



Cake cutting for the 50th Anniversary (left to right) Tatum Crowe, Debbie Rushton, Jean-eva Gass, Claire Shepherd, Joann Michelin and Jessica Johnson.



The Lower Onslow Preschool has been in the former Lower Onslow United Church for almost 50 years. Councillor Marie Benoit was happy to pass along congratulations to Joann and this exciting milestone.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary of Lower Onslow Preschool

By Linda Harrington

The Lower Onslow Preschool held a 50th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday, June 11th. Many former students and their families attended, along with several former teachers. There was a bouncy house, BBQ, sucker pull, face painting and of course a celebration cake. A great time was had by all and the many scrap books brought back a lot of fond memories for those who have attended or had their own children (and now grandchildren) attend the Lower Onslow Preschool.

Long time teacher, director, organizer and most often called "Miss Joann" by all the littles was thrilled with the turnout and sent along the following history on the Preschool.

"In September of 1973 two moms in the Lower Onslow Community sent out a letter informing families they were beginning a "Play School for boys and girls 3 and 4 years of age in your area". This was the start of the Lower Onslow Preschool. These 2 enterprising women were Sheila Sabine and Ethel MacKinnon. This September the childcare center celebrates 50 years of continuous operation.

What started as a Co operative school with "mothers taking turns each week to help with supervision, serving lunch, cleaning up etc., has grown into a full day, year round child care center with 5 fulltime trained early childhood edu-

cators. It has been a journey!

Physically we have upgraded many times and have access to an amazing play space, thanks to the efforts of the Lower Onslow Community Center. This organization grew out of concern that when the Lower Onslow United Church was decommissioned the preschool wouldn't have a home, so a group of interested members of the community took over the building and the community kept the childcare Center and gained a gathering place for many activities.

Presently we have 31 families from Salmon River to Great Village. We offer a quality, inclusive program for ages 30 months to 5 years. We provide the children with experiences that help them develop healthy social, cognitive, and emotional skills.

We just held a celebration to mark our 50 years and had 3 generations of families attending.

We are looking forward to the next decade of childcare and the exciting changes that in our future.

We would like to thank the people of our community that have supported us over the years. Masstown Market, Masstown Hardware, TRA, Wilson's, Sobeys and our many families that donated to our event.

For information on the Center you can contact [loweronslowp@gmail.com](mailto:loweronslowp@gmail.com).



Every celebration needs a BBQ!



Councillor Marie Benoit presents Joann Michelin with a certificate of congratulations from the County.



Joann Michelin with former students Cassie (class of 2007-9) and Jack (class of 2011-13) Simpson.



Aaron Michelin was very busy face painting during the afternoon event. Keira Eisses was very happy with her pretty design.

## Great Village Legion Bursaries Awarded

By Linda Harrington

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #72 Great Village awarded six Bursaries to local students recently, with a presentation on Wednesday, June 14th at the Legion Hall.

Recipients of the 2023 Bursaries were: Maria Putnam, Masstown to attend St. FX University; Erin Grace Miller, Great Village to attend Acadia University; Ashleigh Sharpe, Londonderry Station to attend Stratford Career Inst.; Braelyn McKenna Burke, Dartmouth to attend NSCC- Ivany Campus; Reham Khaled Al-Radi, Truro to attend NSCC- Truro Campus and Marion Porter, Fort Belcher to attend Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus.

Branch #72 recently had parking lot added to the back of the building. The work was carried out by Turner Trucking & Excavation, who also made a large donation of \$6000 in extra gravel material to the project. Legion members will continue to fundraise to pay for the remaining cost of the parking lot, including lighting.

One of these fund raisers is a ticket raffle on a beautiful quilt made by Wanda Frizzle and donated by Audrey and Logan Spencer. Tickets will be \$5 or 3/\$10 and can be purchased from



Great Village Legion Branch #72 is selling tickets on this beautiful quilt made by Wanda Frizzle and donated by Audrey and Logan Spencer. (Harrington Photo)



Great Village Legion Branch #72 has a new parking lot behind the building. Fund raising efforts will include a quilt raffle and weekly Bingo. (Harrington Photo)



Branch #72 President George Hudson presents Erin Miller with a Bursary, while Diane Barkhouse and Sgt-At-Arms Wilfred Crowe. (Harrington Photo)



Branch #72 President George Hudson presents Maria Putnam with a Bursary, while Diane Barkhouse and Sgt-At-Arms Wilfred Crowe. (Harrington Photo)



Branch #72 President George Hudson presents Marion Porter with a Bursary, while Diane Barkhouse and Sgt-At-Arms Wilfred Crowe. (Harrington Photo)



Branch #72 President George Hudson presents Reham Khaled Al-Radi with a Bursary, while Diane Barkhouse and Sgt-At-Arms Wilfred Crowe. (Harrington Photo)



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