, inspired by and incorporating Elizabeth Bishop's poem "Rain Towards Morning." This work was commissioned by John Barnstead and dedicated to Sandra Barry.

Things To Do in Masstown

By Christine Urquhart

Throughout the summer months you may wonder what there is to do here in Masstown. This is such a great place to live and you will find lots of peace and quiet if you want it. Often we drive over to McElmond's Pond to the Provincial picnic park - this is just around the corner from Masstown - turning at the flashing light towards Debert - you will find it on your left hand side of the road.

Here you will be able to walk along wooded trails, watch the ducks and geese

on the pond, fish in the pond, picnic at one of the many tables and get fresh water from the tap at the "top of the hill". There are also washroom facilities available. Bug spray is recommended!

You can also drive down the Shore Road to its end at the water's edge and walk along the shoreline. Remember to keep an eye on the tide, it comes in very fast and can catch you unawares if you aren't careful. Not always fun to have to wade to shore, especially if you end up in the mud!

If you wish to go swim-

ming the nearest spot is Little Dyke. You head past the Masstown Market on the old road, turning off towards Great Village. Take the road which goes past the Church, it is a dirt road, and drive to the stop sign. Turn right and look for areas where you can pull your car over and easily get down to the lake. Please be sure not to leave any garbage behind, and remember your towels! Small children should wear life jackets and no one should swim alone.

Maybe what you are looking for are some fresh strawberries! Check out Folly Mountain Trees &

Wreaths and Berries which can be found on Hwy. #2 between the Masstown Road and Vance Drive on the Market side of the road. You can pick your own or buy those already picked.

If you just want to have a nice, quiet picnic, stop at our Masstown community Park. There are nice big trees for shade, picnic tables, a cement pad and basketball hoop plus a well with a hand pump and a port-a-potty. There are garbage cans there for your clean up needs.

Masstown is a great place to live and also to visit. We welcome you here!

KEN'S Corner

By Ken Kennedy

Since last month's issue, Velma and I have been hurting puppies. I am still suffering the crash of my Ecoped electric bike from about six weeks ago. Those things are only registered for 32kms per hour but it sure hurts when you fall off them. Vell and I were over to Antigonish last week where she, finally, had carpal tunnel surgery on her left hand. It is now in a cast so she only has one hand to work, so that means I have to take up the slack.

Trouble is she doesn't always like the way I do things! You would think that after 48 years I would have her trained by now!

I have finally started to put in a small garden out back. It was our daughter Pamela's idea but she's not been around much - for some reason. Her 3-year-old daughter, Olivia, likes to dig in the clay as if she is helping but in fact she makes a mess, but, oh well, I hate to spoil her fun.

On June 1st I was involved with the Great Village Legion in conducting a "Flag Day" decoration service at Saint James United Church. There wasn't a very good turnout, however. We should have been in Economy by rotation but Pres. Pat Murphy suggested we do Saint James since it might be our last time being able to use that venue since the great old church will be closed in September. I wish I could afford to buy it and turn it into a theater or something similar to the Marigold in Truro.

The reason for this annual

Flag Day event is to prepare and support some of our Branch 72 members as they go about planting crosses and flags on the graves of our area war veterans and ex-service members. There are the 526 gravesites in cemeteries located from Glenholme to Lower Five Islands including Londonderry and Folly Lake.

It seems every year they find the grave of a veteran which had been somehow overlooked. It's not necessarily their fault since veterans from outside the area - and outside the province - have asked to be interred here but it's not made known to the Cobequid Branch.

I have been asked to report if anyone knows of some veteran from outside the area who may be interred in these cemeteries, please let President Patrick Murphy or some other Great Village Legion member know.

Speaking of the Royal Canadian Legion, I wonder how many people saw my item in this month's Legion

Magazine's Humour Hunt column about my incident with a US Army jacket in Orlando last March? I was pleasantly surprised one day last week when a letter came from them with a \$25 cheque enclosed.

Fred Richard tells me the weekly bingo games will continue all summer on Tuesday evenings as per normal. Don't expect to win the bonanza jackpot though as it was won by a lady from Five Islands who walked away with \$3,200 last week.

Last month I mentioned how Plains Road was such a pain to drive over trying to weave our way between the potholes. Well, DOTI has come by and patched a few holes and laid a few culverts. Hopefully they will come by later and tear it all up and repave certain stretches of it.


I see where they are repaving a perfectly good stretch of the Cobequid Pass in the Exit 12 area of Masstown Hwy 104. Surely to heavens they can recycle the old asphalt to fix the back roads of West Colchester. They did that a few years ago on

Soley Factory Road when Bill Langille was MLA, and it has stood the test of time and has saved tens of thousands of taxpayers money in gravel road upgrades each year.

Remember that Velma and I are Inter-denominational Community Chaplains and Lay Baptist Pastors, so if anyone would like a visit for prayer or Bible discussion please let us know.



Joanne Hatfield (right) introduces a special commissioned piece of music, dedicated to Sandra Barry, titled "Lantern". The work was performed by Joanne and her sister Dawn Hatfield during the EBSNS 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Great Village Legion. (Harrington Photo)



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