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Unique Graduation for CEC

By Linda Harrington

Sometimes you just have to be creative in troubling times! Thanks to Jim Lorraine, his wife Trish, Jeannine Garrett and lots of volunteers one of the largest High School Graduation events in Canada (with potentially 385 graduates) was able to proceed,

despite a world-wide pandemic.

Jim and Trish have a daughter Eryn, and back in September they expected she would be graduating from Grade 12 at Cobequid Educational Centre in June 2020 and they would be attending a normal celebration. But once COVID-19 appeared,

and classes were cancelled, it looked like Eryn and her classmates would not be able to experience this once in a lifetime milestone. It was then the Lorraine's decided they had to try and do something and they offered to host a Graduation event at their Riverbreeze Farm in Upper Onslow.

The local community had already been hit hard with several tragedies this year, including the loss of CEC student Emily Tuck and another classmate Ameila McLeod's father and stepmother, who were all killed during the mass shooting in April. The possibility of giving local High School graduating students something to smile about immediately had huge support.

Ameilia's mother Jeannine Garrett started a Facebook page called CEC Grads 2020 and the excitement really began to take off.

Jim Lorraine was overwhelmed with the support from over 200 volunteers, people and businesses donating their time and money to make this happen. "Whatever we needed, people said yes, we never had anybody say no for what we asked and most of the time we didn't even have to ask, they just came to us," he says.

The huge field across from the Riverbreeze Corn Maze was turned into a numbered parking lot for over 400 vehicles with a "stage" formed out of pile of gravel at the front. Graduates were invited to arrive by car with their families and park in designated spots until their name was called. They could then approach the stage and family members could drive along the front of the stage and take photos of their graduate.

Each graduate was presented with a tote bag filled with items including a meal voucher for one of ten restaurants in Truro, where they could go for a meal with their family following the ceremony while they awaited the evening events to begin at 9:00 PM. The unique graduation ceremony was held 4-7 pm with an evening party at 9 and fireworks at 10.

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This graduate was an addition to the 2020 CEC Covid-19 graduation ceremonies hosted at River Breeze Farm by Jim Lorraine and his family with the support of many volunteers and area businesses, whose contributions provided the unique ceremony without cost to graduates or their families. See additional photos on Pages 10 and 11. (Harrington Photo)

Unapproved Travel Trailer Sites

By Maurice Rees

Although he has not been a fan of zoning in rural areas, Councillor Tom Taggart is very concerned about unlicensed travel trailer sites being developed in West Colchester. He has invested a lot of time and effort to bring one particular site before council.

After receiving an inquiry from a constituent Councillor Tom Taggart had council during the May meeting discuss what could be done about several unlicensed travel trailer locations in the West Colchester area? He added the matter the matter back onto the June 25th monthly meeting and part of his presentation was a series on on-site pictures from Orchard Beach

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Ship's Company Goes Online for 2020

By Richie Wilcox

Ship's Company Theatre won't be stopped by Covid-19 as it debuts its 36th season online this July. The summer theatre known for showcasing Atlantic voices has brought together some of the most acclaimed musicians from the region as well as a wide variety of talented writers to share powerful Atlantic Canadian stories and songs throughout July and August with the Parrsboro community and beyond.

"I'm so thankful to be able to share these free online offerings this summer,"

said Richie Wilcox, Ship's Company Theatre's Artistic Director, "This being my first season as Artistic Director, I really wanted to be able to connect with the community and, while this might be different than I had originally envisioned, I'm truly excited to bring our summer season directly into the homes of our loyal fans and supporters. And hopefully we'll gain some new fans along the way!"

July 10, 2020 | The Shipwright Sessions: Beneath Springhill by Beau Dixon

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FRONT PAGE BRIEFS July 2020

TRESS RELIEF: You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.

In anticipation of the municipal elections will be held in October, Colchester has hired a returning officer for the Municipal Election. Mr. Guy Wheeler, who served as Provincial Returning Officer, started on June 15th. Dawn Graham will be returning as the Assistant Returning Office in early July. Ms. Graham served as the Assistant Returning Officer in 2016 and also has experience with provincial elections.

Councillor Taggart has been fighting the battle on behalf of local farmers, who need immigrant foreign workers to complement their staffing, has suggested it might be beneficial for a committee with a couple of Council members to work with the Federation of Agriculture in preparation for an economic re-launch following Covid-19.

Colchester's agriculture community will be facing worker shortages this year because there are over 100 Jamaican workers that have been medically tested and are ready to come back to Canada however, they cannot get the Canadian Government to supply the VISAs fast enough. The workers were needed by June 1st.

Covid-19 has resulted in a long lonely days for patients or residents in hospitals and long care facilities, because visiting privileges have been curtailed. Colchester's Councillor Cooper advised council's executive committee of a complaint that there is only one portable phone at the Truro Hospital for patients and staff in 30 rooms and there are no video capabilities. Mayor Blair suggested people should contact Ryan Somers, Chair of the Advisory Committee, regarding their concerns.



The cleanup and restoration is ongoing this morning after an overnight fire on Plains Road, Debert. A truck carrying 1000 20lb propane tanks ignited into a raging inferno with exploded propane tanks. Fire brigades from Onslow-Belmont and Debert worked many hours in a dangerous setting to contain the blaze. See story and photos on page 2. (Photo credit to Tyrel Swan)

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