

# "Telling Our Stories" A HISTORICAL PRESERVATION



Authors and facilitator of the book "Telling Our Stories" pose for a group photo following the unveiling on April 21st. Front (l to r) Shannon MacAloney, Helen MacLachlan, Florence Adams, Eileen Eaton, Hazel Hill; Back (l to r) Vernon McCully, Logan Spencer, Meredith Layton, Robert Layton, Facilitator-Nance Akerman, Cliff Graham, and Bertha MacRae.



Rob McLellan, executive director of the Colchester Adult Learning Association, shared his excitement with those gathered for the Senior's Literacy Celebration. He said he felt the opportunity to preserve the stories and history of the elders in Great Village was "priceless".



Florence Adams (left) and Hazel Hill display the enlargements of their photographs featured in "Telling Our Stories".



Robert Layton, Logan Spencer and Vernon McCully take a look at draft copies of "Telling Our Stories". The gentlemen have their stories, photos and recipes featured in the book.



Hazel Hill joins in a sing song with Jamie Alcorn during the Senior's Literacy Celebration in Great Village.

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By Linda Harrington

The publication is spectacular and the photos and stories inside a real treasure. "Telling Our Stories" will be a welcome addition to the historical preservation of Great Village for future generations.

The book features "stories" from 16 elders who call Great Village home. The personal accounts leave you yearning to read more, a desire noted by Keltie Jones, Board Member and Treasurer of CALA. "The publication has served the literacy goals of getting seniors to write their own stories but there has been so much excitement we just might have to continue," she said during the Seniors Literacy Celebration at the Great Village Legion on April 21st.

Facilitator Nance Akerman,

a writer/photographer and filmmaker who lives in the Annapolis Valley and has a studio in Halifax, interviewed most of the seniors in their own homes. She says she tried to keep the conversation casual, more like a conversation between friends. "This has been one of the most inspiring learning experiences of my life," she told those gathered at the reception in the Legion Hall saying, "I am really grateful to you." Nance says she learned so many new things like how the tide works in the bay, all about a log drive and even how to make raw potato hash but more importantly she learned "at the age of 98, 91 or 95 life is still very full". She feels it is vital to other generations to have these stories written down and read.

Eleven of the 16 elders were present at the Celebration. Hazel Hill's story is featured on page 52 and 53, and her photo is on the front cover, as well as on page 51. She says she was a bit hesitant to participate in the beginning, "I was embarrassed at first but Nance was a great help with ideas. After a while, I found I really enjoyed it and now I think the book is wonderful. I guess I thought present day people wouldn't enjoy reading these stories and it would be more for future generations." Hazel says she wishes she had asked more questions of her own father while he was alive.

Logan Spencer and Bertha MacRae read excerpts from their writings during the program, with Florence Adams reading one of her lovely poems, as well.

"Telling Our Stories" is 61 pages in length, contains a beautiful portrait of each author along with their story and a favorite recipe. The publication is a Senior's Literacy project, created by The Colchester Adult Learning Association (CALA) and the Great Village Community Association, to enhance the literacy and learning skills of older Nova Scotians. The project was designed to focus on storytelling, creative writing and reading skills of seniors.

The book was presented in draft form at the April celebration; the final printing will be offered for sale at \$15 per copy and can be ordered from the Great Village Community Association.

## Wizard of Oz Performances WCCS - JUNE 1 & 2

By Lacey Gilley

As the year quickly comes to an end and grade nine students are busy finishing projects, tweeking assignments and preparing for final tests and exams we look forward, with mixed feeling, to a new school and new challenges. It has been a great year with a great class that everyone will remember.

The Wizard of Oz play is going great and everyone involved is beginning to get very excited! Rehearsals and practices are held after school on Wednesdays and Fridays. There are people practicing makeup and costume changes as well as moving props on stage. There will be two performances, one on June 1st at 7:00pm and one on June 2nd at 1:00pm. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students and children. Tickets can be bought at the Dominion Chair Store in Bass River, The Masstown Market and at the door. We're all looking forward to the show!

On May 11th, 20 students from grades 5 to 9 participated in the District Track and Field Meet at the TAAC grounds in Truro. Everyone did very well and there are 5 students moving on to regionals on May 18th in Pictou. Good luck to Nicole Smith, Raina Young, Taylor McCafferty, Tomaz Fougere and Ian MacFarlane. Thank-you to Ms. Conrad and Mr. Campbell for coaching and training all students involved!

On May 4th from 6 to 9pm, 40 students participated in the annual IWK Rock-a-thon at WCCS. It was a great turn out and everyone had a fun time. All together we raised \$1101.90 in support of the IWK. Thank you to everyone who sponsored a student and to all of the students who participated in this wonderful event.

A Peace Keepers Service was held at the Veterans Memorial Park in Bass River on May 27th. Afterward a luncheon was held at WCCS. Students helped at the luncheon serving and welcoming the many guests who came from near and far for the lovely service.

A prom committee has

been assembled and is working to create a beautiful night for all junior high students on June 14th. Tickets will go on sale on Monday May 28th and the cost will be \$5.00. You are able to invite 2 people from other schools in the CCRSB that are one grade ahead or below you. Everyone is getting very excited as the day

nears!

Yearbooks are still being designed and will soon be completed. They are on sale from now until the end of the month. Each book costs \$10.00 and you are asked to pay when you order. These are a great way to remember such a wonderful year that seemed to fly by in the blink of an eye!

**Lacey Gilley is a student at West Colchester Consolidated and writes a monthly school column.**



Richard Langille, Keiran Singer, Michael Congdon, Vernon McCully, and Cecelia McLaughlin were part of the project to invite grandparents and some members of the community to WCCS for an interview so the students could prepare a report. (Submitted).



Students at WCCS invited grandparents to the elementary school on May 17th. Students asked questions, took notes and are now working on a report. Pictured above are: Ian MacFarlane, Jaidee Muise-Doucette and Ian's grandmother, Darlene Smith, a former teacher at BRE. (Submitted)



On Friday, May 4th, 36 students from West Colchester Consolidated and Bass River Elementary rocked from 6:00 - 9:00 raising \$1,094.90 for the IWK. The kids had a great time at this annual event. They rocked 55 minutes and had 5 minutes of break each hour. (Submitted)

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