

New Childcare Center Coming Soon to Masstown



A time to look at plans and discussion followed a visit to the build site for the new Masstown Childcare Center. Left to right- Andrea Thompson, President Of Lower Onslow Preschool Parent Board; Joann Michelin, Director of the Lower Onslow Preschool; Claire Shepherd, Assistant Director of Lower Onslow Preschool; Laurie Jennings, Masstown Market; Riley Jennings, Masstown Market; Sarah Silver, Program Lead of Systems Growth Initiatives; Ron Smith, Manager of Business Development for Masstown Market; Tom Taggart, MLA for Colchester North.



Current and future students of the Lower Onslow Preschool look over the plans for the new childcare center in Masstown. Left to right: Cian Longva, Ezra Wilcox, Violet Roche, Waylon Cameron, Willow King, Whitley Thompson.



2026 Graduates from the Lower Onslow Preschool pose for a photo. Front (left to right)- Cian Longva, Ezra Wilcox, Violet Roche, Waylon Cameron, Whitley Thompson; Back (left to right) Joann Michelin, Claire Shepherd, Andrea Thompson.

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government's promise of more affordable childcare spaces and look forward to welcoming new families to our center. I would like to give a special acknowledgement to the Jennings family for giving us this opportunity to

grow."

Laurie Jennings noted staff at Masstown Market have had difficulty finding childcare spaces in the past. "The idea of having a childcare center close by really fits in with our vision of helping to meet the needs of our rural



It was a rather wet visit to the future site of the Masstown Childcare Center but this didn't dampen the excitement about what this announcement will mean for young families in the local community. The Center is expected to open this November.

community."

Masstown Market began in 1969 as a place to sell local vegetables but has continued to expand over the years and has brought a fresh fish market, butcher, creamery, pharmacy and a health clinic to the rural community of Masstown.

Masstown Market's Riley Jennings fondly remembers attending preschool in the local church as a child. "It will be nice for our employees to have

childcare right next door right from infant age and up." He is also pleased with the design of the new building saying, "We put a great deal of thought into making the exterior look much like the former one room schoolhouses found throughout the communities."

The current Lower Onslow Preschool will continue to operate at the present facility offering 20 childcare spaces.

Heart of Health: Vivian MacLeod marks 50 years of service



Vivian MacLeod

(NOTE: With The Heart of Health series, we're shining a light on the many dedicated employees, physicians, learners and volunteers who make Nova Scotia Health such a remarkable place to work and receive care. Today we're featuring Vivian MacLeod, a secretary with Public Health in New Glasgow.)

Vivian MacLeod has worked in nearly every corner of Nova Scotia's healthcare system: X-ray, mental health, laboratory services, medical records and, currently, public health.

Vivian has spent half a century with the organization and now, at 70, she's contemplating retirement, a step she may take later this year.

Her first job was in her native Cape Breton work-

ing in the X-ray department at the Sydney City Hospital where she started in August 1976. These days, she is an administrative assistant with the health protection team in Northern Zone, an area encompassing the Colchester-East Hants, Cumberland and Pictou areas.

"I'm a bit of a dinosaur," she says, jokingly, "but the work has been so rewarding. I've loved every minute of it."

Vivian grew up dreaming of becoming a nurse. Life took her in a different direction, but she stayed close to medicine. After completing a medical secretary program in Peterborough, Ontario, she returned home and quickly found work in diagnostic imaging. Over two decades, she typed everything from angiograms to nuclear medicine reports.

Her career moved when her family moved. She first joined the Glace Bay General Hospital lab department. When the family relocated in 2001 to Pictou County she taught medical terminology and transcription at

the local community college. A year later, she was back in the hospital corridors, working in X-ray and EKG-supporting roles at Aberdeen Hospital.

In 2005, she found her professional home with the team at public health.

Vivian has spent over 20 years supporting a busy health protection staff in vaccine manage-

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