

# Shannon MacAloney Receives CALA Life Long Learner Award



Charlene Lannon presents Great Village resident Shannon MacAloney with the Life Long Learner Award. Shannon, who just turned 82, has been a student of the CALA senior literacy program for the past 12 years. (Harrington Photo)

By Linda Harrington

It has been 24 years since the Colchester Adult Learning Association (CALA) first opened its doors and since then hundreds of learners have benefitted from a variety of programs and the caring support from staff. The 2014-15 Year End Celebration was held May 26th at the NSCC, Truro.

Guest Speaker Sarah Reid had devoted her life to looking after foster children, caring for 93 children over 12 years, including many with special needs, when she decided she was getting older and it was time to do something different. She says she was very nervous when she walked through the doors at CALA, and may not have stayed had it not been for the

support and encouragement she immediately received. A year and half later she is proud to have completed her GED, one year in the Criminal Justice Program at NSCC and now has a job at the police station. "Celebrate all goals, whether big or small and keep going," says Sarah.

CALA's Executive Director, Mary Teed offered her thanks to those who support adult learners as they embrace their goals adding, "We can be who we want to be. Find people who want to support you."

Lech Krzywonos, Principal at NSCC, echoed the importance of this support and congratulated the students on their success and the courage they had to take the first step. "Education is a continuum,

we get on and off the treadmill at different times" he said adding their learning will be "truly transformative for your lives and your future."

One student was recognized with a special award after 12 years in the adult learning program. 82 year old Shannon MacAloney, of Great Village, was presented with the first ever Life Long Learner Award. Instructor Charlene Lannon says she is very inspired by Shannon's dedication, "She would be at the learning centre seven days a week if I came out to Great Village seven days," Charlene says adding, "She has taught me so much."

Shannon started the program at the young age of 70 in order to pursue her passion to

learn, something she says was denied her as a child, dropping out of school in Grade 2.

"Shannon has taught me no matter how much life knocks you down, you can pick yourself back up again," says Charlene, "Through her undying persistence over the past 12 years she has fulfilled many goals."

Other learners from Great Village receiving certificates were: Brenda MacRae, Jeff Maluske, Merton Eagles, Angus Withrow, James Dodsworth, Morris Eagles and Jody Robinson.

Charlene Lannon passed along her appreciation to the great support team in Great Village, including Terry Francis. "They are awesome, I enjoy being with them."



Bonnie MacDonald presents flowers to guest speaker Sarah Reid. Sarah came to CALA 1.5 years ago and has now completed not only her GED but her first year in the Criminal Justice Program at NSCC, which has led to a job at the police station. (Harrington Photo)



Barbara Murphy and Crystal Osborne thanked CALA staff for everything they have done to assist with their learning. (Harrington Photo)



Presentation of Level 1, Community Essentials and Orton-Gilloingham Certificates (left to right)-Edwin Reynolds, Terry Parsons, Kimberlea Cruikshank, Instructor Megan Blanchard, Angie Sodhi, Jimmy Jones, Jacqueline Cook, David Sprague. Missing from photo Dana Crawford, Randy Boisclair and Geoffrey Fletcher. (Harrington Photo)



Presentation of Level 2 Certificates (Left to Right) - Barbara Murphy, Crystal Osborne, Instructor Bonnie MacDonald, Marie Bryan, Harry Bryan, Patrick Lake, Bill MacKenzie and Yvonne Colley. Missing from photo were Brittany Hollingsworth, Samantha McDonald, Hazen Hutchinson, Geoff Fletcher and Morgan Jones. (Harrington Photo)



Presentation of Certificates to Great Village Learners (Left to Right) - Instructor Charlene Lannon, Jody Robinson, Morris Eagles, Angus Withrow, Shannon MacAloney, Jeff Maluske, Brenda MacRae. Missing from photo were Merton Eagles and James Dodsworth.

## Colchester Pressured to Support Regional Economic Development

By Maurice Rees

Since it was announced CoRDA was being disbanded many hours have been spent by municipal governments, and business organizations on the best way to fill the void. Colchester and Town of Truro have each hired their own economic development officer, while the Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce has been floating plans and meeting with all municipalities urging them to unite forces to design a regional economic development plan.

Now Town of Stewiacke, the smallest unit in the county has stepped onto the stage. Under the correspondence received at Colchester Council's meeting on May 28th, a May 4th letter from Town of Stewiacke, Mayor Wendy Robinson, invited councillors from Truro and County of Colchester to meet with Stewiacke Council on Thursday, June 18th at the Stewiacke Legion. In part the letter stated, "it would be helpful to have a frank and open conversation about economic development within our three municipalities".

Her letter continued, "Many models have been explored and proposed, yet we do not seem to be able to move forward". Council did

not vote to attend en masse, but several councillors indicated they would be attending. Mayor Taylor seemingly not in favour of the round table discussion on June 18th commented it bothers him to hear people talk about regional cooperation, stating we've reached out and we've moved forward and have hired our own economic development officer as has the Town of Truro and the two of them are working well together, which is what I call cooperation.

Meanwhile the Chamber of Commerce is continuing to move forward with its desire to have Colchester's three municipal units and Millbrook First Nation work together. In a May 5th letter from Andrew Lake, President of Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce (TCCoC) asked if the Municipality supports working with the other stakeholders on regional economic development. TCCoC has received support from Town of Truro, Town of Stewiacke and Millbrook First Nation to pursue a model for regional economic development. The chamber wants all municipal units to form a working group which will design a model that addresses the interests of all.

Council voted to reply that it is working on a plan.

## Trinity United Cookie Walk Raises \$428



Members of Trinity United Church baked 50 dozen cookies for a Cookie Walk fundraiser organized by the Board of Stewards. The event raised \$428. Another is planned for December. Board of Steward Members shown above are: (L-R): Carl Crowe, Taylor Hoyt, Alexa Hoyt and Cynthia Zwicker. (Shaunna Mowatt-Densmore Photo)

By Hoyt Taylor

Trinity United in Onslow hosted their first Cookie Walk on May 2 to raise money for the church. The event, hosted by the Stewards committee, raised \$428.15 for the general fund.

Over 50 batches of cookies were baked by members of the congregation. Customers


paid five dollars for a container which they filled with as many cookies as they could.

The Board of Stewards received several positive comments about the event and hopes to host another in December.

Thanks to everyone who bought cookies and a special thank you to those who baked them.

*Bass River United Baptist Church*  
5692, Hwy 2 - Bass River NS - B0M 1B0

Sunday Worship Service ..... 11 a.m.  
Bible Study - Mondays ..... 10 a.m.



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